



Department of Human Services

Dear Stakeholder:

Late last month, Governor Chris Christie delivered his fiscal year 2014 Budget Address. There was good news for this department that I want to share with you.

The big news of the day for this Department was that New Jersey will take action to expand **Medicaid** in January 2014. This step ensures that childless adults earning less than 133%, who previously did not qualify for Medicaid because they were not categorically or financially eligible, will be eligible to receive the entitlement. We estimate about 100,000 new enrollees to the program and federal funding will cover 100% of the costs for the first three years. Expansion of Medicaid is expected to save NJ an estimated \$227 million in FY'14.

In **Mental Health and Addiction Services**, the state continues to reinvest Hagedorn closure funds to support community-based services with \$4.4 million, which includes over 130 new units of supportive housing. In addition, the Governor's proposed budget provides \$8.4 million in Olmstead funding for 330 new placements and annualized placements for 2013. Drug Court also has been expanded with funding of \$4.5 million for about 250 clients.

For the **Division of Aging Services**, while the budget will display a \$10 million reduction, there are no programmatic cuts to PAAD or Senior Gold. The decrease is based on lower than projected enrollment and utilization trends as a result of Medicare Part D covering drug costs. Adult Protective Services is receiving a 20% increase in funding in FY' 14, which will help the program respond to an increasing and more complex caseload resulting from our shift to home and community based supports and services for seniors. Nursing home rates for FY'14 are proposed to be the same as in FY'13. We are continuing the policy

decision to move forward on Managed Long Term Services and Support (MLTSS) in January 2014. County nursing homes will continue to receive Peer Group funding through July 2014. This means that the counties will be required to continue to provide at least 10% of the Peer grouping funds for Home and Community-Based services.

In the **Division of Family Development**, there are no programmatic changes or cuts to services. We have seen less than projected increases in enrollment for our entitlement programs as well as in General Assistance and we have reduced our child care waiting list by over 90% since last year.

In the **Division of Developmental Disabilities**, the Governor has continued his commitment to advancing initiatives that support home and community-based services. His proposed budget provides \$41.8 million in new funding to develop community placements and services for about 800 people. An additional \$21.3 million has been allocated to pay for placements that occurred in FY'13. Olmstead is funded at nearly \$20 million for about 140 placements. And, under the waiver, adults with developmental disabilities who are living independently or with family soon will be eligible for substantially increased in-home support services for which the state will receive a federal match.

As a result of this Administration's efforts, the state recently settled two longstanding lawsuits with Disability Rights New Jersey relative to Olmstead and the Waiting List.

Many thanks for your continued advocacy and support, which has strengthened New Jersey's safety net.

In other news, it's hard to believe it's been over four months since Hurricane Sandy devastated so much of New Jersey, damaging homes and businesses and wreaking widespread havoc on the lives of people in its path.

During the hurricane and its initial aftermath, crisis counselors certified by the Disaster and Terrorism Branch (DTB) of the Department of Human Services' Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services rushed to shelters and hard-hit communities to provide immediate emotional support for thousands of people who evacuated from or lost their homes. To date, more than 80,000 survivors have been counseled.

For more information about New Jersey Hope and Healing, call 1-888-HELP (4357), TTY: 1-888-294-4356 –from 8 a.m.12 a.m., seven days a week or if you or someone you know needs clinical crisis counseling, call 1-855-HOPE4U1.

In addition, the Department is [very much involved](#) in post-Hurricane Sandy Recovery and Rebuilding efforts. We have a full time staff member working at the Joint Field Office, a headquarters FEMA has established in Edison. Together with our federal, state, local and community-based partners, we're working diligently to find placement and support for individuals still displaced from their homes.

FEMA's Transitional Shelter Assistance is nearing expiration, but many families still are struggling to find long-term housing options. Many counties have been extremely helpful in their efforts to assist individuals and families – in many cases, from other areas. Thank you for your continued efforts to support the state's recovery.

Regards,

Jennifer Veley