



FISCAL YEAR 2023 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

# A Message from Commissioner Adelman

Hello:

Governor Murphy on Thursday signed a new state budget that builds on the significant progress made over the last four years – providing more tax relief to families, promoting economic growth through historic investments and restoring New Jersey’s fiscal integrity.

The new budget reflects our values and invests in our future, featuring billions of dollars in tax relief to make our state more affordable for middle class families and older adults, and key investments to continue spurring economic growth and support the state’s ongoing recovery from the pandemic.

This is a budget that delivers on the Governor’s commitment to affordability and making New Jersey the State of Opportunity and the place where the American Dream lives. This is a welcomed and reassuring message to all of us who call New Jersey home.

We’re excited that the budget prioritizes initiatives at the Department of Human Services that support New Jerseyans in every stage of life.

The budget includes investments, both new and ongoing, in services, supports, and opportunities for individuals with disabilities, older adults, families in need of affordable child and health care, individuals with substance use and mental health conditions, youth mental health and New Americans.










Below is a look at some of what the plan provides. We look forward to working with you in the year ahead as we implement these exciting initiatives.


Thank you,

- Commissioner Sarah Adelman

## Critical Wage Enhancements

NEW STATE BUDGET: **Critical Wage Enhancements**

 Direct Support Professionals	 Mental Health & Substance Use Disorder Staff	 Personal Care Assistants	 Nursing Home Workers	 Child Care Workers
 Homeless Shelter Workers	 Private Duty Nursing	 JACC Home Health Aides	 Personal Assistance Service Program Workers	



The new state budget includes critical wage enhancements for the vital workforce that helps Human Services serve individuals in need, including:

- Direct Support Professionals
- Personal Care Assistants
- Child care workers
- Nursing home workers
- Private duty nurses
- Jersey Assistance for Community Giving workers
- Personal Assistance Services Program workers
- Community-based mental health and substance use disorder providers
- Homeless shelter employees

---

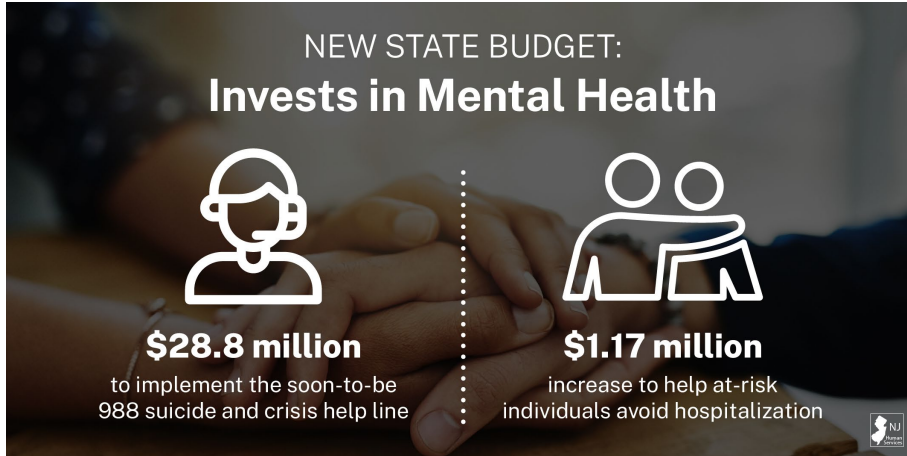
## Youth Mental Health



The Governor's budget provides more than \$55 million in American Rescue Plan funds to address youth mental health needs throughout New Jersey. This funding will be spread across the Departments of Children and Families, Education, Human Services and the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education to strengthen the youth mental support system for children, adolescents, and young adults.

---

# 988 & Mental Health Care



The Federal Communications Commission recently approved a new 3-digit dialing code - 988 - for mental health crisis and suicide prevention.

The 988 line will launch for calls, texts, and chat on July 16. It will be 24/7,

To support 988, the budget includes nearly \$29 million for call line infrastructure and services that some callers may be connected to after they call.

The Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services contracts with Carrier Clinic, Hampton Behavioral Health and Northbrook to provide diversion beds for individuals at risk of hospitalization. While these providers bill Medicaid and private insurance as appropriate, the state-only rate has not been increased since 2014.

The Governor’s budget will increase the rates to up to \$745 per day, based on applying a 2 percent annual increase to the 2014 rate through 2023. This \$1.17 million increase is vital to maintaining the availability of these beds.

---

## Investing in Maternal Health

### NEW STATE BUDGET: **Invests in Maternal Health**

\$15 million to raise Medicaid rates for maternity care providers



The Department is committed to the First Lady’s goal of making New Jersey the safest state in the nation to give birth, and the Governor’s budget gets us one step closer to that mission.

The budget increases state Medicaid spending by \$15 million to raise the Medicaid rates for maternity care providers for the first time in decades. This funding will increase physician reimbursement rates for labor and

delivery, and pre- and postpartum services, to 100 percent of the Medicare rates for these services, which in turn will increase reimbursements for midwives and doulas.

The investment will also bring in \$15 million in new federal funding.

Our shared goal is to make transformational change in New Jersey to support mothers and babies – especially our mothers and babies of color.

About 40 percent of births in New Jersey are covered by FamilyCare, and in recent budgets, we've taken steps to end reimbursement for early elective delivery, increase reimbursement for midwives, and begin covering doula services.

---

## Cover All Kids



Supporting our  
**Cover All Kids Initiative**  
to ensure every child in New Jersey  
has access to health care.



The budget provides nearly \$11 million more to continue our Cover All Kids work to ensure no child in New Jersey is left without the support and security of health care coverage.

This investment will fund coverage expansion for children who are currently ineligible due to immigration status, but would otherwise be income eligible for the program. Through this investment and the work of our NJ FamilyCare team, we will begin allowing these children to enroll in the same coverage every other child has, at no cost to their families.

Human Services has already eliminated waiting periods and premiums in the Children's Health Insurance Program, increased community and broader marketing efforts for NJ FamilyCare, and created an outreach and enrollment working group.

---

## Child Care



**NEED HELP WITH CHILD CARE?**


New Jersey's child care assistance program helps eligible families pay for child care costs, find available child care options and more.

Visit [www.childcarenj.gov](http://www.childcarenj.gov) to learn more.

As part of the Administration's continued focus on child care and in addition to wage enhancements for child care workers, the budget provides \$48 million in federal American Rescue Plan funding to continue enrollment-based payments for child care providers. This will help ensure stable funding for child care providers as they continue to deal with the pandemic's impact.

---



## Investing in Children's Health



NEW STATE BUDGET:

### Investing in Children's Health

<b>\$2.5 MILLION INCREASE</b> for Integrated Care for Kids	<b>\$1.7 MILLION INCREASE</b> for children's outpatient mental health
--	---



The budget provides \$1.7 million for rate parity between pediatric and adult outpatient services, including psychiatric evaluation, outpatient therapy, and partial care. With federal funding, this investment rises to \$4.6 million.



And it appropriates \$2.5 million to continue and expand the Integrated Care for Kids program, which aims to improve the quality of care for children under 21 through prevention; early identification; and treatment of behavioral, social, and physical health needs. With federal funding included, this would be a \$5 million increase.

---

# Ending the AIDS Epidemic

NEW STATE BUDGET:

## Ending the AIDS Epidemic

-  The budget includes \$3 million to increase access to treatment to persons living with HIV/AIDS
-  Under this plan, FamilyCare will eliminate the use of step therapy and prior authorization for HIV treatment medication



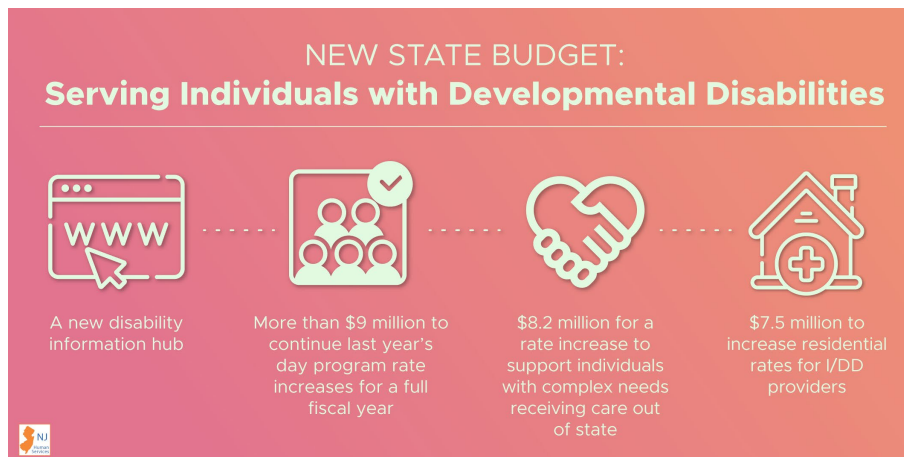
The state last year released a strategic plan to end the HIV epidemic by 2025.

As part of this effort, the budget includes \$3 million to increase access to treatment so persons living with HIV/AIDS can achieve and maintain viral suppression.

Under this plan, FamilyCare will eliminate the use of step therapy and prior authorization for HIV treatment medication.

---

# Serving Individuals with Disabilities



The budget includes resources to create a new disability information hub, informed by individuals with disabilities, to help individuals with disabilities better plan for their future by providing up-to-date, consumer-friendly, accessible information about disability services in a central location. In partnership with the Governor's Office, we will be sharing more information about this in the future.


And it also includes more than \$9 million to continue last year's day program rate increases for a full fiscal year, \$8.2 million for a rate increase to support individuals with complex needs receiving care out of state, and \$7.5 million to increase residential rates for providers of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

These investments will also bring in \$16.5 million in new federal funding.

---

# Assisting Older Adults

NEW STATE BUDGET:  
**Helping Older Adults**



<b>\$6.94 MILLION</b> increase to continue increased income limits for prescription drug assistance	<b>\$4 MILLION</b> in federal money for county Area Agencies on Aging to provide additional supports in applying for vital services such as SNAP
<b>\$1.4 MILLION</b> rate increase for Assisted Living and Personal Care Homes	<b>\$25 MILLION</b> rate increase for nursing homes

To continue to make New Jersey more affordable for older adults needing help with prescription drugs, the budget includes a \$6.94 million increase to account for a full-year of the January 1 PAAD income limit increase.

The budget also will use \$4 million in federal money for County Area Agencies on Aging to provide additional support to older adults in applying for vital services such as SNAP.

And it provides \$1.4 million to bolster rates for Assisted Living and Personal Care Homes, along with a \$25 million rate increase for nursing homes.

---

## Combating the Opioid Epidemic



**EVERY DAY IN RECOVERY IS A BETTER DAY.**

**CALL US 844-REACHNJ**



The overall budget maintains the government-wide funding for the Governor's array of substance use disorder programs, which will be supplemented by more than \$640 million over the next 18 years through settlement funds from opioid manufacturers and wholesalers.

---

## Welcoming New Americans

### The Legal Representation for Children & Youth Program

Providing free legal services to children and youth in immigration proceedings.

Call or text: 201-305-9217 | Email: [uacscreening@NJCIC.org](mailto:uacscreening@NJCIC.org)



This budget includes resources to boost capacity in the Office of New Americans, and - importantly – boosts the Legal Services for Unaccompanied Minors and Youth program by \$1.5 million.

The budget also highlights additional investments made to the Excluded New Jerseyans Fund to ensure necessary funding is available for eligible applications received. The program's application period closed at the end of February and it received over 35,000 applications.

## Emergency Housing Assistance



Along with the wage enhancements for homeless shelters and ongoing investments to support last year's shelter rate increase, the budget includes about \$2.9 million to increase the daily hotel/motel rate to ensure we continue to assist those receiving emergency assistance who need temporary emergency housing. This is the first increase to these rates since 2003.



# Funeral and Burial Assistance



New Jersey provides funeral and burial reimbursements to help cover the costs of these services for deceased individuals who were receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, General Assistance or Supplemental Security Income clients.

Governor Murphy signed legislation raising these reimbursement rates for funeral homes by \$1,000 effective January 18. The budget includes \$8 million to continue to support these increases.

## SPOTLIGHTS ON NJ HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS

**NJHopeline** 1-855-654-6735

**NJMentalHealthCares Helpline**  
1-866-202-HELP

**ACCESS American Sign Language  
and Videophone Helpline**  
973-870-0677

**HEAL NJ Healthcare Workers  
COVID Hope & Healing Helpline**  
1-833-416-8773

**RISE NJ First Responders COVID  
Hope & Healing Helpline**  
1-833-237-4325

**Assistance and Referrals to  
Addiction Treatment**  
1-844-ReachNJ

**Parents and Caretakers of  
Adults with Intellectual and  
Developmental Disabilities**  
1-833-NJ-ADULT





## DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Human Services' Division of Developmental Disabilities helps New Jersey adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities live more independently.

NJ SNAP - [ENGLISH](#) / [SPANISH](#)

NJ FAMILYCARE - [ENGLISH](#) / [SPANISH](#)

NJHELPS - [ENGLISH](#) / [SPANISH](#)

FOLLOW US!



*Copyright © NJ Human Services 2022. All rights reserved.*