



Commissioner's Welcome

Governor Murphy's proposed budget for the next fiscal year is packed with good news for NJ Human Services and the individuals we serve.

The Governor noted some of these important initiatives in his [Budget Address](#). Among the highlights is our proposal to add doula services to NJ FamilyCare, our Medicaid program. First Lady Tammy Murphy has been leading a statewide campaign called [Nurture NJ](#) focused on reducing the unacceptable disparities in infant and maternal mortality in our State. Doulas support healthy pregnancies by providing culturally appropriate social and emotional support to pregnant women. The Governor's budget plan includes \$1 million to implement [doula coverage in Medicaid](#).



First Lady and Commissioner with doulas at the First Lady's Family Festival in Camden.

we've proposed to support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Governor announced [\\$22.5 million in proposed new investments](#), including new funding for individuals diagnosed with both developmental disabilities and mental health conditions and additional funding to continue New Jersey's emphasis on home and community-based services. Stephanie Pratico, a mother of two young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, was [a special guest of First Lady Tammy Murphy](#) for the Budget Address and joined the First Lady in the Assembly Chambers for the speech.

The Budget also continues Governor Murphy's tireless commitment to combatting the opioid epidemic by continuing the \$100 million annual investment he has made in this statewide effort. In Human Services, we have [taken several critical steps under the Governor's opioid initiative](#) to improve access to treatment, including removing prior authorization requirements for medication-assisted treatment to treat opioid addiction, investing in training more primary care physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants to provide medication-assisted treatment for opioid addiction, and creating new Medicaid payment incentives to encourage primary care providers to offer medication-assisted treatment. We are working with health care providers, advocates, community leaders, health plans and others to continue to build our community treatment options and combat this epidemic. As part of this effort, we also are supporting grants for new addiction treatment programs focusing on peer recovery and other intensive treatment and recovery supports for individuals with opioid use disorder.

The Budget also makes important investments in mental health, including a new initiative focused on suicide prevention and modeled on the national Zero Suicide initiative, and



Stephanie Pratico, First Lady Tammy Murphy and Commissioner Johnson.

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increased investment in mental health outpatient services to sustain and support access to mental health services in the community. Together, this investment will help us continue our focus on improving services and supports for individuals with mental health conditions.

We look forward to implementing the Governor's budget and are very excited about the year ahead. We welcome the opportunity to make important progress on our goals of increasing health, food and economic security for all New Jerseyans in partnership with each of you.



Carole Johnson
NJ Human Services Commissioner



NJ Human Services Budget Listening Session

Advocates turned out in force for NJ Human Services' budget listening session held in December.

Commissioner Johnson and senior staff were pleased to have the opportunity to listen to public witnesses give thoughtful commentary, suggestions and feedback on the Department's investments and options to prioritize as it shaped the new budget.

Commissioner Johnson also highlighted some of the many initiatives and programs the Department worked on over 2018. They include the expansion of food assistance to career and technical community college students, new Medicaid benefits, and the launch of NJSave, a new online application to help older New Jerseyans and adults with disabilities access benefits.

Governor Murphy Moves to Improve Services for Dual Diagnosis Population

Governor Phil Murphy announced \$22.5 million in proposed new investments to care for individuals with developmental disabilities, including new funding for individuals diagnosed with both developmental disabilities and mental health conditions.

"Our budget will provide critical resources to allow individuals with both developmental disabilities and mental health challenges to thrive in their communities," **Governor Murphy said** during his Budget Address.

"The Murphy Administration is committed to improved programs and services for individuals dually diagnosed with developmental disabilities and mental health concerns," **said Commissioner Carole Johnson**. "These individuals represent a particularly vulnerable population and require comprehensive, coordinated treatment and support to help them live as independently as possible in the community. New innovations are crucial, and with this initiative we're increasing our capacity to care for these individuals and give them the services they need."

The new funding for individuals with developmental disabilities and mental health conditions would include \$7 million proposed in Governor Murphy's budget for the next fiscal year. This funding would help garner \$2.5 million in matching federal funds, for a total of \$9.5 million.

The money would be used to:

- Double capacity of the Division of Developmental Disabilities community-based emergency beds by adding 20 new beds across the state, which can reduce the need for hospitalizations and get people in a crisis home sooner;
- Develop a Medicaid Behavioral Health Home pilot program that would invest in building the capacity of health care providers to serve individuals with developmental disabilities and mental health issues; and
- Conduct a statewide review of in-patient stabilization services and funding mechanisms.

The Governor's budget plan also calls for an additional \$15.5 million in state funding to continue New Jersey's emphasis on home and community-based services.

"Taken as a whole, these improvements represent an expansive effort to ensure the best possible care for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities," **said Human Services Deputy Commissioner Sarah Adelman**.



New Initiatives to Combat the Opioid Epidemic

Governor Phil Murphy and Human Services Commissioner Carole Johnson unveiled several new initiatives to strengthen New Jersey's fight against the opioid epidemic.

"The opioid epidemic continues to devastate families and communities across our state," **said Governor Murphy**. "As we combat this crisis, it is critical that we use data-driven, evidence-based strategies to support individuals suffering from addiction and help them get on the path to recovery."

At Cooper University Medical Center in Camden in January, the Governor outlined key strategies for combatting the epidemic, including increasing access to evidence-based prevention and treatment programs in our communities, supporting individuals on their path to and maintenance of recovery, building sound data systems and strengthening system-wide infrastructure for the addictions treatment community, and delivering robust law enforcement to stem the supply of illicit drugs, while also supporting diversion programs.

NJ Human Services removed prior authorization requirements for medication-assisted treatment (MAT) to treat opioid addiction as of April; and is:

- Investing in training more primary care physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants to provide medication-assisted treatment for opioid addiction;
- Creating new Medicaid payment incentives to encourage primary care providers to offer medication-assisted treatment;
- Funding two initial Medicaid Centers of Excellence for opioid treatment – one at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School in Newark and one at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University – to provide community providers access to addiction experts and supports; and
- Requiring residential treatment facilities that receive Medicaid payment to provide access to medication-assisted treatment as of July 1.

"Governor Murphy has made it clear that we need all-hands-on-deck to fight the opioid epidemic," **said Commissioner Johnson**.

The initiatives were welcomed and praised by stakeholders. Governor Murphy has included \$100 million in this year's state budget to continue this work to tackle New Jersey's opioid crisis.

Human Services Supports First Lady's Campaign for Maternal and Infant Health

NJ Human Services is supporting First Lady Tammy Murphy's Nurture NJ statewide awareness campaign focused on reducing infant and maternal mortality and ensuring equitable care among women and children of all races and ethnicities.

"From symposiums across the state, to an incredible \$38 million in federal child care grants, to statewide community-based initiatives dedicated to improving services and access to perinatal care, we have been working every angle of maternal and infant health to make sure that we are a stronger, fairer and healthier New Jersey," **said First Lady Tammy Murphy**.

"The Department of Human Services shares the First Lady's commitment to improving maternal and infant health and to combatting the unacceptable disparity in maternal and birth outcomes for African-American women and infants," **said Commissioner Johnson**.

Some of the steps NJ Human Services has taken over the past year include:

- Adding Medicaid coverage of postpartum long-acting reversible contraception to increase women's family planning choices;
- Expanding Medicaid coverage of tobacco cessation and diabetes prevention to decrease risk factors for low-birthweight infants and improve women's health;
- Investing in expanding access to affordable child care to help families succeed, and;
- Moving to add doula services to Medicaid.

"Eliminating disparities in maternal health includes making sure women have access to the health and social services they need to live healthy lives," **Commissioner Johnson said**.



Reducing Financial Crimes Against Seniors

In February, NJ Human Services hosted a Financial Crimes Against Seniors Seminar with support from the U.S. Department of Justice and the National White Collar Crime Center. The seminar built on NJ Human Services' efforts to protect older adults from financial exploitation.

The Commissioner cited several instances when the Department partnered with law enforcement to protect older residents who had been financially exploited.

"Sadly, we see far too many of these stories through our work," **Commissioner Johnson said.** "That is why the New Jersey Department of Human Services is leading a statewide effort with our partners in law enforcement to raise awareness and combat financial exploitation of older adults."

Johnson noted that most often financial exploitation of older adults occurs through access to bank accounts, credit cards or other financial vehicles. Older Americans also are particularly vulnerable to and frequently targeted by scammers, including online, through robocalls and by mail. Scammers often provide fake credentials to gain trust or may threaten or attempt to frighten the individuals they are attempting to scam.

If you see or suspect financial exploitation is happening to older friends, family or neighbors, call 1-877-222-3737 to connect with your county Office on Aging or reach out to local law enforcement.



Improvements in Child Care

In February, increased rates for child care subsidies went into effect and the first child care improvement grants were awarded, both thanks to the Murphy Administration's \$38 million investment in improving child care in New Jersey.

For the first time in nearly a decade, child care centers are seeing substantial rate increases for infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers, with the highest increase for infant care slots. Payment rates are further increasing for programs that are rated by our quality rating improvement system, Grow NJ Kids.

The goal is to help families with lower incomes find quality child care while they are working, in school or in training programs.

"As we work towards a healthier future for every mother, every baby and every family in New Jersey, we must ensure that our working families can access the best quality care for their children," **First Lady Murphy said.**

"Giving working families the peace of mind that comes from quality child care is part of building a stronger and fairer New Jersey for everyone," **Commissioner Johnson said.**

The department also awarded the first phase of its child care improvement grants. Twenty grants totaling \$200,000 were given out to child care centers throughout the state to enhance the quality, curriculum and safety at the programs. "The rate increases are great news for New Jersey's hard working families," said **Deputy Commissioner Elisa Neira.**



New Statewide Partnership Aims to Improve Quality of Child Care and Early Childhood Education

New Jersey will receive \$10.6 million in federal funding for a new initiative – the NJ Preschool Development Collaboration.

The initiative will advance collaboration among state and local child care resources in an effort to improve the consistency and quality of child care, early childhood development and pre-kindergarten programs.

"New Jersey's children deserve access to the highest quality education possible, regardless of location or socioeconomic status," **said Governor Murphy.** "The NJ Preschool Development Collaboration will foster critical educational opportunities and provide children and educators with the opportunity to work together to ensure that our children receive the tools they need to achieve their greatest potential."

"The Murphy Administration knows that early childhood education and development, especially quality child care and preschool, are crucial to building a stronger future for our families and our children. New Jersey worked hard to develop a strong proposal, and we are delighted to have secured this important funding to support New Jersey's families," **said Commissioner Johnson.**

The state will conduct a needs assessment of the availability and quality of existing early childhood education programs and will develop a strategic plan to create an easier transition from early educational programs to elementary school.

New Jersey Caregiver Task Force

Lieutenant Governor Sheila Oliver signed legislation in December establishing the NJ Caregiver Task Force to evaluate and recommend improvements of support services available to caregivers for the elderly, disabled and those with mental health conditions.

“Caregivers throughout our state work long hours for often little to no compensation,” **Lieutenant Governor Oliver said.** “I am proud to sign a bill which will explore ways to improve conditions and support these selfless



individuals and the people they care for.”

“Caregivers are vital to the quality of life for many New Jerseyans, especially individuals with disabilities and older adults, but they perform difficult work that can take its toll,” **said Commissioner Johnson,** who is a member of the New Jersey Caregiver Task Force. “The Murphy Administration is committed to supporting caregivers and improving programs that can help.”

First Lady, Commissioner Meets Families Receiving State Support for Children Facing Catastrophic Illness

First Lady Tammy Murphy and Commissioner Johnson joined families receiving grants from the New Jersey Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund at an event honoring families.

The dedicated fund provides financial assistance to New Jersey families whose children have an illness or condition with costs otherwise uncovered by health insurance or other programs.

During the annual event highlighting the program, the First Lady noted that the fund has granted nearly \$200 million to more than 9,100 families for uncovered costs since its inception in 1988.

“No one should face insurmountable expenses due to their child’s complex illness or medical condition,” **First Lady Murphy said.**

“A family’s financial means should not be a barrier to necessary medical care for their very sick children,” **said Commissioner Johnson.** “We need to ensure that every child gets the care they need.”

This year, more than 200 families received \$5 million for medical care.



Bergen County Partners With New Jersey Hearing Aid Project

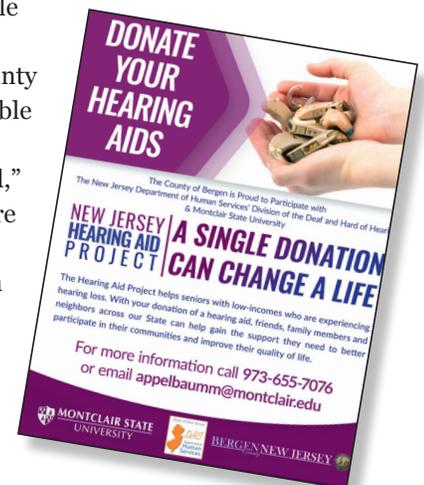
Human Services’ Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is teaming up with Bergen County to help provide free hearing aids.

Human Services’ New Jersey Hearing Aid Project provides refurbished hearing aids to eligible older New Jersey residents with low incomes.

Bergen residents can now donate hearing aids at established collection sites at several county facilities. The aids will then be refurbished and reconditioned before being given to eligible participants.

“Some older New Jerseyans with hearing loss are not able to afford the cost of a hearing aid,” **said Commissioner Johnson.** “We are committed to expanding this vital program and are thrilled to be able to introduce it to Bergen County.”

“Anyone who has had to purchase a hearing aid knows the costs involved, and the difficulties in obtaining coverage for those expenses,” **said Bergen County Executive James J. Tedesco.** “It’s important to let the public know that just like clothing and other essential items, they can actually donate leftover hearing aids and give the gift of hearing to a senior citizen in need. This partnership will strengthen our Age-Friendly Bergen initiative, enhancing our ability to improve the health, well-being, and quality of life for residents as they age.”



Murphy Administration Calls on Federal Government to Withdraw Proposed Public Charge Immigration Rule

NJ Human Services [filed a public comment](#) in opposition to a draft federal proposal that would make it harder for immigrants who receive public services to acquire green cards or attain citizenship.

The proposed U.S. Department of Homeland Security's rule would expand the definition of who qualifies as a public charge in determining citizenship and permanent resident status. A public charge is defined as a person who might someday become primarily dependent on the government for assistance.

The proposed rule would significantly expand the list of programs that would be counted in the public charge test, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicaid, Medicare Part D (the prescription drug assistance program for seniors), and various housing and rental assistance programs. It also would impose new income requirements.

In its response to the proposal, the Department noted that the proposed rule would undermine the health and well-being of New Jersey families by causing immigrants to avoid life-saving benefits for which they or their citizen children are eligible because of their fear of the impact on their immigration status. The Department of Human Services is aware of reports that the proposed rule is creating a "chilling effect" on the use of benefits in immigrant communities.

"The Murphy Administration is committed to building a stronger and fairer New Jersey," **said Commissioner Johnson**. "To achieve that goal, residents need access to nutrition, health care, and other essential supports to help them get on the best possible financial footing and keep children healthy, parents working, and families strong."



NJ SNAP Recipients Get February Benefits Early Amid Uncertainty of Federal Shutdown

Working together with our county partners, the Department provided Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits for February earlier than usual amid concerns of a continuing federal government shutdown. SNAP is a federal program administered by the Department of Human Services. It provides nutrition assistance to eligible individuals and families with low incomes.

Recipients who were scheduled to receive benefits in February received them January 17 on their Families First Card to ensure benefits were paid before federal funding ran out.



Thankfully, a temporary spending bill ended the 35-day shutdown before further dramatic action was necessary.

"I thank the state and county employees and leadership who worked so hard to make sure this vital assistance was delivered," **said Commissioner Johnson**.

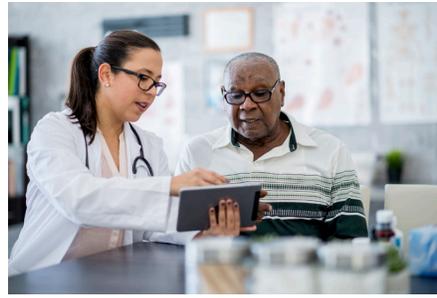
"I appreciate the dedication and commitment of everyone who worked diligently to make sure these critical benefits were made available during a difficult time," **said Deputy Commissioner Neira**.



Video Spotlight: George F. Meyer Center

In honor of Braille Literacy Month this January, we are highlighting the George F. Meyer Center, run by NJ Human Services' Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired. The center provides accessible reading materials and learning tools to more than 2,000 students throughout New Jersey. Staff at the center transcribe textbooks into braille books, including creating tactile images.

Click [here](#) to see the video.



NJ Human Services Announces New Medicaid Innovation Office

NJ Human Services has launched a new Office of Medicaid Innovation to improve the quality, delivery and cost of care within the state's Medicaid program.

The Office will lead New Jersey Medicaid's work on value-based payment and purchasing strategies and focus on identifying opportunities for innovative approaches to the relationship between Medicare and Medicaid. It will also focus on partnering with stakeholders to explore alternative payment models to drive the best clinical outcomes while getting the best value for health care dollars.

"Our Medicaid program serves nearly two million New Jerseyans and is vital to our state's health care system, which is why it is important that we are ensuring that we deliver the best value for this investment and that we lean-in on innovation," **said Commissioner Johnson**. "This new office will prove beneficial to consumers and providers alike."

"New Jersey's Medicaid system strives each and every day to provide the highest quality care for millions of our residents," **said Human Services Deputy Commissioner Adelman**. "The development and implementation of innovative and evidence-based models of care that promote quality, value, equity and patient engagement are priorities for our program and for the Murphy administration."

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Program Spotlight

Our newsletter will regularly shine a spotlight on NJ Human Services programs and the employees behind these initiatives. This edition highlights the Division of Disability Services Information and Referral (I&R), and the Office of Emergency Management.

Division of Disability Services Information and Referral (I&R) Team

The Division of Disability Services Information and Referral (I&R) team is a one-stop shop for New Jerseyans seeking disability-related information.

The Information and Referral (I&R) team's dedicated specialists help guide and assist people looking to learn more about how New Jersey supports individuals with disabilities, including by confidentially discussing issues, providing information, problem solving, and working to make connections to services.

The team operates the division's toll-free hotline, answering as many as 15,000 requests each year. Specialists also host tables at many community events throughout the state where they distribute information and answer questions directly.

"Our staff is knowledgeable and ready to assist New Jersey residents with a myriad of available services. They will take time with each caller to gain understanding of their needs and diligently aim to connect them with the most appropriate programs and services," **said Disability Services Director Peri Nearon.**

The team also publishes and distributes New Jersey Resources, an annually updated comprehensive guide to Human Services programs available throughout the state. The directory is available in English as a printed directory or electronically in [English](#), [Spanish](#) and [audio](#). New editions are released annually.

For assistance call 1-888-285-3036



From L to R: I & R Specialists Jeff May and Jayme D'Souza, I & R Administrator Dianna Maurone, DDS Director Peri Nearon

NJ Human Services' Office of Emergency Management



From L to R: Russell Hendrickson, Richard Sensi, Joe Geleta, Jamie Bodrog-Powell, Edward Conover

The Office of Emergency Management serves as the emergency management team for the largest state Department. The team also ensures that NJ Human Services is prepared to assist and aid New Jersey residents in an emergency, including through emergency shelters.

The team also works closely with the State Police Office of Emergency Management in the development of the State Emergency Operations Plan in times of crisis or disaster.

NJ OEM works in coordination with partners across the country to ensure that expert support is available in times of need. For example, this past November, members of the team were deployed to California on a mission to assist with the devastating wildfires.

Jamie Bodrog-Powell and Russell Hendrickson aided survivors impacted by the fires and provided guidance on what services are available to assist them in their time of need.

"The Department of Human Services Office of Emergency Management team is committed to ensuring the safety and security of the DHS family as well as those NJ residents impacted by emergencies or disasters requiring mass care services," **said OEM**

Director Joseph Geleta.



Social Work Month

Social workers help families address challenges and identify opportunities. In recognition of Social Work Month, we thank the social workers of NJ Human Services who help New Jersey residents everyday!



Division of Family Development



Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing



Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired



Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services



Division of Developmental Disabilities

Continued on page 10

Social Work Month *Continued*



**Division of Developmental Disabilities
Voorhees Community Services Office**



**Deputy Commissioner
Elisa Neira**



Division of Aging Services



Office of the Public Guardian

NJ Human Services Snapshots



Staff from Medicaid and the Division of Aging took part in a Season of Service event, decorating holiday cookies with participants at the Lourdes Health Systems' Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE).



The annual Winter Wear Drive was as successful as ever this year! Thank you to DHS staff who donated more than 100 items including coats, scarves, gloves, mittens, and much more. Donations were made to the Salvation Army of New Jersey.



Commissioner Johnson presented The Arc of New Jersey & the New Jersey Self Advocacy Project Governor Murphy's proclamation commemorating Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and highlighting the administration's commitment to supporting individuals with developmental disabilities & families.



Commissioner Johnson toured the Mental Health Association of Essex and Morris, Inc. facility in Parsippany.

NJ Human Services Snapshots *Continued*



Commissioner Johnson, Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman, Congressman Frank Palone and Metuchen Mayor Jonathan Busch call for an end to the government shutdown and announce February SNAP benefits will be disbursed early.



First Lady Murphy and Commissioner Johnson visited the YWCA child care center in Princeton and also signed a pledge to eliminate racism and empower women.



Commissioner Johnson meets with students from the Masters of Social Work program at Montclair State University.



The Governor and Commissioner joined the First Lady to meet with New Jerseyans at the Rescue Mission of Trenton.



Governor Murphy and Commissioner Johnson visited the Bergen County Emergency Shelter and joined with Julia Orlando, director of Bergen County Housing, Health, and Human Services Center, to talk with New Jerseyans on one of the coldest days of the year.



Commissioner Johnson and Assembly Human Services Chairwoman Downey at an enrollment event at the Neptune Public Library to help New Jerseyans sign up for affordable health care through Get Covered NJ.

NJ Human Services Snapshots *Continued*



First Lady Tammy Murphy's Family Festival in Trenton. The Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired Project BEST team provided free eye screenings to over 70 people.



Division of Family Development conducted a food drive to stock college pantries.



Commissioner Johnson and Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services Director Davey discuss New Jersey's new Medicaid autism benefits.



NJ Human Services had a strong showing on National Wear Red Day to raise awareness about heart disease.



NJ SNAP Unit Supervisor Alecia Eubanks and DFD Director Natasha Johnson joined the entire DFD team to reflect on DFD's great work and to plan next steps to support families.



Division of Aging Services Director Louise Rush and Commissioner Johnson, third and fourth from left, meet at the State House Annex with the Delaware Valley Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association.

Community Voices



“Governor Murphy’s ‘Righting the Opioid Epidemic’ initiatives make unprecedented and significant strides forward in addressing the crisis and setting the path to reversing the tragic trend of drug overdose deaths.”- **Debra L. Wentz, PhD, president and CEO of New Jersey Association of Mental Health & Addiction Agencies**

“We’re thrilled by @GovMurphy’s actions to expand access to medication assisted treatment (#MAT) today! Ending prior authorizations for MAT under Medicaid & better integrating MAT into primary care will prevent overdoses & help families across New Jersey.

#harmreduction

- **Drug Policy Alliance New Jersey**

“MHANJ applauds the Governor’s strong leadership in addressing the opioid crisis by creating meaningful programs which address the wide spectrum of individuals’ needs and circumstances.”- **Carolyn Beauchamp, president and CEO, Mental Health Association in New Jersey**

“Thank you to @GovMurphy and @NJ DHS Commissioner Johnson for closing the *#Medicaid gap* & waiving prior authorization for lifesaving *#MAT* in NJ.

- **Camden Coalition**

Verified account @camdenhealth Jan 24

“DHS’s multi-pronged initiative is exactly what is needed to bring the most effective, evidence-based treatments to patients. It is wonderful to see the State embrace and support the best that science has to offer to treat opiate addiction.”

- **Raquel Mazon Jeffers, senior program officer, The Nicholson Foundation**

“The MCOs recognize and share the same concerns expressed by the governor, DHS commissioner and the Legislature relating to the opioid crisis in New Jersey and applaud the plans being put forth to combat this epidemic.”

- **Ward Sanders, president New Jersey Association of Health Plans**

“The strategies outlined by Governor Murphy and his administration prioritize increasing opportunities to bring coordinated attention and efforts to stem the tide on the opioid epidemic in NJ.”

- **Maiysha Ware, president of the New Jersey Association of Opioid Treatment Providers**

“The Arc of New Jersey is grateful to the Governor for putting needed resources into the service delivery system that enables thousands of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live integrated lives in the community.”

- **Thomas Baffuto, executive director The Arc of New Jersey**

Community Voices *Continued*

@NJDHS A special thank you to the State of New Jersey Department of Human Services for increasing access to HLAA-Essex County 1st Annual Health & Disability Awareness Fair by funding Real-time Translation (CART) providers and American Sign Language Interpreters (ASL)
- Latisha Porter@AmbitiousByte

“The Department of Human Services is now on the threshold of building an effective and cost-saving service delivery system, which will require quality-driven strategic planning. This funding allocation will help save lives, and improve the overall quality of life for adult citizens who are depending on all of us to work together on their behalf.”

- Donna Icovino, a parent advocate who helped lead DHS’ 2008 Dual Diagnosis Task Force

Access to healthy food is essential to good health. Kudos to *@NJDHS* and other states for ensuring continuous *#SNAP benefits*.

- Stephen A. Somers@SASomersCHCS

“Embracing a model where new ideas are encouraged, tested and refined will accelerate the creation of new methods of delivering efficient, quality care that is tailored to the developmental disability population.”

- Stephanie Pratico, a Hamilton mother of children with developmental disabilities who was a guest of the First Lady at the Governor’s Budget Address

Thank you to our champion *@FirstLadyNJ*, Commissioners *@ShereefElnahal* & *@NJDHS Johnson*, and Assemblywomen *@Gabby_Mosquera* & *@ASWRayJackson* for prioritizing the health of mothers and babies. We look forward to making NJ the safest place to deliver a baby *#123forMOMS #ToHealth!*
@NJHospitals

“This partnership will strengthen our Age-Friendly Bergen initiative, enhancing our ability to improve the health, well-being, and quality of life for residents as they age.”

- Bergen County Executive James J. Tedesco

“The innovation of a Medicaid Behavioral Health Home pilot program for people living with developmental disabilities and co-occurring mental health disorders and the continued emphasis on home and community-based services demonstrates Governor Murphy’s compassionate and innovative investment in building New Jersey’s capacity to support and include individuals with disabilities and their families in our communities.”

-Deborah M. Spitalnik, PhD, Executive Director of The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Human Services In The News

New Jersey challenges Obamacare ruling

Lindy Washburn, North Jersey Record Published 5:30 a.m. ET Dec. 19, 2018 | Updated 9:09 a.m. ET Dec. 19, 2018

Murphy pitches more money to serve people with disabilities, mental health conditions

The Courier-Post March 7, 2019

Child Care Subsidy Rates Increased in New Jersey

Last Edited: Feb 08, 2019 3:13 PM EST

By SNJ Today Staff **CONNECT**

New Jersey's First Lady Meets Families Receiving State Support To Care For Children With Complex Medical Conditions

TapintoMilltown/Spotswood
December 18, 2018 at 1:23 PM

MURPHY OUTLINES EXPANDED, MULTIAGENCY APPROACH TO OPIOID ADDICTION

LILO H. STANTON | JANUARY 24, 2019 | NJSPOTLIGHT.COM

Gov. Phil Murphy announces new initiatives to combat opioid epidemic

By Kelly Kultys Burlington County Times

N.J. first lady starts effort to lower maternal mortality rate

WHYY.org
By Associated Press · January 23, 2019

Here's what N.J. is doing to protect the poor during the shutdown

Susan K. Livio | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com
Updated Jan 11; Posted Jan 11

Human Services In The News *Continued*

N.J. SNAP Recipients Receive February Benefits Early Amid Continued Federal Shutdown

TapintoEastBrunswick

January 18, 2019 at 11:41 AM

Murphy administration improves NJ grades on anti-tobacco efforts

Feb 6, 2019 The Press of Atlantic City

BIG PUSH TO MAKE MEDICAID IN NEW JERSEY MORE EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT

LILLO H. STANTON | FEBRUARY 11, 2019 | NJSPOTLIGHT.COM

Murphy Administration Calls on Federal Government to Withdraw Proposal to Expand 'Public Charge' Immigration Rule

Tapinto.net

December 19, 2018 at 12:55 PM

Bergen County Partners with New Jersey Hearing Aid Project to Provide Free Refurbished Hearing Aids

The Hearing Review Feb. 13, 2019

Center For Prevention Receives NJ Human Services Investment To Combat Opioid Epidemic and Boost Recovery Supports

TAPINTO.NET (SPARTA)

Seniors must be protected from financial scams and exploitation

Burlington County Times March 4, 2019

Human Services In The News *Continued*

NJ Governor, First Lady, and Commissioner visit Rescue Mission

PATCH Karla Pollack

County Gets \$75,000 From NJ Human Services To Combat Opioid Epidemic, Boost Recovery Supports

Cape May County Herald

Ocean County Resources Part of NJ Human Services 1.4 Million Dollar Investments to Combat Opioid Epidemic and Boost Recovery Supports

TapIntoStafford/LBI

Murphy's budget plan gives massive boost to community-based services

NJSpotlight.com March 7, 2019 Lilo H. Stainton

Fighting to protect seniors from financial scams and exploitations

Trentonian March 5, 2019

New Jersey Department of Human Services offers tips for those with substance use disorders

TV 69 News - WFMZ