

A Commitment To New Jersey's Families

Governor Christie's FY 2014 Budget Strengthens Programs That Provide Critical Services New Jersey's Working Families

"Family Success Centers are doing vital work with some of our children and families who need it most, changing lives and positively influencing communities one family at a time. That's why we've made a commitment to these centers, the children they serve, and their families...."

-Governor Chris Christie, October 9, 2012

MAKING FAMILY SUCCESS CENTERS A KEY PRIORITY

The Christie Administration has made the support services offered by Family Success Centers (FSC) a key priority. Since taking office, the state has opened nine additional FSCs bringing the total to 51 in New Jersey. Since taking office, Governor Christie has provided increased funding to accommodate a 7-center expansion in six counties around the state. Continuing that commitment, Governor Christie protected funding for Family Success Centers at **\$12 million** (\$9.5 million in state funding, \$2.5 million in federal funding) in the fiscal year 2013 budget and his proposed fiscal year 2014 budget, ensuring expanded access to the services provided to New Jersey's families and communities that utilize the FSCs.

FSCs serve as "one stop" facilities located directly in communities for families to access a variety of wrap-around services to strengthen families through access to health care, parent education, housing services and primary and secondary child abuse prevention services. There is no cost to access services provided by FSCs. Core services FSCs focus on [include](#):

- Access to information on child, maternal and family health services, including linkage to publicly-funded health insurance programs and referrals to local health care services;
- Development of "Family Success" plans, which address strengths and challenges and goals to address challenges which threaten to undermine family stability;
- Economic self-sufficiency/employment related services/income security services;
- Information & Referral Services (connection to off-site public and private resources);
- Life Skills training (budgeting, nutrition, etc.);
- Housing related services;
- Parent education;
- Parent-child activities;
- Advocacy;
- Home visiting, consistent with the model of engagement approved by the Division of Prevention and Community Partnerships.

STRENGTHENING CRITICAL HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAMS

Since taking office, Governor Christie has strengthened programs that provide critical health services to New Jersey's working families. Through increased or protected funding for critical programs, as well as a fundamental rethinking of how government agencies serve citizens, the Christie Administration is expanding access and improving care to better meet the needs of individuals.

Governor Christie's Fiscal Year 2014 Budget enhances the ability of state government to deliver a broader array of health services to women, children, families and individuals in need. This includes:

- **Increasing Access to Health Care Centers:** New Jersey's 105 community health center sites serves nearly a half million residents in need, with patient visits exceeding 1.4 million annually. Support by the Christie Administration for these centers remains at an all-time high of \$50 million.
- **Expanding Health Care Access through Medicaid:** Governor Christie is taking action to expand health care coverage for New Jersey's most vulnerable citizens through Medicaid. Doing so will mean that more New

Jerseyans at or near the poverty line will have access to critical health services, while saving New Jersey taxpayers approximately **\$227 million** in Fiscal Year 2014 alone.

- **Bold and Innovative Medicaid Reform:** New Jersey has received approval of its Comprehensive Medicaid Waiver, which allows the state to move forward with Medicaid reforms that are already resulting in more compassionate and effective care for our state's most vulnerable residents and will help to preserve the program over the long term while at the same time reducing costs to New Jersey taxpayers. New Jersey is one of very few states across the country that advanced Medicaid reform without affecting eligibility, imposing co-pays or cutting optional services.
- **Increasing Support for Uninsured Children:** The Christie Administration has demonstrated its commitment to providing subsidized health coverage for uninsured children and has even been recognized for performance excellence in enrolling children in the FamilyCare program. Proposed funding for children in FamilyCare is increased by \$6.4 million to over **\$122 million**, and will support coverage for over 164,000 children.
- **Protecting Funding for Cancer Screening:** Governor Christie has preserved Fiscal Year 2013's \$3.5 million funding increase for a total of **\$12 million** in state and federal support for The New Jersey Cancer Education and Early Detection Program, which provides cancer outreach, screening and follow-up services.
- **Newborn Screening:** Every baby born in New Jersey is eligible to be screened for 54 disorders that can cause serious health problems. With state investment and implementation of Emma's Law, the number of screenings will increase to 60 and funding for this newborn screening will increase by over **\$1.6 million**.
- **Increasing Funding for Compassionate Care:** Governor Christie has taken a responsible approach to administering medical marijuana for select New Jerseyans. Following the opening of the first medical marijuana dispensary, the Fiscal Year 2014 Budget proposal increases funding by **\$823,000**.