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In October 2021, the State Board of Medical Examiners voted unanimously to adopt new rules to eliminate medically unnecessary regulations on abortion in New Jersey and to open new avenues for reproductive healthcare services across the state.

New rules published in the New Jersey Register in December 2021 cleared the path for Advanced Practice Nurses, Physician Assistants, and Certified Midwives to perform early aspiration terminations of pregnancy. The funding announced today will, among other things, help ensure that those practicing or studying to become licensed in these professions receive the training necessary to perform abortion services.

Numerous factors contributed to Rutgers' unique ability to provide diverse training opportunities to expand access to abortion care throughout the state. Those factors include its multiple locations throughout the state; knowledgeable and innovative faculty and staff familiar with developing curriculum and clinical training programs for diverse learners; inter-professional workforce and student body; and an academic infrastructure for meaningful evaluation and future grant opportunities. This initiative leverages the unique inter-professional structure of Rutgers to support inter-professional education, research, and practice. Additionally, the grant funding provides Rutgers the opportunity to collaborate with community partners who have long-term experience with, and commitment to, abortion training in New Jersey.

All training provided through the initiative is required to be patient-centered, trauma-informed, and equity-based.

The grant period runs from January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2025.

For the full eligibility and application requirements, the NOAFs and Application Guidelines/Instructions are available online at www.njoag.gov/resources/grant-opportunities/notices-of-available-funds/.

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