

22

SUPERVISED VISITATION PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT

Federal Fiscal Year 2022

NEW JERSEY COURTS



New Jersey Courts

Independence • Integrity • Fairness • Quality Service





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MESSAGE FROM THE
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR
OF THE COURTS

GLENN A. GRANT



This annual report on New Jersey's Supervised Visitation Program (Program), is submitted to the Governor, the Legislature, and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2A:12-11. The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) prepared this report covering the period of Oct. 1, 2021 through Sept. 30, 2022. The report reflects data gathered from the visitation programs operated in the counties that are overseen by the AOC Family Practice Division.

In 1984, the Legislature enacted the Program (codified at N.J.S.A. 2A:12-7 et seq.), recognizing that "the inability of a parent to spend time with a child poses serious psychological problems to both the parent and child and prevents the growth of a normal, healthy relationship." In evaluating the Program, the Legislature sought to preserve the benefits of bonding between the child and the absent parent while ensuring the safety and welfare of the child.

The New Jersey Judiciary has received Federal Access and Visitation grant funds on an annual basis since 1997 to maintain the Program. The grant funding is used for the establishment and/or continuation of programs that support and facilitate non-custodial parents' access to and visitation with their children. The funds are distributed to the counties to fund their local programs based on need and the number of litigants served. Twenty of the twenty-

one counties participate in the funded program; while Bergen County does not participate in the program, the county does provide county funded visitation services.

The Program offers both supervised visitation and neutral exchange services by identifying safe facilities in local communities for visitations to take place and by enlisting and providing volunteers to monitor these often-difficult visits. Neutral exchange services encompass the supervision of the transfer of a child from one parent to another for the visitation. The supervision is limited to the exchanges.

The Supervised Visitation Program is a component of the New Jersey Judiciary's effort to deliver effective services to children and parents.

Please note, beginning in March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic adversely affected the local Programs. Although limited services continued to be provided in-person and remotely, the impact of this ongoing event is reflected in the reduced number of services captured below. For example, in 2019, 1,008 parties received services as compared to 370 in 2020, 220 in 2021 and 246 in 2022. While the Program is operational statewide, some counties have not returned to pre-pandemic service numbers. It is our hope that services provided will continue to increase.

Having both parents involved in the lives of their children has a positive impact on their development. Programs designed to increase non-custodial contact, such as Supervised Visitation, provide valuable opportunities to increase the child's social, emotional, and academic growth. These services also provide children with a safe, conflict-free environment. The Judiciary will continue to foster effective communication and interaction between internal and external stakeholders in the supervised visitation process. The statewide program helps ensure the existence and application of effective standardized practices throughout the state with a focus on fairness and quality service, as well as the ongoing availability of needed visitation services.



GLENN A. GRANT

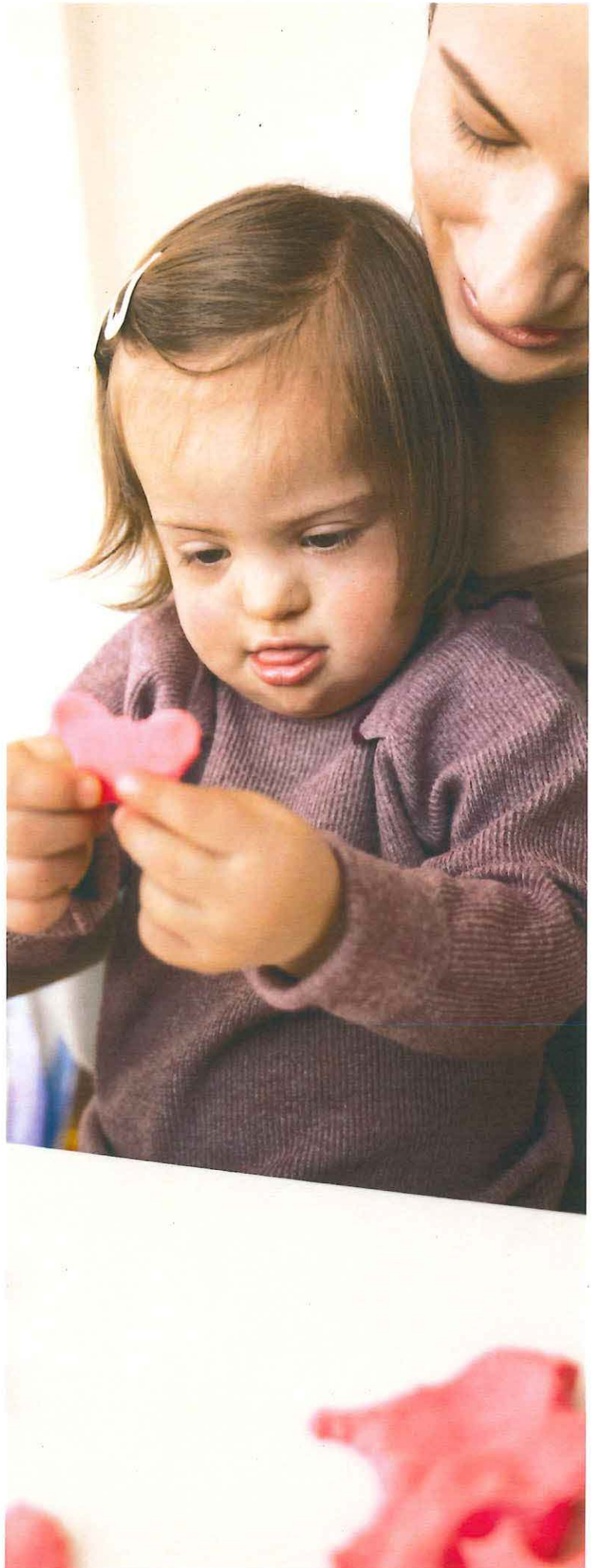
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COURTS

SUPERVISED VISITATION
STATISTICAL DATA
CLIENT INFORMATION

The Program aims to provide services that support and facilitate noncustodial parents' access to and time with their children.

Some of the allowable services outlined in the statute involve the participation of both parents.

As depicted in Chart A below, of the 246 parents or guardians that received services, noncustodial fathers represent the largest group served at 33 percent each, followed by custodial mothers at 32 percent.



PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

CHART A

Fig. 1

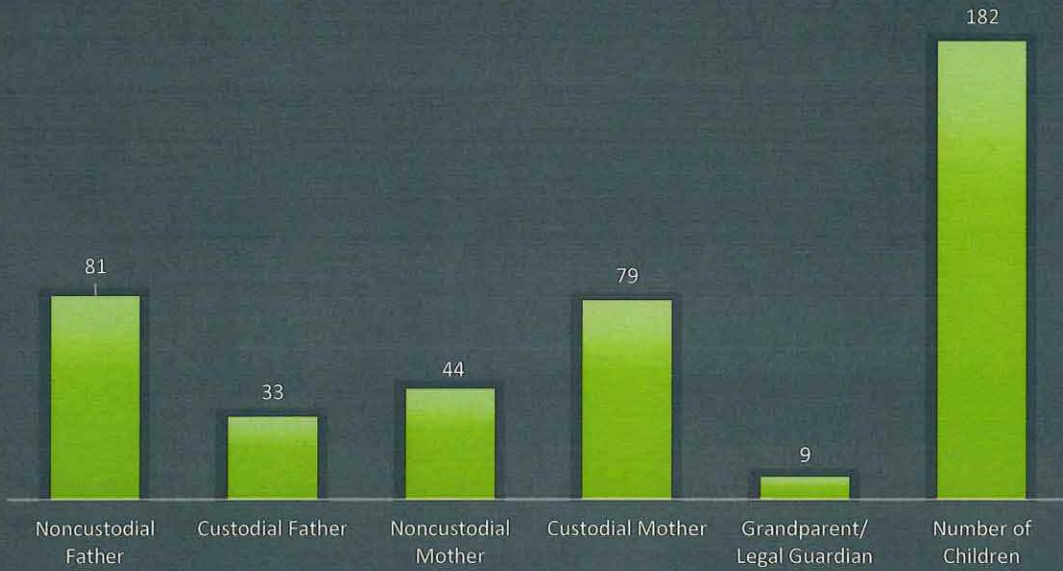
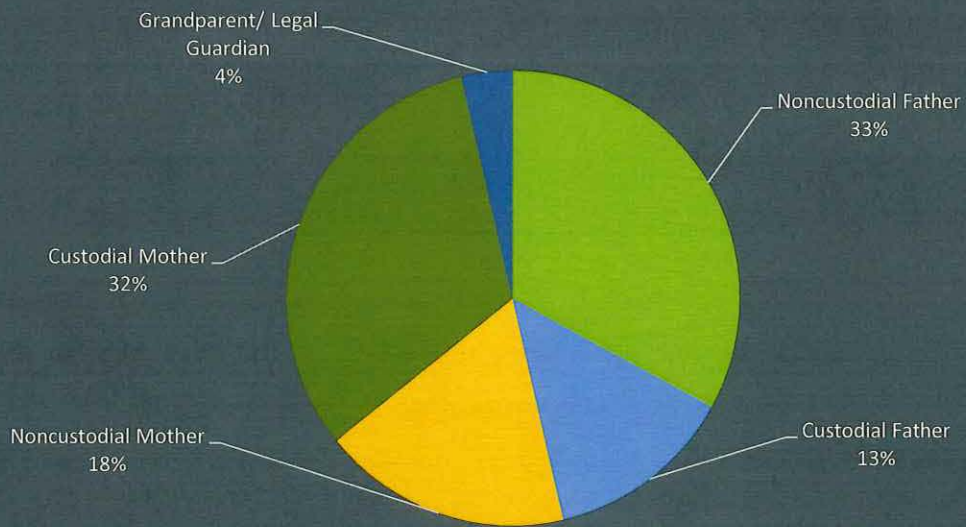


Fig. 2



SUPERVISED VISITATION
STATISTICAL DATA
**MARITAL STATUS
PARTICIPANTS**

Unmarried parents must often navigate multiple, and frequently overlapping, legal proceedings to resolve issues of child support and parenting time. The Program can bridge this gap by offering a reasonable and affordable pathway for noncustodial parents to seek access to and parenting time with their children.

As depicted in Chart B below, in the Program overseen by the Judiciary, 77 percent of parents were never married to the other parent.



MARITAL STATUS OF PARTICIPANTS

CHART B

Fig. 1

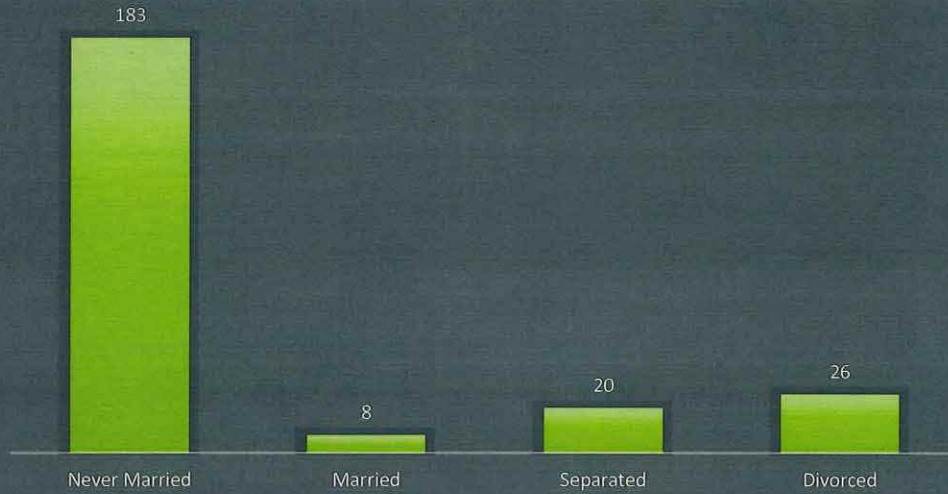
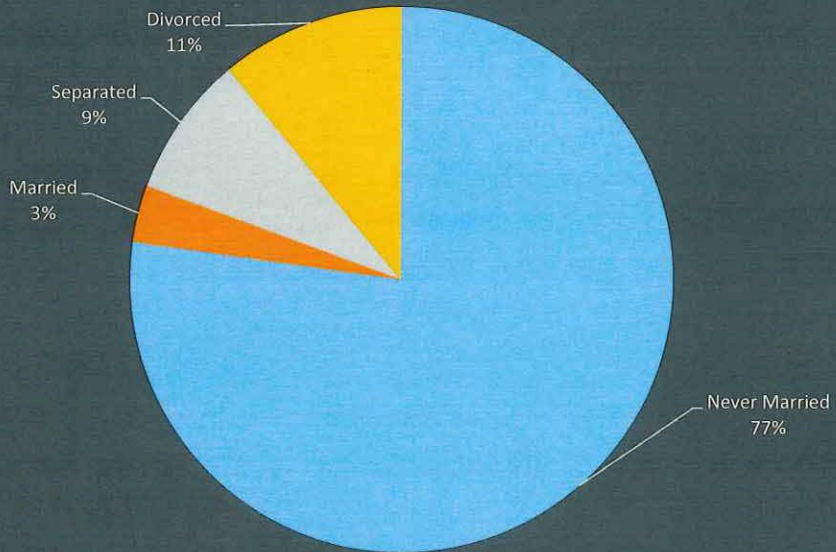


Fig. 2



SUPERVISED VISITATION
STATISTICAL DATA
**SELF-REPORTED
RACE/ETHNICITY**

Most participating parents self-identify as belonging to one of three racial or ethnic groups: White, Black/African American, and Hispanic or Latino.

Of the 246 parties that received services, the data revealed that Black/African American parents constituted 33 percent of the supervised visitation caseload, white constituted 24 percent, and Hispanic/Latino accounted for 18 percent of the total caseload. The remaining 25 percent of participants self-identified among the following racial groupings: American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian American, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, two or more races, or other/data not reported.



SELF-REPORTED RACE/ETHNICITY

CHART C

Fig. 1

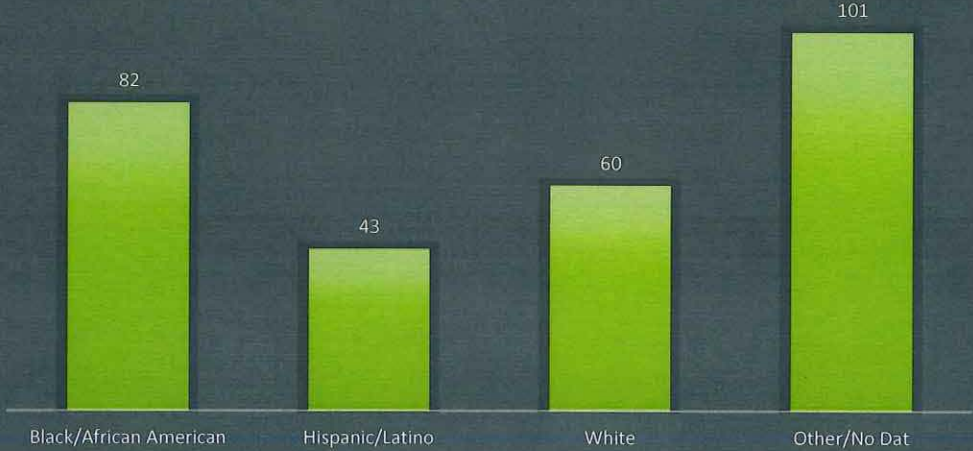
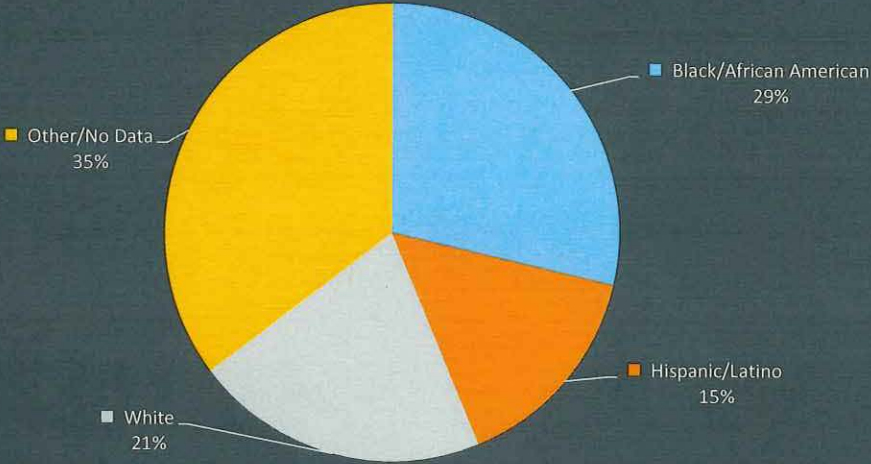


Fig. 2



ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM

The following is a description of the New Jersey Judiciary's Supervised Visitation Program.



ADMINISTRATOR

N.J.S.A. 2A:12-7 et seq. designates the administrative director of the courts as the administrator of the program. The legislation sets forth the specific duties and responsibilities of the administrator, which includes arranging for technical assistance to program coordinators in the counties.

STATE COORDINATOR

The state coordinator of the program, as part of the staff of the Administrative Office of the Courts, serves as the program's statewide manager, ensuring its compliance with the legislation, court rules and the procedures manual. The state coordinator also provides technical assistance to the counties.

COUNTY COORDINATORS

In each county, a supervised visitation program county coordinator (hereafter referred to as county coordinator) manages the program at the local or Superior Court level, reviews all cases referred for program participation, schedules sites and volunteers to meet visitation schedules, and submits statistical data to the state coordinator. The county coordinator ensures that the screening, training, supervising, and managing of all staff and volunteers in the program comply with approved standards. County coordinators report matters specific to the program to the vicinage family division manager. (Note: Bergen County is the only county that does not participate in the funded program. However, it also must report matters specific to the program to the vicinage family division manager.)



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The program depends on the involvement of the community in providing this critically needed service, both in terms of volunteers and community sites.



VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are a key component of the program. Volunteers provide supervision not only during the day, but also during evenings and weekends so that visitation can occur at times convenient to the families. The volunteers serve as neutral observers, ensuring the safety of the child. They intervene only when necessary.

All volunteers must complete a training course before beginning supervision. The county coordinators conduct the training under the oversight of and with technical assistance from the Administrative Office of the Courts.

COMMUNITY SITES

Community sites make the program possible by donating the use of their facilities for the visitations. Pursuant to [N.J.S.A. 2A:12-7 et seq.](#), the administrative director of the courts must approve all external sites. Sites must be accessible, functional, comfortable, and safe.



HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS



REFERRAL BY THE COURT TO THE COUNTY COORDINATOR

The court refers matters to the program. Referral is appropriate in dissolution, non-dissolution, or domestic violence cases where the court is concerned about the physical or emotional welfare of the child and after third-party supervision provisions have been exhausted. Additionally, domestic violence cases awaiting parenting time questionnaires can be referred to the program.

PRE-SCREENING INTERVIEW

The court refers matters to the program. Referral is appropriate in dissolution, non-dissolution, or domestic violence cases where the court is concerned about the physical or emotional welfare of the child and after third-party supervision provisions have been exhausted. Additionally, domestic violence cases awaiting parenting time questionnaires can be referred to the program.



COURT ORDER

The court order should clearly state the duration of supervised visitation, the length of visits, the names of the individuals permitted to attend the visitation, and a date to return to court for determining whether supervision should continue.

ROLE OF THE OBSERVER IN THE VISITATION

The court order should clearly state the duration of supervised visitation, the length of visits, the names of the individuals permitted to attend the visitation, and a date to return to court for determining whether supervision should continue.

HOW THE
PROGRAM
WORKS

“

Having both parents involved in the lives of their children has a positive impact on their development.

”

GLENN A. GRANT

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COURTS



Since 1997, the New Jersey Judiciary has been the recipient of federal access and visitation grant funds to sustain the program. The grant requires the funds be used by the states to establish and/or continue programs to support and facilitate non-custodial parents' access to and visitation with their children.

In Federal Fiscal Year 2022, the New Jersey Judiciary received \$157,771.00 in funds through the federal access and visitation grant. These funds are allocated to the counties based on need and number of children and parents served.

APPENDIX A STATISTICAL DATA

This data is required to be reported annually to the Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE), Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Note: *These appendices reflect data only on the twenty counties that accept Program funds. Bergen County provides visitation services with county funds. These are not included in this data.*

In addition, please note, Bergen County does not participate in the program.

TABLE 1

NEW CASES

This chart reflects the number of new cases added to the program in Federal Fiscal Year 2022.

County	New Cases
Atlantic	29
Burlington	5
Camden	0
Cape May	0
Cumberland	14
Essex	28
Gloucester	2
Hudson	0
Hunterdon	0
Mercer	12
Middlesex	0
Monmouth	0
Morris	3
Ocean	15
Passaic	9
Salem	0
Somerset	0
Sussex	6
Union	0
Warren	0
Total	123

TABLE 2

CLIENT INFORMATION

This chart reflects the visitation participants in each county and their relationship to the child.

County	Non-Custodial Parent Father	Custodial Parent Father	Non-Custodial Parent Mother	Custodial Parent Mother	Grandparent/ Legal Guardian	Children in Common
Atlantic	22	4	7	22	3	45
Burlington	3	2	2	3	0	8
Camden	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cape May	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cumberland	13	1	1	13	0	28
Essex	15	12	13	15	1	35
Gloucester	0	1	2	0	1	2
Hudson	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hunterdon	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mercer	10	0	4	8	2	17
Middlesex	0	0	0	0	0	0
Monmouth	0	0	0	0	0	0
Morris	1	2	2	1	0	3
Ocean	10	4	5	10	1	24
Passaic	4	5	5	4	0	11
Salem	0	0	0	0	0	0
Somerset	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sussex	3	2	3	3	1	9
Union	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warren	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	81	33	44	79	9	182

TABLE 3

MARITAL STATUS*

This chart reflects the number of visitation participants in each county within the stated categories at the time of entering the program.

*This data includes both civil unions and domestic partnerships.

County	Never Married to Each Other	Married to Each Other	Separated from Each Other	Divorced from Each Other	Data Not Reported
Atlantic	45	0	0	10	0
Burlington	10	0	0	0	0
Camden	0	0	0	0	0
Cape May	0	0	0	0	0
Cumberland	20	6	2	0	0
Essex	31	0	14	10	0
Gloucester	3	0	0	0	0
Hudson	0	0	0	0	0
Hunterdon	0	0	0	0	0
Mercer	16	2	4	0	0
Middlesex	0	0	0	0	0
Monmouth	0	0	0	0	0
Morris	6	0	0	0	0
Ocean	27	0	0	2	0
Passaic	16	0	0	2	0
Salem	0	0	0	0	0
Somerset	0	0	0	0	0
Sussex	9	0	0	2	0
Union	0	0	0	0	0
Warren	0	0	0	0	0
Total	183	8	20	26	0

TABLE 4

PARTICIPANT ANNUAL INCOME

This chart reflects the number of visitation participants in each county that voluntarily identify as having an income within the stated range.

County	Less Than \$10,000	\$10,000 - \$19,999	\$20,000 - \$29,999	\$30,000 - \$39,999	\$40,000 and above	Data Not Reported
Atlantic	0	1	5	3	4	45
Burlington	1	1	2	3	0	3
Camden	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cape May	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cumberland	0	0	0	0	0	28
Essex	13	6	5	3	16	13
Gloucester	0	0	0	0	0	4
Hudson	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hunterdon	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mercer	0	0	0	0	0	24
Middlesex	0	0	0	0	0	0
Monmouth	0	0	0	0	0	0
Morris	0	1	1	2	1	1
Ocean	0	0	0	0	0	30
Passaic	0	0	0	0	0	18
Salem	0	0	0	0	0	0
Somerset	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sussex	4	2	0	0	3	3
Union	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warren	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	18	11	13	11	24	169

TABLE 5

RACE/ ETHNICITY

This chart reflects the number of visitation participants in each county that voluntarily self-identify as the stated race/ethnicity.

County	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Asian	Black / African American	Hispanic or Latino	Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	White	Two or More Races	Data Not Reported
Atlantic	0	0	24	13	0	14	6	1
Burlington	0	0	2	0	0	8	0	0
Camden	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cape May	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cumberland	0	0	13	6	1	8	0	0
Essex	1	0	30	13	0	5	4	3
Gloucester	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0
Hudson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hunterdon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mercer	5	0	5	0	0	0	0	14
Middlesex	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Monmouth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Morris	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	2
Ocean	0	0	1	0	0	12	0	17
Passaic	1	0	6	7	0	0	0	4
Salem	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Somerset	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sussex	0	0	0	4	0	6	0	2
Union	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warren	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	7	0	82	43	1	60	10	43

TABLE 6

SERVICES PROVIDED

This chart reflects the number of visits funded through the access and visitation grant.

County	Supervised Visitation
Atlantic	59
Burlington	11
Camden	0
Cape May	0
Cumberland	29
Essex	57
Gloucester	5
Hudson	0
Hunterdon	0
Mercer	25
Middlesex	0
Monmouth	0
Morris	7
Ocean	31
Passaic	19
Salem	0
Somerset	0
Sussex	13
Union	0
Warren	0
Total	256

TABLE 7

CHILD SUPPORT CASES

This chart reflects the number of parties in the program that voluntarily identified as receiving or paying a child support.

County	Non-Custodial Parent Father	Custodial Parent Father	Non-Custodial Parent Mother	Custodial Parent Mother	Grandparent/ Legal Guardian
Atlantic	15	2	2	14	1
Burlington	3	2	2	3	0
Camden	0	0	0	0	0
Cape May	0	0	0	0	0
Cumberland	12	1	1	12	0
Essex	16	11	12	16	1
Gloucester	0	1	1	0	0
Hudson	0	0	0	0	0
Hunterdon	0	0	0	0	0
Mercer	9	0	2	9	2
Middlesex	0	0	0	0	0
Monmouth	0	0	0	0	0
Morris	1	2	2	1	0
Ocean	5	1	1	5	0
Passaic	16	0	0	2	0
Salem	0	0	0	0	0
Somerset	0	0	0	0	0
Sussex	4	2	3	4	1
Union	0	0	0	0	0
Warren	0	0	0	0	0
Total	69	27	31	69	5

APPENDIX B
**SUPERVISED VISITATION
SITE LIST**

APPENDICES

County	Contact Information		
Atlantic	Atlantic County Civil Courts Building 1201 Bacharach Blvd., Second Floor Atlantic City, NJ 08401 Shana Drake, program coordinator 609-402-0100 ext. 47467	The Alcove Center for Grieving Children and Families Mindy Shemtov, executive director 376 Tilton Rd., Rear Northfield, NJ 08225 609-727-9335	
Bergen	Division of Family Guidance One Bergen County Plaza, Second Floor Hackensack, NJ 07601 201-336-7398		
Burlington	Burlington County Courts Facility Sharyn Sherman, program coordinator 49 Rancocas Road Mount Holly, NJ 08060 609-288-9500 ext. 38220	Catholic Charities (open Tuesday/Wednesday evenings and Saturday morning) Amalia Gallagher, supervising monitor 115 W. Pearl St. Burlington, NJ 08016 609-394-5157	The Fatherhood Connection (Tuesday evening) Tashon Jackson, director 429 John F. Kennedy Way Willingsboro, NJ 08046 609-877-1076
Camden	Camden County Hall of Justice Rafael Mendez, court services supervisor 101 S. Fifth St. Camden, NJ 08103-4001 856-650-9100 ext. 43516	The Center for Family Services Doris Vidal 587 Benson St. Camden, NJ 08103 609-463-6645	
Cape May	Cape May County Courthouse Nicole DiMedio, court services supervisor 9 N. Main St. Cape May Court House, NJ 08210 609-402-0100 ext. 47566	Family Matters, LLC Patricia Campbell, director 899 Bayshore Rd. Villas, NJ 08251 609-886-8666	
Cumberland	Cumberland County Courthouse Daniza Molina, program coordinator P.O. Box 866 Bridgeton, NJ 08302 856-453-4553	Robin's Nest 42 S. Delsea Dr. Glassboro, NJ 08028 856-881-8669 ext. 190	
Essex	Essex County (Veterans) Courthouse Gloria Brown, program coordinator 50 W. Market St. Newark, NJ 07102 973-776-9300 ext. 55521		
Gloucester	Gloucester County Courthouse Chastity Robinson, program coordinator 70 Hunter St. Woodbury, NJ 08096 856-878-5050 ext. 15548		
Hudson	Hudson County Administration Building Rosanne Lomolino, program coordinator 595 Newark Ave., Room 218 Jersey City, NJ 07306 201-748-4400 ext. 60572		
Hunterdon	Hunterdon County Courthouse Bennett Ryan, program coordinator 65 Park Ave. Flemington, NJ 08822 908-750-8100 ext. 13836		
Mercer	Mercer County Civil Courthouse Johanny Hart, program coordinator 175 S. Broad St. Trenton, NJ 08690 609-571-4200 ext. 74384	El Centro (Catholic Charities) Robert Hernandez, director 327 S. Broad St. Trenton, NJ 08608 609-954-7487	

APPENDICES

County	Contact Information		
Middlesex	Middlesex County Family Courthouse Kathy Fread, program coordinator 120 New St. New Brunswick, NJ 08903 732-645-4300 ext. 88609		
Monmouth	Monmouth County Courthouse Corinne Manson, program coordinator 71 Monument Park Freehold, NJ 07728 732-358-8700 ext. 87198		
Morris	Morris County Courthouse Yolander Hill, program coordinator Washington and Court sts. Morristown, NJ 07960-0910 862-397-5700 ext. 75105	Center for Evaluating and Counseling 1719 Route 10 East Parsippany, NJ 07054 973-829-6960	
Ocean	Ocean County Justice Complex Karolyn Rivera, program coordinator 120 Hooper Ave/P.O. Box 2191 Toms River, NJ 08754 732-504-0700 ext. 64503	Preferred Children's Services Stacy M. Welch, program director 1200 River Ave. Lakewood, NJ 08701 732-905-5106 ext. 101	St. Francis Counseling Center Lori Tomaro, program director 4700 Long Branch Blvd. Brant Beach, NJ 08701 609-494-8861 ext. 182
Passaic	Passaic County Courthouse Blanca Bravo, program coordinator 77 Hamilton St. Paterson, NJ 07505-2017 973-653-2910 ext. 24616	Paterson YMCA Blanca Bravo, program coordinator 128 Ward St. Paterson, NJ 07505 973-247-8858	
Salem	Salem County Courthouse Angela Thomas, program coordinator P.O. Box 233 Salem, NJ 08079 856-878-5050 ext. 15881		
Somerset	Somerset County Courthouse Christine Reilly, program coordinator 20 N. Bridge St. Somerville, NJ 08876 908-332-7700 ext. 13486	Catholic Charities Esther Iannetta 540 Route 22 East Bridgewater, NJ 08807 908-722-1881	
Sussex	Sussex County Judicial Center Lori Reach, program coordinator 43-47 High St. Newton, NJ 07860 862-397-5700 ext. 75194	Center for Evaluation and Counseling 1719 Route 10 East Parsippany, NJ 07054 973-829-6960	First Baptist Church (Neutral Exchange Only) 4E. Main St. Sussex, NJ 07461 973-875-9451
Union	Union County Courthouse, New Annex Nancy Little, program coordinator 7 Elizabethtown Plaza Elizabeth, NJ 07207 908-787-1650 ext. 21314		
Warren	Warren County Courthouse Justine McDonald, program coordinator 413 Second St. Belvidere, NJ 07823 908-750-8100 ext. 13209	Catholic Charities-Phillipsburg Family Service Center Susan Reimer, Supervisor 700 Sayre Ave. Phillipsburg, NJ 08865 908-454-2074	



STUART RABNER

CHIEF JUSTICE

GLENN A. GRANT

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COURTS

JENNIFER M. PEREZ

DIRECTOR, TRIAL COURT SERVICES

JOANNE M. DIETRICH

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, FAMILY PRACTICE DIVISION

MAY 2023