



FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

A Message from Acting Commissioner Adelman

Hello:

Governor Murphy on Tuesday signed a new state budget that moves our state forward, assisting property taxpayers, creating opportunities for more residents to succeed, investing in our public schools and critical infrastructure, and restoring New Jersey's fiscal integrity.

It's a statement of values, featuring billions of dollars in tax relief to make our state more affordable for middle-class families and older adults.

The Murphy Administration is making ground-breaking investments, and we're excited that the budget prioritizes initiatives at the Department of Human Services that support New Jerseyans in every stage of life.

The budget includes investments, both new and ongoing, in services, supports, and opportunities for individuals with disabilities, older adults, families in need of affordable child and health care, individuals with substance use and mental health conditions, and New Americans.

Below is a look at some of what the plan provides. We look forward working with you in the year ahead as we implement these exciting initiatives.


Wishing you a safe and happy Independence Day,


Acting Commissioner Sarah Adelman


BUILDING A HEALTHIER NEW JERSEY

- ✓ **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**
- ✓ **MAKE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS MORE AFFORDABLE FOR SENIORS BY EXPANDING THE PHARMACEUTICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE AGED AND DISABLED PROGRAM**

Protecting Older Adults

 Raises the income limits for the **PAAD and Senior Gold programs by \$10,000 each**

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

 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, or PAAD program, provides prescription drug coverage to New Jerseyans with limited incomes who are 65 years and older or disabled. The Senior Gold program is a similar program for individuals with slightly higher incomes.

The budget signed by Governor Murphy raises the income limits for the PAAD and Senior Gold programs by \$10,000 each – allowing an additional number of older residents to receive help with the cost of their medications and Medicare Part D premiums and deductibles.

AGE FRIENDLY NEW JERSEY

Our Division of Aging Services is launching an Age Friendly New Jersey initiative, in partnership with AARP, to help support communities across the state 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

The budget maintains last year's 10 percent Medicaid nursing facility rate increase with an investment of \$87 million in state dollars for a total of \$174 million after federal matching. We will continue to require facilities to use at least 60 percent of the rate increase for maintaining or increasing wages of staff providing direct care and to use the remaining increase on compliance with public health and infection control requirements.

Tax Relief

FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET

TAX RELIEF

- **Over 760,000 middle-class New Jersey families will receive up to a \$500 tax rebate this summer**
- **Homestead Benefit payments will be updated to be based on 2017 property tax information**
- **Eligibility for the Earned Income Tax Credit will expand to residents 65 years and older without dependents, and to those as young as 18 years**
- **Veterans property tax deduction will expand to peacetime veterans**
- **The annual income threshold for the pension and other retirement income exclusion will be raised**



GOVERNOR PHIL MURPHY

Middle-Class Tax Rebate

More than 760,000 New Jersey families will receive up to a \$500 tax rebate due to the Millionaires Tax enacted by the Governor and the Legislature last fall.

Updating the Homestead Benefit

For years, Homestead Benefit payments were based on 2006 property tax records. The FY2022 budget invests roughly \$80 million to update payments so that they will now be based on 2017 property tax information, which is the most recent payment information available – increasing the average benefit for seniors and disabled homeowners by over \$130 and the average benefit for lower-income homeowners by \$145.

Extending the Veterans Property Tax Deduction to Peacetime Veterans

The Appropriations Act supports the expanded deduction approved through the 2020 ballot measure.

Earned Income Tax Credit

Under legislation signed by Governor Murphy, the New Jersey Earned Income Tax Credit will continue to provide more money to more people than ever before by expanding eligibility to those 65 and older without dependents and to those as young as 18, which is projected to help another 90,000 residents – roughly 70,000 over 65 and 20,000 between the ages of 18 and 21.

Affordable Retirement

The budget agreement and accompanying legislation increases the threshold for retirement income that is allowed to be excluded from taxation from \$100,000 to up to \$150,000, helping nearly 70,000 more senior taxpayers.

INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Human Services' Division of Developmental Disabilities helps New Jersey adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities live more independently.

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 new budget 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 to support retention and professional growth. This funding both maintains the prior fiscal year 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. To support the required staffing level, the Department increased the residential daily rate by 20 percent, and the budget signed by Governor Murphy includes funding to maintain this enhanced residential staffing through December.

DAY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The budget includes nearly \$27.5 million to increase rates for day habilitation, career planning, community inclusion services, group prevocational training, and group supported employment. This will come to \$55 million with federal funding included.

Health Care



COVER ALL KIDS

A \$20 MILLION INVESTMENT TO ENSURE EVERY CHILD IN NEW JERSEY HAS HEALTH CARE



COMBATTING OUR MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH CRISIS

\$8.5 MILLION TO EXPAND MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR 365 DAYS POSTPARTUM

NURTURE NJ



Cover All Kids

The budget includes \$20 million to begin a Cover All Kids initiative in Medicaid by:

- 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.

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.

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

Regional Health Hubs

The budget increases state funding for the state's four regional health hubs to \$2.25 million, which will total \$4.5 million when federal funding is included.

Personal Care/Assisted Living/Adult Medical Day Care Services

Under the signed budget, the hourly rate for Medicaid personal care assistant services will increase to \$22 per hour, and the daily payment rates for assisted living facilities, comprehensive personal care home, and assisted living programs will be increased to \$87, \$77 and \$67 respectively. Meanwhile, the minimum daily payment rate for adult medical day care will increase to more than \$86.

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 to learn more.

The budget adds more than \$60 million in additional child care funding, including for our child care subsidy program and for January 2022 minimum wage increases for child care workers.

The budget also features two pilot programs to build on the administration's ongoing investments in child care. The first will use \$4.45 million to allow providers to make needed facility improvements to support their participation in Grow NJ Kids, the state's child care quality rating and improvement system. The second appropriation of \$550,000 will allow for a pilot of shared services collaborations in Central and South Jersey to maximize coordination and increase efficiencies in child care delivery.

New Americans



NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF NEW AMERICANS

The budget increases funding by \$2 million for removal defense for immigrants facing deportation and detention, bringing the program's total funding to \$8.2 million. And it adds \$3 million in new funding for legal and case management services for immigrant children and youth living in New Jersey.

Housing



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.

It also includes \$9 million to increase per-diem shelter rates with the goal to help increase the wages of workers providing services directly to individuals experiencing homelessness.

Mental Health and Addiction Services



NJHopeline 1-855-654-6735

**NJMentalHealthCares Helpline
1-866-202-HELP**

**ACCESS American Sign Language
and Videophone Helpline
973-870-0677**

**HEAL NJ Healthcare Workers
COVID Hope & Healing Helpline
1-833-416-8773**

**RISE NJ First Responders COVID
Hope & Healing Helpline
1-833-237-4325**

**Assistance and Referrals to
Addiction Treatment
1-844-ReachNJ**



Supportive Housing

Funding will increase for supportive housing rental subsidies for individuals with mental health conditions. This new funding will help individuals find affordable housing or remain in their current housing.

Psychiatrists

The budget includes funding 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 struggling with co-occurring substance use and mental health diagnoses. Human Services will fund 10 new four-year psychiatric residency 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.

Early Intervention Supports Services (EISS)

The budget includes an additional \$11 million in state funding for EISS, allowing Human Services to expand the program to all 21 counties from the current 11. The expansion also calls for pilot initiatives to enhance access to EISS services for individuals across the state.

Social Services



SEE IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR:

-  **FOOD ASSISTANCE**
-  **CASH ASSISTANCE**
-  **HEALTH INSURANCE**



Social Justice

To support individuals in their re-entry and recovery, the 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.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

The budget increases cash assistance to TANF families by increasing the child support pass through payments for families with two or more children. It also provides a longer period – for a total of 6 months – for TANF households to meet program criteria without impacting cash assistance benefits for the child during this time, and invests \$610,000 to support case management for individuals and families receiving public assistance.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing

BUDGET INCREASES REIMBURSEMENT FOR HEARING AID PURCHASES



Human Services' Hearing Assistance Program has provided a \$100 reimbursement per calendar year to offset the purchase of a hearing aid.



Under the new budget, individuals can be **reimbursed up to \$1,000 for hearing aid costs**, \$500 per hearing aid, per calendar year.



Enhanced Services

The budget boosts 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 includes additional resources to support communication access, equipment distribution, community education and training, and information and referral.

Hearing Aid Assistance

The budget also increases hearing aid reimbursements for older adults and individuals with disabilities from \$100 to up to \$1,000. This change will provide a meaningful reimbursement for people paying for hearing aids out of pocket. In addition, these investments make it possible to expand the division's Equipment Distribution Program by raising its income eligibility to 400% of the federal poverty level. This means more deaf and hard of hearing New Jerseyans will have access to life saving equipment.

Centers for Independent Living



The budget increases to \$1.5 million the funding 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.
