NEW JERSEY HUMAN SERVICES

# New Jersey Advisory Council on Traumatic Brain Injury

October 20, 2026

# Agenda

| | |
|---|---|
| **Welcome, Introductions, Division Updates:**<br>*Jacqueline Moskowitz, Interim Executive Director, DDS* | **10:00 am - 10:10am** |
| **Brain Injury Alliance of New Jersey:**<br>*Barbara Chabner, Director of Education & Outreach* | **10:10 am - 10:20 am** |
| **ACL TBI State Partnership Program Grant Update:**<br>*Sakina Ladha, ACL Grant Project Director* | **10:20 am - 10:30 am** |
| **H.R. 1 Update (Medicaid Programs):**<br>*Natalie Kotkin, Senior Advisor,*<br>*Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services* | **10:30 am – 10:50 am** |
| **BREAK:** | **10:50 am - 11:00 am** |
| **Future Directions: Q&A About Survivors' Visit to Trenton** | **11:00 am – 11:10 am** |
| **Mission of the Council Scope and Vision Moving Forward:**<br>*Adam Neary, Assistant Director, DDS* | **11:10 am – 11:20 am** |
| **TBI Fund Updates:**<br>*Margaret Lumia, PhD, MPH,*<br>*Administrator, Disability Health & Wellness/TBI Fund* | **11:20 am - 11:30 am** |
| **Open Discussion:** | **11:30 am - 11:45 am** |

NEW JERSEY ADVISORY COUNCIL ON TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY

**Please put your name in the chat and we'll note that in our attendance!**

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# Welcome, Introductions, Division Updates

Jacqueline Moskowitz, Interim Executive Director
Division of Disability Services

10:00 – 10:10

# Introductions

**Kaitlin Eberhardt**
Department of Education, Division of Educational Services
Office of Special Education

# What is the Disability Information Hub?

Connecting People to Resources and Support

NEW JERSEY ADVISORY COUNCIL ON TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY







Online One-Stop Shop: Connects individuals, families, caregivers and professionals to disability-related programs and services across New Jersey.

Who It Serves: Individuals with disabilities, families, caregivers, and professionals statewide.

Comprehensive & Current: Provides up-to-date information on healthcare, employment, education, housing, transportation, financial supports , and more.

Accessible & Easy to Use: Designed with accessibility, plain language, and easy navigation at the forefront.

**www.nj.gov/disabilities**

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

*Proclamation*

WHEREAS, people with disabilities have the right to fully participate in all aspects of community life, including exercising their right to vote, making choices about their own lives, living and receiving services in the community, pursuing employment and education, and participating in civic and public life; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey affirms the civil rights of people with disabilities and recognizes the importance of removing barriers that limit choice, independence, opportunity, community integration, and full participation; and

WHEREAS, disability rights are civil rights, and people with disabilities must have equal opportunities to participate in the decisions, policies, and systems that affect their lives and their communities; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey recognizes the important role of Centers for Independent Living in advancing the rights, independence, choice, and community participation of people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Human Services is also home to the Division of Disability Services, the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired, the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and the Division of Developmental Disabilities, all of which serve as supports and resources for people with disabilities and their families.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mikie Sherrill, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

OCTOBER 5, 2026
AS
DISABILITY RIGHTS DAY

in the Garden State and call upon all New Jerseyans to reaffirm that disability rights are civil rights and to support the full participation of people with disabilities in all aspects of community life.

GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this twenty-eighth day of September in the year two thousand twenty-six, the two hundred fifty-first year of the Independence of the United States.

GOVERNOR

# Disability Rights Day

NEW JERSEY ADVISORY COUNCIL ON TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY

**Governor Mikie Sherrill proclaimed October 5 as Disability Rights Day!**

**We work everyday to support people with disabilities and promote full, equitable, and accessible lives in communities across New Jersey.**

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# Disability Employment Awareness Month

**Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) is observed every October to celebrate the skills, talents, and contributions of workers with disabilities and to promote inclusive workplaces.**



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

*Proclamation*

WHEREAS, it is estimated that approximately 29 percent of the United States' population has some type of disability, and that 23 percent (1.6 million people) or nearly 1 in 4 adults living in New Jersey have some type of disability; and

WHEREAS, people with disabilities are valued residents of our Great State; and

WHEREAS, October marks National Disability Employment Awareness Month, a time to recognize the contributions and potential of workers with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, people with disabilities living in New Jersey represent a dynamic and diverse talent pool in our communities, yet remain an underutilized asset to our economy; and

WHEREAS, when people with disabilities thrive, their communities and our economy thrive, because these capable workers strengthen businesses with their knowledge, skills and abilities; and

WHEREAS, innovative and inclusive employers who lead the way in creating meaningful and accessible employment opportunities for people with disabilities should be recognized, and all community businesses and employers should be encouraged to recruit, hire and retain workers with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the contributions made by people with disabilities in every occupation, across every industry, throughout the state deserve recognition and respect; and

WHEREAS, expanding awareness and skill-building opportunities, while fostering a fully integrated workforce in New Jersey that welcomes people with all types of abilities, is a necessary endeavor; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Human Services through its Division of Developmental Disabilities, Division of Disability Services, Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired works daily to empower individuals with disabilities and position them to successfully enter the workforce through training, advocacy, education, vocational rehabilitation and language access;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mikie Sherrill, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

OCTOBER 2026
AS
DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

in New Jersey and urge all employers to support efforts to provide opportunities for people with disabilities, make their workplaces more inclusive and welcoming, and acknowledge the contributions of people with disabilities to the workforce and to our state's economy.

GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this twenty-eighth day of September in the year two thousand twenty-six, the two hundred fifty-first year of the Independence of the United States.

GOVERNOR

NEW JERSEY
ADVISORY COUNCIL
ON TRAUMATIC
BRAIN INJURY

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# DDS/DDD Art Sale








**On September 17, we hosted an art sale featuring artwork created and sold by individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. The amazing artwork included paintings, handmade ornaments, door signs and more.**

# Brain Injury Alliance of New Jersey Update
# July-September 2026

Barbara Chabner
Director of Education and Outreach

10:10 - 10:20



# Workshops



- ✓In-person and virtual workshops
- ✓39 workshops; 1602 attendees; 41 average in attendance

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# Community Fairs/Wellness Events/Conferences

✓38 events attended

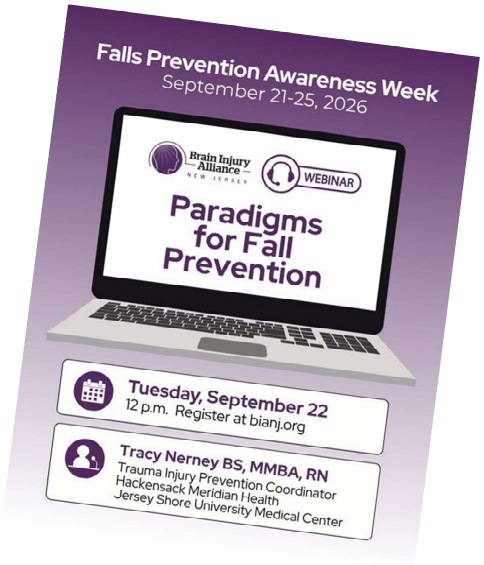
# Coalition/Networking Meetings

- ✓Community Coalition Meetings
  - Coalition meetings
  - Individual networking meetings
  - 83 attended






# Webinars




- ✓Hosted two webinars
  - AI and Brain Injury: Practical Strategies (2nd of 3-part series on AI)
  - Paradigms of Fall Prevention (108 attended)

**Sign Up at: www.bianj.org/webinars**

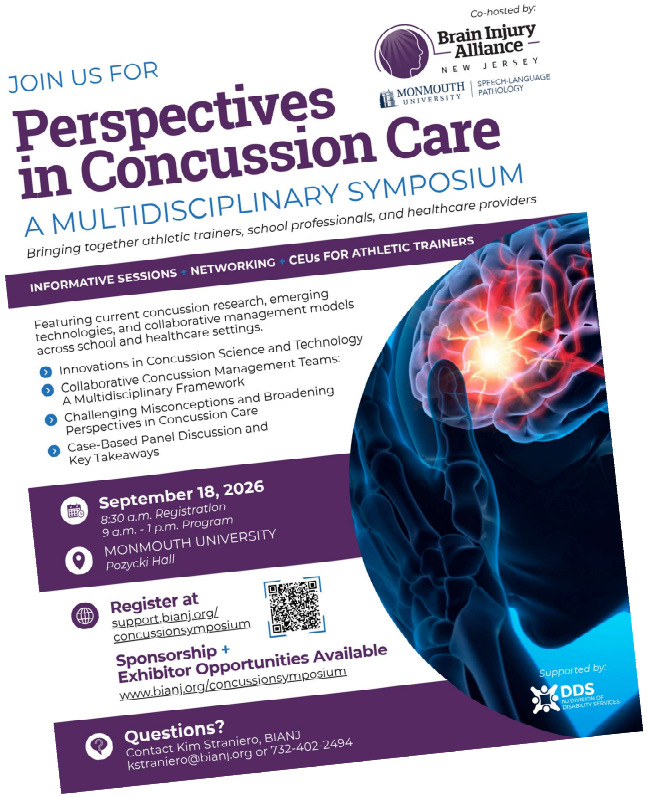
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# TBI Fund

- ✓TBI Fund promoted at presentations/events, through social media and CARES
- ✓87 referrals to TBI Fund



# Overview of Programs




- ✓Concussion Symposium
  - Partnered with Monmouth University Speech-Language Department
  - 63 attendees
  - Majority attendees school nurses and athletic trainers
  - CEUs awarded for Athletic trainers
  - 41 evaluations returned:
    - 93% overall favorability
    - 93% would recommend to colleagues




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# Overview of Programs

- ✓A Facebook Live session: Protecting Yourself While Helping Others: Safety Tips for Caregivers
  - Lexi McGivern, PT, DPT, NCS, board-certified Neurologic Clinical Specialist and founder of Neuro Home Wellness and Neuro Pro Wellness LLC
  - 463 views
  - Can be found on BIANJ YouTube channel
- ✓9 Bilingual Events
  - 6 community exhibiting events
  - 3 workshops



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# NEURO VISIONS

## REWIRING THROUGH ART

OCTOBER 1-29, 2026 | ACCC ART GALLERY

Brain Injury Alliance NEW JERSEY

# ACL TBI State Partnership Program Grant Update

Sakina Ladha
ACL Grant Project Director

10:20 - 10:30

# H.R. 1 Update (Medicaid Programs)

Natalie Kotkin, Senior Advisor,
DHS - Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services

10:30 - 10:50

# What the session will cover today

- Summary of changes under OBBBA/H.R.1
- Non-citizen eligibility changes
- Expansion Adult eligibility changes
  - Community Engagement/Work requirements
  - Six-month renewals
  - Retroactive coverage

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# Summary of changes under OBBBA/H.R.1

# Summary of changes under the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" (OBBBA) /H.R.1

| Provision | Policy | Effective date | Estimated impact |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Non-citizen eligibility** | Some non-citizens who **do not have lawful permanent resident status**[1] may **no longer qualify for NJ FamilyCare / Medicaid** | **October 1, 2026** | ~15-25K non-citizens |
| **Community engagement** (also known as work requirements) | **Expansion Adults**[2] will have to **work, go to school, volunteer, or participate in a job training program** for at least **80 hours per month** to qualify for or keep their coverage, unless they qualify for an exclusion or exception | **January 1, 2027** | ~540K Expansion Adults |
| **6-month renewals** | **Expansion Adults**, except for Alaska natives or members of a federally recognized American Indian tribe, will have to **renew their coverage every 6 months** instead of every 12 months | | |
| **Shortened retroactive coverage** | **Expansion Adults** who receive care before applying for NJ FamilyCare can only be **reimbursed for costs incurred in the month immediately before** application**,** instead of up to 3 months before. Non-Expansion members are impacted by similar changes.[3] | | |

Across OBBBA provisions, an estimated **~165K-300K NJ FamilyCare members could lose coverage** by end of SFY28

1. Victims of domestic violence, applying under the U.S. Violence Against Women Act; Temporary humanitarian parolees for at least 1 year; Refugees; Asylees; Victims of trafficking and their spouse, child, sibling, or parents; Lawfully residing veterans/active-duty service members and certain family members; Afghan Nationals granted parole between 7/31/2021, and 9/30/2023; Individuals who were paroled into the U.S. between 2/24/2022 and 9/30/2024 under the Ukrainian Humanitarian Parole program; People whose deportation is being withheld 2. Expansion Adults are individuals ages 19-64 who became eligible for coverage through the "Affordable Care Act" (ACA) or individuals enrolled in plan type ABP (Alternative Benefit Plan) 3. Other Medicaid members can be reimbursed for services received up to 2 months before the month of application

# Non-citizen eligibility changes

# As of October 1, new federal rules eliminate Medicaid eligibility for some non-citizen adults

New restrictions on immigration eligibility for federal funding for Medicaid and CHIP went into effect **October 1, 2026.** Most non-citizen immigrants with NJ FamilyCare coverage are not be affected.

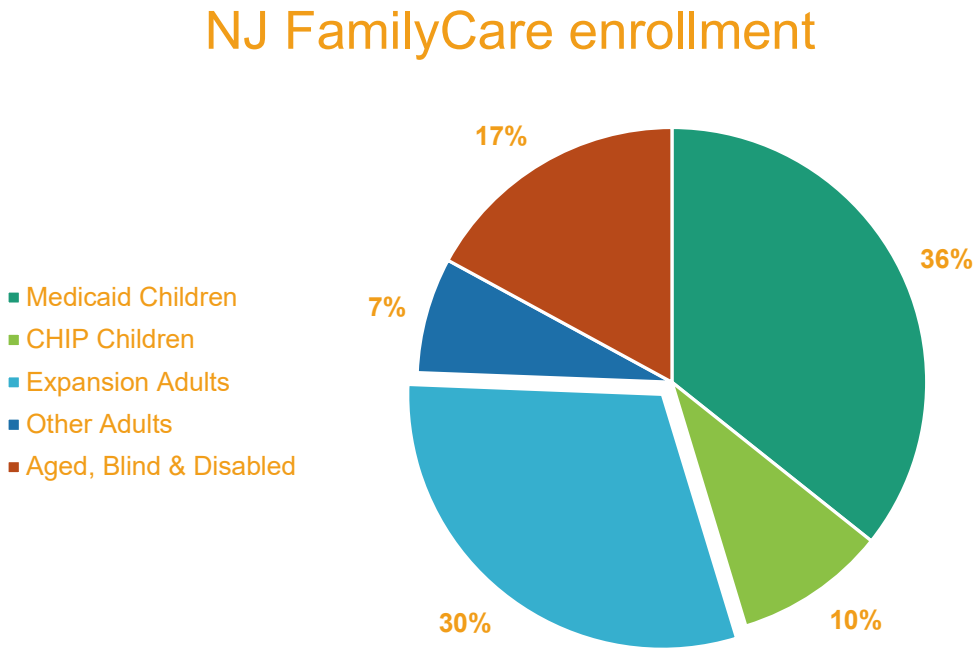
As of October 1st, the **only groups of adults eligible for full Medicaid coverage** are:

- U.S. citizens and U.S. nationals
- Lawful Permanent Residents (i.e. Green Card holders)
- Cuban/Haitian entrants
- Citizens of certain small Pacific island nations (“COFA migrants”)

DMAHS sent approximately **11,000 termination notices** to individuals who did not respond to outreach (about 10,000 members) or are no longer eligible (about 1,000 members).

# For reference: NJ FamilyCare Enrollment

- As of July 2026, total enrollment in NJ FamilyCare was around **1.8 million** members.
- Non-citizen eligibility changes **impact only adults who are not pregnant or postpartum.** Individuals are <u>not impacted</u> if they are:
  - A child under 19, regardless of immigration status, as part of Cover All Kids Program; or,
  - Lawfully present and pregnant or under the age of 21



# New Jersey is still reviewing documentation from potentially impacted members to confirm who remains eligible



**DMAHS identified approximately 15,000-25,000 potentially impacted non-citizen members.**

- Many may still qualify
- Members where DMAHS was able to confirm a qualifying immigration status (under new rules) were excluded from this list

**DMAHS sent notices (via vendor HMS) in July to potentially impacted members, which:**

- Explained they may lose coverage on Oct. 1 due to federal regulatory change
- Listed still-eligible groups (e.g., Cuban entrants)
- Directed members who believe they remain eligible to submit documents by a deadline

**DMAHS is still reviewing immigration documents provided and validating immigration status against federal databases**

- DMAHS is sending a letter to members who submitted immigration documents, indicating if eligible, ineligible, or if DMAHS needs more information
- Members who were found ineligible had eligibility terminated as of Sep. 30th

**DMAHS sent a final termination notice in mid-September to members who did not respond to request to send immigration documents**

- Final notice and ineligible outcome letters explain the appeals process
- Individuals can still respond to the initial notice and, if eligible, have coverage reinstated back to October 1st

Any member who submitted documentation by 9/30 but is still pending a response from DMAHS maintains coverage while their eligibility review is ongoing. Members will receive a letter letting them know they still have coverage and another letter once their outcome is determined.

# Tools for members on non-citizen eligibility requirements

| Resource | Where to go | What it is |
|---|---|---|
| NJFC non-citizen subpage | https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/dmahs/obbba/non-citizen/ | Detailed webpage explaining the non-citizen eligibility changes; available in 9 languages |
| Non-citizen outcome letter (final termination for non-response) | https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/dmahs/documents/providers-stakeholders/obbba/OBBBA_Non-citizen_Final_Term.pdf | Example of final termination notice sent to members who did not respond with proof of eligible status; available in 9 languages<br><br>Contains Immigration Status Reporting Form and instructions for how members can respond after September 30 |
| Immigration Document Guide | https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/dmahs/documents/providers-stakeholders/obbba/NJ_Medicaid_Immigrant_Document_Guide_ENGLISH.pdf | Guide that identifies acceptable documentation to verify immigration eligibility; available in 9 languages |
| VerifyOS Portal | https://verifyos.com/ | Online portal to submit proof of eligible immigration status to DMAHS |

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# Tools for stakeholders on non-citizen eligibility requirements

| Resource | Where to go | What it is |
|---|---|---|
| NJ FamilyCare (NJFC) federal changes website | https://federalmedicaidchanges.nj.gov/ | Central hub for OBBBA / H.R. 1 information, providing overview of eligibility changes and member resources |
| NJFC federal changes stakeholder resources subpage | https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/dmahs/obbba/stakeholders/ | Detailed webpage with information and resources for stakeholders who assist NJ FamilyCare applicants and members in understanding and navigating federal changes |
| Non-citizen Stakeholder Guide | https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/dmahs/documents/providers-stakeholders/obbba/Non-citizen_Stakeholder_Guide.pdf | Comprehensive document that provides detailed guidance on the eligibility changes taking effect for non-citizens |
| Non-citizen Frontline Staff Guide | https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/dmahs/documents/providers-stakeholders/obbba/Non-citizen_Frontline_Staff_Guide.pdf | Simplified one-pager that describes the non-citizen changes, how to help, and what to avoid (updates coming soon) |

# Expansion Adult Eligibility Changes

# Summary of changes under the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" (OBBBA) /H.R.1

| Provision | Policy | Effective date | Estimated impact |
|---|---|---|---|
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| **Community engagement** (also known as work requirements) | **Expansion Adults**[2] will have to **work, go to school, volunteer, or participate in a job training program** for at least **80 hours per month** to qualify for or keep their coverage, unless they qualify for an exclusion or exception | **January 1, 2027** | ~540K Expansion Adults |
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Across OBBBA provisions, an estimated **~165K-300K NJ FamilyCare members could lose coverage** by end of SFY28

1. Victims of domestic violence, applying under the U.S. Violence Against Women Act; Temporary humanitarian parolees for at least 1 year; Refugees; Asylees; Victims of trafficking and their spouse, child, sibling, or parents; Lawfully residing veterans/active-duty service members and certain family members; Afghan Nationals granted parole between 7/31/2021, and 9/30/2023; Individuals who were paroled into the U.S. between 2/24/2022 and 9/30/2024 under the Ukrainian Humanitarian Parole program; People whose deportation is being withheld 2. Expansion Adults are individuals ages 19-64 who became eligible for coverage through the "Affordable Care Act" (ACA) or individuals enrolled in plan type ABP (Alternative Benefit Plan) 3. Other Medicaid members can be reimbursed for services received up to 2 months before the month of application

## How members can meet the community engagement / work requirements

Members can **meet the new work requirements** in six primary ways:

1. **Work** for ≥ **80 hours/month**
2. If your **household income** is ≥ **$580 per month**
3. **Volunteer** or perform **community service** for ≥ **80 hours/month**
4. Participate in a **work program** for ≥ **80 hours/month**
5. **Attend school at least half-time**, as defined by the educational institution
6. **Combine the above** for ≥ **80 hours/month**

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# Expansion Adults can also be excluded from work requirements if they meet certain criteria

## Group 1: Excluded

*Work requirements do not apply to the member because they match one of the exclusion groups below*

- Already meeting another program's work rule (SNAP/TANF)
- In SUD/alcohol treatment provided by private non-profit organization or public mental health center
- Enrolled in NJ FamilyCare Aged, Blind, Disabled Program
- Are pregnant or recently pregnant / postpartum
- A parent, guardian, or caregiver of child under 14 or person with disability
- Currently in jail or prison
- Under age 26 **AND** aged out of foster care
- A member of a federally recognized American Indian tribe or an Alaska native
- A veteran with a total disability
- Are medically frail ***(more detail follows)***

For new applicants:

- To be excluded, must match one of the exclusion groups in the month before they apply or in the month they apply

For current members:

- To be excluded, must match one of the exclusion groups at any time since their last renewal

# Expansion Adults can also be excepted from work requirements if they meet certain criteria

## Group 2: Excepted

*Work requirements normally apply, but the member does not currently have to meet them because of certain circumstances below*

- Under 19 years of age
- Enrolled in Medicare
- Received Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Received inpatient acute care services
- Traveled outside your community to access health care services for yourself or a dependent because that care was not available where you live
- Lived in a county with high unemployment
- Lived in an area where the President declared an emergency or disaster

For new applicants:

- To be excepted, must match one of the exception groups **in the month before they apply**

For current members:

- To be excepted, must match one of the exception groups **at any time since their last renewal**

# Who qualifies as "Medically Frail"?

## H.R.1 statute **excludes** individuals who are medically frail from work requirements

The law defines medical frailty as applying to members in **five buckets**:

1. Blind or disabled
2. Substance use disorder (SUD)
3. Disabling mental disorder
4. Physical, intellectual, or developmental disability significantly impairing one or more activities of daily living
5. Serious or complex medical condition

## In the Interim Final Rule (IFR), CMS goes **significantly beyond statute**:

**In addition** to falling into one of the five buckets,

- IFR states a member's condition must be one that "**significantly impairs** the individual's ability to comply with the community engagement requirement"

IFR, however, is **unclear on how members meet** the "**significant impairment**" standard

- E.g., does a doctor need to formally certify that a member's cancer diagnosis impedes their ability to work?
- Also, definition of "significant impairment" does not appear anywhere in H.R.1 statute

**DMAHS is reviewing CMS guidance and developing its medical frailty approach, including qualifying conditions and use of claims data, while seeking alignment on strategy with peer states**

# Verification approach and relevant documentation required to meet the work requirements

## Verification approach

- In "ex parte" process, **NJ FamilyCare reviews existing electronic data** (e.g., wage records and other benefit systems) to **check if member meets requirements**
- If electronic **checks confirm compliance**, or an **exclusion or exception**, coverage **renews automatically** with no member action needed
- If electronic **checks cannot confirm** member status, **NJ FamilyCare will contact the member** for more information

## Documentation requirements

**In 2027,**

- Documentation is **only required for 4 categories**: income, veteran disability, work hours, and education
  - Other categories can be confirmed through self-attestation, where a member provides the information themselves[1]
- **To verify** income, work hours, or education, **NJ FamilyCare sends a Request for Information (RFI)** with a list of acceptable documents

**Starting in 2028,**

- **More categories** will require documentation
- **Self-attestation** will **only** be accepted where **documentation is not available**

1. This is considered a legal statement made under penalty of perjury

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# Other changes to Expansion Adult eligibility

## Six-month renewals

- Starting January 1, 2027, **NJ FamilyCare will review** most Expansion Adults' **eligibility every 6 months** instead of every 12 months
- About two months before a member's renewal date, **NJ FamilyCare checks existing data** to confirm eligibility automatically (ex parte), and **many members renew with no action needed**
- If eligibility **can't be confirmed automatically**, the **member receives a renewal packet**, and then a further **Request for Information** if more information is still needed
- **Expansion adult members** of a federally recognized **American Indian** or **Alaska Native tribe continue to renew every 12 months**

## Shortened retroactive coverage

- Currently, **NJ FamilyCare may cover medical bills from up to three months** before a member applies
- Starting January 1, 2027, **retroactive coverage** for **Expansion Adults** is **limited to one month prior** to the month of application (and two months for all other NJ FamilyCare members)
- **Members who delay applying or responding** to a renewal may be more likely to **experience a gap in coverage** for medical bills

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## Tools for members on work requirements

| Resource | Where to go | What it is |
|---|---|---|
| **NJFC community engagement subpage** | MedicaidWorkRules.nj.gov | Detailed webpage with information, resources, and FAQ on work requirements |
| **NJFC phone numbers** | **Number for Expansion Adult members:** 1-833-409-2370<br>**Number for Non-Expansion members**: 1-833-409-2371 | Hotline to update contact information, get answers to frequently asked questions, and connect with a live agent for help |
| **Contact information update form** | https://dmahs-nj.my.site.com/addressupdate/ | Webform for members to update their NJ FamilyCare mailing address, phone number, and email address |
| **Activity requirements checker** | https://njfcchecker.nj.gov/ | 9-question tool to help members understand whether they may be impacted by the new federal work requirement rule |

# Tools for stakeholders on work requirements

| Resource | Where to go | What it is |
|---|---|---|
| **NJ FamilyCare (NJFC) federal changes website** | https://federalmedicaidchanges.nj.gov/ | Central hub for OBBBA/H.R. 1 information, providing overview of eligibility changes and member resources |
| **NJFC federal changes stakeholder resources subpage** | https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/dmahs/obbba/stakeholders/ | Detailed webpage with information and resources for stakeholders who assist NJ FamilyCare applicants and members in understanding and navigating federal changes |
| **Expansion Adult guidance document** | https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/dmahs/documents/providers-stakeholders/obbba/Expansion_Adult_Stakeholder_Guidance.pdf | Comprehensive guide to help prepare stakeholders for supporting Expansion Adults impacted by eligibility changes |
| **NJ Health Care Quality Institute (NJHCQI) forums/resources** | Visit https://www.njhcqi.org/hr1/ for more information on:<br>• Regular webinar series<br>• Weekly office hours Thu 1PM<br>• Additional resources forthcoming | Resources provided by NJHCQI, who is partnering with NJ FamilyCare to engage healthcare providers, member assistors and advocates, community engagement support partners, and other organizations |

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# Break

10:50 - 11:00

# Future Directions:
# Q&A About Survivors' Visit to Trenton

11:00 – 11:10

## In-person meeting with Senior Staff advisors to the governor
## September 23, 2026

- Jennifer Fearon - Senior Policy Advisor, Health & Human Services
- Verelitiz Santana - Director of Advocacy
- Tanjnia Hussain – Department of Advocacy
- Sammie Delcy – Assistant to Jennifer Fearon, Injury Prevention Specialist, Interest in concussion

<u>BIANJ Representatives Arranged for this Meeting</u>

- Wendy Berk, CEO
- Nicole DeLorenzo, Director of Programs & Initiatives
- Nikki Darling, VOICE Facilitator & CARES Manager

<u>SURVIVORS</u>

- Ginamarie Williams • Patricia Thompson • Sandra Barnett, As well as six other survivors

Each spoke openly about our lived experiences through personal testimonials of TBI, identifying gaps in care

- Emphasizing the needs for improving communication, lack of policies and procedures as they relay to TBI
- The importance of accurate data collection and standardization of care as well as lack of proper diagnosis of TBI

# State House Meeting, Trenton – Sept. 23, 2026

Brain Injury Alliance NEW JERSEY






Sandra Barnett




Ginamarie Williams




Patricia Thompson

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# Mission of the Council Scope and Vision Moving Forward:

Adam Neary, Assistant Director
Division of Disability Services

11:10 – 11:20

# 2026 Council and Board Planning

This includes:

- ✓ Creating a mission statement ← JULY
- ✓ Soliciting feedback about changes in the community ← OCTOBER
- ✓ Identifying opportunities and alignments

Going hand-and-hand with the State Action Plan work.

## Mission Statement Follow-Up:

*"The New Jersey Advisory Council on Traumatic Brain Injury is focused on championing a higher quality of life for those with a traumatic brain injury and their caregivers by amplifying their lived experiences while driving public awareness, and guiding state resources toward a seamless system of lifelong support."*

## Soliciting feedback about changes in the community:

This includes:

- ✓ Hosting a Public Listening Session for both those with a TBI and caregivers
- ✓ Creating an online survey for the community to complete

# TBI Fund Updates

Margaret Lumia, PhD, MPH
Administrator, Disability Health & Wellness/TBI Fund

11:20 - 11:30

# TBI Fund Applicants

**January – September 2026**

- 100 applicants
  - 36 Females; 62 Males; 1 Non-binary
- Age Range
  - 8-80 years
- Top Counties
  - Gloucester (n=11)
  - Morris (n=10)
  - Monmouth (n=10)
  - Burlington (n=10)
- Race/Ethnicity
  - White (n=65)
  - Black (n=11)
  - Hispanic (n=13)
  - Asian (n=2)
  - Prefer not to say (n=8)
- Top Causes
  - MVC (n=56)
  - Falls (n=21)
  - Assault (n=9)
  - Struck-by (n=6)

(n =number)

# TBI Fund Updates

- To date for FY 27, the TBI Fund has collected $975,300 from the MVC Vehicle Registration Surcharge ($.50)
- FY27 TBI Fund total expenditures are  $380,709
- Panoramic, online management system, was approved
  - Kick off meeting held on September 22, 2026
  - Work has begun on the planning phase
- Growing our team with a focus on increasing one-on-one interactions with our clients.
- Hosted an event with BIANJ with our resource facilitators.

# Open Discussion

11:30 – 11:45

## 2027 Meeting Schedule:

**Tuesday, January 19, 2027**

**Tuesday, April 20, 2027**

**Tuesday, July 20, 2027**

**Tuesday, October 19, 2027**

***All meetings are 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.***

## Next Meeting:

**Date: January 19, 2027 – Virtual**

**Time: 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

**Send potential topic ideas by January 1, 2027 to adam.neary@dhs.nj.gov.**