



NJAMHAA Budget and Legislative Priorities

New Jersey must continue to invest in a strong, sustainable system of care to meet the needs of New Jersey's children, youth and adults. This may only be achieved with significant investments in the behavioral healthcare workforce that is needed to sustain quality care for the many individuals who depend on them and to expand capacity to increase access to care for all New Jerseyans. Toward those ends, NJAMHAA calls on the Legislature and Administration to support the following:

FY2027 Budget Priorities

Invest in Sustainability for Behavioral Healthcare Programs

- Invest \$54 million (will draw a \$21m federal match) in Department of Human Services' behavioral health care rates and contracts.
- Invest \$30 million in New Jersey Statewide Initiative (NJSI) and Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Initiative (SAPTI) to support the substance use continuum of care.
- Invest \$3.2 million to increase Children's Partial Hospital rates to \$115 per hour.
- Invest \$16.7 million (will draw a \$16.7m federal match) to increase Care Management Organization per child/per month rate to \$1,200.
- Maintain \$43m funding for the NJ Statewide Student Support Services (NJ4S) program.
- Invest \$3 million in School Based Youth Services Programs (SBYSPs) and other contracts within the School Linked Services budget line.
- Invest in additional inpatient beds for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- Invest \$20 million in capital funding for behavioral health providers to upgrade facilities to provide integrated care and do necessary repairs and improvements at their aging facilities.

Invest in the Behavioral Healthcare Workforce

- Invest \$8 million for recruitment and retention bonuses for behavioral health staff.
- Invest \$4,175,000 to bring the behavioral health loan redemption program budget to \$8 million.
- Invest \$5 million in incentives for behavioral health organizations to become field placement sites and provide clinical supervision of interns.
- Provide \$300,000 for training Group Home, Care Management Organization, Mobile Response and other staff providing services to children with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

FY2026 Legislative Priorities

- Pass S3013/A1007 to establish a telecommunication fee to support the 988 crisis continuum of care.
- Pass S2644/A2327 to appropriate \$16.7 million to increase the monthly reimbursement rate paid to Care Management Organizations (CMOs).
- Pass legislation to set Medicaid rates for mental health services equal to Medicare rates for the same services.
- Pass legislation to establish a formula to calculate a recommended starting point each year for rate and contract adjustments that are indexed to actual costs.
- Pass S2123/A3577 to bring accountability to New Jersey's licensing Boards.
- Pass S144/A3625 to reinstate the 70+ year exemption of vehicle registration fees for nonprofit organizations' vehicles.