

[View this email in your browser and translate to other languages](#)



NEWSLETTER | JANUARY 2025



New Jersey Selected to Participate in New Transforming Maternal Health Model by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

New Jersey Human Services announced that it has been selected as one of 15 state Medicaid agencies to participate in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' new Transforming Maternal Health (TMaH) model.

The 10-year program includes up to \$17 million in federal funding and will support New Jersey's efforts to develop a whole-person approach to pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum care that addresses the physical, mental health, and social needs experienced during pregnancy, with the ultimate goal of reducing disparities in access and treatment for Medicaid members.

"We are thrilled that New Jersey's Medicaid program was selected for the Transforming Maternal Health Model. Under Governor and First Lady Murphy's leadership, New Jersey has emerged as a national leader in transforming maternal and infant care, and the state's Medicaid program has been integral to advancing and transforming perinatal care and outcomes. Participation in the TMaH model ensures our progress can continue over the next decade with federal funding and support," **Commissioner Sarah Adelman said.**

"With tens of thousands of babies born each year under Medicaid, I am thrilled New Jersey was selected to participate in this 10-year program with the potential to help countless mothers through their pregnancies. This funding will build on the progress that we have made over the past seven years and keep New Jersey at the forefront of maternal and infant health care," **First Lady Tammy Murphy said.** "I am grateful to the Biden-Harris Administration for their unwavering commitment to prioritizing mothers and babies across the nation. Their support has been instrumental in our efforts to make New Jersey the safest and most equitable place in the nation to deliver and raise a baby."

The First Lady launched Nurture NJ in 2019 as a statewide initiative committed to reducing the maternal mortality rates in New Jersey and ensuring equitable care among women and children of all races and ethnicities.

Read more [HERE](#).



Commissioner Sarah Adelman [discussed](#) the impacts of President Trump's since-rescinded directive to freeze federal aid during a [Cabinet](#) meeting called by [Governor Phil Murphy](#). The Department continues to closely monitor the situation and will remain in touch with community partners and stakeholders.



New Jersey Leads Challenge to Unconstitutional Trump Executive Order Ending Birthright Citizenship

Attorney General Matthew J. Platkin announced he is leading a challenge to President Donald Trump's executive order ending birthright citizenship, which violates the constitutional rights to which all children born in the United States are entitled.

"President Trump's attempt to unilaterally end birthright citizenship is a flagrant violation of our Constitution," **Attorney General Platkin said.** "For more than 150 years, our country has followed the same basic rule: babies who are born in this country are American citizens. New Jersey is a proud state of immigrants, and we benefit tremendously from the contributions of birthright citizens—in our state and across the country. State Attorneys General have been preparing for illegal actions like this one, and today's immediate lawsuit sends a clear message to the Trump Administration that we will stand up for our residents and their basic constitutional rights."

“The Constitution could not be more clear: citizenship of children born in the United States does not depend on the citizenship of their parents. That principle is fundamental to who we are as a nation and what it means to be an American,” **Governor Phil Murphy said.** “Yesterday’s announcement about birthright citizenship flouts the Constitution and will needlessly harm families who are lawfully present in the United States until it is inevitably overturned by the courts. We will not waver in our efforts to protect the rights of all who call New Jersey home.”

“The Trump administration’s proposal to deny children born in this country citizenship is not only cruel, it goes against our very foundation as Americans,” **Commissioner Sarah Adelman said.** “Here in New Jersey, we take pride in our diversity and understand the role immigration has played in shaping our country. We will not let this go without a fight, and I am proud to stand with Governor Murphy and Attorney General Platkin to defend the rights of all Americans.”

Read more [HERE](#).



\$30 Million Program to Strengthen Food Security and Access in Food Desert Communities

The [New Jersey Economic Development Authority](#) approved the creation of the [Food Equity and Economic Development in New Jersey \(FEED NJ\) Pilot Program](#), a \$30 million competitive grant program that will support food security projects in New Jersey's Food Desert Communities (FDCs). Building on the success of the NJEDA's Atlantic City Food Security Grants Pilot Program, FEED NJ will award grants of up to \$500,000 to for-profit and nonprofit entities working to improve residents' ability to access fresh, affordable, and healthy food.

"Expanding access to healthy and affordable food in every New Jersey community is crucially important to the continued economic security and health

of our state,” **Governor Phil Murphy said.** “The projects that will receive grant funding through FEED NJ will increase availability of affordable food in the communities that need it most, alleviating the strain on families and creating a stronger and fairer New Jersey.”

“Under Governor Murphy’s leadership, the NJEDA is focused on supporting those living in New Jersey’s Food Desert Communities by creating innovative programs that increase access to nutritious, affordable food and support local organizations committed to ending hunger,” **NJEDA Chief Executive Officer Tim Sullivan said.** “FEED NJ expands the NJEDA’s robust toolkit of programs that bolster food security in the state, improving the well-being of countless families, uplifting communities, and contributing to economic vitality.”

“FEED NJ continues the Murphy Administration’s whole-of-government commitment to improve access to affordable and nutritious food for all residents. Healthy food should not be a luxury and yet there are still communities that lack access to this very basic necessity,” **Commissioner Sarah Adelman said.** “The FEED NJ program will not only help improve food access in communities that need it, but will provide organizations on the frontlines of food access work with the support needed to grow.”

Read more [HERE](#).



New Jersey Leads National Fight to Protect Health Care Access for DACA Recipients

Attorney General Matthew J. Platkin announced New Jersey is leading an effort by a group of 14 states in defending health insurance access for Dreamers from court challenges.

The states' motion to intervene came as the Trump Administration threatened to stop granting Dreamers access to Affordable Care Act exchanges.

"Undermining Dreamers' access to healthcare not only hurts them and their American children, but it harms states like New Jersey too," **Attorney General Platkin said.** We will never back down from fighting for our Dreamers, not matter who is in charge in Washington."

"New Jersey's Dreamers make our state strong and vibrant and they should not be deprived of access to basic health care services," **Governor Phil Murphy said.** "We must never back down from defending our fundamental values."

"It is imperative that we act proactively to protect the right to health care for the thousands of DACA recipients in New Jersey, and I commend Governor Murphy and Attorney General Platkin for once again being at the forefront of what is fair and right," **Commissioner Sarah Adelman said.** "These are our friends, neighbors and colleagues. They are New Jerseyans who contribute to our state culturally and economically, and should have the right like every other New Jerseyan to purchase health coverage through the ACA. It's disheartening that we must continuously defend the rights of *all* people to access life-saving health care, but we will continue to do so because it is the morally right thing to do."

Read more [HERE](#).

States Selected for National *Multisector Plan for Aging Learning Collaborative*

Kansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, and Texas are among seven states selected for this learning community that helps states advance cross-sector planning effort to ensure the needs of older adults, people with disabilities, and family caregivers are met over the coming decades.



Learn more at CHCS.org/MPA

Seven states, including New Jersey, have been selected to participate in the [Multisector Plan for Aging Learning Collaborative](#). Human Services is leading the New Jersey team in this national learning community, led by the Center for Health Care Strategies, which is helping states advance multi-year, cross-sector planning efforts to ensure that the needs of older adults, people with disabilities, and their family caregivers are met over the coming decade.

Now in its third year, [27 state teams from across the country](#) have participated in this unique learning opportunity launched in 2022. The initiative is made possible by The SCAN Foundation, West Health, the May & Stanley Smith Charitable Trust, and The Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation.

Learn more [HERE](#).



[NJ Human Services Police](#) Lieutenant Kelli Baker and Lieutenant Duane Brown successfully completed the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police Command and Leadership Academy.

They join Director Timothy Gallagher, Chief Brian Lee and Captain Justin Kurczeski as Command and Leadership Academy Alumni.



The [New Jersey State Human Services Police](#) welcomed three new Officers to its ranks. Officer Ben Adam, Officer Aladdin Dahhan and Officer Christopher Holl successfully completed the Mercer County Police Academy.

Officer Adam was awarded the Merit Award. The Mercer County Police Academy Merit Award is given to graduates who demonstrate exceptional

leadership and scholarship. Also, Officer Dahhan was nominated by his fellow recruits to present a speech as the class speaker.

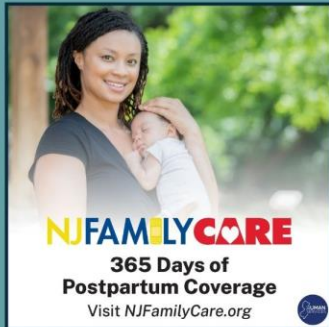


On **Law Enforcement Appreciation Day**, Commissioner

Adelman honored the [NJ State Human](#)

[Services Police](#): "There is no greater honor than public service and I am grateful for every officer who has taken on the responsibility of serving and protecting the most vulnerable amongst us."

Maternal Health Awareness Day



Familycare 365



Plan First



Doula care

January 23rd was **Maternal Health Awareness Day!**

The Murphy Administration is committed to improving maternal health by implementing:

- 🏠 [Familycare365](#) 1 year of post-partum coverage.
- 👨👩👧 [PlanFirst](#) increases access to family planning services.
- 🏠 [Doula](#) services for better birth outcomes.

Visit [NJFamilycare.org](https://www.njfamilycare.org)

World Braille Day was January 4th.

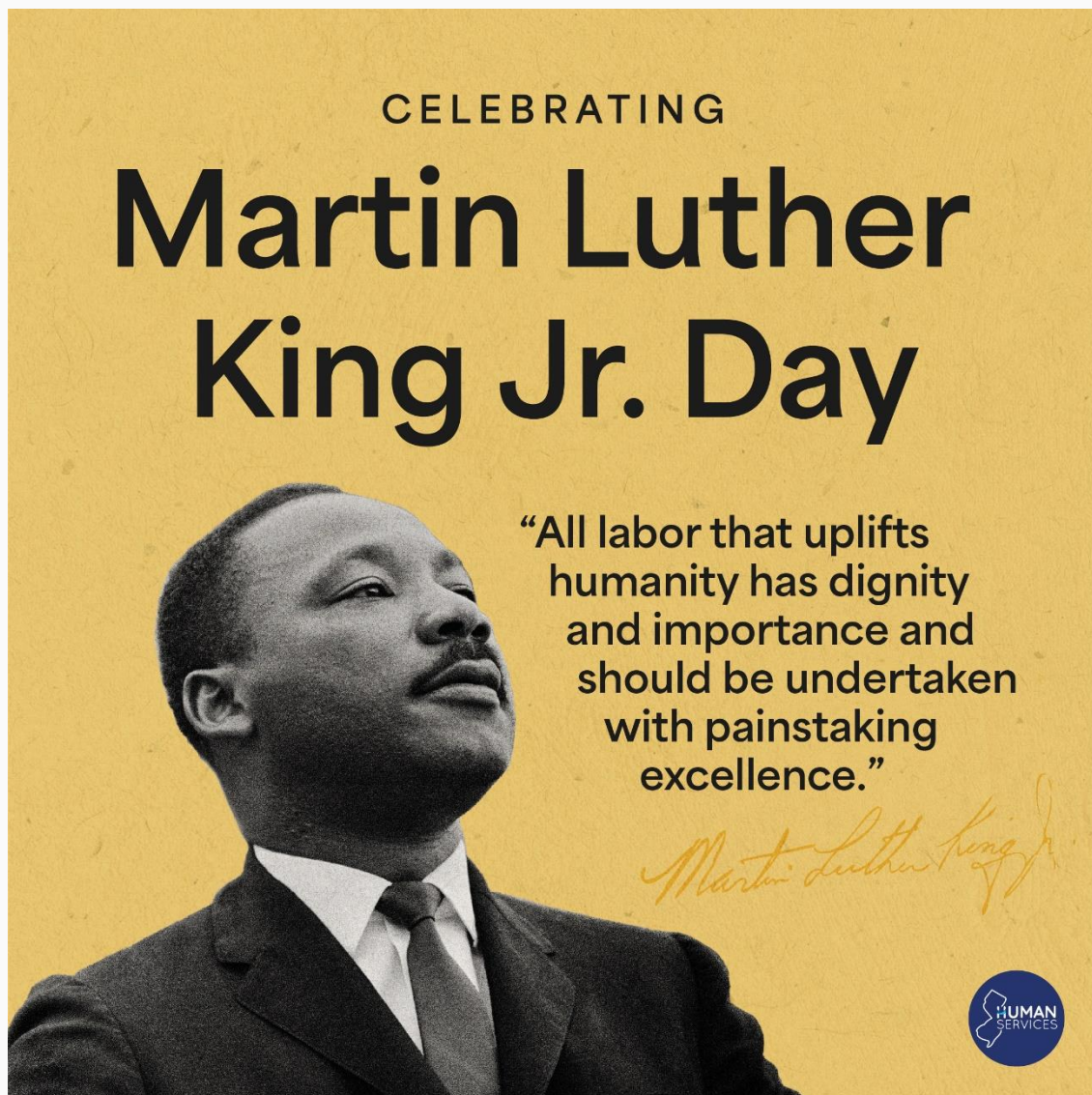
The [George F. Meyer Center](#), run by the [Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired](#), provides accessible reading materials to more than 2,000 students by transcribing textbooks into large print, braille or electronic formats, and provides adaptive materials and equipment. **For more info, call: 973-648-2547**



⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠ January is **National Braille Literacy Month!**

[The Meyer Center](#), run by the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired, provides accessible reading materials to more than 2,000

students throughout New Jersey. Check out our video with AUDIO DESCRIPTION showing the important work the center does for individuals who are blind or visually impaired.



NJ Human Services commemorated
Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

[NJ SNAP](#) | [NJ FAMILYCARE](#) | [NJHELPS](#)

FOLLOW US!

