

Overview

Executive Impact Summary

In its second full year of operation, the New Jersey Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority (NJMIHIA) advanced a coordinated statewide strategy to improve maternal and infant health outcomes. Established through landmark legislation in 2023, the Authority continues to drive cross-sector collaboration to reduce maternal and infant mortality, close persistent racial disparities, and expand equitable access to high-quality perinatal care across New Jersey.

Throughout this reporting period, NJMIHIA focused on building the partnerships, programs, and operational infrastructure required to support families before, during, and after pregnancy. The Authority strengthened engagement with healthcare providers, community organizations, and state agencies while expanding its internal capacity to implement innovative programs designed to address both clinical and social drivers of maternal and infant health.

A central focus has been strengthening the perinatal workforce. NJMIHIA launched the Community-Based Doula Training Initiative and a statewide Train-the-Trainer program, expanding the pipeline of culturally responsive doulas prepared to support families throughout pregnancy, birth, and postpartum recovery. The Doula Learning Collaborative and statewide town halls further advanced professional development and knowledge sharing across the maternal health ecosystem.

The Authority also introduced initiatives that strengthen community organizations and reduce barriers to care. The G.L.O.W. Program and NJMIHIA Academy provide training, technical assistance, and capacity-building resources to grassroots maternal and infant health organizations. At the same time, tools such as the NJ Doula Assistant reduce administrative burdens and allow doulas to dedicate more time to patient care.

Addressing social determinants of health

remains central to NJMIHIA's strategy. Through partnerships such as NJMIHIA Rides powered by GOTrenton!, families gain reliable transportation to medical appointments and essential services. The Trenton Health Team Perinatal Pilot demonstrates the impact of integrating community health workers within clinical settings to connect families with critical resources during pregnancy and postpartum recovery.

Early results show meaningful progress. The pilot program generated 119 referrals for essential services, with 69 percent resulting in successful connections to community supports, including food assistance, healthcare services, and infant supplies. Transportation initiatives have already provided 208 rides to 276 individuals, helping families access medical care and essential services while reducing barriers that contribute to poor health outcomes.



Impact at a Glance

Strengthening Maternal and Infant Health Across New Jersey

Looking ahead, NJMIHIA continues to build the foundation for long-term systemic change. The development of the Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Center (The Center) in Trenton will serve as a statewide hub for research, innovation, workforce development, and community-centered maternal care. Through this center, NJMIHIA will accelerate collaboration among healthcare providers, academic institutions, technology innovators, and community leaders to incubate solutions that improve outcomes for mothers and babies.

Guided by its emerging 2026–2029 strategic roadmap, NJMIHIA will expand workforce development initiatives, strengthen community-based partnerships, scale innovative pilot programs, and deepen data-driven approaches to maternal and infant health improvement.

Together with Governor Mikie Sherrill’s administration, healthcare leaders, community organizations, and families across the state, NJMIHIA continues to advance a bold vision: a future where every mother and baby thrives and New Jersey stands as the national model for equitable maternal and infant health.



Impact at a Glance

119 Referrals connecting families to essential services

69% Service connection rate through the Trenton Health Team pilot

208 Rides delivered through NJMIHIA Rides powered by GOTrenton!

276 Individuals served through transportation assistance



Expanded doula workforce training and professional development



New investments in community-based organizational capacity and maternal health innovation

How the Authority Advances Maternal and Infant Health

Improving maternal and infant health outcomes requires coordinated action across healthcare systems, community organizations, and state leadership. The New Jersey Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority (NJMIHIA) was established to align partners, accelerate innovation, and strengthen programs that improve care for mothers and babies across the state.

NJMIHIA advances this work through a coordinated strategy that focuses on workforce development, community investment, expanded access to care, and cross-sector collaboration. Together, these efforts address both the clinical and social drivers that influence maternal and infant health outcomes.

Strengthening the Perinatal Workforce



NJMIHIA supports the development of a diverse and culturally responsive maternal health workforce. Initiatives such as the Community-Based Doula Training Initiative, the Doula Learning Collaborative, and Train-the-Trainer programs expand the capacity of doulas and other perinatal professionals to support families throughout pregnancy and postpartum recovery.



Investing in Community-Based Solutions

Community organizations play a vital role in addressing disparities in maternal health. Through initiatives such as the G.L.O.W. Program and NJMIHIA Academy, the Authority supports grassroots organizations that provide trusted services, education, and support within communities most affected by maternal and infant health challenges.



Expanding Access to Care

NJMIHIA works to remove barriers that prevent families from accessing care and essential services. Programs such as NJMIHIA Rides powered by GOTrenton! and the Trenton Health Team Perinatal Pilot connect families with transportation, care coordination, and community resources during pregnancy and postpartum recovery.



Driving Innovation and System Changes

NJMIHIA advances innovative solutions that strengthen maternal health systems statewide. Digital tools, pilot programs, and partnerships with healthcare providers and community organizations help test and scale new approaches that improve care delivery and coordination, all of which will be realized within the Center, coming in 2027.

