



NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

NEWSLETTER | APRIL 2023

Feds Approve Innovative NJ FamilyCare Projects Addressing Housing, Behavioral & Physical Health, Care & Other Needs



The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has [approved](#) innovative NJ FamilyCare projects designed to address priorities such as housing, integrating behavioral and physical health services, and new and creative approaches to providing care.

CMS signed off on the projects by approving NJ FamilyCare's Comprehensive 1115 Demonstration renewal. The 1115 demonstration provides the state with federal authority to operate large parts of the NJ FamilyCare program. The approval is in effect from April 1 through June 30, 2028.

"A holistic approach to supporting the well-being of Medicaid beneficiaries in our state is critical to ensuring better health outcomes for countless New Jersey residents," Governor Phil Murphy said. "This federal approval further enables Jersey's efforts to support the mental health, housing, maternal health, and other needs of the families and communities served through NJ FamilyCare. It is our hope these innovative projects will also serve as a model for other states in providing comprehensive services that will benefit residents in communities throughout our country."

"We are thrilled by this federal approval and look forward to these innovative approaches benefiting NJ FamilyCare members," Commissioner Sarah Adelman said. "With this approval, we maintain momentum on our existing innovations and enhance our ability to serve individuals and communities with the best possible care. This plan is built around a simple yet vital premise – a healthier New Jersey must include everyone, and must do so with high-quality, integrated and evidence-based care."

The plan includes new programs such as:

- A multifaceted, integrated housing strategy for Medicaid beneficiaries that incorporates coverage for additional targeted services, and coordination across state and community resources involved in the provision of health and housing services. This includes:
- A Community Health Worker Pilot that will focus on overcoming health disparities within local communities by providing care coordination services and directly providing preventive or related services;
- 12 months of continuous eligibility to adults whose Medicaid eligibility is based on Modified Adjusted Gross Income;
- New incentives for Medicaid behavioral health providers to implement new HIT functionality, to support integrated and high quality care;
- A new Autism Adjunct Services Pilot to support and provide children living with autism rehabilitative and therapeutic services; and
- Increased coverage of nutrition services, including a medically indicated meal pilot for individuals at risk of gestational diabetes.

[Read more](#)

NJ Workability Expands



NJ WorkAbility Has Expanded to More Individuals

NJ WorkAbility offers full NJ FamilyCare coverage to working individuals with disabilities.

New changes:

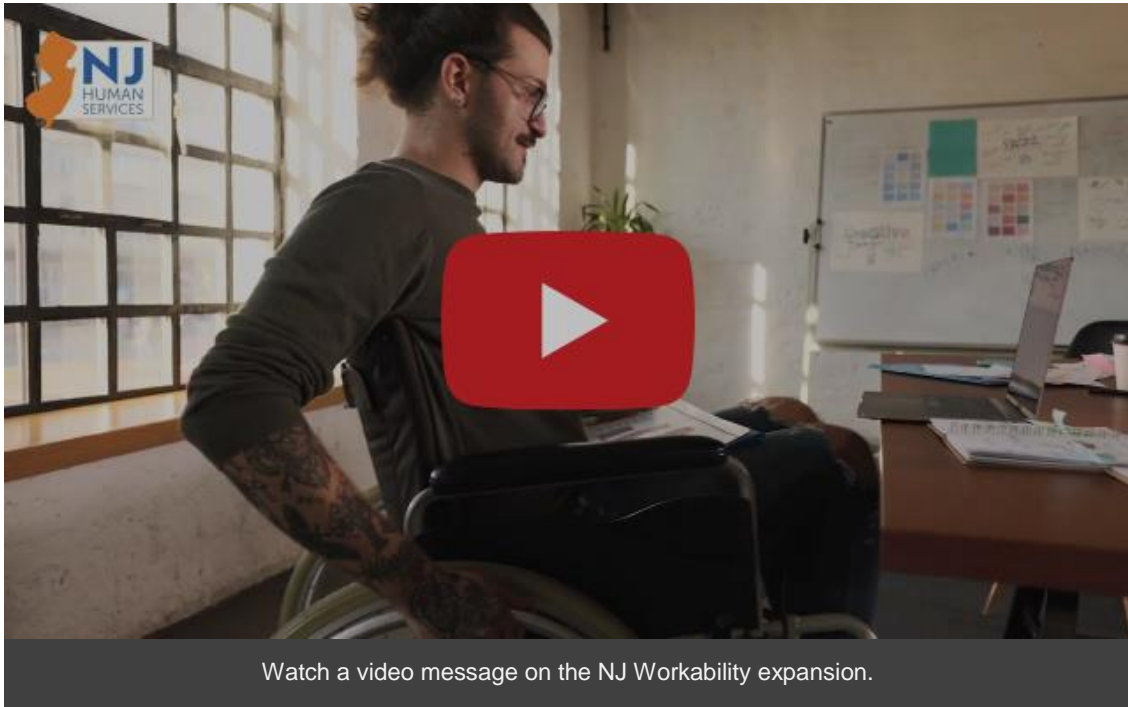
- Eligible age 16+
- Spousal income no longer counts toward eligibility
- No asset thresholds
- A year of coverage if you lose your job through no fault of your own



NJ WorkAbility offers people with disabilities who are working, and whose income would otherwise make them ineligible for Medicaid, the opportunity to receive full Medicaid coverage. As of April 1, WorkAbility is now:

- Open to all people over age 16 who have a disability determination
- Free from spousal deeming requirements
- Free from asset limits
- Available to enrolled members for 12 months after a job loss that happens through no fault of their own

Visit [here](#) to learn more and apply.



Watch a video message on the NJ Workability expansion.

New Jersey Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund Advisory Council Listening Sessions

NEW JERSEY OPIOID RECOVERY AND REMEDATION FUND ADVISORY COUNCIL

Listening Sessions

In addition to the input already received through the online portal, **The New Jersey Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund Advisory Council is holding listening sessions** to gather public input on distributing opioid settlement funds. New Jersey will receive at least \$641 million over 18 years as part of a federal opioid settlement. The state will receive half of the funding, and the other half will be provided to participating county and local governments.



THURSDAY, MAY 4 (5-7 P.M.)

Virtual: Link will be sent after registering

THURSDAY, JULY 20 (11 A.M. – 1 P.M.)

Virtual: Link will be sent after registering



MONDAY, MAY 22 (1 – 3 P.M.)

Central Jersey
Mercer County Community College
Roma Bank Auditorium
Conference Center
1200 Old Trenton Road, West Windsor

MONDAY, JUNE 12 (10 A.M. – NOON)

South Jersey
Camden County College (Blackwood)
CIM Auditorium
200 College Road, Blackwood

THURSDAY, JUNE 22 (11 A.M. – 1 P.M.)

North Jersey
Essex County College
Clara E. Dasher Student Center
303 University Avenue, Newark

New Jersey will receive \$641 million over 18 years as part of a federal opioid settlement. The [New Jersey Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund Advisory Council](#) is hosting in-person and virtual listening

sessions between May and July to gather public input about how the state should use these funds.

Click [here](#) to register.

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**Human Services Awards Contracts to Offer
Recovery Management Check-Up Services in All
21 Counties for Individuals with Substance Use
Disorder**

Reasons for recovery...



CALL 844-REACHNJ

SAMHSA
Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration



The Department has awarded contracts to offer a Recovery Management Check-Up (RMC) service in all 21 counties for individuals with substance use disorder who have been discharged from treatment.

“Discharged individuals impacted by substance use disorder will receive ongoing care that supports independent living and long-term success with recovery,” Commissioner Sarah Adelman said. “With this initiative, we will continue to turn the tide against the opioid epidemic, supporting long-lasting recovery for those outside the direct care system.”

“We understand that addiction is a chronic disease and to effectively treat this disease, long-term management must be implemented - that is the basis of a Recovery-Management Service,” Deputy Commissioner of Health Services Lisa Asare said, “Through RMC, long-term care will be provided with monthly follow-up meetings and calls with discharged clients who have substance use disorder to identify

and meet the need for further interventions."

"Along the personal journey of recovery, having access to supports that a RMC service offers can make all the difference," said Assistant Commissioner Valerie Mielke, who directs the [Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services](#) that will oversee the initiative. "All residents impacted by substance use disorder deserve long-lasting recovery and this initiative provides supports to individuals pursuing that journey to recovery,"

[Read more](#)

Highlighting Mental Health and Addiction Services Budget Investments



[Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services](#) Assistant Commissioner Valerie Mielke updated the Coalition of Mental Health Consumer Organizations with details about Governor Murphy's budget investments in substance use disorder and mental health wellness, including [naloxone distribution](#) and [988](#).

Strengthening and expanding mental health services continues to be a top priority of the Murphy Administration. Besides continued investments in 988 and combating the opioid epidemic, budget also includes investments such as:

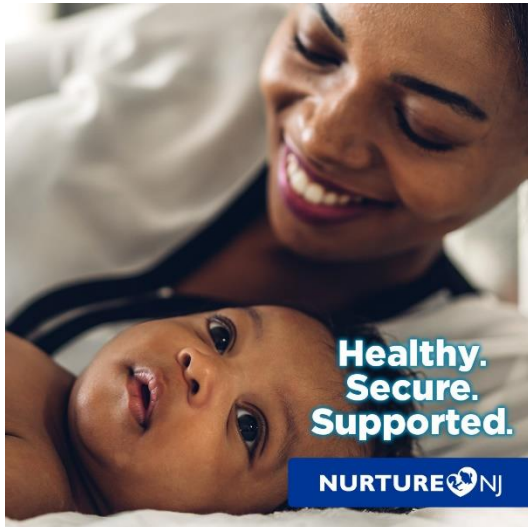
- \$3.5 million to create 150 community placements or housing subsidies for individuals with mental illness.
- Continued funding for the psychiatric residency program, with additional investments to support child and adolescent psychiatry fellows.
- In partnership with the Attorney General's Office, expanding the ARRIVE Together program statewide.

LEAP Comes to Gloucester County



Commissioner Sarah Adelman, Deputy Commissioner for Social Services Elisa Neira and [Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired](#) Executive Director Dr. Bernice Davis helped open a new [Library Equal Access Program, or LEAP](#), site at the [Gloucester County Library's Mullica Hill Branch](#).

Women's Wellness Month & Black Maternal Health Week



Doula coverage is part of **NJ FAMILY CARE**

Doula care is associated with better birth outcomes.

For more information, visit www.njfamilycare.org



NJ FAMILY CARE
365 Days of Postpartum Coverage
 Visit NJFamilyCare.org

PLAN FIRST

The Plan First Program administered by NJ FamilyCare provides a full range of family planning services to men and women who do not have access through insurance. Learn more at njfamilycare.org

NJ FAMILY CARE

As part of Women's Wellness Month and Black Maternal Health Week, Human Services highlighted programs and initiatives designed to make New Jersey the safest, most equitable state in the nation to deliver and raise a baby.

In partnership with the [First Lady's NurtureNJ](#) effort, steps taken by Human Services to promote high-quality maternity-related care within [NJ FamilyCare](#) include:

- Promoting high quality care through a statewide perinatal episode of care pilot that tests an alternative payment model for prenatal, labor, and postpartum services;
- Expanding coverage for 365 days postpartum;
- Covering community doula care;
- Allowing all licensed midwives to participate as NJ FamilyCare providers;

- Increasing reimbursement rates for perinatal, midwifery and community doula care;
- Ending reimbursement for medically unnecessary early elective deliveries; and
- Requiring perinatal risk assessments during a member's prenatal care to help identify risk factors and healthcare needs.

Discussing Maternal Health at Princeton University



Deputy Commissioner for Health Services Lisa Asare joined a panel discussion addressing the maternal health crisis in New Jersey at Princeton University's [School of Public and International Affairs](#). Deputy Commissioner Asare was joined by Professor Elizabeth Armstrong; Clarke Wheeler of the National Women's Law Center; and Assemblywoman Sadaf Jaffer.

Autism Acceptance Month



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), a neurodevelopmental condition, is the most diagnosed developmental disability in the United States, affecting more than five million people; and

WHEREAS, the number of children affected by autism nationally is now, approximately, one in 36, and, approximately, one in 34 in New Jersey, according to the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

WHEREAS, ASD is a lifelong condition, which requires long-term supports and services for many of the thousands of diagnosed individuals and their families; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Autism Registry has identified over 40,000 children with autism and provides information on the characteristics of, and the services needed by, children with autism for policy and planning purposes in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, a variety of public and private organizations and agencies provide quality care, supports and services to children and adults with ASD that enable them to live with dignity and self-esteem, and to integrate fully as valued members of their families and communities; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism provides funding to support the NJ Autism Center of Excellence, which is a statewide innovative, comprehensive and collaborative network to promote quality research, professional training and build public awareness aimed to improve the lives of individuals with ASD across the lifespan; and

WHEREAS, the Office on Autism, in the Department of Human Services, provides a central repository to explore ASD programs and services; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Children and Families' Children's System of Care serves children and adolescents with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families; and

WHEREAS, April 2nd has been designated World Autism Awareness Day, highlighted separately within Autism Acceptance Month to support research that explores new ways to advance wellness and inclusion for people with autism;

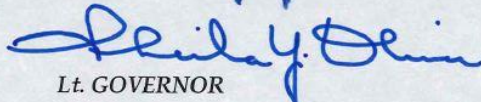
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip D. Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

APRIL 2023
AS
AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH

in New Jersey.



GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this sixth day of April in the year two thousand twenty-three, the two hundred forty-seventh year of the Independence of the United States.


Lt. GOVERNOR


GOVERNOR

Governor Phil Murphy declared April as Autism Acceptance Month in New Jersey.

Human Services' [Office of Autism](#) provides a centralized place to address issues associated with Autism Spectrum Disorder, or ASD, within the [Division of Developmental Disabilities](#). The Office identifies and works with staff in sister state agencies to develop service coordination plans for individuals with ASD. The Office promotes, disseminates and coordinates best practices in staff training and other supports to people with ASD, as well as autism awareness training for community entities.

[Autism: A Family Guide to Navigating NJ Service Systems for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder and other Developmental Disabilities](#) is a collaborative effort of New Jersey's Interdepartmental Work Group on Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Bubbles for Autism





As part of Bring Your Child to Work Day at Human Services, Commissioner Sarah Adelman joined children at the Trenton War Memorial to show support for Autism Acceptance Month by blowing bubbles. Bubbles can be a particularly effective therapy for children with autism. Children can participate verbally or nonverbally during bubble play.

Night of Hope



Deputy Commissioner for Disability and Aging Services Kaylee McGuire and [Division of Developmental Disabilities](#) Assistant Commissioner Jonathan Seifried joined [The North Ward Center](#) and [Autism New Jersey](#) for a Night of Hope highlighting resources for individuals with autism and their families.

They presented Governor Murphy's Autism Acceptance Month proclamation to Michele Aduato of the North Ward

Center, left middle, and Suzanne Buchanan of Autism New Jersey, right middle.

Highlighting Inclusive Healthy Communities



[Division of Disability Services](#) Executive Director Peri Nearon, right, joined [Rutgers University School of Social Work](#) PhD candidate Rebecca Martin to discuss the [Inclusive Healthy Communities](#) program at the [New Jersey Public Health Association's](#) annual conference.

The Division-led program supports community organizations, municipalities and counties throughout New Jersey partner with the disability community to enhance accessibility, health and equity.

Updating The Arc of New Jersey





Commissioner Sarah Adelman spoke at [The Arc of New Jersey](#)'s annual conference, providing a Department update and [meeting](#) with self-advocates, families and Arc chapters.

Human Services remains steadfast in its commitment to caring for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The Governor's budget plan includes:

- More than \$83 million in state and federal funding for another direct support professional and supervisor wage increase;

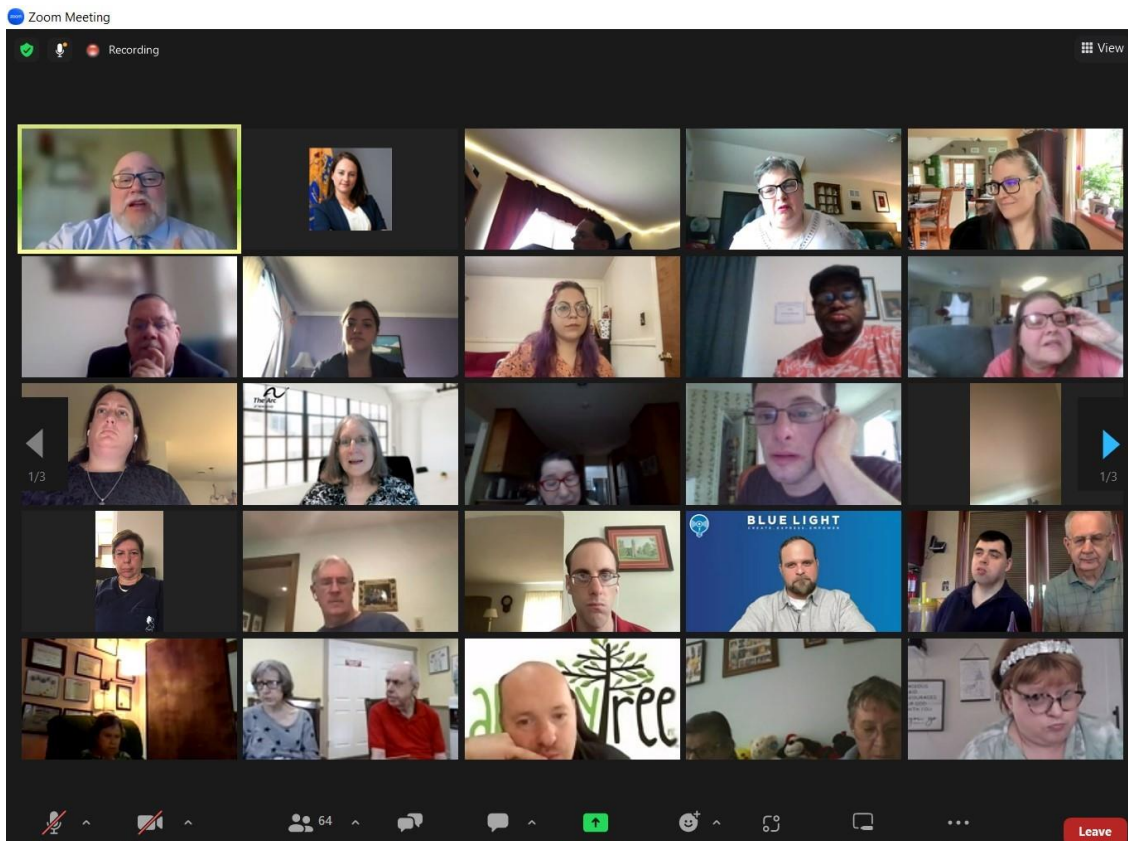
- \$72 million in state and federal funding for an increase across the board for all fee-for-service provider rates to partially offset the impact of inflation;
- More than \$5 million in state and federal funding for restructuring contracted emergency capacity beds to better align with the level-of-care required by many individuals who need this service;
- \$3.2 million to establish regional response teams to address behavioral health crises in individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and train state and provider staff and develop resources;
- \$600,000 to bring on more Office of Public Integrity and Accountability specialists and coordinators; and
- \$250,000 in state and federal funding for a support brokerage rate increase.

Joining The Arc of Camden County



[Division of Developmental Disabilities](#) Assistant Commissioner Jonathan Seifried, right, helped [The Arc of Camden County](#) open its newest group home - deemed the Englebert Home in honor of the chapter's former Executive Director, Peggy Englebert.

Congratulations to Assistant Commissioner Seifried



Congratulations to [Division of Developmental Disabilities](#) Assistant Commissioner Jonathan Seifried, in the yellow box above, who received the Unmatched Dedication Award from [The Arc of New Jersey](#) during a virtual ceremony.

The Unmatched Dedication Award is given to a professional in the field for their contributions to self-advocacy statewide who has shown great respect for people with intellectual and developmental

disabilities and used their immense skills, experience, and connections to support self-advocates and self-advocacy groups.

**Congratulations to Assistant Commissioner
Mielke**



Congratulations to [Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services](#) Assistant Commissioner Valerie Mielke, who was named State Leader of the Year by the [New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies](#).

Senate Budget & Appropriations Committee Testimony



Left to right, Deputy Commissioner for Aging and Disability Services Kaylee McGuire, Acting Chief Financial Officer Eric Kaufmann, Commissioner Sarah Adelman, Deputy Commissioner for Social Services Elisa Neira and Deputy Commissioner for Health Services Lisa Asare testified before the Senate

Budget and Appropriations Committee on April 20.

Visit [here](#) to read the Commissioner's testimony.

"The budget includes continued and expanded opportunities for individuals we serve, including families and children, individuals with disabilities, older adults, those with substance use and mental health conditions, new Americans, and individuals in need of health care, social services, and other assistance," Commissioner Adelman said.



Commissioner Adelman met with members of Keep the Lights on for IDD and the Jewish Association for Developmental Disabilities after the committee hearing.

Mass Care Shelter Exercise in Sussex County

Human Services' Office of Emergency Management led by Director Joseph Geleta coordinated with the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management and the Sussex County Division of Emergency Management for a mass care shelter exercise on regional catastrophic preparedness.

More than 125 participated in the event at the Sussex County Fairgrounds, including the New Jersey State Police, the Department of Agriculture, Salvation Army and the Red Cross. The exercise focused on general sheltering, access needs for individuals with disabilities, shelter dormitory management and pet sheltering.





Congratulations to Human Services' Office of Emergency Management



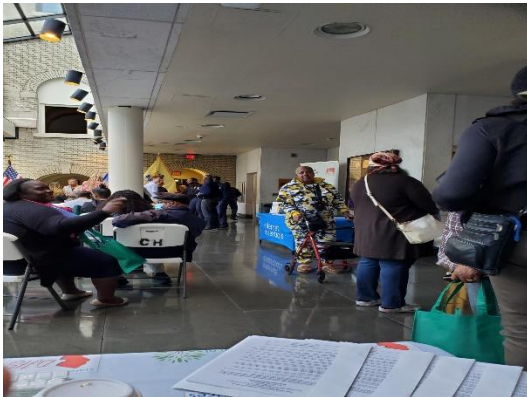
Human Services' Office of Emergency Management shined at the 2023 New Jersey Emergency Preparedness Conference.

Jamie Bodrog-Powell, middle, Deputy Director of the Disaster Terrorism Branch, was named Emergency Manager of the Year and presented with the Kevin Tuno Award.

James Manski, right, of the Office of Emergency Management received the Merit of Excellence Award in Public Safety for his years of work in supporting the emergency management community.

They were joined by Emergency Management Director Joseph Geleta, left.

Utility Assistance



The [Division of Aging Services](#) joined the [Board of Public Utilities](#) and others at Trenton City Hall to share information about assistance programs and resources available to help people save on utility bills. Visit [here](#) to learn more about the Lifeline utility assistance program.

Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Parkinson's disease is a progressive neurodegenerative disease, and according to the U.S. National Library of Medicine, approximately 90,000 people are diagnosed in the United States each year, with about a million people having the disease; and

WHEREAS, the combined direct and indirect cost of Parkinson's, including treatment, social security payments and lost income, is estimated to be nearly \$52 billion per year in the United States, with medication costs averaging \$2,500 a year and therapeutic surgery costing up to \$100,000 per person; and

WHEREAS, although research suggests the cause of Parkinson's disease is a combination of genetic and environmental factors, the exact cause and progression of the disease is still unknown; and

WHEREAS, the symptoms of Parkinson's disease vary from person to person and may include tremors; slowed activities of daily living; difficulty with balance, swallowing, chewing or speaking, rigidity, cognitive problems, dementia, and mood disorders, including depression and anxiety, skin problems, and sleep disorders, and

WHEREAS, there is no cure for Parkinson's disease at this time, although medication, surgical options, and complementary therapies to treat the disease are continually improving; and

WHEREAS, increased education and research are needed to help find more effective treatments with fewer side effects and, ultimately, a cure for Parkinson's disease to help Parkinson's disease patients, their caregivers and families;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip D. Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

APRIL 2023

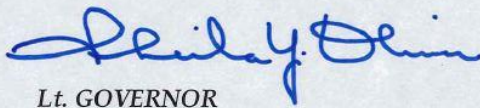
AS

PARKINSON'S DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

in New Jersey.

GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this sixth day of April in the year two thousand twenty-three, the two hundred forty-seventh year of the Independence of the United States.




Lt. GOVERNOR


GOVERNOR

Governor Murphy declared April to be Parkinson's Awareness Month.

Studies show Tai Chi may improve balance, motor control & improve the quality of life among people with Parkinson's disease. Many senior centers offer free or low-cost classes. Find out more by calling 1-877-222-3737 or visit [here](#) to connect with your local Area Agency on Aging.

Bring Your Child to Work Day 2023





Human Services marked Bring Your Child to Work Day 2023 with an American Sign Language lesson and demonstrations by the [Human Services Police](#), among other fun and educational activities.

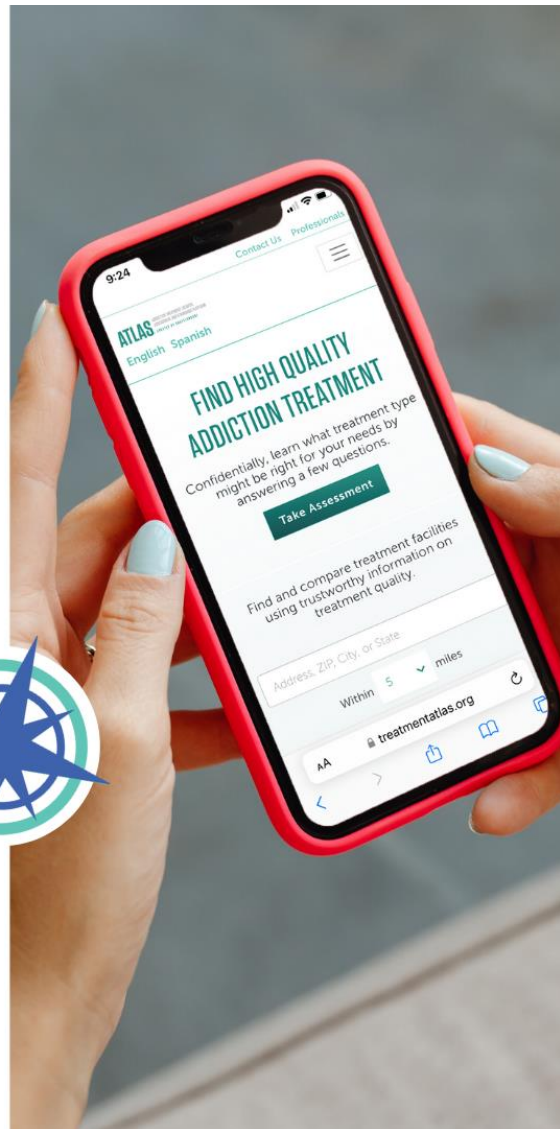
SPOTLIGHTS ON NJ HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS

**Recovery should
be about options,
not guesses.**

Explore your options at
TreatmentATLAS.org



ATLAS
ADDICTION TREATMENT LOCATOR,
ASSESSMENT, AND STANDARDS PLATFORM



DON'T MISS YOUR
NJ FAMILYCARE
RENEWAL PACKET

Call **1-800-701-0710 (TTY: 711)** to update your:



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