

\$45,411.83 specified at N.J.A.C. 11:22-4.8(e) shall be \$46,456.30.

(a)

**DEPARTMENT OF BANKING AND INSURANCE
DIVISION OF INSURANCE
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
Minimum Net Worth Requirements for Health
Maintenance Organizations (HMOs)
Notice of Increase in Medical Component of the
Consumer Price Index (CPI)**

Take notice that the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance, in compliance with N.J.A.C. 11:24-1.2, 11.1, and 11.4, hereby provides notice of an average 2.3 percent increase from December 2024 to December 2025, in the medical component of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for all urban consumers in the New York-Newark-Jersey City and the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington regions, as reported by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Accordingly, the rules at N.J.A.C. 11:24-11 shall be read as including an increase of 2.3 percent, effective July 1, 2026, as follows:

1. \$3,720,197.96 specified at N.J.A.C. 11:24-11.1(a) shall be \$3,805,756.38;
2. \$2,480,176.54 specified at N.J.A.C. 11:24-11.1(b) and 11.4(b) shall be \$2,537,169.45; and
3. \$744,038.39 specified at N.J.A.C. 11:24-11.4(a) and (b) shall be \$761,151.27.

Existing HMOs shall make the required adjustments to their minimum net worth by no later than July 1, 2026. The required deposit shall be made no later than July 1, 2026, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 11:24-11.4(e) to include the specific CPI adjustment.

(b)

**DEPARTMENT OF BANKING AND INSURANCE
DIVISION OF INSURANCE
Notice of Alternate Interest Rates for Rate
Submissions**

Take notice that the Commissioner of the Department of Banking and Insurance (Commissioner), in compliance with N.J.A.C. 11:4-34.17(c)5v, hereby provides notice of an adjustment in the alternate interest rates used in rate submissions for certain long-term care insurance policies, as specified at N.J.A.C. 11:4-34.17(a). These rates, as well as these adjustments to the rates, also apply to individual health insurance policies governed pursuant to N.J.A.C. 11:4-18. These alternate interest rates are based on corporate yields for Aaa and Baa bonds, as reported in U.S. Financial Data, published by the Research and Public Information Division of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.

The new alternate interest rate adjustments are effective immediately and are as follows:

1. The current six percent interest rate graded linearly to four percent over 10 years and three and one-half percent thereafter should be changed to a six and one-half percent interest rate graded linearly to five percent over 10 years and five percent thereafter; and
2. The current four percent level rate should be changed to a five and one-half percent level interest rate.

LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY

(c)

**DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF COSMETOLOGY
AND HAIRSTYLING**

**Notice of Receipt and Final Action on Petition for
Rulemaking**

Online Booking Platforms

Petitioner: Ryan Esposito.

Take notice that on March 6, 2026, the New Jersey State Board of Cosmetology and Hairstyling (Board) received a petition for rulemaking from Ryan Esposito that the Board "consider the development of regulations or support legislation requiring online booking platforms within the barbering and cosmetology industries to verify the professional licensure of individuals offering services through their platform." The petitioner states that online booking platforms are utilized for scheduling barbering and cosmetology services, but they do not verify if service providers hold valid New Jersey licenses. The online booking platforms allow unlicensed individuals to advertise and perform services without oversight or accountability.

Requiring online booking platforms to verify professional licensure would extend regulatory protections into the digital environment. The petitioner states that the lack of license verification exposes consumers to risks because licensure ensures proper education, training, and supervision. In addition, the petitioner states that services performed by unlicensed individuals may not be covered by professional liability insurance. Moreover, the petitioner states that licensed professionals invest substantial time, education, and financial resources in obtaining licensure, and that allowing unlicensed individuals to compete in digital marketplaces undermines the integrity of the profession and disadvantages licensed practitioners at an unfair disadvantage. The petitioner states that many barbershops and salons use centralized booking pages where multiple professionals accept appointments under one business name, and that each individual offering services through such pages is required to provide proof of a valid license before being permitted to perform services.

On March 10, 2026, the Board considered the petition and, after deliberation, voted to deny the petition because the Board does not have statutory authority to impose requirements on online booking platforms. See N.J.S.A. 45:5B-6.

A copy of this notice has been mailed to the petitioner pursuant to N.J.A.C. 17:27-4.2.

STATE

(d)

**NEW JERSEY CULTURAL TRUST
NEW JERSEY STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS
Notice of Availability of Grants**

Take notice that the New Jersey Cultural Trust (Cultural Trust) pursuant to the authority at P.L. 2000, c. 76 (N.J.S.A. 52:16A-7) and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts (Arts Council) pursuant to the authority at P.L. 1966, c. 214, hereby announces the availability of Institutional and Financial Stabilization Grants (IFS Arts) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2027, up to \$40,000.

Name of Program: Institutional and Financial Stabilization Grants for Arts Organizations (IFS Arts).

Purpose: Operated in collaboration with the Arts Council, the program provides Cultural Trust grants for projects that address financial and institutional challenges that threaten the sustainability of nonprofit arts organizations and help them build greater organizational capacity to manage and advance their work. For FY 2027, applica-