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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TRENTON – The New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development (NJDOL) has awarded \$1.5 million through a [second round](#) of the Cultivating Access, Rights, and Equity (CARE) grant program to 17 grantees, including three collaboratives comprising nine organizations.

NJDOL [established](#) the CARE grant to facilitate equitable outreach, education, and access to New Jersey’s many generous benefits and protections for eligible workers, including Temporary Disability Insurance, Family Leave Insurance, and Earned Sick Leave. The current funding round continues these goals and expands the grant’s focus to include raising employer awareness of these programs and enhancing their capacity to support employees taking leave. The grant includes additional one-time funding for outreach and education on Unemployment Insurance to workers and service providers.

“Family and medical leave is critical to the wellbeing of New Jersey’s workforce, especially for expecting or new parents,” said First Lady Tammy Murphy. “I am proud that the New Jersey Department of Labor is prioritizing these grants to ensure all employees and employers are informed of the benefits and protections that are afforded here in our state.”

“Our community partners have been invaluable resources as we endeavor to reach workers in every corner of the state,” said Labor Commissioner Robert Asaro-Angelo. “As we continue to build these partnerships, we look forward to expanding our efforts even further to bring awareness of the all programs and services that make New Jersey such a great place to work and do business.”

The CARE Program notably supports the work of [Nurture NJ](#), the First Lady’s maternal and infant health initiative which seeks to make New Jersey the safest, most equitable place to deliver and raise a baby. A key recommendation in the [Nurture NJ Maternal and Infant Health Strategic Plan](#) speaks to expanding the utilization of paid family and medical leave benefits.

Awardees include community organizations, worker centers, domestic violence agencies, service providers, professional associations, libraries, and faith-based groups that have demonstrated trusted relationships with their communities across the state, as well as culturally specific outreach and education methods and the capacity for linking underserved residents and small businesses with government programs.

Grantees will build the capacity of their staff to provide information on paid leave and unemployment benefits through NJDOL trainings, engage in outreach at community events, provide one-on-one counseling to workers, conduct presentations and trainings, run social media and text campaigns, user-test outreach tools and applications, and more.

Jessica Culley, General Coordinator of grantee Comite de Apoyo a Los Trabajadores Agricolas (CATA), said: “CATA is excited to continue partnering with the NJDOL to provide important workers’ rights information to farmworkers and other low-wage immigrant workers throughout Southern New Jersey. In the first year of the grant, we reached over 1,000 workers throughout our region, the majority of whom had not accessed paid sick time.”

The Fiscal Year 2023 CARE grantees are listed below:

Fiscal Year 2023 Cultivating Access, Rights, and Equity (CARE) Round 2
Collaborative

Lead Organization	Partner Organizations	Counties Served	Amount
NJ Citizen Action Education Fund	Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN)	Statewide Essex	\$275,000
	Laundry Worker Center	Hudson Middlesex	
	New Labor	Monmouth	
	Wind of the Spirit	Morris	
	National Domestic Workers Alliance	Ocean	
	NJ Breastfeeding Coalition (vendor of NJCAEF)	Passaic Somerset	
	Center for Women and Work	Union Warren	
Lakewood Resource & Referral Center	Solutions to End Poverty Soon (STEPS)	Monmouth Ocean	\$120,000
Farmer Worker Support Committee (CATA)	Allies in Caring Revive South Jersey	Atlantic Burlington Camden Cumberland Gloucester Salem	\$80,000
Single Organizations			
Organization	Counties	Amount	
Legal Services of New Jersey	Statewide	\$135,000	
Immigration & American Citizenship Organization (IACO)	Bergen Passaic	\$105,000	
Jefferson Park Ministries	Union	\$105,000	
Perinatal Health Equity Foundation	Essex Union	\$90,000	
The Children's Home Society of New Jersey	Mercer	\$75,000	

VietLead	Burlington Camden Gloucester	\$75,000
North Hudson Community Action Corporation	Bergen Hudson Passaic	\$70,000
Centro Comunitario CEUS	Hudson	\$65,000
Latin American Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc.	Mercer	\$55,000
Employers Association of New Jersey	Statewide	\$50,000
MOCEANS Center for Independent Living, Inc.	Monmouth Ocean	\$50,000
The Hoboken Public Library	Hudson	\$50,000
Second Street Youth Center Foundation, Inc.	Union	\$50,000
Hispanic Family Center of Southern New Jersey	Camden Gloucester	\$50,000
TOTAL		\$1,500,000

The CARE program meets stipulations of the New Jersey Temporary Disability Benefits Law (P.L.1948, c.110 [C.43:21- 49]), which mandates the NJDOL to enter into contracts with community-based organizations to disseminate information about employees' rights regarding Temporary Disability and Family Leave Insurance, as well as the New Jersey Earned Sick Leave Law (N.J.S.A. 34:11D-1), requiring the NJDOL to develop and implement a multi-lingual outreach program. Unemployment Insurance outreach and education is funded through a USDOL Federal Unemployment Insurance Equity Grant Program under the American Rescue Plan Act.

To learn more about the CARE program and other NJDOL grant opportunities, see nj.gov/labor/grants.

For more information on worker benefits and protections, please visit myworkrights.nj.gov.

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