

New Jersey One Health Task Force

2025-2029 Strategic Plan

Executive Summary

The New Jersey One Health Task Force (hereafter, Task Force) was established by legislation ([P.L. 2021, Chapter 117](#)) signed by Governor Phil Murphy on June 24, 2021. The legislation stated the purpose of the Task Force “shall be to develop a strategic plan to promote inter-disciplinary communication and collaboration between physicians, veterinarians, and other scientific professionals and State agencies, with the goal of promoting the health and well-being of the State’s residents, animals, and environment.”

One Health recognizes that human, animal, plant, and environmental health are interconnected and interdependent. The New Jersey One Health Task Force brings together experts from a wide range of disciplines to establish and guide interdisciplinary health initiatives in the State. Their first Strategic Plan document outlines the Goals and Objectives of the New Jersey One Health Task Force for the period 2025-2029.

The Task Force’s first meeting was held on February 21, 2025, where officers were elected, bylaws approved, and committees established. The Strategic Planning Committee was established to guide the creation of the Task Force’s Strategic Plan using the goals and responsibilities outlined in P.L. 2021, Chapter 117 as a baseline but incorporating additional goals as needed to comprehensively address barriers and solutions to One Health issues in New Jersey.

The 2025-2029 Strategic Plan encompasses 6 overarching goals including (1) Strengthening One Health Coordination and Collaboration, (2) Stimulating Interdisciplinary Health Research and Innovation, (3) Developing a One Health Cognizant Workforce, (4) Increasing Public Awareness of the Importance of One Health, (5) Improving Data Accessibility Across Sectors and Disciplines, and (6) Ensuring Sustainability for the One Health Approach in New Jersey. Each Goal is supported by underlying short-term (1-year) or longer-term (3-5 year) objectives. The Strategic Planning Committee will revisit and revise the goals and objectives annually to assess progress.

Enacting the One Health Task Force’s Strategic Plan will require strong partnerships among sectors, disciplines, communities, and across governance scales (local to regional). The Strategic Plan aims to solidify these partnerships and ensure New Jersey is well-positioned to meet the health challenges it is facing now and in the future.

Mission:

To strengthen and leverage inter-disciplinary communication and collaboration among physicians, veterinarians, researchers, and other scientific and healthcare professionals across government agencies, universities and colleges, private industry, and non-profit organizations; to foster an understanding of One Health among all of New Jersey’s residents, including the next generation of human, animal, and environmental health professionals; and to facilitate the development of new approaches and technologies for identifying and responding to health threats to people, animals, plants, and ecosystems.

Vision:

A healthy and prosperous New Jersey where the health and well-being of its people, animals, plants, and ecosystems are holistically protected and advanced.

Overarching Goals and Timeline

Goal 1. Strengthen One Health Coordination and Collaboration in NJ

Objective 1. Identify gaps, strengths, and priority issues in One Health coordination among New Jersey's human, animal, plant, and ecosystem health professionals. (Short term: Year 1)

Objective 2. Outline initial recommendations to the Governor and Legislature to improve and enhance One Health coordination and collaboration in the Annual Report due February 2026, with additional recommendations identified and provided on an annual basis.

Objective 3. Develop guidance documents for collaborative preparedness for, response to, and recovery from, zoonotic disease outbreaks and other interdisciplinary health issues such as environmental contamination. (Long term: Years 3-5)

Goal 2. Stimulate NJ-based Industry and Academic Research Efforts to Address One Health Issues

Objective 1. Identify active research into One Health relevant areas by the NJ research community, including but not limited to: diagnostic tests, genetic signatures of pathogens, antimicrobial alternatives, interdisciplinary science communication, and health behavior change. (Short term: Year 1)

Objective 2. Identify possible funding mechanisms to facilitate research in areas of need (Long term: Years 2-3)

Objective 3. Secure funding for Task Force to offer research grants (Long term: Years 3-5)

Goal 3. Develop One Health cognizant workforce of human, animal, plant, and ecosystem health professionals

Objective 1. Identify and catalogue available coursework on One Health at the higher ed level (Short term: Year 1)

Objective 2. Catalyze the establishment of One Health Higher Ed Consortium/ Certificate program in NJ to ensure interdisciplinary training for workforce development (Long term: Years 2-3)

Objective 3. Pursue funding to establish One Health Fellowships, facilitating rotation through disciplines/sectors and requiring graduates to work in NJ for a designated number of years (Long term: Years 3-5)

Goal 4. Increase public awareness of the importance of One Health and acceptance of interdisciplinary thinking.

Objective 1. Identify and catalogue available K-12 educational materials related to One Health (Short term: Year 1)

Objective 2. Recommend strategies to integrate One Health content in NJ K-12 curriculum (Long term: Years 3-5)

Objective 3. Distribution of educational materials at county fairs, professional society meetings, extension offices, etc. (Long term: Years 2-3)

Objective 4. Organization of One Health webinars or podcast interviews to highlight interdisciplinary work in NJ (Long term: Years 2-3)

Goal 5. Improve accessibility of data across sectors and disciplines

Objective 1. Determine barriers to data sharing/access, whether technological or process oriented. (Short term: Year 1)

Objective 2. Establish a portal for One Health research data for shared collaboration and recommend streamlined administrative approvals processes. (Long term: Years 3-5)

Goal 6. Ensure sustainability for One Health efforts in NJ

Objective 1. Review findings of prior goals with sustainability lens (funding, people, programs) (Short term: Year 2)

Objective 2. Provide recommendations on legislative or regulatory changes needed to advance and sustain One Health research, education, awareness, and workforce growth in NJ (Long term: Years 3-5)