



# NURTURE NJ

## Leadership Summit

# DIGITAL BROCHURE



Thank you for attending the  
2025 Nurture NJ Leadership Summit!

Please take the time to scroll through this brochure to learn more about our partners' programs and initiatives.

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# **NURTURE NJ**

Leadership Summit



## **DIGITAL BROCHURE**

**State Programs &  
Initiatives**



The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) provides reimbursement for well-balanced, nutritious meals served to individuals enrolled in adult and child day care centers, family day care homes (FDCH), after school programs, emergency shelters, and head start programs. CACFP federal funding is provided from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and paid to Program Operators through an agreement with the New Jersey Department of Agriculture (state agency), based on monthly claims submitted.



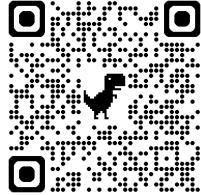
## HOW DO I APPLY?

### 7 Steps to CACFP Application Approval

- 1. Outreach Survey** - are you eligible to participate?
- 2. Pre-Registration** - are your business requirements in order?
- 3. Training** - complete all required online CACFP training sessions
- 4. Gain Agreement Number** - access to online application
- 5. Complete Online Application Required Records**
- 6. Pre-Approval Visit** - observation of CACFP operation
- 7. Final Approval** - when steps 1-6 are completed and approved

Interested in applying to CACFP? Begin with completing the

#### **NJDA CACFP Outreach & Eligibility Tool**



The CACFP is available to public, private nonprofit, and forprofit organizations providing licensed or registered for nonresidential day care services. Such organizations include adult care, childcare, FDCH Sponsors, afterschool programs, schools, foodbanks, and city government organizations including organizations providing day care services for children with disabilities and/or special health care needs. For-profit centers may qualify if they receive compensation under Title XX/XIX of the Social Security Act for at least 25% of the total participants who are receiving nonresidential care, or 25% of their participants qualify for free or reduced-price meal benefits.

## CACFP Meal Reimbursement Rates

**Effective July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026**

\*Reimbursement rates are updated annually, effective July 1<sup>st</sup>.

MEAL TYPE	FREE	REDUCED	PAID
BREAKFAST	\$2.46	\$2.16	\$0.40
LUNCH OR SUPPER*	\$4.90	\$4.50	\$0.72
SNACK	\$1.26	\$0.63	\$0.11

\*Includes cash-in-lieu of USDA Foods per meal rate (30.05 cents)

Note: USDA Foods commodities are available for Districts and Private Providers in place of cash-in-lieu funds.



## CONTACT US

### Phone #:

(609)-984-1250

### Email:

NJCACFPCOMMUNICATIONS@ag.nj.gov

### **Nondiscrimination Statement**

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

**1. Mail:**

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington D.C. 20250-9410

**2. Fax:**

(833) 256 - 1665 or (202) 690 - 7442

**3. Email:** [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)



# CACFP

## CHILD & ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM

New Jersey Department of Agriculture

Division of Food and Nutrition

**CACFP Webpage**



**USDA CACFP Webpage**



**CACFP Resources**



**CACFP Outreach & Eligibility Tool**



[NJCACFPCOMMUNICATIONS@ag.nj.gov](mailto:NJCACFPCOMMUNICATIONS@ag.nj.gov)



(609)-984-1250

# Serve Tasty and Healthy Foods in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

Sample Meals for Children Ages 1-2



## What is in a Breakfast?

Milk (4 fl. oz. or  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup)  
Vegetables, Fruits, or Both ( $\frac{1}{4}$  cup)  
Grains ( $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. eq.)

**Optional:** Meats/meat alternates may be served in place of the entire grains component up to 3 times per week at breakfast.

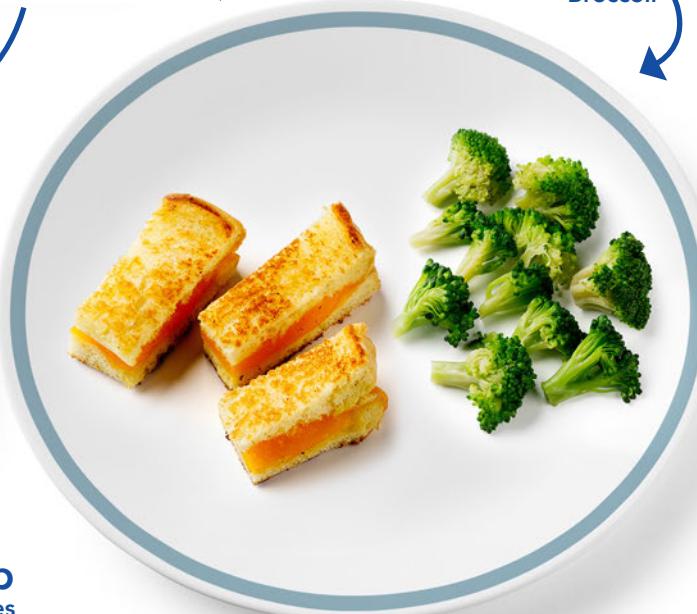


$\frac{1}{4}$  cup Oatmeal  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  cup Diced Peaches  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup  
1-year-olds: Unflavored Whole Milk  
2-year-olds: Unflavored Low-Fat (1%) or Fat-Free (Skim) Milk

## Grilled Cheese Sandwich

Made with  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. eq.  
Enriched Bread and  
1 oz. Cheese

$\frac{1}{8}$  cup Broccoli



$\frac{1}{2}$  cup  
1-year-olds: Unflavored Whole Milk  
2-year-olds: Unflavored Low-Fat (1%) or Fat-Free (Skim) Milk

$\frac{1}{8}$  cup Blueberries

## Sample Lunch/Supper



Offer and make water available all day.



## What is in a Snack?

**Pick 2:**  
Milk (4 fl. oz. or  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup)  
Meats/Meat Alternates ( $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. eq.)  
Vegetables ( $\frac{1}{2}$  cup)  
Fruits ( $\frac{1}{2}$  cup)  
Grains ( $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. eq.)



$\frac{1}{4}$  cup (2 oz.) Yogurt  
Dip  
Made with  
Yogurt must not contain more than 23 grams of sugar per 6 oz.

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup Bell Pepper Strips

**Note:** Serving sizes are minimums.

Learn more about the CACFP meal patterns at  
<https://teamnutrition.usda.gov>



Food and Nutrition Service  
FNS-667  
Slightly Revised October 2019  
USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



# NJ Moms & Dads

Nourishing your family is important to you. Make it easier on yourselves with these ideas:

**Have your child make the most of free school meals during the week.**



Children in families receiving benefits from NJ SNAP are automatically eligible to receive free school meals – they do not need to fill out an application. They simply need to go to the school cafeteria for lunch as usual. If your school also serves breakfast, that is another free school meal for your student.



Students who do not currently receive free school meals should contact their school district to complete an application and see if they qualify. More NJ families have access to free school meals, thanks to expanded income eligibility guidelines. To learn more about the program and see the expanded eligibility chart, visit [nj.gov/foodsecurity/our-work/initiatives/#SummerEBTApplication](http://nj.gov/foodsecurity/our-work/initiatives/#SummerEBTApplication)



In a number of communities, including Asbury Park, Beverly City, Bridgeton, Burlington City, East Orange, Edgewater Park, Fairfield Township, Haledon, Irvington, Lakewood, Lawnside, Long Branch, Paulsboro, Phillipsburg, Pleasantville, Salem City, Wildwood and many more, public and charter schools are providing free meals to all students through a program called Community Eligibility Provision. Contact your child's school to see if it is also a participating school this year.

**NJ SNAP Families – check and protect your Families First EBT card.**



If your family participates in NJ SNAP, check your Families First card to confirm your balance by visiting [NJFamiliesFirst.com](http://NJFamiliesFirst.com) or by calling (800) 997-3333. With the end of the federal shutdown, NJ does not expect any further disruptions to SNAP benefits in 2025. If your family continues to need assistance due to the impact of the delay in SNAP benefits, visit [nj.gov/SNAPshutdown](http://nj.gov/SNAPshutdown) for available resources.



Protect your SNAP benefits from theft by keeping your Families First card locked when you are not using it. When you are in a store and ready to use your card, you can unlock it and lock it again when you are done. Learn how at [nj.gov/humanservices/njsnap/recipients/balance](http://nj.gov/humanservices/njsnap/recipients/balance)

**Use NJ 2-1-1 to locate food pantries in your area.**



A number of pantries offer fresh produce in addition to non-perishable foods, shopping appointments, and additional services. Go to the NJ 2-1-1 website, or dial 2-1-1, or text your zip code to 898-211 for help.



Office of the  
**Food Security Advocate**

# What is ?

“One Health” means that humans, animals, plants, and ecosystems are interconnected and depend on each other to stay healthy.

In May 2025, New Jersey’s  
One Health Task Force

released its first  
Strategic Plan!



NJDA created the  
OneHealthConnect listserv to  
improve interdisciplinary  
communication in NJ.

**Sign up today!**

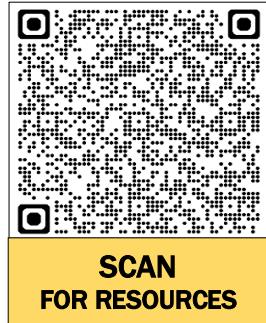




# Pregnancy, Breastfeeding, and Reproductive Rights in New Jersey

Check out civil rights resources, including:

- NJ Family Leave Act – Fact Sheet, Explainer Video, FAQ
- Explainer Video, “Protecting Pregnant, Lactating, and Postpartum Workers in NJ”
- What Employees Need to Know About Workplace Pregnancy Accommodations
- What Employers Need to Know About Workplace Pregnancy Accommodations
- Workplace Accommodations for Breastfeeding and Lactation
- Workplace Accommodations for Postpartum Employees
- Workplace Accommodations for Pregnancy Loss: Miscarriage, Stillbirth, and Abortion
- How to File a Discrimination Complaint with the NJ Division on Civil Rights
- More resources, including translated fact sheets



SCAN  
FOR RESOURCES

The New Jersey Law Against Discrimination (LAD) prohibits discrimination because of pregnancy, childbirth, recovery from childbirth, breastfeeding, lactating, or related medical conditions in employment, housing, places of public accommodation, credit, and contracting. The LAD requires reasonable accommodations for pregnant, postpartum, breastfeeding, or lactating workers.

## **njcivilrights.gov**

#CivilRightsNJ | 1833 - NJDCR4U | 711 Relay | [CommunityRelations@njcivilrights.gov](mailto:CommunityRelations@njcivilrights.gov)

**The New Jersey Division on Civil Rights (DCR)** is the state agency charged with enforcing New Jersey's civil rights laws, including the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination (LAD), the New Jersey Family Leave Act (NJFLA), and the Fair Chance in Housing Act (FCHA). The mission of DCR is to protect the people of New Jersey from discrimination and bias-based harassment in employment, housing, and public accommodations.

# Connecting NJ



New Jersey's network of local service hubs dedicated to providing essential services that help families and children, primarily from pregnancy and infancy to age five.

Raising a young child is hard, and it's harder if you already have a lot on your plate. If you need help figuring out what services or supports will best assist your family, Connecting NJ is available.

Connecting NJ can help you access information and referrals to resources such as:

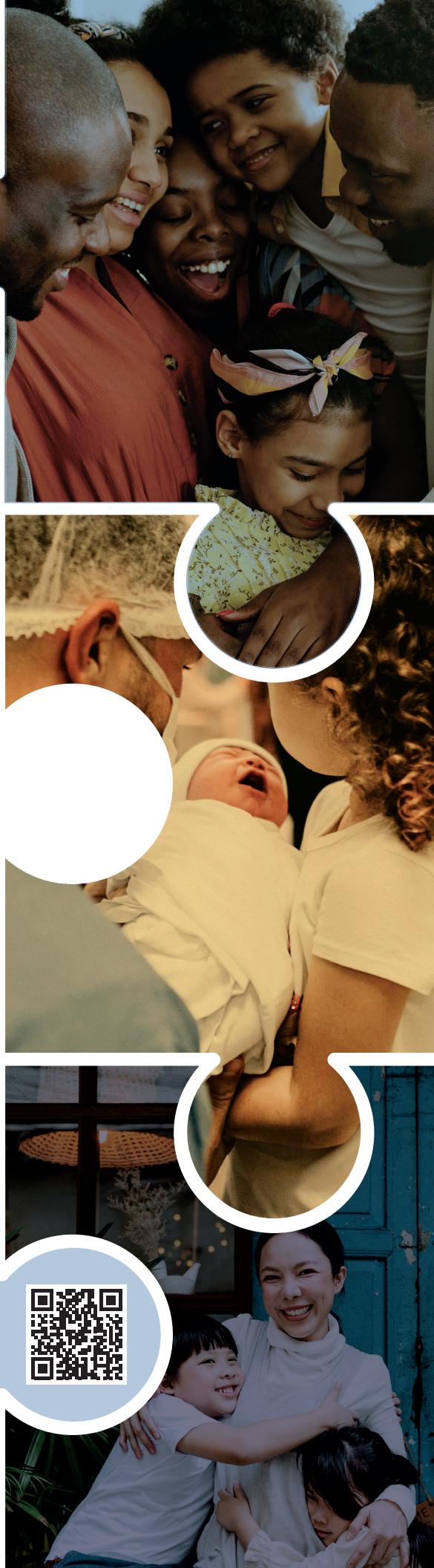
- ▶ Healthcare resources for the whole family
- ▶ Free post-partum nurse home visits
- ▶ Other free programs that visit parents at home to support parent/child relationships
- ▶ Screening to help understand if your child is meeting developmental goals
- ▶ Early childhood education programs and early intervention services
- ▶ Parent education and support for mothers, fathers, and relative caregivers
- ▶ Your local Family Success Center

Connecting NJ also offers community education sessions and events on an ongoing basis—highlighting topics like childbirth, parenting, and what community resources parents can access for support and connection to other parents.

Looking for programs, resources and more in your area?  
Find your local Connecting NJ hub today!

[nj.gov/connectingnj](http://nj.gov/connectingnj)

609-292-4CNJ



NJ Department of Children & Families and Department of Health  
Connecting NJ Contact Information



We connect New Jersey families - moms, dads, newborns, teens, young adults, and grandparents - with the best health and social resources available in their local community.



Connecting NJ is a network of partners and agencies dedicated to helping New Jersey families thrive.

We provide mothers, fathers, grandparents, and guardians free or affordable access to people, organizations, and other sources of information needed to raise healthy children.

Connecting NJ utilizes a county-based, single point-of-entry system that simplifies and streamlines the referral process for obstetrical and prenatal care providers, community agencies, and families.

County	Lead Agency	Name of County - Connecting NJ Hub	Connecting NJ #
Atlantic	The Cooperative	The Connection	800-611-8326
Bergen	Partnership for Maternal & Child Health of Northern NJ	Connecting NJ – Bergen County	973-942-3630 x11
Burlington	The Cooperative	The Connection	800-611-8326
Camden	The Cooperative	The Connection	800-611-8326
Cape May	The Cooperative	The Connection	800-611-8326
Cumberland	Acenda Integrated Health	CGS Connect	856-431-4180
Essex	Prevent Child Abuse NJ	Essex Pregnancy and Parenting Connection	973-621-9157
Gloucester	Acenda Integrated Health	CGS Connect	856-431-4180
Hudson	Partnership for Maternal & Child Health of Northern NJ	Connecting NJ – Hudson County	201-876-8900 x221
Hunterdon	Central Jersey Family Health Consortium	Connecting NJ – Hunterdon County	888-551-6217
Mercer	Central Jersey Family Health Consortium	Connecting NJ – Mercer County	888-551-6217
Middlesex	Central Jersey Family Health Consortium	Connecting NJ – Middlesex County	888-551-6217
Monmouth	Children's Home Society	CHS of NJ Monmouth – Connecting NJ	877-352-7843
Morris	Partnership for Maternal & Child Health of Northern NJ	Connecting NJ – Morris County	973-343-2650
Ocean	Children's Home Society	CHS of NJ Ocean – Connecting NJ	877-352-7843
Passaic	Partnership for Maternal & Child Health of Northern NJ	Connecting NJ – Passaic County	973-942-3600 x14
Salem	Acenda Integrated Health	CGS Connect	856-431-4180
Somerset	Central Jersey Family Health Consortium	Connecting NJ – Somerset County	888-551-6217
Sussex	Project Self-Sufficiency	Project Family Connect	844-807-3500
Union	Partnership for Maternal & Child Health of Northern NJ	Connecting NJ – Union County	201-876-8900 x221
Warren	Project Self-Sufficiency	Project Family Connect	844-807-3500



# Universal Home Visiting

Family Connects NJ is a **free, voluntary program** offering a visit at home by trained nurses for any family caring for a newborn baby. The program is available to all New Jersey families.

During the critical first weeks following childbirth, Family Connects NJ provides families with a private visit at home by a specially trained nurse. Program nurses will check the baby's weight, assess physical and emotional health of both newborn and parents. Family Connects NJ nurses also provide information on important topics like feeding, sleeping, and community resources available, if needed.

## How to Enroll

Families can learn more information and request a nurse visit by visiting the [Family Connects NJ website](https://FamilyConnectsNJ.org). For families who would rather enroll by phone, the website also includes phone numbers for local Family Connects NJ nurse providers in your home county.

To learn more and sign-up,  
visit [FamilyConnectsNJ.org](https://FamilyConnectsNJ.org)  
or scan the QR code.



## Program Highlights

- Care is provided at **no cost to you**, in the comfort of the family home, and is completely voluntary.
- Services are available to **birth, adoptive, and resource families** with a newborn, as well as parents experiencing a stillbirth or loss of their newborn.
- While Family Connects NJ will initially be limited to **select counties**, it will gradually expand service to all of NJ. Visit [FamilyConnectsNJ.org/rollout](https://FamilyConnectsNJ.org/rollout) for more information.
- Specially-trained registered nurses** evaluate health, screen for potential complications, answer questions, and address any unexpected changes families are experiencing during the first two weeks after delivery.
- Nurses will connect families to **community resources** based on their specific circumstances.





# ✨ Introducing: The NJ Doula Assistant

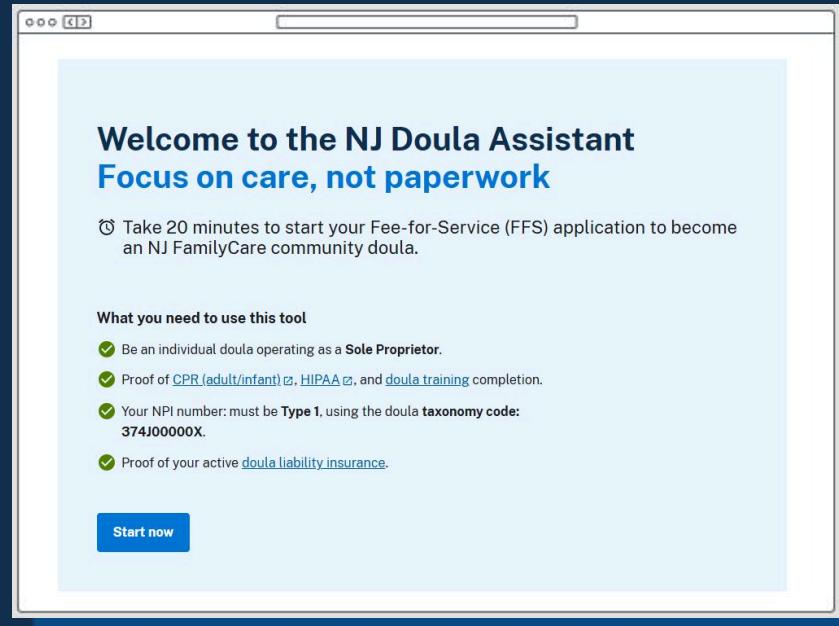
It's getting easier for doulas to enroll as Medicaid Fee-For-Service providers in New Jersey

**Are you an individual doula  
who is a sole proprietor?**

Do you want to work with NJ FamilyCare clients?

Have you completed training, received your NPI, and acquired doula insurance?

→ Visit [nj.gov/Doula-Assistant](http://nj.gov/Doula-Assistant) to start your Fee-for-Service application today!



**The NJ Doula Assistant is a new online tool designed to help community doulas complete their NJ FamilyCare Fee-For-Service application quickly and with confidence.**

In just 20 minutes, doulas can answer easy, plain-language questions, and the tool will instantly pre-populate the official forms. After using this tool, doulas can download their application forms with their pre-populated information. Doulas then review, make any updates, and sign before sending to Gainwell.

The NJ Doula Assistant aims to streamline the Fee-for-Service application process so doulas in New Jersey can focus on quality care, not paperwork.

Visit [nj.gov/Doula-Assistant](http://nj.gov/Doula-Assistant) to start your application today!

Contact Doula Guides at [mahs.doulaguide@dhs.nj.gov](mailto:mahs.doulaguide@dhs.nj.gov) for questions or assistance

New Jersey Department of  
Labor and Workforce Development

# OFFICE OF THE CARE WORKFORCE

## OUR FOCUS



Early childhood care and education



Maternal and infant health



Direct care for seniors and people  
with disabilities.



[nj.gov/labor/careworkforce](http://nj.gov/labor/careworkforce)



[careworkforce@dol.nj.gov](mailto:careworkforce@dol.nj.gov)

# Paid leave when you need it most

Receive up to **85% of your average weekly wages** up to a maximum amount.

Most NJ workers are covered and your job may be protected under state and/or federal law.

## For growing families...

- Birthing parents: up to 24 weeks of benefits for pregnancy, recovery, and bonding.
- Non birthing parents: up to 12 weeks to bond with your new child.

## You may qualify if you...

- Recently worked in NJ
- In NJ, earned at least
  - \$15,200/year (for leave starting in 2025)
  - \$15,500/year (for leave starting in 2026)
- Have a valid Social Security Number (SSN)



## Special Opportunity

We're connecting **Mercer County families** who are expecting or have recently welcomed a new child—through birth, fostering, or adoption—with paid leave navigators. Navigators help families learn about the program and apply.

Navigators are at The Children's Home Society of New Jersey and Trenton Health Team through October 2026.

**Learn more:**  
[myleavebenefits.nj.gov/navigators](http://myleavebenefits.nj.gov/navigators)



# NJMIHIA G.L.O.W. Grant Program

## Grant for Lasting Outcomes in Women's Health (G.L.O.W.)

The G.L.O.W (Grant for Lasting Outcomes in Women's Health), Grant program empowers small community-based organizations and companies to expand their capacity and deliver impactful maternal and infant health solutions across New Jersey.

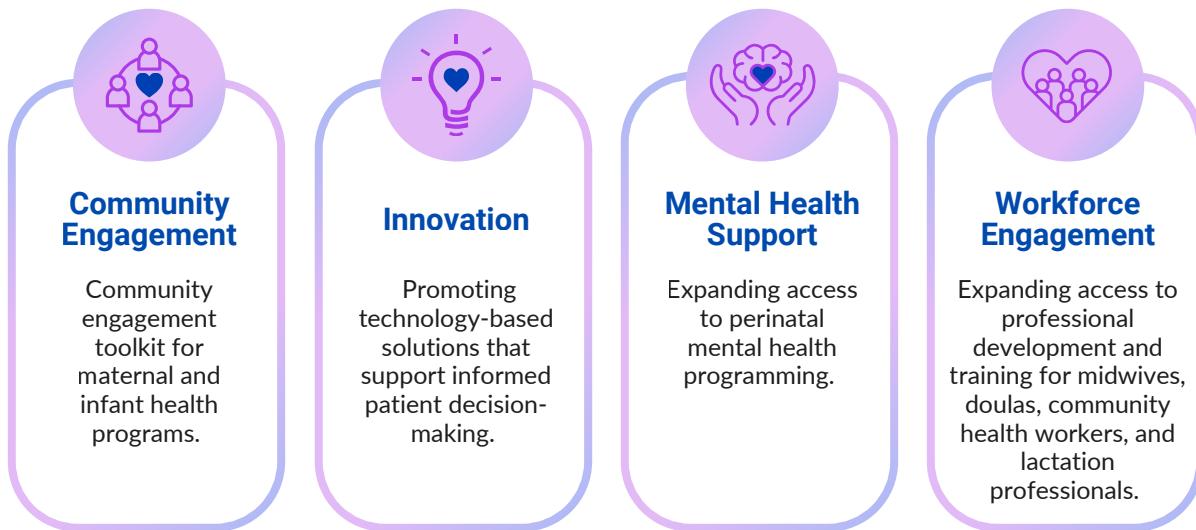


Launching in Q1 2026

Total Program Budget is \$1,000,000  
Grant amount is \$50,000

## Funding Priorities

The G.L.O.W. Grant supports projects in **four strategic areas**:



## MIHIA Academy

All G.L.O.W. grantees will participate in the **NJMIHIA Academy**, which provides:

- ♥ Mentorship
- ♥ Technical assistance
- ♥ Capacity-building
- ♥ Program Management
- ♥ Business Development
- ♥ Communication & Marketing

## Apply & Make an Impact!

Questions? Email [grants@njmihia.gov](mailto:grants@njmihia.gov)

For more information and updates, visit [njmihia.gov](http://njmihia.gov)

# NJMIHIA Rides

*Powered by GOTrenton! and Isles*

Get free, unlimited, zero-emission rides for **pregnant and postpartum women, community health workers, doulas and others in the perinatal workforce.**

**Ride code valid until June 30, 2026**

## Rides to take you wherever you need to go:

- Medical appointments or healthcare provider visits
- Grocery stores/pharmacies
- Classes or training
- Work
- SNAP/Welfare offices
- And more!

## Questions?

To learn more about NJMIHIA Rides Powered by GoTrenton!/Isles or to request a ride code, email [info@njmihia.gov](mailto:info@njmihia.gov)

For GoTrenton! support or service questions, contact [gotrenton@isles.org](mailto:gotrenton@isles.org)

## Get Started today:

-  Download the GoTrenton! app
-  Enter your ride code provided by your healthcare provider or social services agency.
-  Book your free ride



# **NURTURE NJ**

Leadership Summit



## **DIGITAL BROCHURE**

**Community Partners**

## CONNECTING NJ

Serving Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties, the Connecting NJ Hub connects expectant parents and families to essential resources to help their families thrive. CNJ also serves as the bridge to our Parents as Teachers, Healthy Families, and NFP programs. Hosting the Community Alignment Specialists of Family Connects NJ, our Acenda Team led the Universal Home Visiting Program kick-off in two of the first five counties statewide.



## NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP

Serving Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem, Cape May and Atlantic Counties, we provide home visiting services designed to improve the health and well-being of first-time mothers and their children, focusing on low-income families. Our goals are improving pregnancy outcomes, enhancing child health and development, and increasing economic self-sufficiency with the support of registered nurses.



## HEALTHY FAMILIES

Serving Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties, we provide personalized home visits that promote positive parenting, child development, and family well-being from pregnancy through a child's third birthday. Families gain confidence, reach developmental milestones, and access essential resources.



## PARENTS AS TEACHERS

Serving Gloucester and Salem County, we support families by providing home-based parenting guidance, child development screenings, and connections to community resources to help families learn, grow, and reach their fullest potential. Each month we host a Group Connection for the families in our program to build a sense of community and learn about many different topics! Pictured here is our Healthy Eating Puppet Show Group Connection.



### Headquarters

42 Delsea Drive South, Glassboro, NJ 08028  
P: 844-4-ACENDA F: 856-881-5508  
[acendahealth.org](http://acendahealth.org)

# Connecting moms to prenatal care from the emergency room

## Program overview

In New Jersey, only 74.8% of mothers began prenatal care in the first trimester from 2022-2024, and significant disparities in early and adequate prenatal care persist among women of color.<sup>1</sup> This first began in 2021 as an innovative pilot program utilizing real time emergency room (ER) data to connect pregnant individuals from the ER to prenatal care.<sup>2</sup> The program leverages real-time ER data from the Camden Coalition's Health Information Exchange (HIE), which receives clinical data from nearly 50 organizations. Utilizing this data, a group of seven partners across South Jersey conducted systematic outreach to individuals visiting one of the 13 regional emergency departments with evidence of a pregnancy and no evidence of having initiated prenatal care. These partners, including prenatal care sites and the Southern NJ Perinatal Cooperative (now "The Cooperative"), reached out by phone to these individuals, offering support connecting them to pregnancy care and other resources.

### Since the pilot launched partners have:

- Conducted outreach to over 13,000 individuals
- Spoken with nearly 7,000 individuals
- Provided support to over 1,500 pregnant individuals

After the initial pilot period, the team recognized the potential to align this work with the state's existing Connecting NJ (CNJ) infrastructure. Connecting NJ is a statewide initiative that uses a county-based, single point-of-entry referral system to simplify and streamline referrals for pregnancy-related and family resources. The prenatal care initiation program complements CNJ outreach efforts by presenting new, upstream opportunities to engage individuals not captured through existing CNJ program referral pathways.

The program has since been adopted by the Cooperative and Acenda Integrated Health's CNJ outreach teams who are now conducting outreach in all seven of the southern NJ counties – Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem.

## Next steps

### SCALING THE INITIATIVE STATEWIDE

The opportunity to build on the CNJ infrastructure provides a key opportunity to scale this work to ensure individuals throughout the state of New Jersey are connected to prenatal care as early as possible. With the integration of the Health Information Exchange and the New Jersey Health Information Network (NJHIN), the program can now identify a more comprehensive list of patients in need of outreach than during the pilot period. While opportunities remain to ensure that every ER in each county is



<sup>1</sup> March of Dimes. (2025). 2025 March of Dimes Report Card for New Jersey. <https://www.marchofdimes.org/peristats/reports/new-jersey/report-card>

<sup>2</sup> The Safer Childbirth Cities pilot phase was generously funded by Merck for Mothers, the Burke Foundation, the Nicholson Foundation, and the Community Health Acceleration Project (CHAP)

included in this data feed, this enhanced identification represents growth in the data infrastructure of the program. Additionally, Camden Coalition has also partnered with Family Health Initiatives (a subsidiary of The Cooperative) to streamline the program's technical infrastructure. The Health Information Exchange is now integrated into CNJ Link, the CNJ team's primary documentation platform, allowing CNJ staff to document and make referrals within their existing system.

The development of this technological infrastructure, the State's continued investment in CNJ, and the growth of New Jersey's maternal health ecosystem have positioned the program for statewide scaling. Given the success and learnings from this initial expansion, there is strong evidence that this program could be sustained as the standard of care in all 21 NJ counties.

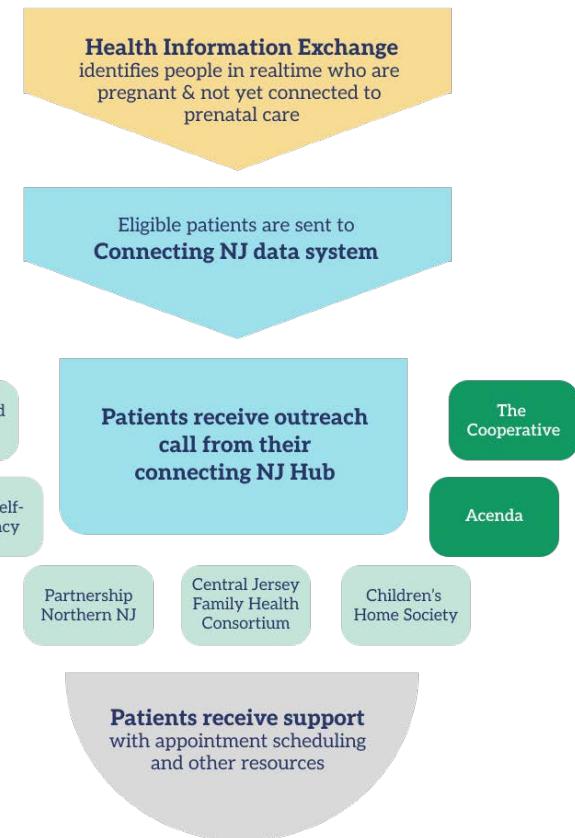
#### FOCUSING ON HIGH-RISK POPULATIONS

This outreach model also offers the ability to identify and support high-risk pregnant and parenting populations who would benefit from more targeted outreach and support. Through the real-time data in the Health Information Exchange, subpopulations with clinical risk factors – such as hypertension, substance use disorders, and sexually transmitted infections – can be identified. Organizations with expertise or enhanced resources for these populations can then develop customized outreach workflows that align with organizational goals and existing resources. In counties where CNJ outreach is occurring, the Camden Coalition can mitigate concerns of duplication through intentional workflow design when outreach to overlapping populations occurs.

The Camden Coalition has piloted this application of the model with a county health department, who provided enhanced services for pregnant individuals experiencing substance use disorder and sexually transmitting infections in their county, and is actively partnering with a Managed Care Organization to pilot this outreach model for postpartum individuals with a history of substance use disorders, aiming to improve retention in treatment during the postpartum period.

#### We are currently seeking funding to support implementation efforts to:

1. scale the program to additional sites, which can then be sustained through CNJ operations as demonstrated in the Southern counties, and
2. pilot the application of this outreach model to support high-risk pregnant and postpartum individuals to further improve rates of prenatal initiation and patient outcomes.



**Prenatal care initiation workflow diagram.** Two of the seven CNJ programs have activated the workflow and are receiving real-time data from the HIE in CNJ Link, allowing them to provide telephonic outreach and support to patients in their catchment counties.

For more information, please contact:

**Erica Hartmann**  
[ehartmann@camdenhealth.org](mailto:ehartmann@camdenhealth.org)



[www.camdenhealth.org](http://www.camdenhealth.org)

## **For My Baby & Me – Capital Health System**

In 2017, Capital Health led the creation of the For My Baby and Me (FMBAM) program, working alongside other community partners including Catholic Charities, Home Front, the Rescue Mission of Trenton, and the Trenton Health Team. The program provides evidence based, comprehensive treatment services for pregnant people impacted by opioid use disorder (OUD). Services include safe and sober housing, medication and group therapy for OUD, prenatal care, job training, transitional housing support, and other supportive services. To date, the program has provided care for 197 people and their families, with outcomes showing shorter Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) stays for infants and a high family unification rate. A graduated participant, who received her Certified Peer Recovery Specialist (CPRS) certificate, is now employed as a program ambassador and is contributing to the program's ongoing success.

### **Goals of Program:**

1. To improve the likelihood and incidence of long-term recovery for pregnant women and new mothers who have struggled with opioid use disorder.
2. To establish and maintain integrated service delivery among community partners.

### **The services FMBAM offers include:**

- Substance use disorder treatment
- Mental health support and counseling
- Prenatal and postpartum medical/obstetric care
- Sober living arrangements
- Intensive case management
- Peer recovery support
- Education support
- Employment readiness and training
- Food
- Clothing
- Childcare
- Identifying and securing permanent housing

### **Program Criteria:**

- Current use or history of opioid use
- Pregnant or post-partum up to 4 months (exceptions may be granted on a case-by-case basis)

### **FMBAM Data:**

- 197 Participants engaged
- 100% success of participants seeking family unification between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025.
- 86% of participants in need of long-term housing transitioned into permanent between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025.



# CJFHC

Central Jersey  
Family Health Consortium



## About CJFHC

Central Jersey Family Health Consortium (CJFHC) is dedicated to promoting an equitable and healthy future for families through services, advocacy, education and collaboration.

Our staff represents a wide range of disciplines, including advanced practice nurses, social workers, public health administrators, health educators and early childhood development specialists.

## Member Hospitals

Our hospital members are integral in everything we do and help to ensure best practice standards and access to quality services for our community. Member hospitals have access to a compendium of continuing education courses, data and evaluation services, technical support and a network of providers who share their expertise and innovative solutions to care.

## Promoting Population Health

CJFHC works side-by-side with our member hospitals and community based agencies to coordinate services and ensure quality of care across the lifecycle. Focus areas include:

- Continuous Quality Improvement
- Provider and Consumer Education
- Evidence Based Programs
- Resource and Referral
- Health Policy and Advocacy

## Continuous Quality Improvement

CJFHC collects, analyzes and publishes data from the Vital Information Platform (VIP), New Jersey's electronic birth certificate. Data obtained through the VIP, as well as other available data resources, is analyzed by CJFHC's interdisciplinary review team to identify social, economic, cultural and health system factors contributing to poor birth outcomes in the region.

Data and evaluation services are available to outside agencies to support their need for evaluation and research, community needs assessment, data analysis and reporting. Expert staff use proven analytic methods and tools to provide cutting edge services to our partners.



## Provider and Community Education

Trainings and presentations are offered on a host of accredited professional and continuing education topics.

Examples include:

- AWHONN Fetal Monitoring Principles and Practice
- Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics (ALSO®)

Community education is provided upon request on topics including: car seat safety, breastfeeding, smoking cessation, nutrition, postpartum depression, injury prevention and early childhood development among others.

## Evidence Based Programs

CJFHC recognizes the important role evidence based practices play in improving outcomes for children and families. The agency currently operates several evidence-based and/or evidence-informed programs that have demonstrated positive outcomes.

Examples include:

- Healthy Families NJ
- Teen Outreach Program® (TOP®)

## Resource and Referral

Through our grant funded programs, CJFHC coordinates a system of central intake and linkages to health care and supportive services. Staff work with families to find resources in areas such as early intervention, mental health, addictions, health insurance, home visitation and transportation.

Direct service areas include:

- Bereavement Services
- Breastfeeding Support
- Childhood Injury Prevention
- Community Health Worker Outreach
- Early Intervention for Children with Special Needs and their Families
- Home Visiting Parent/Family Support
- Perinatal Addictions Prevention
- Perinatal Mood Disorders
- Technical Support for Quality Early Childhood Education
- Teen Health Initiatives

## Health Policy and Advocacy

CJFHC's advocacy activities focus on influencing federal and state legislation, policy funding decisions that advance the mission of the agency. Our efforts span the full range of maternal and child health topics.



Please contact us for more information about ways we can support your efforts to improve the health of our communities.

# Case Study

## Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorder Program

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The *Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorder (PMAD) Program* addresses a spectrum of conditions — depression, anxiety, rage, PTSD, bipolar disorder, and OCD — occurring during pregnancy and postpartum.

The program raises awareness and educates prospective and new parents on recognizing PPD signs and getting help promptly with the goal of positively impacting families by promoting timely intervention and support. Comprehensive support is also provided for those suffering during pregnancy and postpartum.



### PROGRAM AUDIENCE:

Prenatal and postpartum mothers



PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:	PROGRAM OUTCOMES:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Raise awareness of conditions and educate participants on PMAD.</li></ul>	<p><b>3,800+ participants</b></p> <p><b>2,000 instances of participants reaching out via chat for additional support</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Provide in-the-moment support for pregnant and new moms to decrease adverse events.</li></ul>	<p><b>17 instances of escalation where immediate assistance was provided to participants within the following categories:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• General needs</li><li>• Self-harm risk</li><li>• Domestic violence concerns</li></ul>

# Program Components:



## Care Communications:

Upon enrollment, participants receive text messages that guide, nurture, and support women and families through different phases of pregnancy and early parenthood. Some messages contain links to online pages with additional educational information in the form of interactive surveys, videos and music tracks (see Care Companion). Topics include emotional support, physical health and mental wellness, child development and community resources.

## Care Companion:

This cloud-based learning management system (LMS) provides vetted educational content that is personalized by participants' self-expressed priorities and interests, structured into easy-to-follow sections to promote independent education, learning and self-care management.



## GoMo Chat:

Much like a typical text conversation, GoMo (secure) Chat allows live messaging between participants and their care team, enabling in-the-moment, on demand conversations.

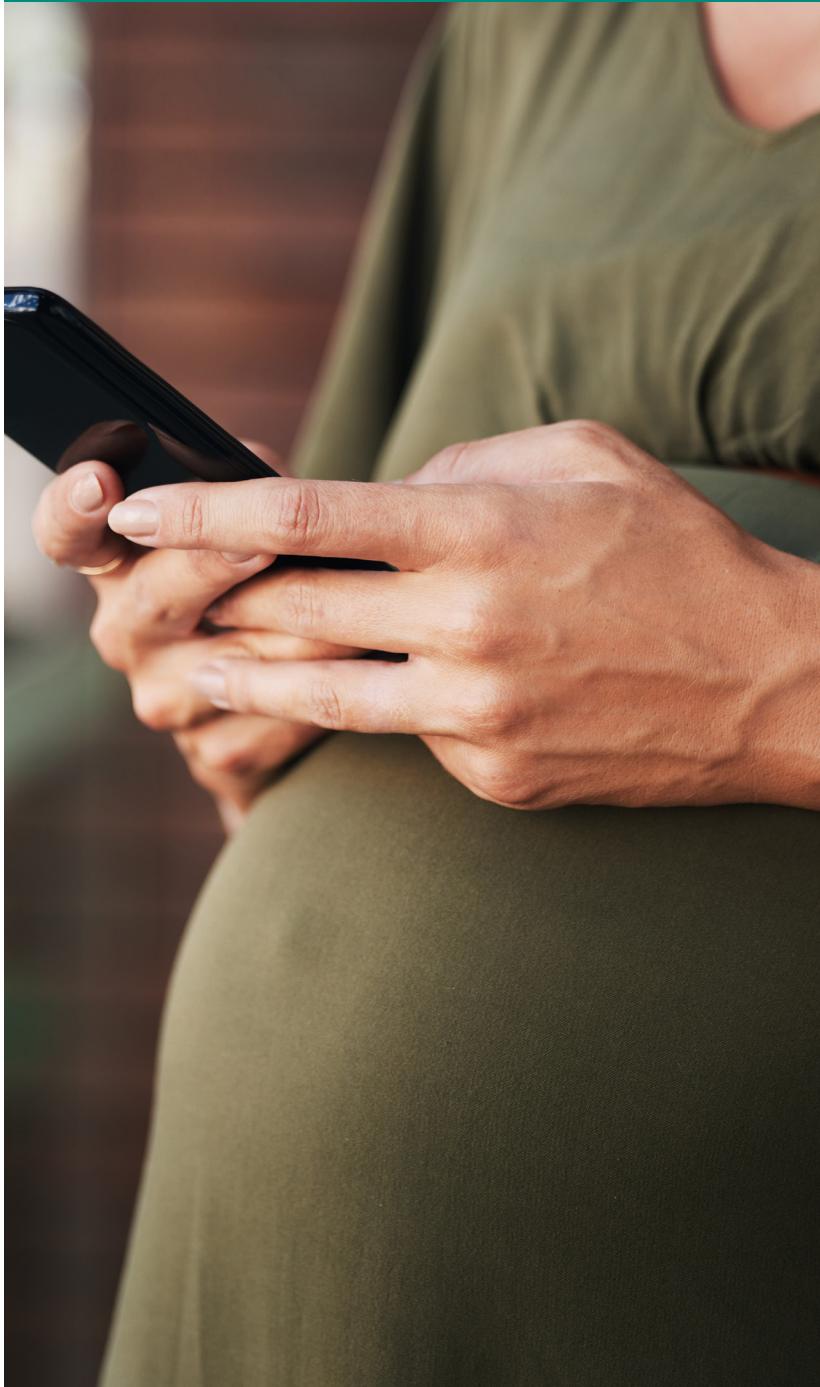


## Secure Data Collection and Reporting:

Engagement and experience data is deidentified, analyzed, and reported back to the care team for ongoing experience improvement.

*“We have actually seen how connecting our participants to reputable and evidence based education through digital engagement can change the trajectory of an illness.”*

**Robyn D’Oria, MA, RNC, APN, CEO,**  
Central Jersey Family Health Consortium



GoMo Health®

[gomohealth.com](http://gomohealth.com)

[info@gomohealth.com](mailto:info@gomohealth.com)



## The Cooper Camden Baby Café

Our mission is to provide a welcoming space where families who wish to breastfeed/chest-feed or express milk have equal access to professional support, evidence-based information and resources to do so without facing systemic barriers



### Empowering Future Physicians

The CCBC is a novel model that involves a medical school, CMSRU, to enrich medical student service-learning. In the Spring of this year, we welcomed the first cohort of medical students, which consisted of a total of 18 students with an interest in OB-GYN and Pediatrics.



### Measurable Community Impact

The CCBC have facilitated 40 sessions. A total of 17 families has registered for in-person lactation support. These visits accounted for 55 encounters, reflecting that many families returned for multiple sessions. The most common challenges for families attending the Café are sore nipples/pain and worries about their milk supply.



### A Model for Dissemination

Every week, engagement extends beyond the mother/baby, with family members, including fathers, grandmothers, and older siblings actively participating during the sessions.



### Our Purpose

Address breastfeeding disparities in Camden

Provide accessible & culturally responsive lactation support

Deliver healthcare while efficiently utilizing community resources



[Babycafe@rowan.edu](mailto:Babycafe@rowan.edu)



[www.cooperbabycafe.org](http://www.cooperbabycafe.org)



*Connecting South Jersey  
Families to Healthy Futures*

# 2024 Impact

Connecting NJ

**6,667**

individuals directly supported by Connecting NJ

**5,497**

additional individuals directly supported through the emergency department referral screening initiative

**8,746**

referrals provided to community-based resources

**1,890**

families connected to a home visiting program

**155**

client cases managed by Connecting NJ

**8,116**

consumers and professionals educated about Connecting NJ services



**275**

families served in Cumberland and Gloucester Counties

**5**

nurses and 2 program specialists added to the initial two-nurse team

Program expanding to all South Jersey counties in 2026

**479**

individuals enrolled in case management services

**155**

clients live in Camden and Atlantic City, the region's two Black Infant Mortality Reduction priority communities

**18**

clients referred to a postpartum doula

*Healthy Women  
HEALTHY FAMILIES*



## Meeting People Where They Are

Famcare provides reproductive and sexual health services in four health centers across three counties and directly in the community. Many people in our region face barriers such as limited transportation, few healthcare options, and unreliable access to high speed internet. Our model removes these obstacles by offering care in familiar, accessible places.

### High Schools and Colleges

We provide education, STI testing, pregnancy testing, and reproductive health services in school nurse offices and campus wellness centers. Students receive confidential, judgment free care without leaving school.

### Faith Based and Community Events

We offer services at church events and community gatherings. These locations help us reach people who may not seek care in a traditional clinic setting.

### Farms and Seasonal Worksites

During the growing season we partner with farms and migrant health groups to reach agricultural workers. Long work hours and transportation barriers often limit access to care so we bring services directly to the fields.

### The Mobile Health Unit

Launching soon, our mobile clinic will serve Salem, Cumberland, and Gloucester Counties. It will function as a rolling clinic that parks at trusted community sites so patients can access care close to home.

An advertisement for Famcare's mobile health unit. It features a group of four diverse young adults (three women and one man) smiling against a light purple background. To the right of the group, the Famcare logo is displayed with the tagline 'Confidential. Caring. Committed.' Below the tagline is a bulleted list of services: Birth Control, STI &amp; HIV Testing, Reproductive Health Exams, and Pregnancy Testing. At the bottom of the ad is a purple banner with the phone number 856-794-1235 and the website www.famcareinc.org.

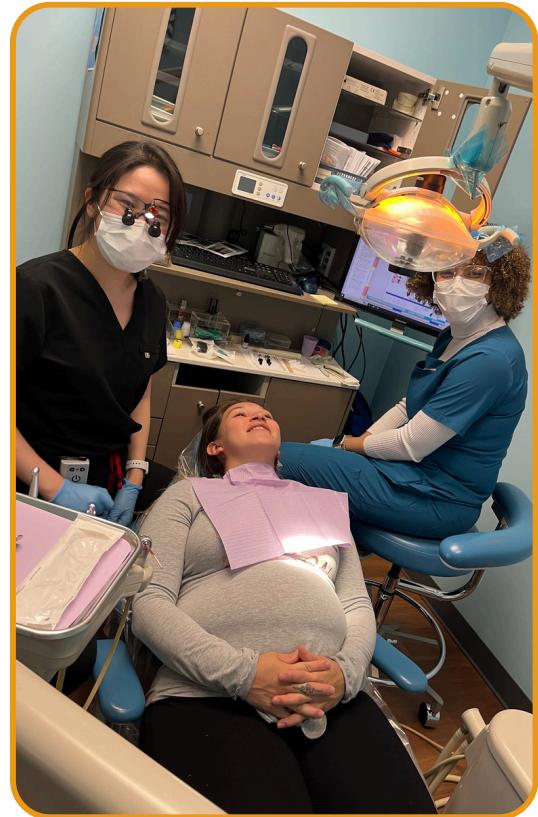


**KinderSmile Foundation's  
Perinatal Health and Wellness Program**

## DENTAL CARE FOR MOMMIES!

KinderSmile Perinatal Health and Wellness Program breaks the dangerous cycle of untreated dental diseases by empowering **uninsured** and **Medicaid-insured** mothers, from **pregnancy and up to 3 years postpartum**, with informative, personal, and culturally sensitive training about the importance of oral health and its impact on the developing fetus and young children.

Upon completion of our maternal and infant oral health training, moms are eligible to receive **FREE to LOW COST Dental Care!**



**In order to participate, mom must be:**  
– Uninsured OR Medicaid-Insured  
– Pregnant OR recently gave birth (3 years postpartum)

### Step #1:

Attend 1 educational session, where you will learn about the importance of maternal and infant oral health.

### Step #2:

Earn free adult dental care and link infants and children under 18yrs to a Dental Home for continued oral health care!



Learn More

Program Application

**BLOOMFIELD**  
10 Broad St.  
Bloomfield, NJ 07003  
973-744-7003  
Option #2

**NEWARK**  
1 Avon Ave.  
Newark, NJ 07108  
973-824-0036

**TRENTON**  
101 N Broad St.  
Trenton, NJ 08608  
973-744-7003  
Option #1



**Join our program today and take charge of your oral health!**



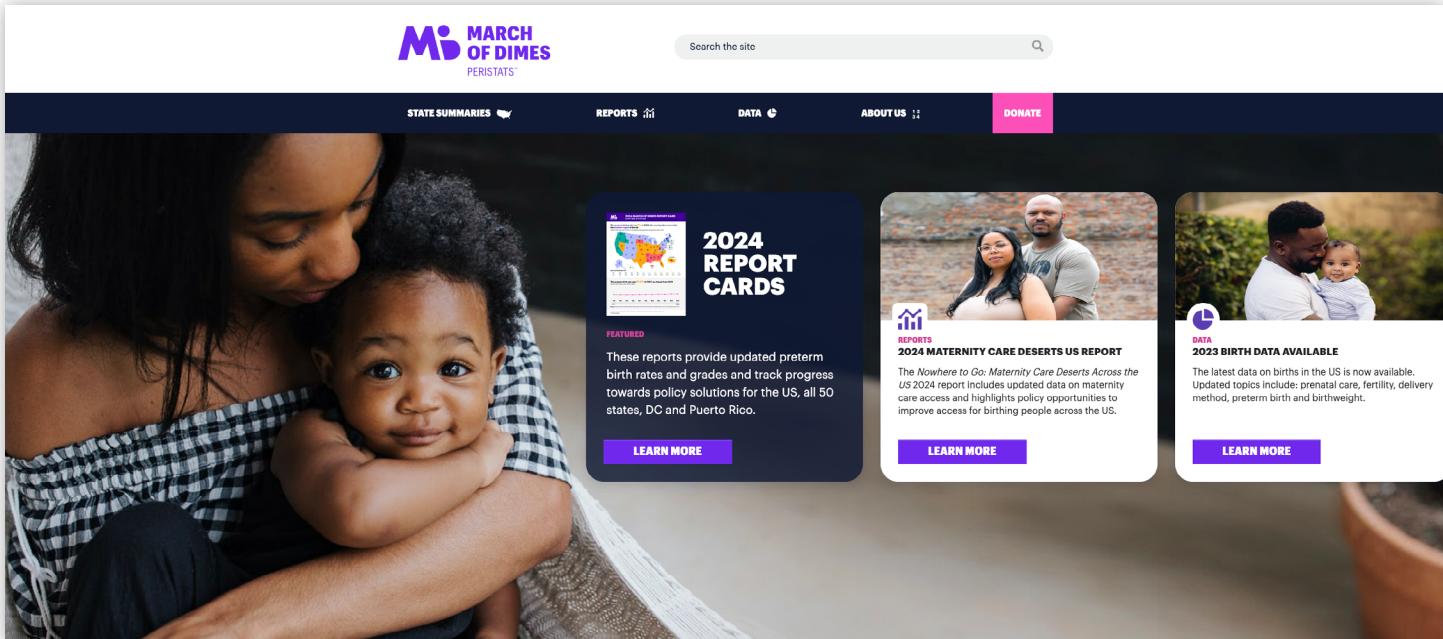


# Maternal and infant health data at your fingertips

## Explore March of Dimes PeriStats

PeriStats® is an open access, easy to use data platform for public health/health professionals, researchers, advocates, and the public to explore key maternal and infant health indicators. PeriStats includes over 60,000 charts, graphs, and tables of approximately 100 data indicators and is a repository for the annual March of Dimes Report Card on preterm birth and our maternity care deserts reports.

**PeriStats is used by over 300K people each year**



### What you can do with PeriStats

- Filter data by maternal race/ethnicity, maternal age, insurance type, and more
- Compare data across time and place
- Drill down from the national level all the way to major cities
- Easily export images, tables, and slides
- Quickly access curated PubMed articles



Scan the QR code or follow the [link](#) to sign up for PeriStats updates, inquire about PeriStats user trainings, or to explore data and reports

Contact the PeriStats team:  
[perinataldatacenter@marchofdimes.org](mailto:perinataldatacenter@marchofdimes.org)

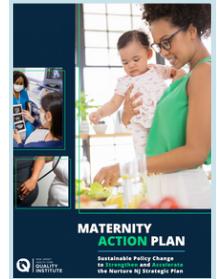


## Partnering to Advance Safer, More Responsive Maternity Care

The [New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute](#) is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to improving the safety, quality, and affordability of health care. [Our work](#) spans policy development, quality improvement, and community health initiatives that advance evidence-based policies and champion best practices. This includes a strong focus on maternal and infant health through several key initiatives that align directly with Nurture NJ's goals. We work alongside state and community partners to build a maternity care landscape that is safer, more responsive, and respectful for all.

### Maternity Action Plan (MAP)

Improvements in maternal and infant health outcomes demand a systemic, transparent approach to quality improvement. The [Maternity Action Plan \(MAP\)](#) provides a statewide strategy to reduce maternal and infant deaths and avoidable harm. The MAP outlines a path forward to making New Jersey the safest place to give birth and raise children. Developed to support and advance the goals in the Nurture NJ Strategic Plan, the MAP focuses on strengthening the perinatal workforce, including ensuring access to the midwifery model of care and support of community doulas, improving data collection and accountability, reforming payment systems for maternity care, and expanding access to services that address maternity-related social needs.



### Shared-Decision Making Programs: TeamBirth & Raising the Bar



#### *TeamBirth*

[TeamBirth](#), developed by [Ariadne Labs](#), is a nationally recognized model to improve teamwork, shared decision-making, and respectful care during childbirth. The model centers the patient's voice through structured care team huddles and shared planning tools. The Quality Institute is leading statewide implementation in New Jersey hospitals, funded by the [New Jersey Department of Health](#). This work helps improve birth experiences, communication, and trust, key priorities of Nurture NJ.

#### *Raising the Bar for Maternal Health in NJ*

The Quality Institute leads one of the first implementation pilots of [Raising the Bar for Maternal Health Equity & Excellence](#), a national framework developed by the [National Partnership for Women & Families](#) with support from the [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#). Working with two health systems serving Mercer County—we are advancing maternal health equity, patient experiences, and outcomes. This work includes benchmarking hospital services and outcomes and establishing Perinatal Community Advisory Boards to elevate community voices.



### Perinatal Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)

Mental health conditions are a leading cause of maternal mortality, yet many symptoms go unrecognized and untreated—especially in communities facing systemic barriers to care. To address this, the Quality Institute developed the nation's first [perinatal case studies](#) for use in MHFA trainings. Perinatal MHFA equips anyone working with pregnant or postpartum individuals with tools to identify mental health challenges and to assist someone experiencing symptoms or in crisis. These efforts support Nurture NJ's focus on mental health, equity, and early intervention.

### Advancing Maternal and Infant Health Together

The Quality Institute is proud to work on these initiatives and partner closely with the many organizations driving Nurture NJ's success. Together, we remain committed to improving maternal and infant health outcomes and ensuring that every birth in New Jersey is safe, supported, and grounded in respect.

# OUR IMPACT

**5,322**

*Mothers received support and outreach services through our Emotional Health Phone Support Program from our Emotional Well-Being Initiative*

**4,529**

*People were referred to our Early Childhood Literacy Program*

**5,752**

*Community members received education and support from our Child Lead Poisoning Prevention Initiative.*

**42,085**

*Babies were born in our service area. We monitored health data for all babies born in our eight county service area. This number accounts for approximately 51% of annual births in the state.*

**10,975**

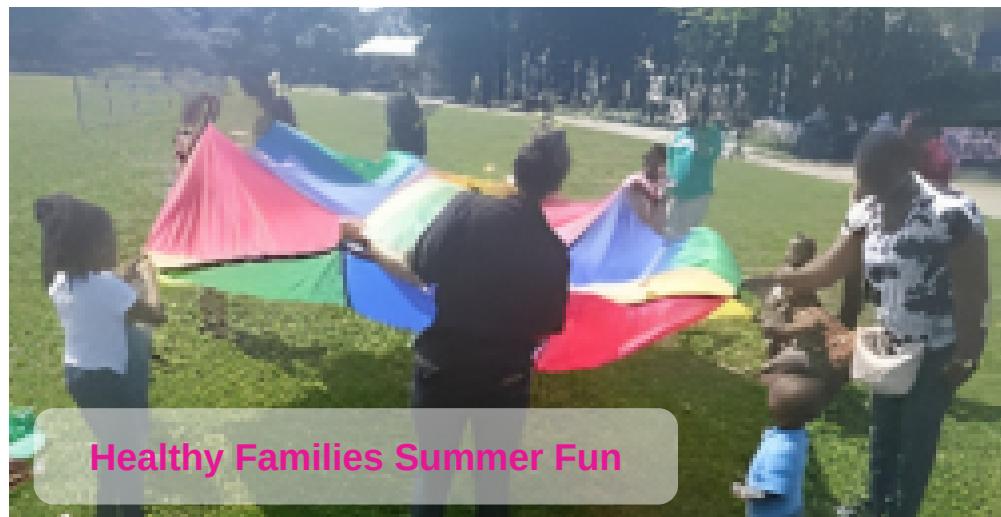
*Residents were connected to vital pregnancy, parenting, and health resources through Connecting NJ. This Partnership initiative serves Bergen, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, and Union counties.*

**370**

*Students received education in positive youth development through our TOP and S-PEP Programs. These programs foster healthy habits and decision-making in teens, and help families improve communication to strengthen relationships with their pre-teens and teens.*

**1,194**

*People were served through the Healthy Women Healthy Families initiative, a Nurture NJ project that seeks to improve maternal and infant health outcomes while reducing racial, ethnic, and economic disparities in care. This initiative currently serves Bergen, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, and Union counties.*





# Healthy *mamas*, healthy *babies*, healthy *communities*

We are dedicated to ensuring healthy birth outcomes for Black mamas by providing care tailored to their unique needs. Our focus is on empowering Black mamas with the resources and knowledge to build a village of support.

## Breastfeeding



*Pregnant and  
postpartum support*

*Classes*



◀ Sign up



[info@perinatalequity.org](mailto:info@perinatalequity.org)



862-298-2812

# What is Primary Prevention?

Stopping child abuse or neglect before it happens.



## Mission

PCA-NJ builds a brighter future for children by promoting family wellness, positive parenting, healthy child development and nurturing communities.

## Vision

We envision a world where every child has a happy, healthy and safe childhood – free of abuse and neglect.

## Values

- **Responsibility:** We accept our responsibility as adults to help ensure New Jersey children have healthy, abuse-free childhoods.
- **Integrity:** We act with integrity in everything we say and do.
- **Relationships:** We believe everyone has a role to play in prevention, and we welcome partnerships and alliances to benefit the children and families we serve.
- **Family:** We provide a family-friendly work environment and promote wellness for our staff.
- **Innovation:** We embrace change, using data and research, when it contributes to a healthier, safer world for children.

PCA-NJ is the New Jersey State Chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America, a network of chapters in all 50 states. Our nonprofit subsidiary, the Child Wellness Institute (ChildWIN®), builds resilience and social-emotional health within children and families.

### NJ State Headquarters

Prevent Child Abuse-New Jersey  
825 Georges Road, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor - Suite 2  
North Brunswick Twp., NJ 08902  
732-246-8060



[preventchildabusenj.org](http://preventchildabusenj.org)

### Our Nonprofit Subsidiary



## Our Services

**Community Education:** Provides information to parents and caregivers, the general public and professionals who work with children and families.

**Connections Matter:** Teaches adults to use the power of connections to develop healthy brains and supportive relationships, prevent and heal from Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), promote Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs), and strengthen communities by building resilience and compassion.

**Essex Pregnancy & Parenting Connection:** Serves as the Connecting NJ hub for Essex County. EPPC links parents before and during pregnancy, infancy, and early childhood to a range of supportive services including home visiting.

**Grow NJ Kids:** A state-sponsored initiative to raise the quality of childcare and early learning throughout New Jersey. PCA-NJ serves Essex, Hudson, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean and Somerset Counties.

**Home Visiting:** Evidence-based programs in all 21 counties and the most effective strategy known to prevent child abuse and improve a broad array of child health and development outcomes.

**Human Trafficking Prevention:** Prevents human trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of children through education to communities and professionals who work with children and families.

**Parent Linking Program:** Provides pregnant and parenting adolescents in eight high schools with support needed to graduate high school and strengthen their parenting skills.

**Young Parent Coalition:** Increases access to evidence-based prevention programs for adolescent parents and improves overall fathering practices for young fathers ages 14-21.





*Your story could change hers.*

The Take 10 for Preeclampsia Research program amplifies the voices and experiences of Black preeclampsia survivors through their enrollment in the Preeclampsia Registry to further our understanding and development of a cure for the pregnancy disorder.

The program invites Black women to “take 10 minutes” to complete the initial intake survey of the Preeclampsia Registry and add their pregnancy experiences to preeclampsia research efforts.

The campaign focuses on engagement activities “for us, by us, and about us,” led by a focus group and ambassadors with preeclampsia lived experiences, to reach communities hardest hit by adverse outcomes and to encourage the sharing of experiences.



Scan Me

[www.preeclampsia.org/Take10](http://www.preeclampsia.org/Take10)



THE HOME OF BLACK ADVOCACY, EDUCATION, HEALTH EQUITY, AND POLICY WORK. PROTECTING AND SERVING BLACK AND BROWN FAMILIES

# The Village Consulting

## Our Mission Statement

The Village Consulting is committed to advancing excellence in medical and health care for Black families and marginalized communities through strategic consulting, advocacy, education, and support.

Our goal is simple yet bold: to change the face of medicine by creating an equitable, responsive, and human-centered healthcare system that listens first — and heals better.

## The Founder

Imani Powell is the Founder of The Village Consulting, where she partners with healthcare organization systems to advance equity through culturally competent education and advocacy. With a background as both a scientist and entrepreneur, she designs programs that bridge science, culture and identity - equipping caregivers and institutions to better serve Black children and families.

To Learn More:  
[www.thevillageconsulting.org](http://www.thevillageconsulting.org)

## Three Pillars of The Village - Health Equity

### Medical Lab Education

Our scientists work directly with patients to educate them on their own lab results and offer them space to answer questions. Workshops are also available for schools, business and organizations.

### Medical Story Fellowship

Coming soon in 2026, we will offer a 6-8 session therapeutic experience where patients will share their medical experience, concerns and history for 45 minutes each session. This will be hosted by a therapist, scientist and medical provider.

### Medical Green Book

A directory of black medical providers, clinicians, midwives, etc. who intentionally create a safe space for black and brown families. Also, coming soon in 2026.



# NURTURE NJ

Leadership Summit



## DIGITAL BROCHURE

Higher Education



## MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH - PUBLIC HEALTH CATALYST PROGRAM

### ***Goal of the Montclair State University Catalyst program:***

To drive transformative change in maternal and child health through the development of a diverse, skilled, and equity-minded workforce in NJ and beyond.

### **Faculty Highlights**



#### **BECKY OFRANE, DR.PH**

Dr. Ofrane's research and teaching focuses on systemic drivers of reproductive and maternal health disparities, experiences and outcomes; workforce development for doulas and community-based perinatal providers; and public health pedagogy. She is the Director of the Montclair State University Maternal and Child Health-Public Health Catalyst Program, and also a full-spectrum doula.

**Recent publication:** Comparison of Medicaid Financing for Birth Centers: A nine-state policy analysis. *Frontiers in Health Services*, 2025.



#### **MELANIE SHEFCHIK, DR.PH**

Dr. Shefchik teaches a variety of courses including Maternal Health, Study of Human Diseases, and Internship & Culminating Seminar. Professionally, she is a Registered Nurse, Certified Health Education Specialist, and Certified Lactation Counselor. Melanie's professional and research interests focus on breastfeeding, maternal and infant health, public health nursing, and experiential and community-engaged learning for public health students.

**Recent Publication:** Representation matters: Content analysis of breastfeeding images in a commercial stock image bank. *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*, 2024.



#### **SZE YAN LIU, PHD**

Dr. Liu's research focuses on understanding and addressing structural determinants of health inequities, particularly among women. She published studies examining severe maternal morbidity, racial and ethnic disparities in maternal and infant health, and the impact of structural sexism on health. Dr. Liu's research also explores how policy interventions influence access to health services and improve outcomes in marginalized communities.

**Recent Publication:** Voting Restrictions and Increased Odds of Adverse Birth Outcomes in the US. *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*, 2024.



**Contact Dr. Becky Ofrane with questions or interest in  
MCH at Montclair: [Ofrane@montclair.edu](mailto:Ofrane@montclair.edu).**

## The Nurture NJ Evaluation: Measuring Impact, Mapping the Road Ahead

A team of community and academic researchers from Rutgers School of Public Health, led by Dr. Leslie M. Kantor, PhD, conducted a two-year, mixed methods evaluation of the Nurture NJ initiative. The evaluation aimed to capture the full scope of Nurture NJ and assess its progress toward making New Jersey the safest and most equitable place to have and raise a baby.

Their work included:

- Interviewing Black and Latina mothers statewide about their pregnancy, birth, and postpartum experiences, and soliciting their recommendations for improving care;
- Researching the scientific evidence supporting the legislative policies underpinning Nurture NJ's work to ensure that critical policies persist;
- Summarizing the implementation status of Nurture NJ policies and programs to assess their scope and identify remaining needs;
- Analyzing the impact of Nurture NJ on the trajectory of maternal and infant health outcomes throughout the state to detail concrete achievements; and
- Examining the indirect ripple effects of Nurture NJ on broader efforts to promote maternal health in New Jersey.

Since its launch in 2019, Nurture NJ has achieved remarkable progress towards its goals, and the Rutgers Evaluation Team is proud to share a few key insights from Nurture NJ's comprehensive evaluation:

- Nurture NJ's **programs and policies are based upon a robust evidence base** for improving maternal and infant health;
- New Jersey has seen **reductions in low-risk Cesarean deliveries**, moving the state closer to the federal target of 23.6%;
- Nurture NJ's policies helped **increase access to paid family leave** in New Jersey, an evidence-based strategy for improving maternal and infant health; and
- Nurture NJ's policies produced indirect, **ripple effects** that encouraged professional collaboration and built momentum for change.

To discover more about what we learned, **visit our table or scan the QR code below** for access the Nurture NJ Evaluation website.

