



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

TAHESHA L. WAY
Lt. Governor

JEFFREY A. BROWN
Acting Commissioner

Executive Directive No. 25-002

**DESIGNATION OF THE STATE'S PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE,
PURSUANT TO P.L. 2025, c.46**

WHEREAS, a Public Health Institute (PHI) is an organization that is devoted to enhancing public health by collaborating with governmental agencies, community organizations and healthcare providers to bolster health outcomes and improve the manner in which health agencies prepare for and respond to public health inequities and threats; and

WHEREAS, to accomplish its mission, a PHI may assist a State health agency with transforming and variegating the infrastructure, personnel, and resources that are necessary to advance remedies for a variety of public health threats, such as chronic diseases, substance use epidemics, and communicable disease outbreaks, to name a few; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the beneficial impact a PHI can have on public health when it partners with a State health agency, legislation was enacted on April 22, 2025, P.L. 2025, c.46, which establishes a framework for the Department of Health to "engage in a public-private partnership with an organization that can serve as the State's 'Public Health Institute,'" and

WHEREAS, under the statutory framework, P.L. 2025, c.46, calls on the Commissioner of the Department of Health to designate the State's PHI; and

WHEREAS, to serve as the State's PHI, P.L. 2025, c.46, requires the entity designated by the Commissioner of the Department of Health to meet the following criteria: "(1) be a nonprofit organization located in New Jersey which is exempt from federal taxation pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the 24 federal Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. s.501(c)(3)); (2) be recognized by the National Network of Public Health Institutes or any successor accreditation body for public health institutes; (3) possess the capacity to integrate and coordinate public health functions on a local, county, and Statewide level; [and] (4) maintain a network of personnel with expertise in the areas of health care data collection and analysis, health care policy, health care information systems, and public health research;" and

WHEREAS, currently, the Center for Health Equity and Wellbeing is the only entity in New Jersey that meets the PHI designation criteria outlined in the legislation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jeffrey A. Brown, Acting Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Health, by virtue of the authority vested in me hereby **DIRECT** the following:

- (1) The Center for Health Equity and Wellbeing is hereby designated as the State's Public Health Institute; and
- (2) As required by P.L. 2025, c.46, the Department of Health and the Center for Health Equity and Wellbeing must enter into an agreement establishing the purpose, objectives and requirements for the Center for Health Equity and Wellbeing to serve as the State's PHI; and
- (3) Department of Health staff shall promptly engage with the Center for Health Equity and Wellbeing to craft a mutually acceptable agreement, which includes the agreement criteria required by P.L. 2025, c.46.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED that this Executive Directive shall become effective immediately and shall remain in effect until revised or rescinded.

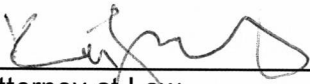


Jeffrey A. Brown
Acting Commissioner of Health

June 16, 2025

Dated

Attest:



Attorney at Law
State of New Jersey