



BOARD MEETING AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2026

10:00AM

VIRTUAL MEETING

JOIN VIA ZOOM:

https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_ZYdwtmiGRpCzXMxULKoybQ

- I. Call to Order
- II. Open Public Meetings Act Statement
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Update from Chair
- V. CEO's Report to Board
- VI. Matters Requiring Board Action
 - a. Approval of NJMIHIA Board Minutes of November 19, 2025.
 - b. Approval of the Resolution of NJMIHIA to Approve the Fiscal Plan for Fiscal Year 2026
- VII. Public Comment
- VIII. Meeting Adjournment



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

NEW JERSEY MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH INNOVATION AUTHORITY
P. O. Box 101
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08608-0101

TAHESHA L. WAY
Lt. Governor

Lisa A. Asare
President & CEO

NEW JERSEY MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH INNOVATION AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting November 19, 2025

Minutes of the virtual meeting of the New Jersey Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority (NJMIHIA) held on Wednesday, November 19, 2025, at 10:00 AM Daylight Savings Time.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD IN ATTENDANCE

Ex-officio Members

Iris Jones, representing Acting Commissioner of Health ¹

Jane Birkhofer, representing CEO of NJEDA

Sarah Adelman, Commissioner of Human Services

Justin Zimmerman, Commissioner of Banking and Insurance

Christine Beyer, Commissioner of Children and Families ¹

Angela Bethea, representing Secretary of Higher Education

Holly Low, representing Commissioner of Labor

Public Members

Andrea Martinez-Mejia

Barbara George-Johnson

Maritza Raimundi-Petroski

Rosalee Boyer

Shakira Abdul-Ali

¹ Iris Jones and Commissioner Christine Beyer missed the roll call but joined the meeting prior to the consideration of matters requiring action.

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES

Lisa Asare, President & CEO, New Jersey Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority

Lauren Lalicon, Policy Director, Office of the First Lady

Michael Eleneski, Associate Counsel, Office of the Governor, Authorities Unit

Christopher Kay, Deputy Attorney General, Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Law

Eric Carlsson, Chief Financial Officer, NJ Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority

Laura Wilton, Chief of Corporate Governance, NJ Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority

Mahako Etta, Chief of Innovation, NJ Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority

Catherine Terrero, Senior Executive Assistant, NJ Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority

Cindy Cortez, Administrative Assistant, NJ Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority

Pamela Taylor, MCQC Program Manager, NJ Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority
NJMIHIA Staff

President & CEO Asare called the meeting to order and announced that the New Jersey Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority (NJMIHIA) was in compliance with the provisions of the Senator Byron M. Baer Open Public Meetings Act and that adequate notice of the meeting had been provided in the manner prescribed by law.

President & CEO Asare took roll call and welcomed representatives from the First Lady's Office, Governor's Authorities Unit, the Office of the Attorney General, and the Department of Treasury.

Chair Barbara George Johnson presided over the meeting with Cindy Cortez keeping the minutes.

Chair update

Chair George Johnson addressed the Board, noting that today's agenda will focus on NJMIHIA's progress across several key areas, including infrastructure development, program implementation, and the launch of new and evolving partnerships and initiatives. These efforts are intended to further strengthen NJMIHIA's model of care in maternal and infant health.

President & CEO Statement

President & CEO Asare addressed the Board and extended congratulations to Governor-elect Sherrill, noting that NJMIHIA looks forward to partnering with her administration.

President & CEO Asare acknowledged the impact of the U.S. government shutdown, which ended on November 12. This national challenge posed a significant threat to mothers, infants, and families given the need for timely nutritional support across New Jersey, particularly due to the suspension of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. On November 1st, Governor Phil Murphy declared a State of Emergency in response to the SNAP suspension, accelerating the delivery of \$42.5 million in food and hunger grants to Emergency Food Organizations. By November 7, New Jersey successfully issued fully funded SNAP

benefits to households. With the federal government reopened, SNAP benefits and Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children have been restored. Commissioner Adelman commented to thank partners across the State for stepping in while SNAP benefits were disrupted.

President & CEO Asare updated the Board on NJMIHIA's ongoing strategic planning efforts in partnership with The Center for Health Care Strategies.

President & CEO Asare highlighted the upcoming Maternal Health Innovation Roundtable, which NJMIHIA will host on Monday, November 24.

President & CEO Asare also summarized the resolution authorizing the launch of the Grant for Lasting Outcomes in Women's Health (GLOW Grant). She noted that it is a direct investment in maternal health-serving community-based organizations (CBOs) and companies that if authorized would help organizations to deliver impactful solutions in the areas of community engagement, mental health support, workforce development, and innovation. She further explained that the GLOW Grant will be paired with a complementary initiative, the NJMIHIA Academy, which will provide technical assistance and capacity-building support to grantees.

Lastly, President & CEO Asare updated the Board on NJMIHIA's engagement with the New Jersey Hospital Association and Advocates for Children of New Jersey (ACNJ).

President & CEO Asare welcomed MCQC Program Manager, Pamela Taylor, who provided additional details on the GLOW Grant, NJMIHIA Academy and doula initiatives.

Ms. Taylor announced that the GLOW Grant and NJMIHIA Academy have a total budget of \$1 million. She explained that NJMIHIA staff is recommending approval of up to \$750,000 dollars for fifteen \$50,000 grant awards that will go to qualifying entities to fund projects that advance NJMIHIA's strategic initiatives.

Ms. Taylor also announced a new initiative, the NJMIHIA and GOTrenton Free Ride Program. This program offers free, sustainable, and emission-free rideshare transportation for pregnant and postpartum individuals and members of the perinatal workforce in Trenton. This program is made possible through the efforts of the NJ Department of Labor, NJ Department of Transportation, NJMIHIA, GOTrenton, and Isles.

Next, Ms. Taylor spoke of NJMIHIA doula training, launched on September 29.

Ms. Taylor also announced that the Doula Rubric Assessment tool will soon be publicly available on the NJMIHIA website. The NJMIHIA doula team will provide in-person and virtual technical assistance to doula training organizations completing the assessment packet.

Lastly, Ms. Taylor advised that the next MCQC meeting was scheduled for November 21, 2025.

President & CEO Lisa Asare opened the floor for questions.

Chair George Johnson asked for more information about the grant and its intended applicants. President & CEO Asare explained that the grant is designed to support small CBOs and companies that are already doing the work but may not have previously received funding - this opportunity will help prepare grantees for larger grant opportunities in the future.

Public Member Maritza Raimundi-Petroski inquired about the annual operating budget requirements for applicants to the GLOW Grant. President & CEO Asare responded that NJMIHIA will be conducting webinars to walk applicants through the process and provide further information.

Public Member Shakira Abdul-Ali asked whether the NJMIHIA Academy will be limited to grantees. President & CEO Asare clarified that, at this time, the Academy will be available only to grantees, though NJMIHIA hopes to broaden access in the future.

Public Member Andrea Martinez-Mejia asked whether NJMIHIA considered making the GLOW Grant multi-year. President & CEO Asare explained that the goal is to be able to provide multi-year grants through NJMIHIA's creative fundraising strategy. Mahako Etta, Chief of Innovation, added that the program term will extend beyond the fiscal year and that projects will not be required to conclude within the fiscal year. Chief Financial Officer, Eric Carlsson, affirmed this response.

Next, President & CEO Lisa Asare welcomed Holly Low, Director of Strategic Outreach and Partnerships at the NJ Department of Labor & Workforce Development (NJDOL).

Ms. Low shared an update on the pilot program designed to help new parents navigate paid leave benefits. The Paid Leave Navigator Pilot recently launched in Mercer County and will run through October 2026 to improve access to leave benefits. Community health workers and community-based doulas at Trenton Health Team and Children's Home Society have been trained as paid leave navigators. The pilot aims to expand language access and reduce application errors that can delay approvals. Navigators will also support parents in planning their leave, understanding State and Federal job protection laws, and communicating with their employers and medical providers. Press releases in English and Spanish are publicly available for further details on the pilot.

Chair George Johnson commended Ms. Low and her team for expanding access to paid leave benefits and for engaging a diverse range of community stakeholders throughout the program's design. She also encouraged meeting attendees to share this information to ensure New Jerseyans are aware of their protections and available opportunities. Ms. Low added that outreach materials will soon be available, as well.

Matters Requiring Board Action

a. Approval of Minutes of October 22, 2025.

A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes of October 22, 2025, by Public Member, Andrea Martinez-Mejia and was seconded by, Angela Bethea, representing Secretary of Higher Education. All members voted in favor. The motion carried.

b. Approval of Resolution Authorizing the Launch of the Grant for Lasting Outcomes in Women’s Health (“GLOW”) Grant Program and GLOW Academy.

A motion was made to approve the resolution by Public Member, Shakira Abdul-Ali, and was seconded by Public Member, Rosalee Boyer. All members voted in favor. The motion carried.

c. Approval of Resolution to Adopt the Provisions of Chapter 48 (N.J.S.A. 52:14.17.38) Under Which a Public Employer May Agree to Pay for the SHBP and/or SEHBP Coverage of Certain Retirees.

A motion was made to approve the resolution by Public Member, Andrea Martinez-Mejia, and was seconded by Commissioner of Children and Families, Christine Beyer. All members voted in favor. The motion carried.

d. Approval of Resolution to Authorize Participation for Domestic Partnership Coverage Under the SHBP and/or SEHBP in Accordance with P.L. 2008, c. 246 (Chapter 246), the Domestic Partnership Act.

A motion was made to approve the resolution by Public Member, Martiza Raimundi-Petroski, and was seconded by Public Member, Rosalee Boyer. All members voted in favor. The motion carried.

e. Resolution to Approve the First Modification to the MOA between NJDOH Division of Family Health Services and NJNJMIHIA for Coordinating the Statewide Activities of the New Jersey Doula Learning Collaborative.

A motion was made to approve the first modification to the MOA, by Angela Bethea, representing Secretary of Higher Education, and was seconded by Public Member, Shakira Abdul-Ali. All members voted in favor. The motion carried.

f. Resolution to Approve the Memorandum of Agreement between NJNJMIHIA and NJDHS to Support *Nurture New Jersey* 2025.

A motion was made to approve the MOA by Public Member, Andrea Martinez-Mejia, and was seconded by Commissioner of Children and Families, Christine Beyer. Sarah Adelman, Commissioner of Human Services, recused. Remaining members voted in favor. The motion carried.

Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

Adjournment

Chair George Johnson requested a motion to adjourn. Public Member, Martiza Raimundi-Petroski, made the motion to adjourn. Public Member, Rosalee Boyer, seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

I hereby certify this to be a true and original copy of the November 19, 2025, New Jersey Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority Board meeting minutes.

Lisa Asare

Lisa Asare,
President and CEO

**RESOLUTION OF THE NEW JERSEY
MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH INNOVATION AUTHORITY TO APPROVE
THE FISCAL PLAN
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026**

ADOPTED
February 25, 2026

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Maternal Infant Health Innovation Authority (“MIHIA”) was created pursuant to N.J.S.A. 26:18-17 et seq (the “Act”) and was created and established in, but not of, the Department of the Treasury and independent of any supervision or control by the principal departments of the Executive Branch of the State Government; and

WHEREAS, NJMIHIA was created to reduce maternal mortality, morbidity and racial and ethnic disparities in the State; and

WHEREAS, NJMIHIA is charged with establishing and overseeing the New Jersey Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Center, which shall coordinate with governmental agencies, as well as private organizations, to, among other things: (a) provide perinatal, infant care, related health services and other services to the residents of the City of Trenton; (b) promote equitable maternal and infant health care services; and (c) implement strategies related to health care and social service delivery, perinatal workforce development, community engagement, data collection, research, and analysis; and

WHEREAS, the Act created a governing body consisting of fifteen members, seven of whom shall serve ex officio and eight of whom shall be appointed public members (collectively, the “Board”); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Article V of the bylaws, the President and Chief Executive Officer shall have the responsibility for the general and active management of the Authority and shall submit a proposed fiscal plan for NJMIHIA for adoption by the Board; and

WHEREAS, a proposed Fiscal Plan for Fiscal Year 2026 has been submitted to the Board for its consideration and is attached hereto.

**RESOLUTION OF THE NEW JERSEY
MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH INNOVATION AUTHORITY TO APPROVE
THE FISCAL PLAN
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026**

ADOPTED
February 25, 2026

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board, that,

1. The members of the Board hereby approve the proposed Fiscal Plan for Fiscal Year 2026 attached hereto.
2. This resolution shall take effect immediately, but no action authorized herein shall have force and effect until 10 days after a copy of the minutes of the Authority meeting at which this resolution was adopted has been delivered to the Governor for his approval unless during such 10-day period the Governor shall approve the same, in which case such action shall become effective upon such approval, as provided by the Act.

DATED: February 25, 2026

New Jersey Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Center Act FY2026 Fiscal Plan

Object	Object Description	FY26 Fiscal Plan
1210	SALARIES AND WAGES	2,260,000
1299	SAL WAG OTH RELATED PAY REIMB	
	SALARIES AND WAGES (1X)	2,260,000
2110	OFFICE EXAM NOTARY SUPPLIES	7,500
2120	PRINTING	5,000
2140	PHOTOCOPY ELEC COPY EQ RENTALS	6,500
2410	HOUSEHOLD/SECURITY	8,000
	MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES (2X)	27,000
3010	TRAVEL STATE BUSINESS	4,750
3020	CONFERENCES CONVENTIONS	3,850
3110	TELEPHONE	6,500
3210	POSTAGE	5,000
3310	INSURANCE	10,000
3450	MAINTENCE OF COMP SOFTWARE EQ	67,000
3610	CONSULTANT/ADVISORY PROF SERV	476,373
3630	LEGAL SERVICES	50,000
3810	STAFF TRAINING	5,000
3825	COMMUNICATIONS AND ADVERTISING	25,000
3890	MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES	315,000
3890	Stipend: 11 Advisory Committee @ \$20k	220,000
3891	LEGAL SERVICES/DAG'S	357,244
	SERVICES OTHER THAN PERSONAL (3X)	1,545,717
4010	MAINTENANCE BUILDINGS/GROUNDS	3,250
4110	MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT	2,500
4510	RENT CENTRAL MOTOR POOL	6,160
4710	RENT OTHER	
	MAINTENANCE AND FIXED CHARGES (4X)	11,910
6130	GRANTS-IN-AID	1,000,000
	GRANTS-IN-AID (6X)	1,000,000
7610	OTHER EQUIPMENT	2,000
7611	OFFICE FURNITURE	20,000
7710	INFO PROCESSING TELE EQUIPMENT	353,373
	ADDITIONS, IMPROVEMENTS, EQUIPMENT (7X)	375,373
	TOTAL	5,220,000