



## FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Greetings,

Governor Murphy on Tuesday [unveiled](#) a \$44.8 billion [budget proposal](#) for next fiscal year that will help New Jersey build back from the pandemic while moving our state forward.

This budget represents three years of thoughtful and responsible decision-making in New Jersey - and this is an exciting budget proposal. Despite difficult times, our Administration is making ground-breaking investments - and the Governor's budget has prioritized initiatives at Human Services that support New Jerseyans in every stage of life, from birth through aging.

We hope you've had time to review the many exciting budget initiatives that will help New Jersey build back from the pandemic while moving our great state forward. Below we are thrilled to highlight several budget proposals for NJ Human Services.

- Acting Commissioner Sarah Adelman

A graphic with a blue background and white text. At the top, the title "BUILDING A HEALTHIER NEW JERSEY" is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font. Below the title, five bullet points are listed, each starting with a white checkmark. The bullet points are: "EXPAND FUNDING FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE", "ENSURE MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR ONE FULL YEAR AFTER DELIVERING A BABY", "ENSURE EVERY CHILD HAS HEALTH CARE", "INCREASE FUNDING FOR RESIDENTIAL PROVIDERS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES", and "MAKE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS MORE AFFORDABLE FOR SENIORS BY EXPANDING THE PHARMACEUTICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE AGED AND DISABLED PROGRAM". At the bottom of the graphic, the hashtag "#NJFORWARD" is written in a white, sans-serif font. The background of the graphic shows a blurred image of a diverse group of people.

# PROTECTING OLDER ADULTS

 Governor Murphy's Budget will raise the income limits for the **PAAD and Senior Gold programs by \$10,000 each**

 DHS' Division of Aging Services will launch the **Age Friendly New Jersey initiative**, in partnership with AARP, to help support communities become accessible and inclusive places to live at any age

 The Governor's Budget maintains the **10 percent rate increase for Medicaid nursing facilities** with an investment of \$87 million in state dollars for a total of \$174 million after federal matching

## PAAD

New Jersey's [Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled \(PAAD\)](#) program, provides prescription drug coverage to New Jerseyans with limited incomes who are over 65 years of age or disabled. The Senior Gold program is a similar program for individuals with slightly higher incomes.

Governor Murphy's Budget will raise the income limits for the PAAD and Senior Gold programs by \$10,000 each – allowing more older residents to receive help with the cost of their medications and Medicare Part D premiums and deductibles.

## AGE FRIENDLY NEW JERSEY

Under Governor Murphy's budget, Human Services' Division of Aging Services will launch an Age Friendly New Jersey initiative, in partnership with AARP, to help support communities across NJ to become accessible and inclusive places to live at any age by adopting practices such as safe, walkable streets, better housing and transportation options, and access to key services and opportunities for residents to participate in community activities.

## NURSING FACILITIES

Last year the Governor proposed and the Legislature passed a law that provided a 10 percent Medicaid nursing facility rate increase contingent on implementation of staff wage increases, infection control and PPE measures. Facilities are required to spend at least 60 percent of the rate increase on the wages of certified nurse aides providing direct care to residents. Facilities are required to spend the rest on compliance with requirements related to infection control and key public health priorities.

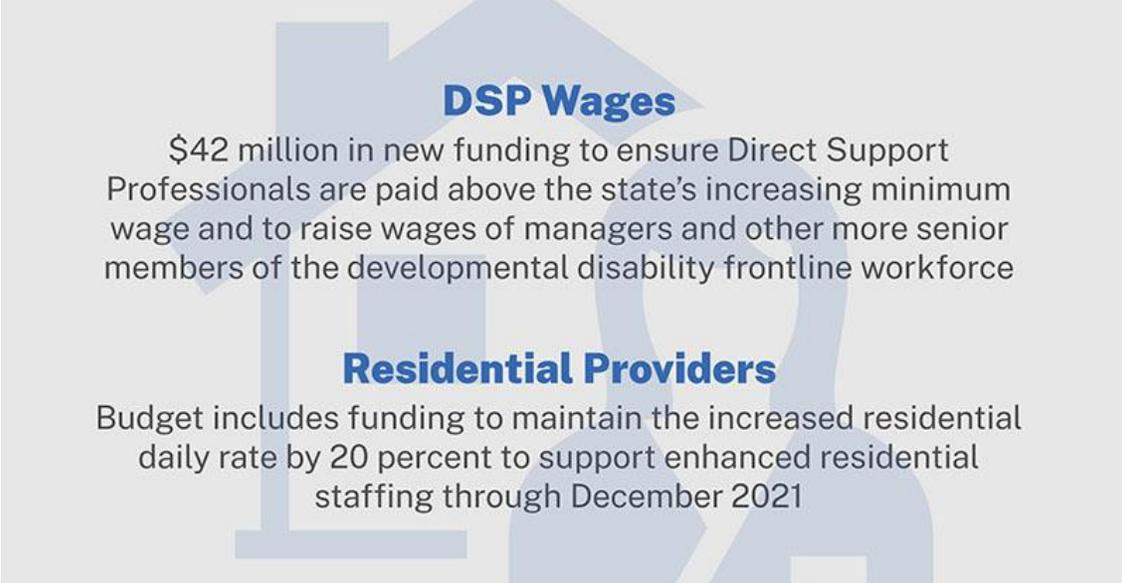
The Governor's Budget maintains this 10 percent rate increase with an investment of \$87 million in state dollars for a total of \$174 million after federal matching. All in, this brings Medicaid nursing facility funding to nearly \$2 billion. Facilities will still be required to use at least 60 percent of the rate increase for maintaining or increasing wages of staff providing direct care and the rest on compliance with public health and infection control requirements.

In addition to maintaining the 10 percent overall rate increase, the budget will add an additional \$30 million (state and federal share) to support wage increases required by changes in the minimum wage.

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## PRIORITIZING INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



### DSP Wages

\$42 million in new funding to ensure Direct Support Professionals are paid above the state's increasing minimum wage and to raise wages of managers and other more senior members of the developmental disability frontline workforce

### Residential Providers

Budget includes funding to maintain the increased residential daily rate by 20 percent to support enhanced residential staffing through December 2021

#### **DSP WAGES**

Governor Murphy's Administration was the first to recognize that a fair wage for direct support professionals must be higher than the minimum wage. The budget proposal builds on previous increases with about \$42 million in new funding to ensure Direct Support Professionals are paid above the state's increasing minimum wage and to raise wages of managers and other more senior members of the developmental disability frontline workforce. This funding maintains prior rate increases and, as of January 1st, will add \$1.25 per hour for direct care staff and additional funding for their supervisors.

#### **RESIDENTIAL PROVIDERS**

Residential providers such as group homes have been required to provide additional daytime staffing hours for the duration of the public health emergency. To support the required staffing level, the Department increased the residential daily rate by 20 percent. While the state is working to achieve widespread vaccination and to safely reopen day programs again as soon as possible, the need for this funding will continue for some time. So Governor Murphy's budget includes funding to maintain this enhanced residential staffing through December 2021.

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## HEALTH CARE FOR FAMILIES

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#### **Cover All Kids**

The budget plan includes \$20 million in funding to begin a two-year Cover All Kids initiative in Medicaid. In State Fiscal Year 2022, the plan calls for:

- Removing the 90-day waiting period before coverage can begin under the New Jersey Children's Health Insurance Program.
- Eliminating premiums for the Children's Health Insurance Program; and
- Investing in outreach to eligible but not enrolled children and their families to make sure there are no barriers for eligible children to enroll in Medicaid.

Phase two will continue to expand Cover All Kids to reach children who are uninsured but not currently eligible for Medicaid to provide opportunities for all families to access affordable healthcare coverage for all their children.

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[Nurture NJ](#)

The budget continues to invest in First Lady Tammy Murphy’s Nurture NJ work aimed at improving maternal and infant health and reducing racial inequities in care and outcomes. The budget will support Medicaid coverage of new moms for 365 days postpartum. New Jersey would be one of the only states to provide this level of continuous access to health care for all people in the postpartum period.



The budget will also invest \$19 million in the Supplemental Prenatal program to support contraceptive and prenatal services for undocumented women and women without access to health insurance.

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# MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES



**Supportive Housing**  
*A more than \$5 million funding increase for supportive housing rental subsidies for individuals with mental health conditions living integrated in their communities*

**Psychiatrists**  
*The Governor's Budget includes \$4 million for a psychiatric residency pipeline program to help address the shortage of psychiatrists in New Jersey, especially those serving low income individuals and those with complicated cases*



## **Supportive Housing**

The Governor's Budget will increase funding by more than \$5 million for supportive housing rental subsidies for individuals with mental health conditions living integrated into their communities. This new funding will help new individuals have more opportunity to find affordable housing or remain in their current housing.

## **Psychiatrists**

The Governor's budget includes \$4 million for a psychiatric residency pipeline program to help address the shortage of psychiatrists in New Jersey, especially those serving low income individuals and those with complicated cases, including those struggling with co-occurring substance use and mental health diagnoses. Human Services will fund 10 new four-year psychiatric residency slots to supplement existing slots. As a condition of the program, the residency programs and the residents would commit to working with the underserved populations in Human Services programs during their training.

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## NJ FAMILYCARE

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The budget includes more than \$4.7 billion in state funding to provide comprehensive health care coverage for more than 1.9 million low-income residents through [NJ FamilyCare](#). Since the enactment of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, the state has benefited from increased federal assistance, and the Governor is grateful that the Biden Administration will likely maintain this increase until at least the end of the calendar year. FamilyCare enrollment is projected to increase by 16 percent from FY2020.

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## SOCIAL JUSTICE

To support individuals in their re-entry and recovery journey, the governor's budget eliminates a restriction that has created significant barriers to individuals convicted with drug distribution from not being able to access New Jersey's public assistance program for individuals in critical need of cash and emergency assistance benefits. This change gives more individuals the assistance and new start that they need.

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## INCOME ASSISTANCE

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The Murphy Administration is proud to be responsible for the first meaningful increases in [WorkFirst NJ](#) benefits in 30 years, and this budget includes new funding for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families reforms such as increasing the child-support pass through, covering children longer when a parent is on sanction status, and increasing access to intensive case management.



**Earned Income Tax Credit**

The Governor has also provided meaningful middle class tax relief by boosting the [Earned Income Tax Credit](#) from 35 percent to 40 percent since 2018. Last year, the Governor led on expanding eligibility to an additional 60,000 New Jersey residents by lowering the minimum age from 25 to 21. In this budget, Governor Murphy proposes expanding eligibility to those 65 and older without dependents, which is projected to help another 70,000 residents.

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## DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING



The Governor's budget continues to boost funding to expand services for deaf and hard hearing New Jerseyans by \$500,000. Human Services' [Division of Deaf and Hard of Hearing](#) has been working to increase the division's capacity and reach to meet the needs of deaf and hard of hearing New Jerseyans, particularly during the pandemic. The budget calls for additional resources to support communication access, equipment distribution, community education and training, and information and referral.

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## CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING



The Governor's budget continues the \$500,000 in new funding available this year to support New Jersey's [Centers for Independent Living](#) as they continue to address the increased needs of individuals with disabilities. The Centers are front-line agencies that are often the first local contact for individuals with disabilities.

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## CHILD CARE

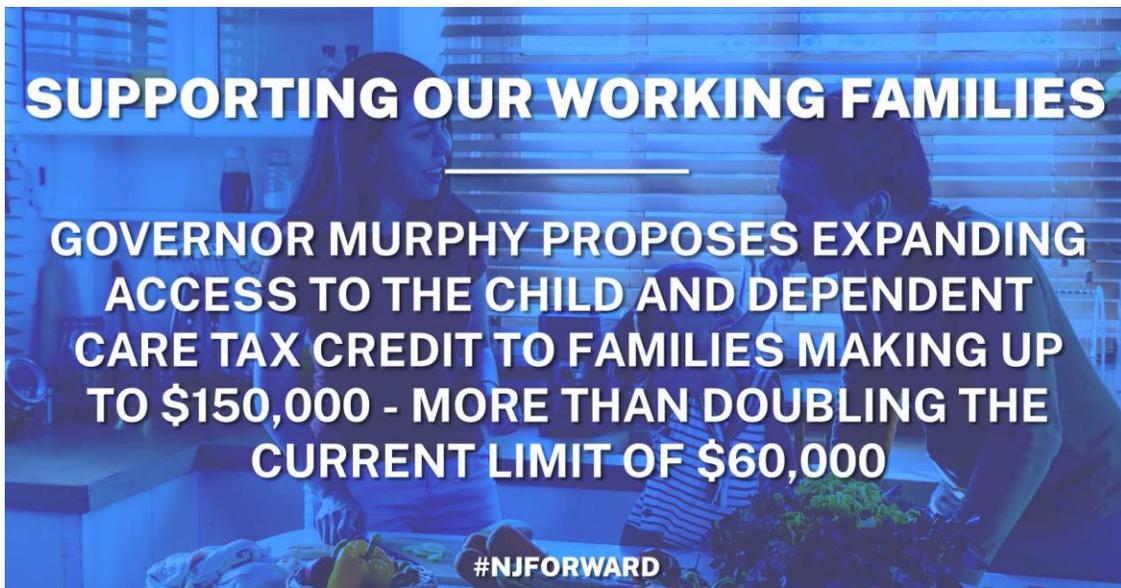


 **NEED HELP WITH CHILD CARE?**

New Jersey's child care assistance program helps eligible families pay for child care costs, find available child care options and more.

Visit [www.childcarenj.gov](http://www.childcarenj.gov) to learn more.

The Governor's budget adds more than \$60 million in additional child care funding, including for New Jersey's [child care subsidy program](#) and for January 2022 minimum wage increases for child care workers. The budget also invests \$5 million for two pilot programs to support child care providers. A \$4.45 million pilot will help providers electing to participate in [GrowNJKids](#) to fund needed capital improvements in their facilities. And a \$550,000 pilot will fund shared services initiatives in Central and South Jersey to maximize efficiencies and coordination within the provider network.



**SUPPORTING OUR WORKING FAMILIES**

**GOVERNOR MURPHY PROPOSES EXPANDING ACCESS TO THE CHILD AND DEPENDENT CARE TAX CREDIT TO FAMILIES MAKING UP TO \$150,000 - MORE THAN DOUBLING THE CURRENT LIMIT OF \$60,000**

**#NJFORWARD**

### **CHILD CARE TAX CREDIT**

Since Governor Murphy enacted the [child and dependent care tax credit](#) in 2018, it has put approximately \$30 million back into the strained family budgets of over 70,000 taxpayers. This budget proposes expanding this credit so it's available for families making up to \$150,000 and refundable. This will benefit more than 80,000 more families, and increase the average credit for those making under \$20,000 by \$110.

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## **NEW AMERICANS**



Governor Murphy's budget increases the funding for the state's first publicly funded immigrant removal defense program by \$2 million. The state will provide \$8.2 million next fiscal year to provide legal representation to New Jerseyans facing deportation.

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## **HOUSING**

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This budget continues the \$2.5 million for counties to help with Code Blue placements for at-risk individuals during cold weather events, along with ongoing funding of \$300,000 to continue to support our efforts to create safe and accessible homeless services environments for LGBTQ+ New Jerseyans.

NJ SNAP - [ENGLISH / SPANISH](#)

NJ FAMILYCARE - [ENGLISH / SPANISH](#)

NJHELPS - [ENGLISH / SPANISH](#)

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