



STATE OF NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Reclaiming Lives

Governor Christie Believes That No Life Is Disposable And Is Committed To Protecting And Caring For The Most Vulnerable Among Us

"[O]ur commitment to our most vulnerable was not just a matter of dollars and cents, it was about reclaiming lives. No life is disposable and every life can be redeemed, but not if we ignore them ... Once again by putting people before partisanship, we are providing optimism and hope to individuals and families torn apart by addiction."

– Governor Chris Christie, Mandatory Drug Court Law Signing, July 19, 2012

A SMARTER AND MORE EFFECTIVE APPROACH TO DRUG ADDICTION AND PRISONER RE-ENTRY

Expanding The Drug Court Program For Non-Violent Offenders:

Governor Christie followed through on his commitment to take a smarter and more effective approach in how the state treats drug-addicted offenders by signing into law landmark, bipartisan legislation to put in place a statewide, mandatory drug court program. Working in a bipartisan manner with the legislature to move forward on this critical issue, Governor Christie secured passage of this legislation that enables a statewide, mandatory drug court program to be implemented over the course of 5 years.

- Through his Fiscal Year 2013 budget, Governor Christie provides an additional **\$2.5 million** in funding.

Expanding The Veterans Haven Program:

The Christie Administration is expanding the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs successful Veterans Haven program to provide access to veterans in the northern part of the state. The Veterans Transitional Housing Program – Veterans Haven – is a facility for homeless veterans. After being medically evaluated at a VA Medical Center, eligible veterans participate in a long-term program focusing on psychological, social and vocational rehabilitation.

- Startup funds totaling **\$3.5 million** are included in DMAVA's and Human Services' budgets for treatment services.
- The Veterans Haven facility in Gloucester County has helped nearly a thousand homeless veterans since opening. Three of every four veterans who complete the program remain off the streets for good and return to purposeful lives.

The Governor's Task Force for Recidivism Reduction:

Governor Christie has outlined a cross-departmental administration initiative to help even more offenders get the support they need to successfully re-enter society, break the cycle of criminality and lead productive lives. To address the current lack of coordination among the many treatment and re-entry programs across State government, Governor Christie signed Executive Order 83, creating the Governor's Task Force for Recidivism Reduction. The primary functions of the task force will be:

- Collecting and analyzing performance data for budgeting, programming and procurement purposes.

- Developing recommendations for the Governor regarding how best to ensure the effectiveness and success of New Jersey's efforts towards recidivism reduction
- Undertaking an initial benchmarking study of existing program effectiveness and performance, and the development and implementation of a system to measure program effectiveness in an ongoing, real-time way.

The purpose of this initiative will be to gauge the effectiveness of re-entry and rehabilitation programs and to ensure that these programs are guided and properly resourced based on results.

Ongoing Program Assessment And A Real-Time Recidivism Database:

The path forward to improve prisoner re-entry requires the Administration to gauge the successes, failures and the depth of gaps in program delivery – inside and outside of prison. Programming gaps will be rectified by expanding existing, successful programs and hitting capacity thresholds, particularly relating to program delivery within prison.

- Data will be used to populate a real-time recidivism database, which will allow the Administration to track outcomes for individuals and trends and level of effectiveness in programs in a real-time manner.

Governor Chris Christie Is Building On New Jersey's Strong Record Of Combating Recidivism:

In November 2011, taking action to build on the nationally recognized success of New Jersey's prisoner re-entry, rehabilitation and prevention programs, Governor Chris Christie outlined an initiative to help even more offenders get the support they need to successfully re-enter society, break the cycle of criminality and lead productive lives.

New Jersey is widely recognized as a national leader in reducing incidents of recidivism and reducing its prison population:

- The state's 11 percent recidivism decline is among the steepest declines of any state according to the Pew Center on the States' State of Recidivism report, "The Revolving Door of America's Prisons."
- Since 1999, New Jersey's prison population has declined more than 20 percent.

PROVIDING FOR THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF OUR MOST VULNERABLE CITIZENS

Funding New Jersey's Hospitals:

Providing the necessary resources to keep safety net hospitals operating, while recognizing that all hospitals provide care to the uninsured and underinsured, remains the principle behind hospital funding in fiscal year 2013. In response to concerns expressed by hospitals, fiscal year 2013 charity care payments will again be tied to the level of charity care provided during the most recent calendar year for which claims data is available. The amended distribution formula continues the principles of transparency, predictability and equity.

- *Despite economic challenges facing the state, hospital funding will be maintained at the enhanced fiscal year 2012 level. A total of \$986 million has been provided in the FY 2013 budget for hospital funding.*

Increasing Access To Health Centers:

Recognizing the comprehensive services New Jersey's 105 community health care centers provide to nearly half a million of the state's most vulnerable residents, Governor Chris Christie increased funding by \$10 million for these critical health facilities. The total number of patient visits each year exceeds 1.4 million. Nearly half of the patients are uninsured and 41% are on Medicaid.

- *Total support for FQHCs is now \$50 million in reimbursement for providing care to the uninsured – an all-time high.*

Increased Funding For Nursing Homes:

Governor Christie is increasing state funding for nursing home reimbursements by \$15 million over fiscal year 2012. Combined with federal matching funds, this represents \$30 million in additional resources available.

Protecting Health Care Coverage for Uninsured Children:

The Christie Administration has demonstrated its commitment to providing health care coverage for uninsured children by maintaining the income eligibility level for children's coverage at 350% of the federal poverty level – the second highest coverage level in the country.

- *During fiscal year 2013, New Jersey Family Care will use more than **\$1 billion** of State and federal resources to provide or subsidize health insurance for 162,088 children and 192,571 adults.*

Increasing Participation in Nutritional Assistance Programs:

The Christie Administration has engaged in an aggressive enrollment campaign to ensure that those who qualify for New Jersey's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Women, Infants and Children Supplemental Food Program (WIC) receive assistance:

- 751,446 individuals, including 365,180 children and 81,174 seniors are enrolled in the SNAP program;
- WIC has an average monthly participation in New Jersey of 168,631; and
- There are 135 permanent and satellite WIC clinics statewide in all 21 counties. Over 800 retail grocery stores are authorized to accept WIC checks.