

A letter from Governor Mikie Sherrill

As a mother of four, I know personally how critical access to quality maternal and infant health care is for families. I am proud to support the New Jersey Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority and its mission to ensure that every mother and baby has the care, resources, and support that they need to thrive.

NJMIHIA has a vision to become the gold standard of maternal health care in the nation.

Translating that vision into a reality requires experienced leadership that can move priorities across the finish line, which is why I am thrilled to have Lisa Asare remain as President and CEO of the Authority. In the past year, NJMIHIA has made incredible progress—breaking ground on the new Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Center, launching the NJMIHIA Community-Based Doula Training Initiative along with a new Train-the-Trainer program to grow our perinatal workforce, and creating the G.L.O.W. Program and NJMIHIA Academy to support small community-based maternal and infant health organizations throughout New Jersey. This is just a glimpse of important work the Authority is doing to support mothers and babies across our state.

Together, we share a commitment to addressing longstanding disparities and improving the health and well-being of New Jersey’s women, babies, and families. Under President Asare’s leadership, NJMIHIA has been instrumental in uniting state government, health care providers, and community partners to create equitable, innovative solutions that make high-quality maternal and infant care accessible to all New Jerseyans.

With NJMIHIA at the helm, we will continue investing in programs that expand our perinatal workforce, leverage technology and innovation to expand care, and provide comprehensive support during pregnancy, postpartum, and into the early years. The Authority’s efforts are essential to closing disparities in maternal and infant outcomes and creating a stronger,



healthier future for all New Jersey families. I am committed to building on the progress of this Authority, ensuring that every mother and child receives the care and support they deserve. I look forward to partnering with the Authority team, health care sector, and community leaders to continue advancing this important mission.

Mikie Sherrill
Governor, State of New Jersey

A letter from our President & CEO Lisa A. Asare



“Every mother and infant in New Jersey deserves access to the care, support, and resources they need to thrive.”

As I reflect on the second full year of the New Jersey Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority (NJMIHIA), I am filled with gratitude, pride, and hope. In just two years, we have grown from a bold vision into a thriving state authority making real, tangible differences for mothers, babies, and families across our state.

We’ve launched numerous programs to build the perinatal workforce and address social determinants of health, doubled the size of our team with intentional focus on expanding our community-based work by engaging six doulas to lead our doula initiatives, and built the systems and partnerships that will sustain this work for years to come.

This work is deeply personal to me. As a mother of three and a Black woman, I understand firsthand the joys and challenges of motherhood, as well as the systemic barriers that disproportionately impact families of color.



It is this perspective that drives me every day to ensure that every mother and infant in New Jersey has access to the care, support, and resources they need to thrive.

We begin the third year of NJMIHIA with a commitment from Governor Mikie Sherrill’s administration in support of our efforts to make New Jersey the gold standard for maternal and infant health, and

it is my honor to continue to lead NJMIHIA. I am inspired by the dedication, creativity, and collaboration of our NJMIHIA team and our partners across government, healthcare, and community organizations. Together, we are not just launching programs, but building a movement to advance equity, improve health outcomes, and strengthen the very fabric of our communities.

As we look ahead, the opportunities before us are immeasurable. Together, we will continue to innovate, expand our impact, and ensure that every New Jersey family experiences healthier beginnings.

Thank you for believing in this mission and for walking alongside us on this journey.

Lisa A. Asare
President & CEO, NJMIHIA

