

A WORD FROM FIRST LADY TAMMY MURPHY



Dear New Jersey Mothers,

The Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority's (MIHIA) annual report marks the culmination of years of work by countless individuals dedicated to improving maternal and infant health across our state. From advocates, to nurses, to physicians, to doulas, to midwives, and mothers themselves, I offer my sincere thanks for all it has taken to get us to today.

Since 2018, our Administration has worked tirelessly to transform New Jersey into the safest and most equitable state in the nation to deliver and raise a baby through our maternal and infant health initiative, Nurture NJ. Over the past 7-plus years, we have enacted or made headway on over half of the more than 80 recommendations in our strategic plan; become the second state to expand Medicaid

coverage to 365 days postpartum; launched Family Connects NJ, the most robust-in-the-nation universal nurse home visitation program so that every new parent is visited by a nurse in their home for free within weeks after bringing home a new baby; and in March 2024, we established the Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority, the first-and-only-of-its-kind in the nation. This new authority ensures that the life-saving work of Nurture NJ will continue long after our administration and permanently make our state a national leader in maternal health. Additionally, MIHIA will oversee a state-of-the-art Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Center in Trenton, which we will be breaking ground on this summer. The Center will be an incubator for innovation and development, an academic and perinatal workforce training center, will offer direct social and wraparound supports, host a data collaborative, and offer comprehensive clinical services to serve moms before, during and after pregnancy.

In New Jersey, we respect and cherish women and mothers and the work of MIHIA is a direct expression of those values. I am proud to see this new and unique state government authority reach its first full year of life, and I look forward to watching MIHIA lead the way in maternal and infant health innovation in the years ahead.

My very best,

Tammy S. Murphy.