



New Jersey Recovery Plan

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

2022 Report

Period Covered: July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022





State of New Jersey

Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 001
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0001

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

My fellow New Jerseyans,

Over two years ago, the COVID-19 pandemic forever changed our State. As I write this, more than 2.5 million New Jerseyans have contracted the virus, and more than 30,000 lives have been lost – and virtually everyone in the State has been impacted.

Aside from the tremendous personal toll, the pandemic has also upended our economy, especially small businesses and restaurants who are the hearts of their communities. It closed down our schools and child care facilities, and put incredible stress on our health care system. And it made it increasingly difficult for individuals and families to meet their most basic needs. We will forever honor the tremendous hard work and dedication of all of the women and men working on the front lines – especially the doctors, nurses, and staff across our entire health care system, the teachers and child care workers, and the countless unsung heroes who make our State run.

Working with Federal and Local partners, we have made tremendous progress in our efforts to move forward and return to normal. In the past two years, we have begun the process of distributing \$6.2 billion in American Rescue Plan State Fiscal Recovery Funds to support those who have been most impacted by the pandemic. We have distributed assistance to small businesses and workers trying to make ends meet, to industries that were disproportionately impacted, to hospital systems to become more resilient for the next public health emergency, and so much more.

While we have made substantial progress, there is still much more to do. I will not be satisfied until we have used every resource available to us to ensure that we are stronger and more resilient than when the pandemic began. And we will do this with particular emphasis on promoting equity for underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected individuals and families who have the greatest and most immediate need.

Philip D. Murphy

A blue ink signature of Philip D. Murphy, written in a cursive style.

Governor



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SECTION I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As of June 2022, The Murphy Administration has partnered with the New Jersey State Legislature to commit approximately \$3 billion of the State's \$6.2 billion in American Rescue Plan State Fiscal Recovery Fund (SFRF) dollars toward critical needs programming and projects to recover from the crippling impacts of COVID-19. The Administration, led by the Governor's Disaster Recovery Office (GDRO) and the Department of Community Affairs' Division of Disaster Recovery and Mitigation (DCA), is working to stand up over 80 individual programs to ensure that New Jersey's recovery efforts are both thoughtfully and aggressively benefiting individuals and families, rebuilding critical infrastructure, and strengthening the State's economic resources, all of which were negatively impacted by the pandemic.

The first \$3 billion of SFRF funds are focused on programs that addressed the State's immediate recovery needs, namely programs that prevented evictions, ensured the provision of services to benefit disproportionately impacted communities, supported businesses

and industries that have been heavily impacted by the economic downturn, and supported local hospitals by expanding the capacity to tackle future public health emergencies. In the years ahead, the State of New Jersey intends to dedicate the remaining SFRF funds to critical initiatives to further bolster our health and education systems, invest in critical infrastructure, and ensure that vital government services continue to be provided to help in our recovery from the pandemic.

In developing future SFRF-funded programming, the State will continue its deep-dive into examining the needs of all who live in it. The Administration will further collaborate with stakeholders through public input processes such as townhall meetings, listening sessions, and scheduled meetings to further maximize public awareness and participation in the planning process. Over the course of the year, the State has solicited input from countless individuals, community organizations, and advocates to understand on-the-ground need and to facilitate the necessary coordination by State agencies with local and municipal entities. Through these important partnerships, Governor Murphy looks forward to making critical and high-impact investments with the recovery dollars.



Photo Credit Edwin Torres

Equity has been and will continue to be a fundamental principle guiding the State's use of SFRF funds. Over 90% of the money New Jersey committed through 2022 is going to programs in expenditure categories that contain a requirement to report whether the program primarily serves disproportionately impacted communities. Moreover, the GDRO requires all programs to report their efforts to achieve equitable outcomes, even if U.S. Treasury does not require the reporting. The initial strategy to promote equity for underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected groups has been to provide direct benefits and services to individuals and families who have the greatest and most

immediate unmet needs as a result of the pandemic. As described herein, the State's planned rental/utility assistance, education, small business, and public health support programs attempt to address many of the factors exacerbating inequalities. The State will continue to prioritize advancing equity by designing and implementing programs geared toward the long-term equitable distribution of funding. This will ensure that programs and projects consider the groups intended to be served, amplify public awareness of programs, and require data gathering to review program performance toward meeting the goal of serving traditionally marginalized communities.

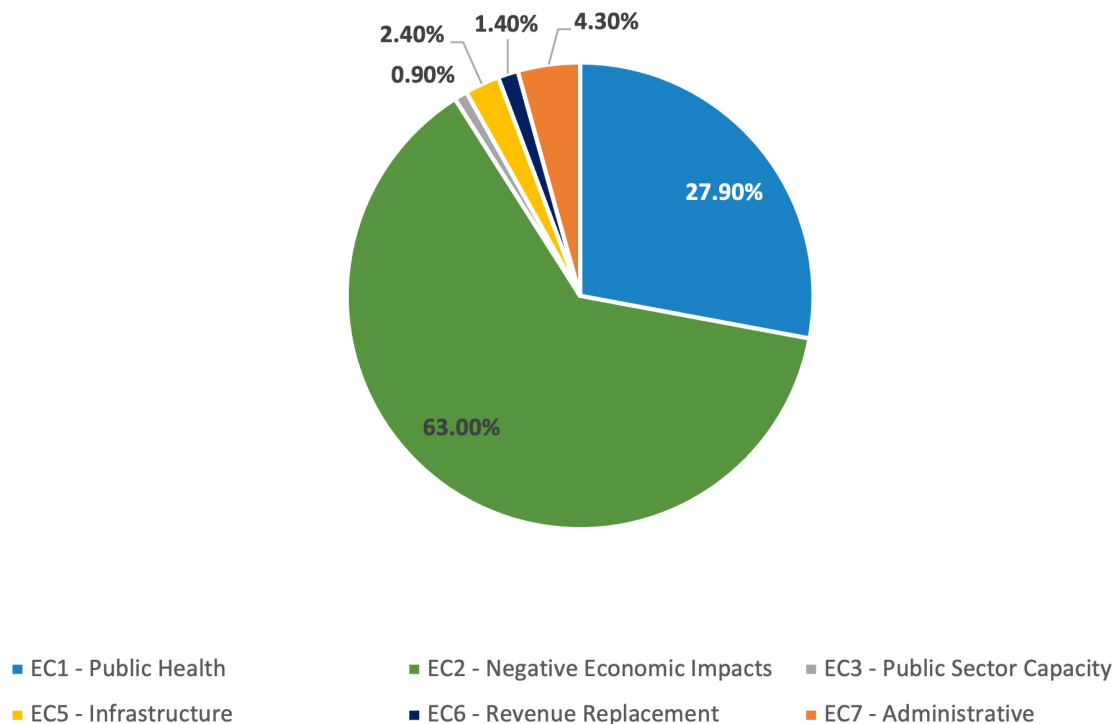


Atlantic City Boardwalk

SECTION II. USES OF FUNDS

AS OF JUNE 2022, AND PRIOR TO THE SIGNING OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2023 APPROPRIATIONS ACT, \$3 BILLION IN SFRF HAS BEEN DEDICATED TOWARDS NEW JERSEY'S MOST IMMEDIATE STATEWIDE NEEDS AS DETAILED IN THE FOLLOWING EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES (ECs). EXAMPLES OF PROGRAMS IN EACH EC ARE PROVIDED BELOW:

Program Allocation by Expenditure Category



1. Public Health (EC 1):

- The State's public health commitments include \$546.3 million to strengthen emergency preparedness infrastructure at Level 1 Trauma Centers in each of the State's three regions and an additional \$46.25 million to strengthen emergency preparedness infrastructure and behavioral health capacity at hospitals throughout the State.
- \$183 million for the School and Small Business Energy Efficiency Stimulus Program, which will promote the sustainability of HVAC and water systems within our schools and small businesses.
- \$29 million for fire departments, law enforcement, and local community health facilities.

2. Negative Economic Impacts (EC2):

- \$808.5 million to prevent eviction and homelessness through rental and utility assistance and legal services for those who were disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.
- Up to \$604.5 million to provide an additional or compensatory year of special education to students with disabilities who otherwise would have aged out of the system and missed out on a critical year of development during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- \$125 million in support for small businesses.
- \$20 million to combat increasing food insecurity, including funding increases to support food banks and novel approaches to create restaurant-community organization partnerships.
- \$100 million to the Child Care Revitalization Fund, which complements spending from the American Rescue Plan's Child Care Stabilization Grants and Child Care Development Block Grant. These funds are addressing immediate staff recruitment and retention support and will enable longer-term regulatory and oversight improvements and crucial facilities upgrades.
- \$20 million to provide direct payments to those excluded from federal stimulus payments, including undocumented individuals and individuals re-entering the community from the criminal justice system.

3. Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity (EC3):

- \$10 million toward improving and modernizing the unemployment processing system.
- \$9.2 million in wages for poll workers to strengthen access to voting.
- \$4.5 million to the New Jersey State Police for recruitment and equipment, and 500,000 for local ambulance services.
- \$2.8 million to help bridge the digital divide and provide greater access to broadband for additional New Jerseyans.

4. Water, Sewer, and Broadband Infrastructure (EC5):

- \$34 million for priority infrastructure projects, municipal planning, and security compliance.
- \$25 million toward Greenway Acquisition for stormwater resilience and recreation.
- \$10.25 million for stormwater and nonpoint source pollution management activities that would directly enhance, improve, or protect the use of a publicly accessible lake for recreation and conservation purposes.

5. Revenue Replacement (EC6):

- \$40 million to address supply chain disruptions in the building of affordable housing projects.

6. Administrative (EC7):

- \$125 million set aside to administer the programs, ensure transparency, and provide funding for integrity monitors.



PUBLIC HEALTH CREATES ECONOMIC HEALTH

Photo Credit Edwin Torres

SECTION III. PROMOTING EQUITABLE OUTCOMES

As part of his mission to build a stronger, fairer, and more equitable New Jersey, Governor Philip D. Murphy established the Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (Office of Equity) which seeks “to advance equity for New Jerseyans who have been left behind for far too long.” Established by Executive Order 265, the office is charged with increasing the presence and participation of historically underrepresented groups in State government; developing equity frameworks to guide State policy decisions; guiding and coordinating State agency initiatives to strengthen diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging among those employed by the State; and monitoring implementation of these measures.

Aligned with the charge of advancing equity, the State has created a rigorous process to ensure that SFRF is used to promote equity goals that are both impactful and measurable. Sub-recipients are offered continuous technical assistance over the life of their programs or projects to assist them in developing goals to achieve equitable outcomes, identifying beneficiaries, establishing desired outcome statements, and establishing outcome metrics for tracking purposes. Specifically, at the point of initial program design, sub-recipients are required to identify one or more equity categories that the proposed program seeks to address. The State’s critical equity categories may include race, ethnicity, and gender, as well as issue areas with clear disparities between residents (e.g., housing, education, access to health care). Sub-recipients are also required to identify the desired outcome of the intervention and the audience intended to be targeted, which may include, but is not limited to:

- Low-to-moderate income individuals/families;

- Minority groups;
- Unemployed/underemployed;
- Homeless or at-risk youth;
- Disabled/special needs population;
- Populations with low educational attainment;
- Small businesses/non-profits/community-based organizations;
- Distressed communities;
- Aging/seniors; or
- Individuals in rural areas.

GDRO worked with each relevant program to identify specific data points that measure the equitable impact of the program and, where practicable, required the reporting of disaggregated data. In many cases, this included individual-level data about program beneficiaries disaggregated by race, gender, and other equity dimensions. In other cases, this included geographic metrics to see how a program was able to reach qualified census tracts. GDRO worked with the DCA to incorporate the reporting of disaggregated data consistent with the identified equitable outcome goals in the quarterly reporting system, which will continue to be implemented as programs are developed and get up and running.

Further, each subgrantee agency applied various methods of community engagement to design their program and maximize awareness and access. The State of New Jersey recognizes that there is no “one-size fits all” approach to equity. Each program, project, or intervention must be specifically tailored toward achieving specific equity goals. However, driving equitable outcomes where they may not already exist requires direction from State leadership on how to account for, measure, and successfully follow through on addressing needs in underserved communities.

1. The State Integrated Recovery Operations Management System (SIROMS) is New Jersey’s system of record for SFRF and other disaster recovery needs. Created in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy, SIROMS is the crucial IT backbone of the State’s effort to deploy, manage and monitor disaster relief funds and services to New Jersey

To this end, the Murphy Administration will continue its efforts to use its equity framework to help agencies prioritize economic and racial equality as programs are being created and to provide guidance on how to effectively incorporate equity into programmatic decision-making.

KEY INVESTMENTS IN EQUITY:

The following programs are emblematic of the dynamic equity approach that New Jersey undertakes in dedicating SFRF to impactful and diverse programs directly responsive to the needs and vulnerabilities exposed by COVID-19. The full list of SFRF-funded programs can be found in the Project Inventory in Section VIII.

Eviction and Homelessness Prevention Program

The \$750 million Eviction Prevention Program provides rental and utilities assistance for up to a total of 24 months for households earning less than 120% of Area Median Income annually, with a preference for those earning less than 50% of AMI and those that have been unemployed for longer than 90 days. This program is intended to ensure that recipients can remain in their homes to avoid homelessness or the prospect of eviction. The rate of eviction filing and eviction executions are significantly higher for Black and Latino households than for white households.

Evictions can be both a result and a cause of inequity for people of color. A recent Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies report found that “Black and Hispanic renter households in particular were twice as likely as white renter households to be behind on housing payments and twice as likely to report being at risk of eviction.” These funds will reduce housing insecurity and mitigate some of this risk.

To ensure equitable access, an Office of Eviction Prevention has been established to conduct extensive outreach and process applications. This includes the distribution of materials including applications in 10 languages and in-person efforts through trusted community partners, in addition to targeted social media outreach. A call center was staffed seven days a week to assist those without internet access, take applications directly over the phone, and answer questions. Outreach about the State’s self-certification tool is being directed to tenants and households via mail, phone, and email in at least 10 languages. The program identifies applicants by collaborating with utility companies and reviewing court eviction filings. The program will target certain higher-risk zip codes for in person community events and to promote access to legal counsel and homeless diversion services.

Through the second quarter of 2022, over 115,000 households received utility assistance



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residents and businesses. The IT system has enabled the State to effectively: (1) implement hundreds of disaster recovery programs; (2) disburse vital federal funding to individuals and communities in New Jersey in desperate need of aid; (3) manage the flow of federal funds; and (4) provide necessary monitoring and oversight as required by U.S. Treasury. Federal agencies have pointed to the SIROMS IT system as a model for other states to consider when implementing complex disaster relief programs.

and over 35,000 received rental assistance. Going forward, outcome data about recipients of rental assistance will be disaggregated by race and gender.

Cross-Agency Approach to Child Care Industry Revitalization



Governor Murphy, Vice President Harris, Rep. Sherrill tour Ben Samuels Children's Center at Montclair State University and hold a roundtable discussion on the importance of investments in childcare.

- Photo Credit Edwin Torres

Prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency, there were around 5,400 licensed or registered child care providers operating in New Jersey. At the onset of the first wave of COVID, Governor Murphy by Executive Order, required child care programs to close, with an exception for those providing child care to children of emergency and essential workers; about 500 programs across New Jersey remained operational for these purposes. In July 2020, the governor lifted this mandate allowing more centers to reopen beyond emergency child care. Since then, approximately 5,000 child care providers opened or reopened and are currently operating in New Jersey. As they work towards stabilizing their operations, many are facing the reality of lost workers and are struggling to hire new staff. There are approximately 90,000 workers employed by child care programs and the State estimates about 75% of them are providing direct care, supervision, and education. The \$100 million Child Care

Revitalization Program takes a three-fold approach in addressing inequities.

Child Care Facilities Improvement Pilot Plan

The New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) will create the Child Care Facilities Improvement Pilot Program to provide technical assistance and grants for facilities improvement, such as modernized Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems, to licensed child care providers and registered child care homes. This program is designed to fund internal and external facilities improvement, as well as accessibility modifications at eligible child care facilities and homes.

In line with the Murphy Administration's commitment to supporting the child care sector and equity priorities, Phase 1 of the Program will:

- Provide funding to businesses — including many minority- and women-owned businesses and those in Opportunity Zone eligible census tracts — that otherwise may not have access to resources to fund facility improvements.
- Promote healthy childhood environments for children, families and child care providers that were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Support the capacity of child care providers to provide infant and toddler care in tandem with the expansion of Universal Pre-K to serve more 4-year-olds.
- Engage providers to participate in New Jersey's child care quality improvement rating system, Grow NJ Kids.
- Target resources to communities of greater need due to historic disinvestment, through set-aside for providers located in Opportunity Zones and include the

2. Sophia Weeden, BLACK AND HISPANIC RENTERS FACE GREATEST THREAT OF EVICTION IN PANDEMIC, Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, Published January 11, 2021, <https://www.jchs.harvard.edu/blog/black-and-hispanic-renters-face-greatest-threat-evictionpandemic>

requirement that providers serve low-income children receiving child care assistance subsidies.

Adhering to these priorities, Phase 1 of the Child Care Facilities Improvement Pilot Program will provide grants for total project costs between \$50,000 and \$200,000 to licensed child care providers to make improvements to their child care facility. Phase 1 has been allocated \$20 million in SFRF funds.

Child Care Worker Recruitment and Retention Grants

The Department of Human Services Division of Family Development (DHS DFD) is providing immediate support to child care providers for retaining existing staff and hiring qualified staff by providing financial assistance to support child care centers and family child care programs with workforce recruitment and retention costs. Grant awards in Round 1 were \$1,000 per eligible child care worker, which includes those who earn less than \$50,000 a year and provide direct care to children. A second round of payments will go out to new hires since Round 1 was completed and to offer retention payments to those staff who continue to be employed by the provider.

Child care workers have historically been placed among the lowest paying occupations, making minimum wage or slightly above minimum wage, in an industry comprised overwhelmingly of women and drawing significantly from underserved communities. Of these employees, 93% are women and 40% are Black, Asian, or Latino. By supporting these essential workers, incentives are created to promote sustainability of small and micro businesses in the child care sector, 50% of which are minority-owned. This effort to address under-compensation within the industry, therefore, will positively impact disproportionately-impacted communities. Beyond that, however, the effort to make child care more flexible will have a broader and more profound impact on marginalized

communities either geographically separated from or otherwise unable to realize benefits of available child care resources.

The DHS DFD has conducted targeted outreach and technical assistance to child care programs in underserved communities by focusing on programs participating in the Child Care Assistance Program, which provides financial assistance to low-income families. These funds have been available to all child care providers across the State to ensure all providers, including those in marginalized communities, have access to the benefit. DHS collects demographic data on those employed in the child care industry, so they will be able to report the demographic breakdown of Recruitment and Retention Grant recipients in subsequent reports.

Child Care Licensing Reform

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) was granted \$15.5 million to improve oversight and regulation of child care providers to ensure that the industry emerges from this crisis better situated both to meet the needs of future crises, and to encourage greater equity and compensation for child care providers and workers. DCF will direct its funding in two ways:

1. **Research:** This component is focused on developing a fuller understanding of the post-pandemic child care field, by focusing on (1) an assessment of child care availability and demand across the State, (2) the child care needs and preferences of the State's working families, and (3) the demographics, motivations, and needs of the State's child care workforce, including both providers and staff.
2. **Oversight Realignment and Worker Development:** The State hopes to emphasize support for the educators who drive high-quality and accessible child care, improving provider stability, while ensuring continued affordability for the state's working families.

This approach will prioritize the improvement of wages in the child care workforce, which is predominantly female and often from traditionally underserved racial or ethnic minority communities. In subsequent reports, DCF will be able to report workforce wages disaggregated by race and gender.

Return & Earn

The \$10 million Return & Earn program operated by the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development (NJDOLE) is designed to help New Jerseyans return to work and small employers to fill positions that will help them grow and thrive in the economic recovery following the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency. Small employers are defined as having 100 employees or less and NJDOLE is prioritizing minority, women, and veteran owned businesses. The employees that the program intends to reach are all of those in the NJDOLE workforce system deleteriously impacted by the COVID pandemic, which disproportionately consists of women and minority career seekers.

Return & Earn provides wage reimbursement support to New Jersey employers that hire eligible applicants with identifiable skills gaps. Employees hired through Return & Earn receive a \$500 return to work benefit payment intended to offset costs of being long-term unemployed. The application process has been streamlined to ensure equal access to all employers that express interest in

participating. Thus far, over 4,000 employers have expressed interest and 180 On the Job Training (OJT) contracts have been affirmed.

Sustain and Serve New Jersey

The Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) is spearheading the Sustain and Serve New Jersey (SSNJ) program to provide nonprofits with grants between \$100,000 and \$2 million to purchase meals from New Jersey-based restaurants that have been negatively impacted by COVID-19 and distribute the meals for free to the community. Thus far, NJEDA has distributed a total of \$34 million to 31 organizations across the State to purchase 2.5 million meals from more than 400 restaurants across nearly 150 municipalities in all 21 counties. \$10 million in SFRF funds were dedicated to support this program and continue feeding New Jerseyans faced with food insecurities.

This program provides a key opportunity to address the significant increase in demand for meals while simultaneously supporting restaurants that have been impacted by COVID-19. Many of these organizations work directly with communities facing high levels of food insecurity — nearly 10% of New Jersey households reported not having sufficient food in the past seven days in February 2022, according to the US Census Bureau's Household Pulse Survey. Past recipients of funding through SSNJ have included homeless shelters, soup kitchens, hospitals, food banks, and organizations that specifically were created to support the food security of local communities in response to the pandemic.

NJEDA has actively promoted this grant opportunity to nonprofit organizations across the State through the press and its social media channels, as well as conducting outreach to food security organizations throughout the State to make them aware of the opportunity and to spread through their networks. NJEDA also hosted a webinar for the public to learn more about how to apply and ask questions of NJEDA staff. The webinar slides and recording



are available on the NJEDA website for all potential applicants. NJEDA published the Notice of Funding Availability in the top 11 languages spoken in the State and developed the application recognizing the challenges faced particularly by smaller nonprofit organizations when accessing government funds. NJEDA also provides a Frequently Asked Questions document and application assistance via phone or email and has a five-day grace period after the application period to allow for applicants to correct or complete their applications.

The program has incorporated feedback from past grantees and members of the public from earlier phases of the program and has dedicated a portion of the funding towards operating costs of the grantee, raised the cap on reimbursement for restaurant meal purchases in recognition of the rising cost of providing meals, and made delivery costs charged by restaurants an allowable cost for reimbursement.



Once funds are distributed to the grant recipients, meals are purchased from participating restaurants that have fewer than 50 full-time equivalent employees, consistent with the Murphy Administration's commitment to supporting New Jersey small businesses with SFRF funds. NJEDA collects and will report information on whether the participating restaurants are women-, minority-, or veteran-owned businesses (as self-reported), as well as whether the restaurants are located in

Opportunity Zone eligible census tracts (i.e., low-income census tracts with a poverty rate of 20% or a median family income up to 80% of the area median), in order to understand the impact the program has on Minority, Women, and Veteran Owned Business Enterprises (MWVBE) and businesses located in low-income communities. NJEDA does not collect information on the individual meal recipients to protect privacy and reduce barriers to access.

Small Business Emergency Grant Program

NJEDA's Small Business Emergency Grant Program has dedicated \$125 million into four categories:

- **Microbusinesses: \$89.5 million**
- **Businesses and Nonprofits: \$16.5 million**
- **Food and Beverage Establishments: \$15 million**
- **Child Care Providers: \$4 million**

Based on the eligibility criteria approved by the NJEDA board, grants ranged from \$1,000-\$20,000 to small businesses with up to 50 full time employees.

There are 715 census tracts that were eligible to be Opportunity Zones in New Jersey. These areas were among the ones most significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the concomitant adverse impact on small businesses and our State's economy. Thirty-three percent (33%) of the funding was set-aside to support entities that have a commercial business address (or home address for home-based businesses) located (fully or partially) in a census tract that was eligible to be selected as a New Jersey Opportunity Zone (i.e., a New Market Tax Credit census tract).

To ensure equitable distribution of funds, during earlier phases of the Small Business Emergency Assistance Grant program, the NJEDA engaged the services of several leading marketing agencies to coordinate strategic outreach to minority-, women-, and

LGBTQ-owned businesses and all underserved communities. Notably, each of the five firms that supported these outreach efforts were, themselves, small businesses, and all were either woman-, LGBTQ, or minority-owned.



Outreach efforts included leveraging the networks of essential advocacy groups such as chambers of commerce, county economic development organizations, and sister State agencies, including DCA and the New Jersey Redevelopment Authority. These stakeholders, along with New Jersey legislators and elected officials, supported outreach efforts by emailing information to constituents, engaging with the NJEDA on social media, and hosting webinars and including NJEDA speakers in their scheduled events. In total, the NJEDA hosted approximately 200 webinars during all phases of the grant promotion.

Through the second quarter of 2022, the Small Business Emergency Grant Program has reporting the following equitable outcome metrics:

- **Microbusinesses:** 31% of funding was awarded to businesses located in a New Jersey Opportunity Zone
- **Businesses and Nonprofits:** 24% of funding was awarded to businesses located in a New Jersey Opportunity Zone

- **Food and Beverage Establishments:** 31% of funding was awarded to businesses located in a New Jersey Opportunity Zone
- **Child Care Providers:** 28.9% of funding was awarded to businesses located in a New Jersey Opportunity Zone

Excluded New Jerseyans Fund

The Excluded New Jerseyans Fund (ENJF) has received \$20 million in SFRF funding to support the New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS) in providing a one-time, direct cash benefit to low-income households who have suffered hardship due to COVID-19 and were excluded from both the federal stimulus checks and COVID-related unemployment assistance – including undocumented individuals, residents re-entering from the justice system, and other individuals otherwise excluded from direct pandemic-related financial payments.



Eligible recipients will receive a benefit of up to \$2,000 per individual or up to \$4,000 per household. The program considers households to have faced hardship due to COVID-19 if they lost income due to the pandemic and were unable to pay bills, were unable to work due to isolation/quarantine or remote learning conditions, or experienced illness and/or death due to COVID-19. Eligibility is also limited to those households with income at or below \$55,000 per year, which will cover many marginalized communities such as immigrants who are undocumented or in mixed-status families, those returning from the criminal justice system, and others who were not

eligible for federal COVID relief. Most of these communities were disproportionately impacted by COVID.

DHS contracted with community-based organizations to do public education, outreach, and provide application assistance. The application is available online and is mobile friendly, which made it more accessible to communities facing digital access issues and for those who lack digital literacy. The Department has also held public events and clinics to support applicants and provided training and guidance to service providers who were supporting clients in their application process. DHS participated in regular interviews with English and Spanish speaking press to inform and update the community on the program.

Given the sensitivity and privacy concerns surrounding some of the target populations of this program, specifically undocumented individuals and those re-entering from the justice system, collecting certain data points can be challenging. However, DHS will be able to report the number of recipients disaggregated by primary language (possible proxy for immigration status), voluntary race/ethnicity reporting, and, where possible, geography to determine the share of recipients who live in qualified census tracts.

Trinitas Regional Medical Center Behavioral Health Department Dual Disorder Facility



Trinitas Medical Center in Elizabeth, New Jersey

Trinitas Regional Medical Center received \$1 million in SFRF funds to construct a 12-bed expansion of the Behavioral Health Department's inpatient Dual Disorder Facility to more than double its current capacity. Dual Disorder patients are those who are faced with an intellectual/developmental disorder and a major psychiatric disorder. This investment is important to the New Jersey health care system because Trinitas is the State's only hospital with inpatient beds for children and adults who have a dual diagnosis. Demand far exceeded supply before the pandemic, but COVID-19 has made the expansion of the facility far more urgent.

The Trinitas Dual Disorder facility will be available for adults who meets the clinical eligibility criteria for acute care and the twelve additional beds will eliminate access delays that patients and their families' encounter due to bed availability. It will also significantly reduce the boarding of Dual Disorder patients in Emergency Rooms or Screening Centers throughout the State.

Atlantic Health System Improvements

Atlantic Health system has received a total of \$10 million spread across four projects. \$1 million was dedicated to Overlook Hospital in Summit, New Jersey to renovate the Emergency Department, Pediatrics, and Intensive Care Units (ICUs). These funds will address significant mechanical infrastructure needs, particularly to HVAC systems that will critically limit airborne contaminants during the COVID-19 period and in future pandemics. In the Atlantic Health Western Region, \$3.891 million went to Newton Medical Center, the only acute care hospital in Sussex County, to modernize and renovate Newton's ICU and maternity ward by adding negative pressure capabilities, improving HVAC technology, adding UV lighting to kill viruses and bacteria, and installing monitors to the ICU. Also, Hackettstown Medical Center will use \$2.109 million to renovate and modernize pre-existing space to make it suitable for patient treatment and care as an outpatient behavioral health

clinic. Finally, Morristown Medical Center will receive \$3 million to modernize and expand its pediatric and adult emergency rooms and upgrade HVAC technology to address future outbreaks of infectious disease.

In each of the projects and as a hospital system at-large, Atlantic Health emphasizes addressing the social determinants of health. For example, Newton Medical Center participated in the NJ Perinatal Quality Collaborative, which was a statewide partnership of stakeholders working to improve the quality of care provided to New Jersey's mothers and babies, particularly by combating racial disparities in maternal health outcomes. Many of these facilities operated by Atlantic Health are in rural, medically underserved parts of the State. To ensure equal access, Atlantic Health complies with State and Federal laws by serving all patients who present at emergency departments regardless of their ability to pay. They have also recently enhanced their website with the ability to relay information in Spanish in real time.

Atlantic Health aligns their clinical resources with the community demographics by using data on race, ethnicity, language, and Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) to eliminate barriers and become better able to direct patients to the services they need. Atlantic Health will measure the equitable impacts of these investments by measuring the number of people who benefit from the improvements to these facilities, disaggregated by payer, ethnicity, and language.

Anti-Discrimination Housing – Division of Civil Rights

The Division of Civil Rights (DCR) within the Office of the Attorney General was granted \$981,000 for its housing unit to investigate complaints from tenants alleging that their housing provider discriminated against them based on their source of lawful income by refusing to accept COVID-19 Rental Assistance, Eviction Prevention Program funds, or

Section 8 vouchers. In addition, the housing unit enforces the Fair Chance in Housing Act (FCHA) which aims to allow people with criminal convictions to access stable housing without being discriminated against based on their prior criminal history.



COVID-19 has led to a rise in intakes and investigations along these lines, and it is an issue that often harms disproportionately impacted communities. In New Jersey, 77% of Section 8 voucher holders are considered extremely low-income, meaning their total household earnings are less than 30% of the area median income, and individuals who are Black, Native American, Asian or Pacific Islander, or Hispanic make up 75% of Section 8 voucher holders statewide. The COVID-19 rental assistance program that DCR enforces under the Law Against Discrimination was specifically created to help low- and moderate-income families experiencing negative economic impacts resulting from the pandemic. Further, the FCHA aims to allow people with criminal convictions to access stable housing without being discriminated against based on their prior criminal history. In New Jersey, African-American people are incarcerated at a rate over 12 times that of Caucasian people.

The Division of Civil Rights is undertaking extensive outreach to make NJ residents aware of the FCHA and how to file a complaint for a violation of the law with DCR. DCR has already been conducting outreach regarding DCR's role in enforcing the Law Against Discrimination as it relates to COVID-19 rental assistance vouchers and Section 8 Housing Vouchers.

DCR's Community Relations Unit specifically focuses on outreach to historically underserved and marginalized populations, including by working with local community organizations.

In November of 2020, DCR went live with the NJ Bias Investigation Access System (NJBIAS), <https://bias.njcivilrights.gov/>. NJBIAS allows potential complainants to file complaints with DCR online. The system was specifically configured to also work on a smartphone, because many DCR complainants do not have access to computers, and can also be filled out over the phone with assistance from a DCR administrative assistant. Disability and language related accommodations are also available. For example, the website and fact sheets are translated into the 10 languages most spoken by people with limited English proficiency in the State. Community organizations, including the NAACP, have been trained to use NJBIAS, so they can also assist people through the process.

All individuals who file complaints with DCR, whether alleging a violation of the LAD or the FCHA, are requested to report their race, ethnicity, gender identity/expression, disability, and more. Therefore, DCR can break down discrimination filings and resolved cases in accordance with these equity dimensions.

School and Small Business Energy Efficiency Stimulus Program

Through the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU), the State dedicated \$183 million to operate the School and Small Business Energy Efficiency Stimulus Program, which is intended to promote the long-term sustainability of HVAC and water systems within our schools and small businesses, particularly as these systems may be impacted by or help prevent the spread of viruses and germs. The program is divided into two sub-programs: 1) the School and Small Business Ventilation and Energy Efficiency Verification and Repair (SSB-VEEVR) program and 2) the

School and Small Business Noncompliant Plumbing Fixture and Appliance (SSB-NPFA) program. The SSB-VEEVR program ensures that each board of education or small business installs HVAC equipment with a Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV) of 13 or better and that every participating school installs a carbon monoxide detector in every classroom. Further, the SSB-NPFA program prioritizes "touchless" plumbing fixtures to prevent the spread of germs.



This grant program requires that 75% of projects funded "are to be in schools and small businesses located in underserved communities," which is defined as a school district in which at least 75% of public school students are eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Program. Moreover, 25% of those small business are required to be minority and/or women-owned. New Jersey recognizes that many small businesses already did not have sufficient funding to replace or maintain HVAC and plumbing equipment. The COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated impacted small business' ability to maintain efficient air and water systems. Therefore, this program seeks not only to reduce COVID-19 transmission in New Jersey, but also to help update antiquated air and water systems to keep our students and residents healthy and safe.

BPU hosted webinars at the launch of the programs to ensure that underserved communities were aware of the programs. Through the second quarter of 2022 the SSB-VEEVR program received initial and final applications from schools in underserved communities near the programmatic cap of

\$75.9 million. For the SS-NPFA program, the approved and initial applications represent approximately 16.5% of the programmatic cap.

Hackensack Meridian Health



Governor Murphy tours Hackensack Meridian Health and their vaccine clinic.

-Photo Credit Edwin Torres

Hackensack Meridian Health system received \$100 million in SFRF to make investments in three primary categories: \$96.3 million in capital upgrades to prepare for future pandemics or public health emergencies that may have disproportionate impacts, a \$3.2 million scholarship fund at Hackensack University Medical Center (HUMC), and \$500,000 toward job training at community colleges for medical professions.

Capital Upgrades



Governor Phil Murphy attends the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Center of Discovery and Innovation at Hackensack Meridian Health.

-Photo Credit Edwin Torres

Hackensack Meridian will use \$96.3 million for capital upgrades. This includes an investment of \$65 million at HUMC to provide 73 additional beds while incorporating infectious disease best practices, including negative pressure rooms and bio-containment capabilities; a \$17 million investment into the Palisades Medical Center Emergency Department to provide a much needed expansion to better serve the community in future pandemics and other critical situations; \$8 million to support the development of a Biosafety Level-3 facility at the Center for Discovery and Innovation for rapid countermeasure development against high-threat pathogens which will better prepare them to respond to future infectious diseases; \$5 million in collaboration with our regional partners St. Joseph's University Medical Center to invest in infusion equipment that can be used to administer monoclonal antibody treatments for COVID or future pandemics.

Hackensack School of Medicine Scholarship Fund

\$3.2 million will support scholarships at the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine to support underrepresented medical students with a focus on infectious disease specialty.

Community College Job Training

\$500 thousand will support job training at community colleges for patient care technicians (PCTs) and other critical health care careers in demand.

New Jersey Performing Arts Center

Newark's New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) received \$5 million to help the organization recoup lost revenue due to COVID-19 event cancellations. As a nonprofit arts organization and an anchor cultural institution, NJPAC is an integral part of New Jersey's leisure and hospitality sector. This sector suffered a 24% decline in revenue and approximately 17% decline in unemployment nationwide because of the public health emergency. SFRF allowed NJPAC to continue operations and retain their employees.



New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark, New Jersey

Additionally, the funds help stabilize and support NJPAC's ability to provide service to the community including arts education, and community engagement programming by providing direct financial support for

programs and indirect support by reducing debt service expense which will make more funds available for mission-related work. NJPAC prioritizes service to its immediate geographic community in Newark through its arts education and community engagement programming. Newark's population is primarily Black/African American and Hispanic and has a disproportionately high rate of poverty when compared to the State as a whole. According to the 2020 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, 47% of Newark resident are Black or African American and 36% are Hispanic or Latino compared to 12% and 20% respectively in the State of New Jersey as a whole. Further, 26% of Newark Residents are below the poverty level, including 28% of Black or African American residents and 26% of Hispanic or Latino residents compared to 9% overall, 16% among Black or African American residents, and 16% among Hispanic or Latino residents at the State level.

One of NJPAC's primary aims is to develop long-term relationships with multicultural civic, professional, educational, and faith-based organizations that have the potential to create deeper access to and greater use of NJPAC resources and cultural products in the community. The arts center works with six advisory councils (Dance, Faith-Based, Jazz, Latino, LGBTQ+ and "elders," focused on inter-generational communication and engagement) that help inform programming choices, develop outreach initiatives, and connect NJPAC

Measure	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22
Staff Diversity (ethnicity and/or LGBTQ status)	60.40%	59.70%	60.80%	59.00%	57.40%	61.70%
LGBTQ	6.80%	5.40%	4.30%	5.20%	6.20%	7.30%
Non LGBTQ	93.20%	94.60%	95.70%	94.80%	93.80%	92.70%
African-American	45.90%	44.30%	40.20%	41.80%	40.10%	42.90%
Hispanic	6.20%	6.70%	12.70%	8.60%	8.80%	9.50%
Asian	3.30%	2.40%	2.00%	2.20%	1.60%	1.80%
Two or More	0.70%	2.40%	2.40%	3.10%	3.20%	5.20%
White	43.80%	44.10%	42.70%	44.30%	46.30%	40.60%

with new partners. Efforts like these have led to 56% of all main stage performances representing diverse populations in 2020 and seeing the number of engaged community partners increasing from 104 to 140 between 2017 and 2021.

NJPAC also strives to make their programming accessible to as many community members as possible. For instance, NJPAC's community engagement and arts education programs take place on campus at the Arts Center and out in community venues such as schools and churches. During the pandemic, NJPAC also began to offer programs virtually. Taken together, these efforts help reduce physical and geographic barriers to participation of community members. Further, NJPAC is fully compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and has a full-time ADA coordinator on staff whose role is to oversee any accessibility-related needs and issues. To reduce additional barriers, NJPAC recently launched a Spanish-language version of its website to accommodate the approximately 1/3 of Newark residents who speak Spanish in the home.

Given that SFRF will be used to continue standard operations and retain employees, the outcome of interest is the number of employees who might have been at risk of losing employment disaggregated by race.

Food and Hunger Programs

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA) has received \$10 million to supplement The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), which NJDA has administered since 1982, distributing several million pounds of federal food throughout the State's 21 counties. This program currently provides over 70 different food items to New Jersey's eligible citizens challenged by food insecurity. Currently, New Jersey receives over 20 million pounds of TEFAP foods annually from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

NJDA manages the TEFAP food ordering and scheduling of direct shipments from USDA vendors to six State-contracted Emergency Feeding Organizations (EFOs) who have developed a network of over 800 Local Distribution Agencies (LDAs) (food pantries, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, and needy feeding agencies) throughout the State.



Governor Murphy visits Community FoodBank in Hillside, New Jersey.

-Photo Credit Edwin Torres

TEFAP is available to anyone with a household income at or below 130% of the federal poverty level or is eligible for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or Medicaid. The public health and economic impacts of COVID-19 have contributed to an increase in the low-income population in New Jersey and nationwide, which has resulted in a greater need for assistance. Data is not collected on individual recipients of food from Local Distribution Agencies, but over 2.6 million meals have been served through the program to those eligible for the TEFAP program.

Motor Vehicle Commission Mobile Agency Units

The New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) was the recipient of \$2.05 million in SFRF to invest in mobile units to serve as "field offices on wheels." The impacts of COVID-19

reduced MVC’s ability to operate traditional facilities because they were either shut down or intermittently available to the public. MVC responded by increasing the number and accessibility of services on their online platform. However, not having in-person access to MVC services negatively impacted economically disadvantaged individuals who did not have internet access, computer access, or were challenged by digital literacy.

The SFRF allowed them to purchase two additional vehicles, increasing the agency’s capacity to place four vehicles on the road to travel to areas of special need by request and better serve those who were left out of the transition to online services. This includes those affected by a natural disaster or emergency, groups who have limited mobility and require special assistance such as those in nursing homes, military/veterans, or prisoner re-entry programs, and other disadvantaged communities.

The MVC deploys its units based on a set of criteria that prioritizes its service schedule based on “highest need first”, which considers the size and scale of an emergency event, or the scale of public need as assessed by the requesting party. In most cases, State legislators will schedule time for mobile visits within their districts based on their familiarity with constituent needs. To schedule a mobile unit deployment, the requestor will disclose the proposed location, name and address, the type of customer served, defined need, and the requested visit duration. Through May of 2022, MVC mobile units have scheduled 287 events. Of the 287 events, 255 (88%) have been held in disadvantaged communities and have served 8,086 customers (90%).

Mobile Unit Overview

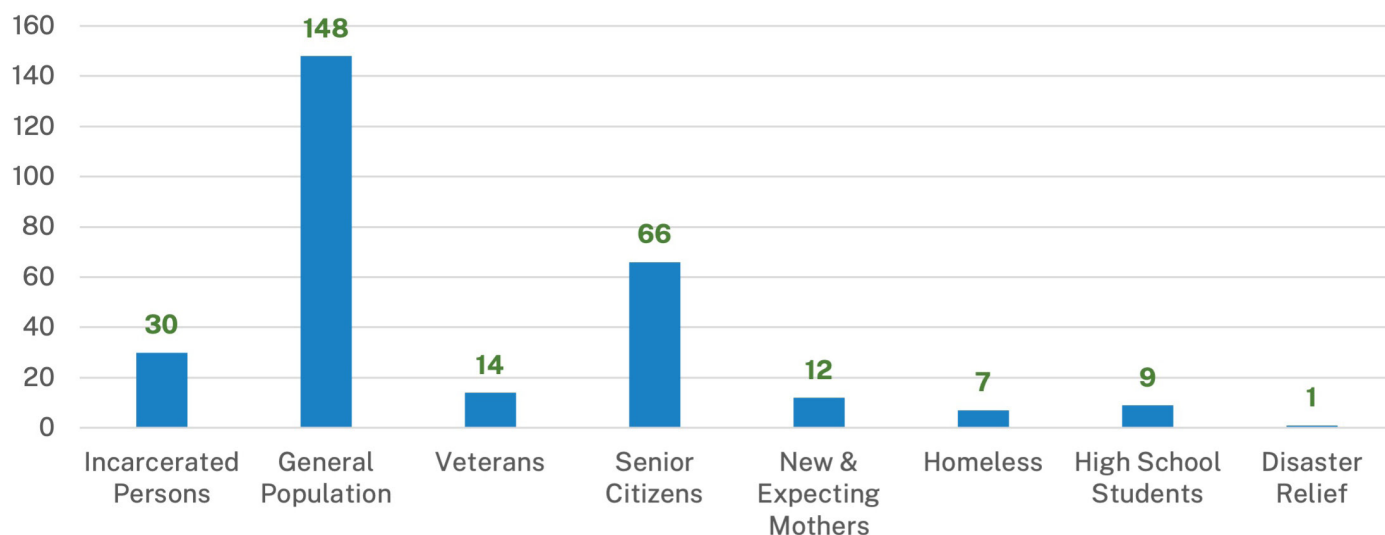
(as of May 20, 2022)

Year	Number of Events	Number of Disadvantaged Events	Percentage of Disadvantaged Events	Number of Customers	Number of Disadvantaged Customers	Percentage of Disadvantaged Customers
2021	215	192	89.30%	6,787	6,189	91.19%
2022	72	63	87.50%	2,111	1,897	89.86%
Total	287	255	88.85%	8,898	8,086	90.87%

Thirty events were scheduled to reach incarcerated persons, fourteen for veterans, sixty-six for senior citizens, twelve for new and expecting mothers, and seven for individuals experiencing homelessness.

Total Events by Target Audience

(as of May 20, 2022)



SECTION IV. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Murphy Administration held two public listening sessions in late July 2021 and a third in September 2021 in connection with SFRF planning and program development. Over 200 organizations were invited to give oral testimony to Administration senior staff on recommended uses of funding. The public was invited to send written testimony as well. Additional public listening sessions are planned for the summer and fall of 2022. In addition to individuals and businesses providing input, the following diverse group of community-based organizations, non-profits, and advocacy groups submitted input:

- 32BJ SEIU (Service Employees International Union)
- ACLU-NJ
- Alliance Center for Independence (ACI)
- American Federation of Teachers New Jersey (AFT NJ)
- ArtPride New Jersey
- Association of State Colleges and Universities
- Bergen Volunteer Medical Initiative (BVMI)
- Bergen Volunteers
- Center for Great Expectations
- Chamber of Commerce Southern New Jersey (CCSNJ)
- Coalition of the Delaware River Watershed
- Communications Workers of America
- Community Options, Inc.
- Displaced Homemakers Network of New Jersey
- Employers Association of New Jersey
- Health Care Association of New Jersey (HCANJ)
- Higher Education Leadership Council
- International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers
- Isles
- Latino Action Network
- Latino Action Network Foundation
- Mayo Performing Arts Center
- Metro Community Church
- Musconetcong Watershed Association
- New Jersey Black Issues Convention (NJBIC)
- New Jersey Business & Industry Association
- New Jersey Citizen Action
- New Jersey Coalition to End Domestic Violence
- New Jersey Community Schools Coalition
- New Jersey Cultural Trust
- New Jersey Education Association
- New Jersey Emergency Medical Services Task Force
- New Jersey Future
- New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute
- New Jersey Hospital Association
- New Jersey Library Association
- New Jersey Policy Perspective
- New Jersey Restaurant and Hospitality Association
- New Jersey School Boards Association

- Policemen's Benevolent Association Local #105
- Property Tax Fund Advocate
- Regional Plan Association
- Rutgers University
- Salvation and Social Justice
- The Family Success Institute
- The Somerville Historic Advisory Committee
- The Wallace House and Old Dutch Parsonage Association
- The Worker Institute, School of Industrial and Labor Relations, Cornell University
- Tri-State Transportation Campaign
- UFCW Local 360
- United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW Local 464A)
- United Way of Northern New Jersey

State departments have also held their own engagement sessions:

NJEDA has hosted over 200 webinars and partnered with advocacy groups such as chambers of commerce and county economic development associations. NJEDA also has a customer service call center that collects and feeds information back to the program design team and Authority leadership.

The Department of Education has worked through its county offices and partner organizations, including the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network, to provide information regarding the Special Education Eligibility Extension. In addition, the Department has released broadcast memos and guidance regarding implementation of the program to all school districts.

The Department of Community Affairs hired three regional Community-Based Organizations to perform outreach and assist individuals to get enrolled in the Eviction Prevention Program.

The Division of Family Development (DFD) in the Department of Human Services has held multiple roundtables and listening sessions with child care providers before and during the pandemic to capture feedback and understand how COVID impacted the landscape of the industry. In addition, DFD relies on each county's community-based Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Agency that interfaces with local child care programs to gather feedback and relay relevant information to DFD. These forums have captured feedback in both oral and written forms. In addition, DFD has conducted a number of surveys asking providers key questions to consider when making grant funding available.

As the State builds out the programs already appropriated Fiscal Recovery Funds, and considers additional appropriations with the Legislature, we will continue to engage with a diverse array of individuals and organizations to solicit input on effective ways to ensure that State Fiscal Recovery Funds serve people with significant barriers to services, including people of color, people with low incomes, limited English proficiency populations, and other traditionally underserved groups.

SECTION V. NEW JERSEY LABOR PRACTICES

The State of New Jersey's robust labor practices protect workers, improve the overall pool of labor talent, and ultimately lead to the successful completion of major public works projects by skilled laborers. Over the years, and particularly under Governor Murphy's administration, New Jersey has made it clear that public contracting is a privilege and not a right by instituting laws that guarantee some of the most rigorous worker protections in the country. The following is a brief overview of New Jersey's existing labor practices that may be applied to construction projects funded by SFRF. All projects that constitute capital expenditures under the final rule meet or exceed the standards required by Treasury for capital projects.

I. PREVAILING WAGE ACT

New Jersey's Prevailing Wage Act, N.J.S.A. 34:11-56.25 et seq. (PWA), protects workers engaged in public work as well as their employers from the effects of unfair competition resulting from wage levels that are detrimental to the efficiency and well-being of all concerned. The Act requires the payment of minimum rates of pay to laborers, craftsmen, and apprentices employed on certain public works projects. When PWA is applicable, covered workers must receive the appropriate craft prevailing wage rate as determined by the Commissioner of the Department of Labor & Workforce Development.

In addition to the PWA, the New Jersey State Building Service Contracts Act, N.J.S.A. 34:11-56.58 et seq., establishes prevailing wage levels for employees of contractors and subcontractors furnishing building services in State-owned and State-leased buildings. In almost all cases, the prevailing wage rates for various trade personnel are higher in New Jersey than the federal rates.

II. PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENTS AND THE PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTOR REGISTRATION ACT

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 34-11-52.38 et seq., a public entity must consider a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) that serves as a pre-hire collective bargaining agreement covering terms and conditions of a project greater than \$5.0 million. A public entity may include a PLA if it finds that the project meets the requirements for a PLA, taking into consideration the size, complexity, and cost of the project. These requirements also include promoting labor stability and advancing the interests of the public entity in cost, efficiency, skilled labor force, quality, safety, and timeliness.

Upon review of a State public works project, the New Jersey Department of Treasury's Division of Property Management & Construction (DPMC) determines whether the statutory criteria for a PLA is met. In addition to the size, complexity, and cost of the project, DPMC considers not only the need for a reliable skilled labor pool needed to complete a project, but also the quality of the work needed, and the need to meet all safety, regulatory, and special requirements of the project.

In many large, complex projects, the PLA will provide a certain level of confidence to the State that a project will be completed in an orderly and timely manner by a skilled labor pool capable of performing quality work and in

an efficient and safe manner. In these projects, a PLA will be recommended and negotiated with the local Building Construction Trades Council using the standard State PLA. The project is then advertised with a requirement for a PLA and the contractor agrees to abide by the PLA at contract award. The PLA then governs the employment of labor on the project from initiation until completion.

On April 30, 2021, Governor Murphy strengthened the State's existing PLA law by signing legislation that promotes workforce diversity in public works projects by requiring any public entity which includes a PLA in a public works contract to include PLA provisions requiring the provision of on-the-job or off-the-job outreach and training programs for minority group members, members of disadvantaged communities, and women. The PLA expansion bill also expands the permissible use of PLAs beyond contracts for building-based public works projects, thus allowing PLAs to also be used for highway, bridge, pumping station, water, and sewage treatment plant projects.

To further promote the development of the State's workforce, New Jersey's Public Works Contractor Registration Act (PWCRA), N.J.S.A. 34:11-56.48 et seq., requires any contractor, or any subcontractor or lower tier subcontractor of a contractor, to be registered with LWD when bidding on a public works contract. Governor Murphy signed a law in 2019 that mandates that all contractors engaging in public work must be participating in a United States Department of Labor "Registered Apprenticeship Program" to obtain a NJDOL registration under the PWCRA. Unlike other states, there is no opt out of the Registered Apprenticeship Program in New Jersey. This ensures that every dollar spent on public construction in New Jersey at the State, county, or municipal level is invested in expanding and training the current and future construction workforce.

III. EMPLOYEE WAGES AND BENEFITS PROTECTIONS

New Jersey's laws ensure that its workers enjoy some of the strongest wage and benefits protections in the country. Every New Jersey worker is legally entitled to minimum wages (\$13.00/hour, rising to \$14.00/hour in 2023, and \$15.00/hour in 2024), earned sick leave, equal pay, temporary disability insurance, family leave insurance, and unemployment insurance. Further, New Jersey has some of the most expansive statutes in the country in terms of protecting against civil rights violations and preventing discrimination in the workplace. See, e.g., New Jersey Law Against Discrimination, N.J.S.A. 10:5-1 et seq.

In addition to strong legislation to protect workers, the Murphy Administration has more than doubled the number of Wage & Hour investigators at the New Jersey Department of Labor & Workforce Development (NJDOL), and most recently created an Office of Strategic Enforcement and Compliance to coordinate resources and enforcement authorities throughout NJDOL and across State government to protect workers and compliant employers from the threats of wage theft, employee misclassification, workers compensation fraud, and dozens of other worker protection statutes.

SECTION VI. USE OF EVIDENCE

The State of New Jersey considers the use of evidence an important component of the Administration's approach as it allocates remaining SFRF moneys. For relevant programs, the State required grant recipient organizations to present evidence consistent with the standard set by U.S. Treasury to ensure their programs were rooted in evidence. During the grant agreement phase of program development, the program was asked to provide evidence, such as peer-reviewed journals or reports, that links the intended intervention with the targeted program outcomes. The Governor's Disaster Recovery Office (GDRO) collaborated with each relevant program to encourage the use of evidence clearinghouses in support of the program design. Further, GDRO provided technical assistance to interpret the guidance so that each program met U.S. Treasury's standard of moderate or strong evidence, and ultimately vetted whether the program provided sufficient evidence to meet the established expectations.

The administration is consistently improving its overarching strategy for evaluating innovative programs and will consider setting aside funds to improve how it uses evidence in program design and review. Thus far, the State has relied on existing research from similar programs around the country and has prioritized expanding existing programs that are "tried and true" and already have a body of evidence in support of their interventions. New Jersey will continue to measure outcomes for these projects and adjust the approach to ensure the effectiveness of the SFRF programming.



Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

SECTION VII. PERFORMANCE REPORT

Critically, programs will be required to establish evidence-based outcome measures. These outcomes will serve not only as a guide to promoting equitable outcomes going forward, but they will also serve as key benchmarks for the State of New Jersey to closely monitor with objective, quantifiable data to monitor our overall progress in serving traditionally marginalized communities as part of our recovery from COVID-19. Performance outcome measures may include:

- Examining participation/attrition rates;
- Examining service/benefit utilization analysis;
- Number of grants distributed to small businesses;
- Number of households receiving rental or utilities assistance;
- Number of workers retained through small business assistance;
- Number of workers participating in on-the-job training; and
- Geographical and census tract data analysis.

So far, the State has focused primarily on the required performance metrics and is in the process of developing a system for other programs to identify appropriate metrics for the context of their program. Going forward, the State intends to modify the SIROMS grant management system to allow for the collection of more program specific performance metrics. More complete performance metrics will be listed in subsequent reports.



Tenafly, New Jersey

SECTION VIII. PROJECT INVENTORY

Project 1: Foreclosure Intervention Fund

Funding Amount: \$10 million

Identification Number: N/A

Project Expenditure Category: 2.2 Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid; 2.23 Strong Healthy Communities: Demolition and Rehabilitation of Properties

- **Project Overview:**

This project is still under review to determine eligibility.

- **Use of Evidence:**

This project is in the planning phase. Dollar amount allocated to evidence-based interventions will be reported once implementation begins.

- **Performance Report:**

This project is still in development. Performance measurements will be included in subsequent reports.

Project 2: Return & Earn

Funding Amount: \$10 million

Identification Number: GJQ6WTD321L8

Project Expenditure Category: 2.10 Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers (e.g., job training, subsidized employment, employment supports or incentives)

- **Project Overview:**

The Return & Earn program operated by the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development (NJLWD) is designed to help New Jerseyans return to work and small employers to fill positions that will help them grow and thrive in the economic recovery following the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency. Return and Earn provides wage reimbursement support to New Jersey employers that hire eligible applicants with identifiable skills gaps. The employer will provide substantive On-the-Job Training (OJT) at their location, using their equipment, under their guidelines. Employees hired through Return & Earn will receive a \$500 return to work benefit payment intended to offset costs of being long-term unemployed.

- Link to Project Website: <https://www.nj.gov/labor/employer-services/business/returnandearn.shtml>

- **Use of Evidence:**

The Return & Earn program follows a similar model as the STEP Forward program operated by the Human Services Agency of San Francisco, which provides wage subsidies to private employers to encourage them to hire jobseekers. Walter, et al. describes a randomized control trial to examine the impact of the STEP Forward program on employment, earnings, and education outcomes. The Study found that people enrolled in the program were more likely to become employed and earned more after random assignment than people in the control group. There are several additional studies that show similar results.

- Walter, J., Navarro, D., Anderson, C., & Tso, A. (2017). Testing rapid connections to subsidized private sector jobs for low-income individuals in San Francisco: Implementation and early impacts of the STEP Forward program. OPRE Report 2017-103. Washington, DC: Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for

Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. <https://clear.dol.gov/Study/Testing-rapid-connections-subsidized-private-sector-jobs-low-income-individuals-San-Francisco>

- Glosser, A., Barden, B., Williams, S., & Anderson, C. (2016). Testing two subsidized employment approaches for recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families: Implementation and early impacts of the Los Angeles County Transitional Subsidized Employment Program. (OPRE Report 2016-77). Washington, DC: Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation. [Contrast 2: On-the-job training versus comparison] <https://clear.dol.gov/Study/Testing-two-subsidized-employment-approaches-recipients-Temporary-Assistance-Needy-Families-0>
- Andersson, F., Holzer, H. J., Lane, J. I., Rosenblum, D., & Smith, J. (2013). *Does federally-funded job training work? Nonexperimental estimates of WIA training impacts using longitudinal data on workers and firms* (Discussion paper no. 7621). Bonn, Germany: IZA. [Dislocated Workers ONLY] <https://clear.dol.gov/study/does-federally-funded-job-training-work-nonexperimental-estimates-wia-training-impacts-using>
- Andersson, F., Holzer, H. J., Lane, J. I., Rosenblum, D., & Smith, J. (2013). *Does federally-funded job training work? Nonexperimental estimates of WIA training impacts using longitudinal data on workers and firms* (Discussion paper no. 7621). Bonn, Germany: IZA. [Adults ONLY] <https://clear.dol.gov/study/does-federally-funded-job-training-work-nonexperimental-estimates-wia-training-impacts-using-0>
- Dollar amount of the total project that is allocated towards evidence-based interventions: (According to EC) \$9,966,000
- **Performance Report:**
 - *Number of workers enrolled in sectoral job training programs:* 180 workers were enrolled in On-the-Job training this quarter, 152 workers were enrolled in On-the-Job training last quarter

Project 3: Poll Worker Daily Wage

Funding Amount: \$ 9,192,000

Identification Number: ZLY8FAQGNCY3

Project Expenditure Category: 3.5 Public Sector Capacity: Administrative Needs

- **Project Overview:**

Leading up to the 2021 General Election, New Jersey counties struggled to employ poll workers to ensure the appropriate number of poll workers were available to staff voting locations. The State encountered hesitancy to return to work and to comply with masking and vaccination mandates. In response, the Department of State increased the rate for Election Day poll workers from \$200 to \$300 and hourly rate for Early Voting Poll Workers from \$14.29 to \$21.44 for the 2021 General Election. The increase responds to the public health crisis by allowing DOS to fill the critical need for poll workers to ensure a successful voting experience for New Jersey citizens in the wake of the ongoing pandemic. Governor Murphy's Executive Order 266 was signed on October 5, 2021 authorizing these changes.
- **Performance Report:**
 - Will report number of Poll Workers that received an incentive to work the election during COVID at the end of reimbursement in subsequent reports

Project 4: Sustain and Serve

Funding Amount: \$10 million

Identification Number: CKC5CGLKMCK5

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

- **Project Overview:**

The Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) is operating the \$10 million Sustain and Serve New Jersey program to provide nonprofits with grants between \$100,000 and \$2 million to purchase meals from New Jersey-based restaurants that have been negatively impacted by COVID-19 and distribute the meals for free to food-insecure families in the community. In earlier phases of the program, NJEDA has distributed \$34 million to 31 organizations across the State to purchase 2.5 million meals from more than 400 restaurants across nearly 150 municipalities in all twenty-one counties. This \$10 million in SFRF funds represents the third phases of the Sustain and Serve New Jersey program.

- Link to Project Website: <https://www.njeda.com/sustain-and-serve/>

- **Performance Report:**

- Will report number of meals provided pending awards in subsequent reports

Project 5: Local Firefighter Support Program

Funding Amount: \$10 million

Identification Number: N/A

Project Expenditure Category: 1.14 Other Public Health Services

- **Project Overview:**

As essential workers, firefighters have sustained some of the most severe impacts of the pandemic. They live in close quarters, work long schedules, and come in frequent contact with the public. Thus, they are often exposed to COVID-19 in the course of their regular responsibilities. The Program will provide competitive grants to support local and regional fire department firefighters by ensuring that they have proper fire protection, cleaning, and sanitization equipment so that they can perform their occupational responsibilities with a lower risk of exposure to COVID-19.

- **Performance Report:**

This project is still in development. Performance measurements will be included in subsequent reports.

Project 6: Excluded New Jerseyans Fund

Funding Amount: \$20 million

Identification Number: MLGMLZ76EMC3

Project Expenditure Category: 2.3 Household Assistance: Cash Transfers

- **Project Overview:**

The Excluded New Jerseyans Fund (ENJF) operated through the New Jersey Department of Human Services (NJ DHS) provides a one-time, direct cash benefit to low-income households who have suffered hardship due to COVID-19 and were excluded from both the federal stimulus checks and COVID related unemployment assistance – including undocumented

individuals, residents re-entering from the justice system, and other individuals otherwise excluded from pandemic-related financial help.

- Link to Project Website: <https://nj.gov/humanservices/excludednjfund/>

- **Use of Evidence:**

The Excluded New Jerseyans Fund provides a one-time, direct payment to eligible households that were excluded from the federal stimulus checks and COVID-related unemployment assistance. The goal of the program is to help recipients cover expenses that they might not be able to cover without assistance. This program uses the federal stimulus checks as a model. In a study by Bhutta, et al., the authors find that “cash assistance included in the CARES Act –namely, unemployment insurance benefit expansions and stimulus payments--are instrumental in allowing almost all families to cover their recurring, non-discretionary expenses in the event of long-term unemployment.”

- Bhutta, Neil and Blair, Jacqueline and Dettling, Lisa J. and Moore, Kevin B., COVID-19, the CARES Act, and Families’ Financial Security (July 1, 2020). Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3631903> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3631903>
- Dollar amount of the total project that is allocated towards evidence-based interventions: \$19.5 million

- **Performance Report:**

- 7,699 households have received cash assistance payments

Project 7: Support for Law Enforcement

Funding Amount: \$10 million

Identification Number: N/A

Project Expenditure Category: 1.11 Community Violence Interventions

- **Project Overview:**

To address the uptick of violent crime and motor vehicle theft in the State, \$10 million has been allocated to the Department of Law and Public Safety (DLPS), Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) to invest in technology and software system integration of automatic license plate recognition (ALPR).

- **Use of Evidence:**

This project is in the planning phase. Dollar amount allocated to evidence-based interventions will be reported once implementation begins.

- **Performance Report:**

This project is still in development. Performance measurements will be included in subsequent reports.

Project 8: Violence Prevention and Detection

Funding Amount: \$7 million

Identification Number: N/A

Project Expenditure Category: 1.11 Community Violence Interventions

- **Project Overview:**

The Department of Law and Public Safety has received \$7 million to both prevent and respond to the increase in gun violence by investing in technology and related infrastructure

to assist first responders to render life-saving medical aid more quickly to victims of gun violence and help law enforcement solve gun crimes.

- **Use of Evidence:**

This project is in the planning phase. Dollar amount allocated to evidence-based interventions will be reported once implementation begins.

- **Performance Report:**

This project is still in development. Performance measurements will be included in subsequent reports.

Project 9: Capital Health Trenton

Funding Amount: \$6.3 million

Identification Number: N/A

Project Expenditure Category: 2.21 Medical Facilities for Disproportionately Impacted Communities

- **Project Overview:**

The Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting has approved a \$6.3 million allocation to Capital Health Regional Medical Center (RMC) to expand its emergency department which operates in a qualified census tract. RMC's emergency department is the only Trauma Center in Mercer County, and RMC is the only Comprehensive Stroke Center in Mercer County. Funding of the expansion increases the ability to provide emergency care for Trenton residents.

- **Performance Report:**

This project is still in development. Performance measurements will be included in subsequent reports.

Project 10: Salem Medical Center

Funding Amount: \$5 million

Identification Number: FHSYH6ACF7J9

Project Expenditure Category: 1.7 Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)

- **Project Overview:**

\$5 million is allocated to Salem Medical Center (SMC) to reimburse COVID-related expenses.

- **Performance Report:**

This project is still in development. Performance measurements will be included in subsequent reports.

Project 11: Baby Formula

Funding Amount: \$5 million

Identification Number: N/A

Project Expenditure Category: 2.1 Household Assistance: Food Programs

- **Project Overview:**

The Program will respond to the acute infant formula shortage by enabling the DCF to

purchase formula for statewide distribution to families in need.

- **Use of Evidence:**

This project is in the planning phase. Dollar amount allocated to evidence-based interventions will be reported once implementation begins.

- **Performance Report:**

This project is still in development. Performance measurements will be included in subsequent reports.

Project 12: State Police Academy

Funding Amount: \$3,995,000

Identification Number: N/A

Project Expenditure Category: 3.2 Public Sector Workforce: Rehiring Public Sector Staff

- **Project Overview:**

The Division of State Police will use SFRF funds to cover the costs associated with commencing the 164th State Police class. The class, comprised of 180 recruits, will supplement the anticipated attrition rate within the Division of State Police and allow the Division to address pandemic-related attrition and continue with its current responsibilities. Staffing levels play a critical role in the Division's ability to remain agile enough to meet the various needs of the State's law enforcement and emergency management missions. Prior investments made in staffing and the Division's ability to reassign members of units whose primary mission were impacted by COVID-19 were important factors in our successful response during the COVID-19 pandemic. Not addressing the staffing levels will result in a less agile and responsive Division in a time of great need.

- **Performance Report:**

This project is still in development. Performance measurements will be included in subsequent reports.

Project 13: Atlantic Health System

Funding Amount: \$10 million

Atlantic Health: Newton

Funding Amount: \$3,891,000

Identification Number: CBEMLJBKLZB4

Project Expenditure Category: 1.4 Prevention in Congregate Settings (Nursing Homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools, Child care facilities, etc.)

- **Project Overview:**

\$3.891 million went to Newton Medical Center, the only acute care hospital in Sussex county, to modernize and renovate Newton's ICU and maternity ward by adding negative pressure capabilities, improving HVAC technology, adding UV lighting to kill viruses and bacteria, and install monitors to the ICU.

- **Use of Evidence:**

This project uses hospital infection control best practices compiled by "Healthcare Facilities Today" which describes all of the things hospitals can do to reduce airborne pathogens. This

includes dilution, filtration, pressurization, disinfection, UV-C, HVAC systems, etc. and each method is thoroughly cited individually.

- Fencl, Forrest. "Hospital Infection Control: Reducing Airborne Pathogens - Maintenance and Operations." *Healthcare Facilities Today*, www.healthcarefacilitiestoday.com, 9 June 2014, <https://www.healthcarefacilitiestoday.com/posts/Hospital-infection-control-reducing-airborne-pathogens--5523>.
- Dollar amount of the total project that is allocated towards evidence-based interventions: (According to EC) \$3.891 million
- **Performance Report:**
This project is still in development. Performance measurements will be included in subsequent reports.

Atlantic Health: Hackettstown

Funding Amount: \$2,109,000

Identification Number: N/A

Project Expenditure Category: 1.12 Mental Health Services

- **Project Overview:**
Hackettstown Medical Center will use \$2.109 million to renovate and modernize pre-existing space to make it suitable for patient treatment and care as an outpatient behavioral health clinic.
- **Use of Evidence:**
This project looks to an article by Nakash, et al. to increase equity in access to mental health care. This article points to integrating behavioral health services into primary or community-based care and delivering services to people where they live as important approaches for increasing access to mental health care. Further, it connects access as a function of affordability, geography, and breadth of services. This is consistent with the approach being taken at Hackettstown medical center because they accept all insurances to improve affordability, they are building out the services in Hackettstown because that community does not have alternative geographically favorable options, and they will offer the full spectrum of services from traditional outpatient, through intensive outpatient and partial hospitalization programs for mental health and addiction needs.
 - Alegría M, Nakash O, NeMoyer A. Increasing equity in access to mental health care: a critical first step in improving service quality. *World Psychiatry*. 2018 Feb;17(1):43-44. doi: 10.1002/wps.20486. PMID: 29352534; PMCID: PMC5775117.
 - Dollar amount of the total project that is allocated towards evidence-based interventions: \$2,109,000
- **Performance Report:**
This project is still in development. Performance measurements will be included in subsequent reports.

Atlantic Health: Overlook

Funding Amount: \$1 million

Identification Number: CBEMLJBKLZB4

Project Expenditure Category: 1.7 Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)

- **Project Overview:**

A \$1 million grant went to Overlook Hospital in Summit, New Jersey to renovate the Emergency Department, Pediatrics, Intensive Care Units (ICUs), operating rooms, and patient bed floods to address significant mechanical infrastructure needs, particularly to Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems that will critically limit airborne contaminants during the COVID-19 period and in future pandemics.

- **Performance Report:**

This project is completed. SFRF provided reimbursement for construction.

Atlantic Health: Morristown

Funding Amount: \$3 million

Identification Number: CBEMLJBKLZB4

Project Expenditure Category: 1.4 Prevention in Congregate Settings (Nursing Homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools, Child care facilities, etc.)

- **Project Overview:**

Morristown Medical Center will receive \$3 million to modernize and expand its pediatric and adult emergency rooms and upgrade HVAC technology to address COVID-19 and future outbreaks of infectious disease.

- **Use of Evidence:**

The expansion of the Morristown Medical Center is supported by research by Crilly, et al. which shows that expanding Emergency Department capacity improves care outcomes.

- Crilly, Julia et al. "Expanding emergency department capacity: a multisite study." *Australian health review : a publication of the Australian Hospital Association* 38 3 (2014): 278-87 .
- Dollar amount of the total project that is allocated towards evidence-based interventions: \$3 million

- **Performance Report:**

This project will establish and report construction benchmarks in subsequent reports.

Project 14: St. Joseph's Paterson

Funding Amount: \$5.25 million

Identification Number: N/A

Project Expenditure Category: 1.4 Prevention in Congregate Settings (Nursing Homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools, Child care facilities, etc.)

- **Project Overview:**

\$5.25 million is allocated to St. Joseph's Health to expand and enhance their psychiatric emergency services and maternity units to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other diseases.

- **Use of Evidence:**
This project is in the planning phase. Dollar amount allocated to evidence-based interventions will be reported once implementation begins.
- **Performance Report:**
This project is still in development. Performance measurements will be included in subsequent reports.

Project 15: Long Branch Community Health Facility

Funding Amount: \$2 million

Identification Number: N/A

Project Expenditure Category: 1.4 Prevention in Congregate Settings (Nursing Homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools, Child care facilities, etc.)

- **Project Overview:**
The City of Long Branch will use SFRF to open a Health Monitoring and Telecommunication Center which will include facilities for testing, vaccination, contact tracing, and educational resources for public health, including vaccine hesitancy. The Center will also establish a publicly available technology training center that will educate community members to use the internet for health, work, and other educational purposes to help close the digital divide.
- **Performance Report:**
This project is still in development. Performance measurements will be included in subsequent reports.

Project 16: Trinitas Hospital Behavioral Health Dual Disorder Facility

Funding Amount: \$1 million

Identification Number: JK2RJM XVVB13

Project Expenditure Category: 1.12 Mental Health Services

- **Project Overview:**
Trinitas Regional Medical Center received \$1 million in SFRF to contribute to the 6,600 square foot renovation in its New Point Building. Specifically, the 12-bed expansion of the Behavioral Health Department's inpatient Dual Disorder Facility will more than double capacity from 10 beds to 22 beds. Dual Disorder patients are those who are faced with an intellectual/developmental disorder and a major psychiatric disorder. Trinitas is New Jersey's only hospital with inpatient beds for children and adults who have a dual diagnosis. Although demand for these services far exceeded capacity even before the pandemic, COVID-19 has made the expansion of the facility far more urgent.
- **Use of Evidence:**
The goal of the Trinitas Dual Disorder facility expansion, to improve access to services, is supported by a report from the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD). This report shows that the number of residents in 24-hour psychiatric treatment beds has declined by 64% since 1970, mirroring the decline in capacity designed to serve this population. The report suggests that an increase in the number of available beds will increase the number of patients who will be able to access services.
 - Lutterman, Ted, et al. *Trend in Psychiatric Inpatient Capacity, United States and*

Each State, 1970 to 2014. National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors, www.nri-inc.org/media/1319/tac-paper-10-psychiatric-inpatient-capacity-final-09-05-2017.pdf.

- Dollar amount of the total project that is allocated towards evidence-based interventions: \$1 million
- **Performance Report:**
This project will establish and report construction benchmarks in subsequent reports. The project is in (70%) design phase.

Project 17: Anti-Discrimination Housing

Funding Amount: \$981,000

Identification Number: DMUAZBH9KAK1

Project Expenditure Category: 2.18 Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance

- **Project Overview:**
The Division of Civil Rights (DCR) within the Office of the Attorney General was granted \$981,000 for its housing unit to investigate complaints from tenants alleging that their housing provider discriminated against them based on their source of lawful income by refusing to accept their COVID-19 Rental Assistance or Section 8 vouchers. In addition, the housing unit will enforce the Fair Chance in Housing Act which aims to allow people with criminal convictions to access stable housing without being discriminated against based on their prior criminal history.
 - Link to Project Website: <https://www.njoag.gov/about/divisions-and-offices/division-on-civil-rights-home/housing-discrimination/>
- **Use of Evidence:**
This program uses evidence from Seron et al. which uses a randomized experimental evaluation of a legal assistance program for low-income tenants in New York City's housing court to show that the provision of legal counsel produces large differences in outcomes for low-income tenants.
 - Seron, Carroll, et al. "The Impact of Legal Counsel on Outcomes for Poor Tenants in New York City's Housing Court: Results of a Randomized Experiment." *Law & Society Review*, vol. 35, no. 2, 2001, pp. 419–34. JSTOR, <https://doi.org/10.2307/3185408>. Accessed 21 Jun. 2022.
 - Dollar amount of the total project that is allocated towards evidence-based interventions: \$956,500
- **Performance Report:**
 - Required performance indicators:
 - *Number of households receiving eviction prevention services (including legal representation):*
 - Number of intakes: 37
 - Number of Complaints filed: 21
 - Number of open cases: 30
 - Number of resolutions: 5

Project 18: State Police Vehicles

Funding Amount: \$522,000

Identification Number: FH4HGA3T4H65

Project Expenditure Category: 3.4 Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

- **Project Overview:**

New Jersey State Police will use SFRF funds to purchase eight vehicles to be used in the transportation of State officials, including the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, while providing support to the State during COVID-19 response and recovery efforts. State officials are an integral part of the State's COVID-19 outreach efforts.

- **Performance Report:**

This project is still in development. Performance measurements will be included in subsequent reports.

Project 19: Salem County American Legion Ambulance Association

Funding Amount: \$500,000

Identification Number: XP38WH6K7RW8

Project Expenditure Category: 3.1 Public Sector Workforce: Payroll and Benefits for Public Health, Public Safety, or Human Services Workers

- **Project Overview:**

The Salem County American Legion Ambulance Association (ALAA) provides Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in 65% of Salem county. During the COVID pandemic, ALAA personnel incurred overtime, and have continued to incur overtime after March 3, 2021, eliminating ALAA's budget reserves and threatening the survival of a critical health care provider. In addition to the transportation of COVID patients, ALAA has been on standby at testing and vaccination sites.

- **Performance Report:**

This project is completed. SFRF was used as reimbursement for salaries.

Project 20: Child Care Revitalization

Funding Amount: \$100 million

Child Care Facilities Improvement Pilot Program

Funding Amount: \$54.5 million

Identification Number: N/A

Project Expenditure Category: 2.11 Healthy Childhood Environments: Child Care

- **Project Overview:**

The New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) will provide technical assistance and grants for facilities improvement to licensed child care providers and registered child care homes. NJEDA will appropriate \$20 million for the creation of the Child Care Facilities Improvement Pilot Program. This program is designed to fund internal and external facilities improvement, as well as accessibility modifications at eligible child care facilities and homes. The remaining \$34.5 million will be allocated in future rounds of the facilities program.

- **Use of Evidence:**
This project is in the planning phase. Dollar amount allocated to evidence-based interventions will be reported once implementation begins.
- **Performance Report:**
This project is still in development. Performance measurements will be included in subsequent reports.

Child Care Workforce Recruitment and Retention Grants

Funding Amount: \$30 million

Identification Number: MLGMLZ76EMC3

Project Expenditure Category: 2.36 Aid to Other Impacted Industries

- **Project Overview:**
The Department of Human Services (DHS) Division of Family Development (DFD) was granted \$30 million of the total \$100 million for the Child Care Revitalization program to operate the Child Care Workforce Recruitment and Retention Grant Program. This program is intended to provide immediate support to child care providers for retaining existing staff and hiring qualified staff by providing financial assistance to support child care centers and family child care programs with workforce recruitment and retention costs. Grant awards will be \$1,000 per eligible child care worker, which includes those who earn less than \$50,000 a year provide direct child care to children.
 - Link to Project Website: <https://www.childcarenj.gov/Providers/Grants/HRGrant>
- **Performance Report:**
Number of workers paid retention or hiring bonuses will be included in subsequent reports

Child Care Licensing Reform

Funding Amount: \$15.5 million

Identification Number: S6ZRV3S11Q21

Project Expenditure Category: 2.11 Healthy Childhood Environments: Child Care

- **Project Overview:**
The Department of Children and Family Services (DCF) was granted \$15.5 million of the total \$100 million for the Child Care Revitalization program to develop new ways to regulate and govern the child care industry to ensure that the industry emerges from this crisis better situated both to meet the needs of future crises, and to encourage greater equity and compensation for child care providers and workers.
- **Use of Evidence:**
The Department of Children and Families hopes to improve workforce wages by implementing a licensing program for child care workers. A 2018 study by the Center for Growth and Opportunity at Utah State University, for example, found that, across industries, meaningful occupational licensure can be correlated to average wage increases of as much as 18%. A Brookings Institution study in 2018 found even more significant differences for hourly workers, with the median unlicensed worker earning \$18.80 per hour, versus \$25.00 for the median licensed worker, with the gap between the two increasing over the course of the workers' careers. Additionally, at least one analysis found that the imposition of even minimal education or training supports for child care workers increased average wages by 4.3%.
 - Smith, Josh T., et al. *How Does Occupational Licensing Affect U.S. Consumers and Workers?* The Center for Growth and Opportunity at Utah State University, Dec. 2018.

- Nunn, Ryan. *How Occupational Licensing Matters for Wages and Careers*. Brookings Institution, 18 Mar. 2018.
- Gius, Mark. *The Effects of Occupational Licensing on Wages: A State-Level Analysis*. International Journal of Applied Economics, Sept. 2016.
- Dollar amount of the total project that is allocated towards evidence-based interventions: \$15.5 million
- **Performance Report:**
This project is still in development. Performance measurements will be included in subsequent reports.

Project 21: School and Small Business Energy Efficiency Stimulus Program

Funding Amount: \$183,026,000

Identification Number: K3SGJLGNHEZ4

Project Expenditure Category: 1.4 Prevention in Congregate Settings (Nursing Homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools, Child care facilities, etc.)

- **Project Overview:**
The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) was allocated \$183 million to operate the School and Small Business Energy Efficiency Stimulus Program, which is intended to promote the long-term sustainability of HVAC and water systems within our schools and small businesses. The program is divided into two sub-programs: 1) the School and Small Business Ventilation and Energy Efficiency Verification and Repair (SSB-VEEVR) program and 2) the School and Small Business Noncompliant Plumbing Fixture and Appliance (SSB-NPFA) program. The SSB-VEEVR program ensures that each board of education or small business installs HVAC equipment with a Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV) of 13 or better and that every participating school installs a carbon monoxide detector in every classroom. Further, the SSB-NPFA program prioritizes “touchless” plumbing fixtures to prevent the spread of germs.
 - Link to Project Website: <https://www.njcleanenergy.com/school-and-smallbusiness-energy-efficiency-stimulus-program>
- **Use of Evidence:**
The School and Small Business Energy Efficiency Stimulus program is rooted in evidence that supports the benefits of MERV 13 rated HVAC filters compared to MERV 10 HVAC filters. Evidence from Falkner et al. shows that MERV 13 filtration reduces average virus concentration by about 10% compared to MERV 10 filters. In addition, the plumbing equipment included in this program is consistent with the evidence-based standards set by the United States Environmental Protection agency. Further, the United States Department of Homeland Security included touchless medical fixtures among the non-medical interventions that are recommended to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.
 - Faulkner, Cary A., et al. *MERV 13 Filtration for Office Buildings during COVID-19 Pandemic*. d International Symposium on Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning, Nov. 2021.
 - United States Department of Homeland Security. *Non-Medical Interventions: A Desk Reference to Help Planners Recover from COVID-19 and Prepare for Future Outbreaks and Pandemics*. United States Department of Homeland Security, June 2020.

- Supplementary Materials
 - EPA WaterSense Product Background Materials: <https://www.epa.gov/watersense/product-background-materials>
 - EPA How Are WaterSense Specifications Developed?: <https://www.epa.gov/watersense/how-are-watersense-specifications-developed>
 - EPA WaterSense Product Specifications: <https://www.epa.gov/watersense/product-specifications>
- Dollar amount of the total project that is allocated towards evidence-based interventions: \$180 million
- **Performance Report:**
 - Number of facilities upgraded for public health.
 - 232 facilities upgraded through the SSB-VEEVR (HVAC) program
 - 177 facilities upgraded through the SSB-NPFA (Touchless Plumbing Fixtures) program

Project 22: Eviction and Homelessness Prevention Program

Funding Amount: \$792.5 million

Rental and Utility Assistance

Funding Amount: \$750 million

Identification Number: NFGKVVF89Q55

Project Expenditure Category: 2.2 Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid

- **Project Overview:**

The \$750 million Eviction Prevention Program provides rental and utilities assistance for up to a total of 24 months for households earning less than 120% of Area Median Income annually, with a preference for those earning less than 50% of AMI and those that have been unemployed for longer than 90 days. This program is intended to ensure that recipients can remain in their homes to avoid homelessness or the prospect of eviction. The rate of eviction filings and eviction executions are significantly higher for Black and Latino households than for white households.

 - Link to Project Website: https://njdca.onlinepha.com/?utm_campaign=20210917_nwsltr_a&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery
- **Use of Evidence:**

The Rental and Utility Assistance program is intended to ensure that recipients can remain in their homes and avoid homelessness or the prospect of eviction. This program was informed by an experimental evaluation that examined the effects of housing assistance on low-income families eligible for or receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. Household-based rental vouchers were provided to participants under the Welfare to Work Voucher program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development from 2000 through 2004. Vouchers were randomly assigned to eligible program participants in six sites across the country, sample members were tracked over about five years, and the effects of vouchers on homelessness and crowding, household composition, housing

mobility, neighborhood quality, employment and earnings, and other aspects of family well-being were measured.

Vouchers significantly reduced homelessness, crowding, household size, and the incidence of living with relatives or friends, but had no effect on marriage or cohabitation. Vouchers increased housing mobility, while reducing the number of subsequent moves, and resulted in small improvements in neighborhood quality.

- Michelle Wood, Jennifer Turnham & Gregory Mills (2008) Housing affordability and family well-being: Results from the housing voucher evaluation, Housing Policy Debate, 19:2, 367-412, DOI: [10.1080/10511482.2008.9521639](https://doi.org/10.1080/10511482.2008.9521639)
- Dollar amount of the total project that is allocated towards evidence-based interventions: \$731.125 million
- **Performance Report:**
 - Number of households receiving eviction prevention services (including legal representation)
 - 115,728 households received utility assistance
 - 35,853 households received rental assistance
 - 151,581 total households received assistance this quarter (9,038 last quarter)

Office of Eviction Prevention

Funding Amount: \$5 million

Identification Number: NFGKVVF89Q55

Project Expenditure Category: 2.16 Long-term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons

- **Project Overview:**

SFRF funds were used to establish the “Office of Eviction Prevention,” which will be responsible for (1) the identification of all sources of financial assistance that could be used to prevent the eviction of residential tenants; (2) becoming knowledgeable about the application for each program; (3) identify and proposing remedies for the gaps in the overall assistance system. The office would also be responsible for compiling, publishing, and updating this information as well as working with non-profit or community-based organizations to enhance public awareness of the availability and means of accessing assistance.
- Link to Project Website: https://njdca.onlinepha.com/?utm_campaign=20210917_nwsltr_a&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Project 23: Home Lead Paint Remediation

Funding Amount: \$10 million

Identification Number: N/A

Project Expenditure Category: 2.20 Social Determinants of Health: Lead Remediation

- **Project Overview:**

This project is still in development.
- **Use of Evidence:**

This project is in the planning phase. Dollar amount allocated to evidence-based interventions will be reported once implementation begins.

- **Performance Report:**
This project is still in development. Performance measurements will be included in subsequent reports.

Project 24: Lakes Management

Funding Amount: \$10.25 million

Identification Number: X9K2JHHGL5M8

Project Expenditure Category: 5.6 Clean Water: Stormwater

- **Project Overview:**

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) will issue grants to qualified public lake management entities, including local government units and nonprofit organizations involved in public lake management, such as the Greenwood Lake and Hopatcong Lake Commissions, for stormwater and nonpoint source pollution management activities that would directly enhance, improve, or protect the use of a publicly accessible lake for recreation and conservation purposes.

Protecting our water resources from pollutants and contaminants helps to ensure healthy and thriving communities. Lake management is a key component of protecting our water resources and ensuring safe drinking water. As outlined in the NJ Scientific Report on Climate Change, excess nutrient levels due to decreases in snowfall, heavier rainfalls in the spring, and overall warming temperatures generate pollutants that contaminate our natural water sources. Water-quality improvement projects and lake monitoring will track, assess, and implement strategies to mitigate nonpoint source pollution, harmful algal blooms, and other water quality concerns. Lake management and restoration are essential to protecting sources of drinking water, encouraging tourism, recreational opportunities, and preserving aquatic and wildlife habitats. The lake management funds address broader water quality issues, such as eliminating combined sewer overflows (CSOs) and improving climate resilience, which is advanced by implementing pollution reduction strategies, including increasing infiltration, green infrastructure, living shorelines, and environmental education. These grants also direct resources to improve water quality within communities disproportionately impacted by climate change-related environmental risks. The lake management funds prioritize the development of watershed plans, lake protection plans, and water monitoring programs to ensure that communities are utilizing best management practices for water quality restoration. The funding also prioritizes green infrastructure projects in environmental justice communities, designed to reduce stormwater runoff and work with the built and natural environment. Priority is given to CSO communities that are plagued by water pollution concerns.

- **Use of Evidence:**

Various recent studies have demonstrated that the water quality of many of the recreational waterbodies is declining and/or impaired [NJDEP 2011; NJDEP 2020(a); NJDEP 2020(b); NJDEP 2021]. For example, a 2011 statistical survey report, and continued monitoring of NJ's lakes indicate 40% of all lakes had Total Phosphorus (TP) levels above acceptable Surface Water Quality criteria and greater than 20% of lakes statewide featured low dissolved oxygen levels. In addition, 80% of all lakes had significant chlorophyll "a" concentration that approximate algal biomass. These and other data suggested that many of the lakes were in or accelerating toward an entirely eutrophic (e.g., a situation where aquatic life dies off

due to low water oxygen levels) state very likely by anthropogenic impacts. More recent investigations have also shown a dramatic increase in harmful algal blooms (HAB). Between 2019 and 2020, confirmed HAB warnings increased by 26% in NJ water bodies which may be a drinking water source. Data indicate that the statewide occurrence of HABs in New Jersey is not only increasing but becoming a chronic problem; 54% of the waterbodies confirmed with HABs in 2020 had a confirmed HAB in a previous year since 2017. Studies also suggested that stormwater management and uncontrolled run-off are contributing factors behind the declines in water quality and algal blooms. Many of these waterbodies have direct stormwater discharges to them and/or are plagued by unmanaged stormwater run-off that carries non-point source pollutants such as e. coli bacteria and phosphorus. These pollutants result in poor water quality conditions that reduce recreational opportunities and threaten drinking water supplies.

- NJDEP, Water Monitoring and standards. 2011. AMBIENT LAKES MONITORING NETWORK, Panel 5, Vol 1 of 2. December 2011. 32 pp.
- NJDEP, Division of water monitoring and standards. 2020 (a). Cyanobacterial Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Freshwater 2020 Summary Report -Cyanobacterial Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Freshwater Recreational Response 2020 Summary Report March 2020. 27 pp.
- **Performance Report:**
 - This program is still in development. Number of municipalities that have improved the water quality in their communities will be included in subsequent reports.

Project 25: Greenway Acquisition

Funding Amount: \$25 million

Identification Number: X9K2JHHGL5M8

Project Expenditure Category: 5.6 Clean Water: Stormwater

- **Project Overview:**

The Essex Hudson Greenway (EHG) is an approximately 9-mile, 100-foot-wide transportation corridor spanning Essex and Hudson Counties through eight municipalities (Montclair, Glen Ridge, Bloomfield, Belleville, Newark, Kearny, Secaucus, Jersey City) currently held by Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR). NJDEP requests a total of \$25 Million in SFRF funding for EHG Acquisition and Development, with \$20 Million allocated toward acquisition costs and \$5 Million allocated to initial planning, design, and engineering of stormwater infrastructure improvements. Acquisition of the abandoned rail corridor is necessary to implement future stormwater management solutions; acquisition in and of itself is a stormwater management solution to the extent that it prohibits further development and expansion of impervious surfaces in the rail corridor. Further, funding for initial planning, design, and engineering work will be essential to the implementation of future stormwater management infrastructure improvements.
- **Performance Report:**
 - This project will establish and report construction benchmarks in subsequent reports.

Project 26: Local Government Infrastructure Planning

Funding Amount: \$5.125 million

Identification Number: X9K2JHHGL5M8

Project Expenditure Category: 5.6 Clean Water: Stormwater

- **Project Overview:**

DEP will use SFRF funds to establish a grant program that funds stormwater management planning and infrastructure demonstration projects that manage runoff and protect land-based resources like wetlands, stream corridors, and waterfront riparian areas. There is a critical need to plan, design, and implement stormwater infrastructure upgrades. Through a \$5M grant program to improve New Jersey's stormwater planning, deploy green infrastructure projects, water quality retrofit of existing basins, removal of impervious surfaces and other demonstration projects, New Jersey could address the multiple forces at play that exacerbate community flood risks and impair surface water quality, and by extension, increase the cost of safe drinking water.

Additional priority will be given to demonstration projects that are located within underserved communities in New Jersey that have Combined Sewer Systems (CSO/CSS). New Jersey is home to approximately 21 CSS communities, the majority of which are also Overburdened Communities (OBC) as defined at N.J.S.A. 13:1D-157. As such, priority will be given to demonstration projects occurring within OBC's.

- **Use of Evidence:**

Since 1999 (the last datapoint used to design/construct stormwater infrastructure), rainfall in New Jersey has increased 2.5% to 10% and is projected to increase another 20% to 50% over the next several decades. The variation in the percentage increase is geographical with higher impacts in central and northern New Jersey. These increases were confirmed in recent scientific studies released by DEP. Local government abilities to meet these needs are deeply and chronically constrained, particularly in the wake of the pandemic.

- **Performance Report:**

This project is still in development. Performance measurements will be included in subsequent reports.

Project 27: Providing Additional or Compensatory Services to Students with Disabilities Beyond Age 21

Funding Amount: \$604.5 million

Identification Number: NWABTW71GK58

Project Expenditure Category: 2.25 Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social, and Emotional Services

- **Project Overview:**

The Department of Education was allocated up to \$604.5 million to operate a program that offers an additional year of educational services to students with disabilities who would otherwise exceed the age of eligibility for special education and related services (21 years old). This program helps to address a year of academic and social learning delays caused by the pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic has been challenging for the roughly 8,700 students with disabilities who would otherwise age out of the State's educational system because they will turn 21 during the 2020-21, 2021-22, or 2022-23 school years. These students may not have received the full set of services to which they are entitled given pandemic-related disruptions and may need an additional year to fully prepare them to transition to the next phase of their lives.

- **Use of Evidence:**

The National Longitudinal Transition Study-2 (NLTS-2; [Sanford et al., 2011](#)) reviewed post-high school outcomes of young adults with disabilities 6-years after high school. Their key findings support that students receiving special education services during high school effectively prepare students with disabilities for adulthood. Some key findings from their review are that 55% of young adults with disabilities reported having continued to post-secondary school since leaving high school. Furthermore, 71% of young adults with disabilities reported having a paid job, and 85% reported being actively engaged in the community since graduating from high school, whether through work, post-secondary education, or job training. Thirty-six percent of young adults with disabilities reported living independently, 60% had their own checking account, and 45% had their own credit cards. Additional time engaged in researched-based high school opportunities has the propensity to continue the trajectory of successful post-high school outcomes.

To further support the NLTS-2 findings, Cobb et al. (2013) reviewed individual research literature on programs (e.g., strategies, interventions, or sets of services) designed to help students with disabilities transition into adulthood. Their review looked at research published up to June 2011 and used the What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) standards and procedures for identifying evidence-based practices. They found 16 eligible studies and 14 studies that met WWC evidence-based standards through their review. The results of each study provided supporting evidence that special education services are effective in preparing students with disabilities for adulthood in three main areas: employment outcomes (Baer et al., 2011; Cimera, 2010; Karpur et al., 2005), post-secondary education outcomes (Karpur et al. 2005), and independent living outcomes (Cihak et al., 2004; DiPipi-Hoy & Jitendra, 2004; Hutcherson et al., 2004; Mechling & Gast, 2003; Mechling et al., 2002; Mechling et al., 2003; Mechling et al., 2008; Mitchell et al., 2000; Taber et al., 2003; Taylor et al., 2005).

- Sanford, C., Newman, L., Wagner, M., Cameto, R., Knokey, A.-M., and Shaver, D. (2011). The Post High School Outcomes of Young Adults With Disabilities up to 6 Years After High School. Key Findings From the National Longitudinal Transition Study-2 (NLTS2) (NCSE 2011-3004). Menlo Park, CA: SRI International
- Cobb, R. B., Lipscomb, S., Wolgemuth, J., Schulte, T., Veliquette, A., Alwell, M., Batchelder, K., Bernard, R., Hernandez, P., Holmquist-Johnson, H., Orsi, R., Sample McMeeking, L., Wang, J., and Weinberg, A. (2013). Improving Post-High School Outcomes for Transition-Age Students with Disabilities: An Evidence Review (NCEE 2013-4011). Washington, DC: National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S.
- Dollar amount of the total project that is allocated towards evidence-based interventions: \$600 million

- **Performance Report:**

- *Number of students participating in evidence-based tutoring programs:* This program is still in development. Number of students served will be included in subsequent reports.

Project 28: County Special Service Schools

Funding Amount: \$10 million

Identification Number: N/A

Project Expenditure Category: 2.25 Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social, and Emotional Services

- **Project Overview:**
This project is still in development.
- **Use of Evidence:**
This project is in the planning phase. Dollar amount allocated to evidence-based interventions will be reported once implementation begins.
- **Performance Report:**
This project is still in development. Performance measurements will be included in subsequent reports.

Project 29: Commuter Hub COVID-Impacted Redevelopment Program (Newark and Atlantic City)

Funding Amount: \$10 million

Identification Number: N/A

Project Expenditure Category: 2.35 Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality

- **Project Overview:**
This project is still in development.
- **Performance Report:**
This project is still in development. Performance measurements will be included in subsequent reports.

Project 30: Tourism Campaign

Funding Amount: \$25 million

Identification Number: N/A

Project Expenditure Category: 2.35 Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality

- **Project Overview:**
\$25 million in SFRF was made available to the Department of State (DOS) for travel and Tourism advertising and promotion for recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Performance Report:**
This project is still in development. Performance measurements will be included in subsequent reports.

Project 31: Business Marketing Initiatives

Funding Amount: \$5 million

Identification Number: N/A

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

- **Project Overview:**
These funds will be used to develop and execute a business marketing initiative to highlight

the benefits of doing business in the State of New Jersey as it related to bringing business back to the State as a result of the pandemic, and to encourage national and international business entities to relocate and expand in State.

- **Performance Report:**
This project is still in development. Performance measurements will be included in subsequent reports.

Project 32: University Hospital Newark

Funding Amount: \$150 million

Identification Number: N/A

Project Expenditure Category: 1.7 Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)

- **Project Overview:**
\$150,000,000 to University Hospital will be used to expand its Emergency Department to accommodate more patients, while improving physical infrastructure to establish better infection control protocols, such as greater distance between treatment bays and enhanced ventilation. The hospital also intends to expand and fortify Intensive Care treatment areas that are equipped with negative pressure ventilation and technology improvements to allow for remote monitoring of patients, thereby reducing the strain on PPE and other resources that, during emergencies, can be in short supply
- **Performance Report:**
This project will establish and report construction benchmarks in subsequent reports.

Project 33: RWJ Barnabas

Funding Amount: \$150 million

Identification Number: N/A

Project Expenditure Category: 1.7 Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)

- **Project Overview:**
\$150,000,000 has been granted to RWJ to improve essential infrastructure by increasing patient capacity, incorporating pandemic-resilient mechanical systems, and establishing island operations to allow two facilities (the existing and a new facility) to operate as standalone structures. Thus, RWJ could use one facility to respond to a pandemic or other mass health emergency, while conducting “routine” medical activities in the other facility. These improvements enhance the quality of the State’s emergency response and provide RWJ with the ability to make critical life-saving strategic decisions on how best to deploy physical resources to ensure the highest quality care, protection, support, and treatment for New Jersey residents.
- **Performance Report:**
This project will establish and report construction benchmarks in subsequent reports.

Project 34: Cooper University Hospital

Funding Amount: \$150 million

Identification Number: N/A

Project Expenditure Category: 1.7 Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)

- **Project Overview:**

\$150 million was allocated from SFRF to the Cooper Hospital/University Medical Center (Cooper) in Camden to strengthen regional health emergency preparedness in the central region of the State. Cooper is required to submit a preparedness improvement plan detailing its proposed use of appropriated funds toward the construction of a new facility and how the plan would enhance the quality of the State's response to a pandemic or any future large-scale health emergency or catastrophic event.

- **Performance Report:**

This project will establish and report construction benchmarks in subsequent reports.

Project 35: Hackensack Meridian Health

Funding Amount: \$100 million

Capital Upgrades

Funding Amount: \$96.3 million

Identification Number: LV8GL8MLU9A3

Project Expenditure Category: 1.7 Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)

- **Project Overview:**

Hackensack Meridian will use \$96.3 million for capital upgrades. This includes an investment of \$65 million at HUMC to provide 73 additional beds and incorporating infectious disease best practices, including negative pressure rooms and bio-containment capabilities; a \$17 million investment into the Palisades Medical Center Emergency Department to provide a much needed expansion to better serve the community in future pandemics and other critical situations; \$8 million to support the development of a Biosafety Level-3 facility at the Center for Discovery and Innovation for rapid countermeasure development against high-threat pathogens which will better prepare them to respond to future infectious diseases, similar to COVID-19, which will likely disproportionately harm the same disadvantaged communities that bore the brunt during COVID-19; \$5 million in collaboration with our regional partners St. Joseph's University Medical Center to invest in infusion equipment that can be used to administer monoclonal antibody treatments for COVID or future pandemics.

- **Performance Report:**

This project will establish and report construction benchmarks in subsequent reports.

Hackensack School of Medicine Scholarship Fund

Funding Amount: \$3.2 million

Identification Number: N/A

Project Expenditure Category: 2.25 Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social, and Emotional Services

- **Project Overview:**

\$3.2 million will support scholarships at the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine to support underrepresented in medicine medical students with a focus on infectious disease specialty.

- **Use of Evidence:**

This program uses evidence from a debt-free medical education program conducted by Weill Cornell Medicine. It is a program that was intended to increase representation among those who apply and matriculate to medical school by addressing cost, which is one of the primary inhibitors to enrollment, particularly among underrepresented students. The study found statistically significant increases in the percentage of students from groups underrepresented in medicine (from 20% to 29%) when comparing the four previous years (2016-2019) with the year after the program was implemented (2020).

- Kang Y, Ibrahim SA. Debt-Free Medical Education — A Tool for Health Care Workforce Diversity. *JAMA Health Forum*. 2020;1(12):e201435. doi:10.1001/jamahealthforum.2020.1435

- Dollar amount of the total project that is allocated towards evidence-based interventions: \$3.2 million

- **Performance Report:**

- Number of students participating in evidence-based tutoring programs: This program is still in development. Number of students participating will be included in subsequent reports.

Community College Job Training

Funding Amount: \$500,000

Identification Number: N/A

Project Expenditure Category: 2.10 Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers (e.g., job training, subsidized employment, employment supports or incentives)

- **Project Overview:**

\$500 thousand will support job training at community colleges for patient care technicians (PCTs) and other critical health care careers in demand.

- **Use of Evidence:**

This program was designed using evidence from a report that compiles 24 evaluation studies meeting a minimum standard of scientific evidence to evaluate quantitative outcomes of pipeline program interventions. These studies consistently indicate that pipeline interventions are associated with positive outcomes for racial/ethnic minority and disadvantaged students on several meaningful metrics, including academic performance and the likelihood of enrolling in a health professions school.

- Aapcho.org. 2009. *Pipeline Programs to Improve Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Health Professions: An Inventory of Federal Programs, Assessment of Evaluation Approaches, and Critical Review of the Research Literature*. [online] Available at: <https://www.aapcho.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/PipelineToImproveDiversityInHealthProfessions.pdf> [Accessed 12 July 2022].

- Dollar amount of the total project that is allocated towards evidence-based interventions: \$500,000
- **Performance Report:**
 - Number of workers enrolled in sectoral job training programs: This program is still in development. Number of workers enrolled in sectoral job training programs will be included in subsequent reports.
 - Number of workers completing sectoral job training programs: This program is still in development. Number of workers completing sectoral job training programs will be included in subsequent reports.

Project 36: Inspira Health Acquisition of Salem Medical Center

Funding Amount: \$20 million

Identification Number: N/A

Project Expenditure Category: 1.7 Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)

- **Project Overview:**
\$20 million from SFRF is appropriated to Inspira Health (Inspira) for its acquisition of Salem Medical Center (SMC) to allow for continued operations of a critical health care provider during the pandemic and for necessary facility improvements.
- **Performance Report:**
This project is still in development. Performance measurements will be included in subsequent reports.

Project 37: Water and Sewer – Fort Monmouth Economic Revitalization Authority

Funding Amount: \$10.5 million

Identification Number: JDLNBX2NMTP3

Project Expenditure Category: 5.11 Drinking water: Transmission & Distribution

- **Project Overview:**
The State has committed funds for planning, survey, design, engineering, construction/ installation, and replacement of former Army owned water system and sewer system on the former Fort Monmouth military base.
- **Performance Report:**
This project is in the design phase. Construction benchmarks will be established and reported in subsequent reports.

Project 38: Camden County Sewer Disconnect

Funding Amount: \$10 million

Identification Number: G4ERJQD7RY51

Project Expenditure Category: 5.4 Clean Water: Combined Sewer Overflows

- **Project Overview:**
The State has committed funds for critical water and sewer infrastructure projects located in the City of Camden.

- **Performance Report:**
This project is in the design phase. Construction benchmarks will be established and reported in subsequent reports.

Project 39: Pennsauken Community Center

Funding Amount: \$10 million

Identification Number: N/A

Project Expenditure Category: TBD

- **Project Overview:**
This project is still in development.
- **Use of Evidence:**
This project is in the planning phase. Dollar amount allocated to evidence-based interventions will be reported once implementation begins.
- **Performance Report:**
This project is still in development. Performance measurements will be included in subsequent reports.

Project 40: New Jersey Performing Arts Center

Funding Amount: \$5 million

Identification Number: L762B2HALE23

Project Expenditure Category: 2.35 Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality

- **Project Overview:**
New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) received \$5 million to help the organization recoup lost revenue as a result of COVID-19 event cancellations. As a nonprofit arts organization and an anchor cultural institution, NJPAC is an integral part of New Jersey's leisure and hospitality sector, which suffered a 24% decline in revenue and approximately 17% decline in unemployment nationwide because of the public health emergency. SFRF allowed NJPAC to continue operations and retain their employees.
 - Link to Project Website: <https://www.njpac.org/>
- **Performance Report:**
Number of community events year over year will be reported in subsequent reports.

Project 41: Legal Services of New Jersey

Funding Amount: \$5 million

Identification Number: FAWTCH5GAM28 - Central NJ; CLG4ZC26KCR5 - Essex Newark NJ; EJLQDNKKN97 - Northeast NJ; GF4ZGNF9PGJ3 - Northwest NJ; XKR2CN69ME97 - South Jersey NJ

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

- **Project Overview:**
Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ) consists of six separate not-for-profit corporations and will use \$5 million in SFRF to offset the negative economic impact of the pandemic. LSNJ provides direct legal representation and conducts legal advocacy on behalf of the State's

low-income people. The demand for COVID-19 legal services, including the anticipated rise of eviction cases and other civil legal issues exacerbated by the pandemic, such as the sharp increase in unemployment filings, domestic violence and other family matters, and debt collection actions, has increased dramatically. This is especially true among the disadvantaged or low-income residents of the State, who LSNJ defines as those at or below 289% of the federal poverty guidelines. These clients are often from the vulnerable, impoverished populations that are typically hit hardest, including families with children, the disabled, those with language access challenges, and communities of color.

- Link to Project Website: <https://lsnj.org/>
- **Performance Report:**
 - This program will report the number of attorneys hired and the case capacity year over COVID year.

Project 42: RWJ Barnabas Health OCD Center for Excellence

Funding Amount: \$5 million

Identification Number: N/A

Project Expenditure Category: 1.2 COVID-19 Testing

- **Project Overview:**

RWJBH, in conjunction with Rutgers University Behavioral Health, is planning to create the Tri-State Area's first OCD Treatment Center. The Center will treat OCD at all levels of severity for ages 18 and over. To properly treat the most severe cases of OCD, patients need an immersive program that can employ all of the necessary treatments and offer coping techniques and medication monitoring around the clock. To meet these needs, the program will include an on-site, staffed Residential Unit.
- **Performance Report:**

This project is still in development. Performance measurements will be included in subsequent reports.

Project 43: Wally Choice Community Center at Glenfield Park (Montclair, Essex County)

Funding Amount: \$5 million

Identification Number: N/A

Project Expenditure Category: 2.22 Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood

Features that Promote Health and Safety

- **Project Overview:**

\$5 million from SFRF is allocated to Essex County to redevelop an existing facility to provide programs, services, and resources to underserved and resource-constrained local residents.
- **Performance Report:**

This project is still in development. Performance measurements will be included in subsequent reports.

Project 44: Great Falls of the Passaic River Alexander Hamilton Visitor and Education Center

Funding Amount: \$2 million

Identification Number: N/A

Project Expenditure Category: 2.35 Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality

- **Project Overview:**

This project is still in development.

- **Performance Report:**

This project is still in development. Performance measurements will be included in subsequent reports.

Project 45: Vernon Township Landfill

Funding Amount: \$100,000

Identification Number: N/A

Project Expenditure Category: 5.13 Drinking water: Source

- **Project Overview:**

Allocation to Vernon Township (Vernon) will be used to address the effects of a local landfill on its drinking water system. Vernon proposes to use SFRF funds for testing of deep core samples into the landfill. Testing of the landfill is the only way the State can evaluate the extent of the pollution and environmental damage that has or will be done to the area.

Project 46: Milltown Water Line Relining

Funding Amount: \$2 million

Identification Number: RCXKRF9PW5E5

Project Expenditure Category: 5.15 Drinking water: Other water infrastructure

- **Project Overview:**

The Borough of Milltown will use SFRF funds to clean and reline or partially replace unlined cast iron water mains.

- **Performance Report:**

Construction benchmarks will be established and included in subsequent reports.

Project 47: Dredging the Woodbridge Township Marina

Funding Amount: \$1.5 million

Identification Number: GJYUQ51FNNC6

Project Expenditure Category: 5.9 Clean Water: Nonpoint Source

- **Project Overview:**

Woodbridge will use SLFRF funds to dredge Smith Creek.

- **Performance Report:**

This project is still in development. Performance measurements will be included in subsequent reports.

Project 48: Small Business Emergency Grant Program

Funding Amount: \$125 million

- **Project Overview:**

On March 9, 2020, Governor Phil Murphy issued Executive Order 103, declaring a State of Emergency and a Public Health Emergency to ramp up New Jersey's efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19. Subsequent containment measures were implemented, including restrictions on public gatherings and mandated closure of non-essential businesses. While these measures are consistent with similar measures being taken nationally that are expected to limit the public's exposure to COVID-19, there has been a significant adverse impact on our State's economy. The Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) board approved the Small Business Emergency Grant Program, which dedicated \$125 million into four categories: Microbusinesses, Businesses and Nonprofits, Food and Beverage Establishments, and Child Care Providers. Based on the eligibility criteria approved by the NJEDA board, grants ranging from \$1,000-\$20,000 to small businesses with up to 50 full time employees.

- Link to Project Website: <https://www.njeda.com/notice-of-funding-availability-small-business-emergency-assistance-grant-program-phase-4/>

Microbusinesses

Funding Amount: \$89.5 million

Identification Number: CKC5CGLKMCKS

Project Expenditure Category: 2.29 Loans or Grants to Mitigate Financial Hardship

- **Performance Report:**

- 25,338 businesses served (23,355 last quarter); 31% of funding has been awarded to businesses located in a New Jersey opportunity zone (31% last quarter)

Businesses & Nonprofits

Funding Amount: \$16.5 million

Identification Number: CKC5CGLKMCKS

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

- **Performance Report:**

- 892 businesses and nonprofits served (892 last quarter); 24% of funding has been awarded to businesses located in New Jersey opportunity zones (24% last quarter)

Food and Beverage Establishments

Funding Amount: \$15 million

Identification Number: CKC5CGLKMCKS

Project Expenditure Category: 2.35 Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality

- **Performance Report:**

- 5,048 businesses served; 31% of funding has been awarded to businesses located in New Jersey opportunity zones (31% last quarter)

Child Care Providers

Funding Amount: \$4 million

Identification Number: CKC5CGLKMCKS

Project Expenditure Category: 2.29 Loans or Grants to Mitigate Financial Hardship

- **Performance Report:**

- 1,215 businesses served (6,131 in total); 28.9% of funding has been awarded to businesses located in New Jersey opportunity zones (32.5% last quarter)

Project 49: Commuter and Transit Bus Private Carrier Pandemic Relief and Jobs Program

Funding Amount: \$25.625 million

Identification Number: N/A

Project Expenditure Category: 2.37 Economic Impact Assistance: Other

- **Project Overview:**

The private bus industry, which has historically been a key component of New Jersey's transportation sector, has been devastated by the negative economic impacts of the pandemic. Accordingly, private bus companies account for about one-third of scheduled bus service in the State, based on passenger miles prior to the pandemic. While some private carrier routes are operated under contract with NJ Transit, many are operated on an at-risk basis by the private companies under their own authority. Private carriers operate routes in 15 New Jersey counties. The Commuter and Transit Bus Private Carrier Pandemic Relief and Jobs Program will provide private bus companies with assistance through grants to bring back employees and serve passengers on routes that without this relief would have had to be eliminated or cut back.

- **Use of Evidence:**

A recent systematic review by European economists of evidence on publicly-funded grant programs targeting small and medium sized businesses in the EU found positive impacts across several key metrics, including firm survival, employment, and sales. [Dvoulety et al \(2021\)](#) examine 30 empirical studies of grant programs supporting businesses. While some programs were targeted, such as to manufacturing businesses or for research & development expenses, several of the programs examined were open to firms across sectors and were not targeted at particular types of business expenditures. These programs are therefore comparable to the design of the Commuter and Transit Bus Private Carrier Pandemic Relief and Jobs Program

- Dvoulety, Ondrej & Blažková, Ivana & Potluka, Oto. (2021). Estimating the effects of public subsidies on the performance of supported enterprises across firm sizes. Research Evaluation. 30. 290–313.. 10.1093/reseval/rvab004.
- Dollar amount of the total project that is allocated towards evidence-based interventions: This project is in the planning phase. The specific dollar amount dedicated to evidence-based interventions will be reported once implementation begins.

- **Performance Report:**

This project is still in development. Performance measurements will be included in subsequent reports.

Project 50: Supply Chain Disruption Funding

Funding Amount: \$40 million

Identification Number: N/A

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

- **Project Overview:**

The NJ Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (HMFA) will use SFRF funds to address the impacts of COVID-19 on projects funded through the 9% Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program (LIHTC). These projects typically have two years from the date of tax credit allocation to complete construction and be placed in service (PIS). Due to COVID-19 pandemic-related supply chain disruptions, the feasibility of pending tax credit projects financed in 2019 and 2020 are at risk.

- **Performance Report:**

This project is still in development. Performance measurements will be included in subsequent reports.

Project 51: Unemployment Processing Modernization and Improvements

Funding Amount: \$10 million

Identification Number: N/A

Project Expenditure Category: 3.4 Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

- **Project Overview:**

Because of the COVID-19 public health emergency, the New Jersey (State) Department of Labor and Workforce Development saw an unprecedented spike in unemployment insurance (UI) benefit claims filings. The State's UI system has proven inadequate to serve claimants during large-scale crises. These shortcomings resulted in the delayed payment of benefits, an uptick in fraudulent claims, and unequitable access to UI benefits, highlighting the need for policy and technological innovation to support UI policy and technology modernization efforts. SFRF funds will be used to improve the efficacy of the unemployment insurance system by undertaking a full-scale replacement of the base system that processes UI claims and by rebuilding many of the systems and processes currently in place.

- **Performance Report:**

This project is still in development. Performance measurements will be included in subsequent reports.

Project 52: Food and Hunger Programs

Funding Amount: \$10 million

Identification Number: KNS6QG128GN9

Project Expenditure Category: 2.1 Household Assistance: Food Programs

- **Project Overview:**

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA) has received \$10 million to supplement The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). Since 1982, the New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA) has administered TEFAP in New Jersey, distributing several million pounds of federal food throughout the State's twenty-one counties. This program currently provides over 70 different food items to New Jersey's eligible citizens challenged by food insecurity. Currently, New Jersey receives over 20 million pounds of TEFAP foods annually from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

NJDA manages the TEFAP food ordering and scheduling of direct shipments from USDA vendors to six State-contracted Emergency Feeding Organizations (EFOs) who have developed a network of over 800 Local Distribution Agencies (LDAs) (food pantries, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, and needy feeding agencies) throughout the State.

- **Use of Evidence:**

The primary goal of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture's Food and Hunger Programs is to minimize food insecurity by supplementing Local Distribution Agencies (LDAs) throughout the State. This program draws its evidence from a report released by Mathematica Policy Research which shows that food pantry households with greater access to emergency food pantries are less likely to be food insecure. The relationship between access to emergency food pantries and household food security holds for many subgroups including households with children and households with income below the federal poverty threshold.

- Mabli, James, and David Jones. *Food Security and Food Access among Emergency Food Pantry Households*. Mathematica Policy Research, June 2012.
- Dollar amount of the total project that is allocated towards evidence-based interventions: \$10 million

- **Performance Report:**

- Key performance indicators: 2,632,454 meals provided

Project 53: Water Quality Accountability Municipal Compliance (Cyber Security)

Funding Amount: \$5 million

Identification Number: W24JBYL47HPS

Project Expenditure Category: 5.15 Drinking water: Other water infrastructure

- **Project Overview:**

On July 21, 2017, the Water Quality Accountability Act, P.L. 2017, c. 133 (WQAA), was signed into law, thereby establishing new requirements for purveyors of public water systems to improve the safety, reliability, and administrative oversight of water infrastructure. As part of this act, each water purveyor with Internet connected control systems is required to develop a cybersecurity program that included the establishment of policies, plans, processes, and procedures for identifying and mitigating cyber risk to their public water system.

- **Performance Report:**

This project is still in development. Performance measurements will be included in subsequent reports.

Project 54: Meadowlands Complex

Funding Amount: \$5 million

Identification Number: N/A

Project Expenditure Category: 2.35 Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality

- **Project Overview:**

\$5 million from SFRF was made available for New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority (NJSEA) to offset the negative economic impact COVID-19 had on the Meadowlands Complex, and other ongoing projects developed as part of New Jersey's hospitality and leisure industry.

- **Performance Report:**
This project is still in development. Performance measurements will be included in subsequent reports.

Project 55: MVC Mobile Agency Units

Funding Amount: \$2.05 million

Identification Number: X7HQLJ2A5ZF1

Project Expenditure Category: 2.19 Social Determinants of Health: Community Health Workers or Benefits Navigators

- **Project Overview:**

The New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) was the recipient of \$2.05 million in SFRF to invest in mobile units to serve as “field offices on wheels.” COVID-19 reduced MVC’s ability to operate traditional facilities because they were either shut down or intermittently available to the public. MVC responded by increasing the number and accessibility of services on their online platform. However, this negatively impacted economically disadvantaged individuals who did not have internet access, computer access, or digital literacy.

The State Fiscal Recovery Funds received by MVC allow them to double their capacity from two vehicles to four vehicles to travel to areas of special need by request and better serve those who were left out of the transition to online services. This includes those affected by a natural disaster or emergency, groups who have limited mobility and require special assistance such as those in nursing homes, military/veterans, or prisoner re-entry programs, and other disadvantaged communities.

- Link to Project Website: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ldDI-Cu7Ho>

- **Use of Evidence:**

New Jersey’s Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) mobile units are intended to increase access to MVC services. While in a different context, mobile service delivery has been proven effective. Edgerly et al. examined whether the use of a community mobile health van in an underserved population allowed for earlier access to prenatal care and increased rate of adequate prenatal care, as compared to prenatal care initiated in community clinics. The authors found that those using mobile van services accessed care three weeks earlier than women using other services. Further, Stewart et al. evaluate the effectiveness of a Mobile Engagement Unit to reach people with opioid use disorder (OUD) and found a significant difference in the use of substance use treatment services among those who interacted with the Mobile Engagement Unit compared to those that did not.

- Dollar amount of the total project that is allocated towards evidence-based interventions: \$2 million
- Edgerley, L. P., El-Sayed, Y. Y., Druzin, M. L., Kiernan, M., & Daniels, K. I. (2007, January 23). *Use of a community mobile health van to increase early access to prenatal care*. Maternal and child health journal. Retrieved May 20, 2022, from <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/17243022/>
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- Additional information:
 - Excellence in Government Partnership Award from the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators <https://www.aamva.org/membership/awards-program/service-awards/excellence-in-government-partnership>
- **Performance Report:**
 - Key performance indicators: 215 events in 2021, 72 events in 2022 so far



Governor Murphy visits the city of Camden to highlight the direct investments in local communities.



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