



2023 Legislative Priorities

New Jersey must continue to invest in a strong, sustainable community-based system of care to meet the needs of New Jersey's diverse children, youth and adults. This may only be achieved with significant investments in the behavioral healthcare workforce that is needed to sustain quality care for the many lives who depend on them and to expand capacity to increase access to care for all New Jerseyans. Toward those ends, NJAMHAA calls on the Legislature and Administration to support the following in the current legislative session, which will end in January 2024:

Invest in the Continuum of Integrated Care

- Appropriate \$3.06 million to bring School Based Youth Services Programs (SBYSPs) and other contracts within the School Linked Services budget line equal to the FY2022 increase the Legislature had provided.
- Appropriate \$10 million as an initial investment into facility resources for behavioral health providers to further develop integrated care and for repairs and improvements.

Legislative Priorities for Sustainability

- Introduce legislation to set Medicaid rates for mental health services equal to Medicare rates for the same services.
- Pass S2668/A508 to establish a formula for automatic upward rate and contract adjustments that are indexed to actual costs.
- Pass S136/A1456 to establish an annual cost of living adjustment based on the Consumer Price Index for certain children, youth, and family services organizations.
- Amend S3596/A4619 to include Social Work Interns in the definition of healthcare provider.
- Pass S3156 (A4621 has passed in the Assembly) and S3939/A5283 to bring accountability and standards to New Jersey's licensing Boards.
- Pass S930 (A1476 has passed in the Assembly) to reinstate the 70+ year exemption of vehicle registration fees for nonprofit organizations' vehicles that was reversed in 2017.

Services for Justice Involved Individuals

- Provide supplemental funding to:
 - Increase the number of Nurse Navigators.
 - Expand training opportunities at the Governor's Reentry Training and Employment Center.
- Introduce legislation to:
 - Require a statewide audit and resource directory of deflection, diversion and reentry resources.
 - Require a comprehensive study and roadmap for increasing the number of emergency, transitional and permanent housing units for justice-involved individuals, including congregate transitional housing dedicated to this population.