



## Governor Christie Builds On Record Of Reform in 6<sup>th</sup> State of the State Address

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**Pulling New Jersey Back From The Economic Brink.** Under Governor Christie's leadership, the state of New Jersey made historic strides towards economic recovery in 2015:

- Fastest private sector job creation in fifteen years
- Unemployment has fallen to 5.3 percent, the lowest it's been since 2008
- Home sales are up nearly 14 percent from 2014
- Foreclosures are down over 20 percent from 2014

**Bringing Discipline & Fiscal Responsibility Back To New Jersey's Budget.** Governor Christie has signed six consecutive balanced budgets with no new taxes

- Fiscal Year 2016 discretionary spending was more than \$2.3 billion below 2008 levels.
- Nearly 10,000 fewer public sector employees than when Governor Christie took office.

**Historic Investment In New Jersey Education.** For the fifth year in a row, Governor Christie set a historic high for state spending on education with nearly \$12.8 billion in funding for New Jersey schools in 2016.

**Building Safer, Stronger Communities.** Governor Christie's efforts to strengthen law enforcement and to keep violent criminals off New Jersey's streets has led to a 20 percent decrease in crime and a 9.5 percent decrease in incarceration between 2011 and 2014.

- In Camden, once the most violent city in America, the murder rate has dropped 52% in the three years since the historic reforms made to the police force there.

**Ending The Stigma Of Addiction And Putting A Focus On Treatment.** In 2015 alone, Governor Christie signed ten new laws to address treating drug addiction and continuing his commitment to help those whose lives have been devastated by drugs get the help they need. This builds on the Governor's unprecedented commitment to addiction prevention and treatment:

- Ushered In A Statewide Expansion Of Drug Court & Mandatory Treatment Capacity
  - Signed Bipartisan Overdose Protection Act
  - Statewide Expansion of Narcan Program
  - Created The Facing Addiction Task Force
  - Expanded the New Jersey Prescription Monitoring Program
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In his 6<sup>th</sup> State of the State Address, Governor Christie builds on the progress that has already been made over the course of his administration through a series of proposals that will continue moving New Jersey forward.

#### Building On Governor Christie's Commitment To Reclaiming Lives From Addiction:

**Opening The First-Ever Licensed & Dedicated Drug Treatment Facility At Mid-State Correctional Facility.** Governor Christie is calling for reforms to fundamentally change how New Jersey treats addiction behind prison walls – making those efforts smarter, more accessible and more effectively integrated with re-entry efforts to help people stay clean. The Governor has directed the Department of Corrections and the Department of Human Services to implement the first-ever dedicated, licensed substance use disorder treatment program at Mid-State Correctional Facility, which is currently non-operational. Mid-State Correctional Facility will reopen as a drug treatment facility dedicated to treating addicts behind prison walls – a first-of-its-kind program in New Jersey.

**Historic Financial Commitment To Extend Access To Care for Substance Use Treatment.** Governor Christie is proposing revised Medicaid rates for substance use treatment. This continues the Governor's commitment to New Jersey residents in need of substance use services and addresses a critical need in the effort to curb heroin and opioid abuse. The Governor's proposal calls for over \$100 million in State and Federal funds to increase mental health and substance use treatment rates.

**Connecting Individuals With Recovery Coaches Following an Overdose.** The "Recovery Coaches" program will reach and connect drug overdose survivors with treatment, counseling, and support services in the immediate aftermath of their overdose – a critical moment for successful intervention. Today, the Governor is announcing \$1.7 million in funding for the expansion of the Recovery Coach Program into six additional counties.

#### Continuing The Fight To Make New Jersey Affordable For Middle-Class Families:

**Eliminating The Estate Tax.** Today, Governor Christie is calling for the abolishment of the Estate Tax in New Jersey. The Estate Tax penalizes future generations and harms the long term economic future of the state. With the lowest exemption threshold in the country, this does not just penalize the wealthy- it also affects middle class families who want to pass down a family home to the next generation.

#### Continuing The Christie Administration's Support For Charter Schools And Innovation In Education:

**Regulatory Relief For Charter Schools.** Governor Christie is asking the Department of Education to aggressively prioritize regulatory relief for charter schools to create further flexibility in the charter school teacher certification process and opportunities to make it easier for charter schools to find facilities.

**Single-Purpose Charter Schools.** The Department of Education is also pursuing regulatory and policy reforms needed to enable the establishment of single-purpose schools that can better provide for the academic and socio-emotional needs of at-risk students across the state.

#### Addressing Shortcomings In The Mental Health System:

**Expanding New Jersey's Training Programs For First Responders.** Governor Christie is calling for the expansion of New Jersey's training programs for first responders on the signs and symptoms of a mental health crisis. The proposal would commit additional resources in the coming budget to continue helping individuals stabilize and enter appropriate clinical treatment.