

# North Jersey Health Collaborative



health matters

## NJHC February 2022 Newsletter

The North Jersey Health Collaborative has completed Community Health Needs Assessments in **Morris**, **Union**, **Passaic**, **Sussex**, and **Warren** counties. We are in the process of creating the Community Health Improvement Plans. Hope you can join us at our April meetings!

Upcoming Meetings:

Please check the [NJHealthMatters website](#) for our County Committee meetings and Cross Collaborative Forums. We hope you will join us as we work to improve the health of our communities.

Thanks to our 2022 Volunteer Officers and County Committee Chairs:

President and Chair of the Board of Trustees: Sherilyn Cagnetti

President-Elect: Maureen Cianci, RN

Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair: Trevor Weigle

Secretary: Amy Lewis, MPH MCHES

Morris County Committee Chair: Sarah Rubenstein, MPH

Passaic County Committee Chair: Catherine Scutti

Sussex County Committee Chair: Claudia Pelaez Yepes, MPH

Union County Committee Chair: Nicole Castellucci

Warren County Committee Chair: Pauline Shehata, MPH

Management Team: Executive Director: Laura O'Reilly Stanzilis RN, MSM

Administrative Support: Daniel Wikstrom

Thanks to our [Funding Partners and Board of Trustees](#) for their ongoing support!

### Message From the President

Sherilyn Cagnetti

President and Chair of the Board of Trustees



As President of the North Jersey Health Collaborative, I look forward in 2022 to continuing our work together addressing the health of our communities in which we live and work. Having completed our Community Health Needs Assessments in 2021, we look forward to implementation of our Community Health Improvement Plans. The mission of our Collaborative is to “Build Capacity to Improve Community Health using data to inform our CHNA’s and CHIP’s; to build networks across sectors and to provide a shared framework to leverage resources and demonstrate impact.” By working together to merge the mission of your organization with the mission of the Collaborative, we will work collaboratively with you this year to develop more focused action steps to address chronic disease and cancer, healthy aging, maternal and child health and mental health and substance abuse. We thank each of our partners for their support financially and with services in kind. Help the Collaborative to continue to build new partnerships to strengthen our work. Each of you has a voice in your community. Help to spread the word bringing in new organizations that also align with this work. Help to be a voice in your community that could bring larger corporations into this work to help to mutually support each other. We have all been challenged with the Covid Pandemic for the past 2 years. That pandemic has brought to the forefront the need to support optimal health and health equity in our communities. We have a lot to do!! And we are stronger working together. Let’s get to work.



## Atlantic Health System

This month from Atlantic Health System: Chronic Disease, Diabetes, and Cancer programming, and more! To view low and no-cost community health programming, visit [Atlantic Health System's Virtual Classes and Programs Community Event Calendar for February 2022](#).

RUTGERS

Cancer Institute of New Jersey

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Join Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey and Chef Afi Green in the kitchen for a Zoom culinary webinar series! Learn how to make healthy plant-based dishes and sharpen your cooking skills in these how-to sessions. Get ready to make & experience great tasting recipes! Registration Link:

[https://rutgers.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_AfxvgCjIRVO5OHd5f\\_4B2Q](https://rutgers.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_AfxvgCjIRVO5OHd5f_4B2Q)



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## Conversation of Your Life (COYL)

Attention health officers, community educators, and healthcare providers: The Conversation of Your Life (COYL) Program is looking for new volunteers to join their Morris & Essex County Task Forces. We can't predict when a medical emergency or serious illness is going to happen. However, we can help residents prepare ahead for these events by encouraging them to talk about what matters with those who matter the most. Task forces meet quarterly and play a lead role in designing, planning, and promoting COYL events in their county. It is vital to have local, trusted community members on the task force as making decisions about our wishes for care is a sensitive and personal issue.

Join us as we spark a community culture change so that speaking openly about advance care planning is normal and encouraged. Learn more about COYL [here](#).

**For more information, reach out to Katie Bisaha, Community Health and Policy Associate at the Quality Institute, at [kbisaha@njhcqi.org](mailto:kbisaha@njhcqi.org).**

## Put Us on the Map Challenge

**The Put Us on the Map Challenge is now open for applications**, and we invite proposals from cities and local organizations to add their small city to the Dashboard. Up to 10 communities will be selected and added to the website in summer 2022.

**Applications close on February 28th** at 5pm PST.

### Who can apply?

- U.S. municipalities, including cities, towns, townships, boroughs, and villages (within the 50 states) with populations 3,000 to 50,000.
- Individuals or teams represented by community members, policymakers, city government leaders and staff, students/student groups, teachers, and others. Partnerships showing cross-sector collaboration are a bonus!
- Most important: tell us why local data is important to your city, what you hope to accomplish with the data, and how data will make a difference in your community's health.

### What will selected cities get?

- Access to your city's data on the City Health Dashboard, including all of the website's features.
- Support from the Dashboard's team of experts to help you understand and leverage the data in your work.

A featured blog or Impact Story on the Dashboard, highlighting how health data makes a difference in your city. Copy and paste the following URL to preview an Impact Story:

[Apply to Put Your City on the Map!](#)

The application period will close on **Monday February 28th, 2022, 5pm PST**. If you are interested in learning more about how to apply, the Dashboard team will also be hosting a special Virtual Office Hours on Wednesday, February 16th at 2:00pm ET where we can answer any and all questions! [You can register for that here](#).

This is a unique chance to put your city on the map, and gain valuable public access to neighborhood-level data on health and its drivers for your community. Please reach out to Samantha Breslin, [samantha.breslin@nyulangone.org](mailto:samantha.breslin@nyulangone.org), if you have any questions.



Since 2011, NJ 211 has served as New Jersey's Utility Assistance Hotline, connecting residents with programs that lower the costs of home heating and medically necessary cooling. NJ 211's partnership with the Department of Community Affairs began to combat underutilization of utility assistance programs and led to the creation of a hotline with knowledgeable community resource specialists who explain home energy assistance programs, screen individuals for eligibility, and provide consumers with the locations and hours of their local agency.

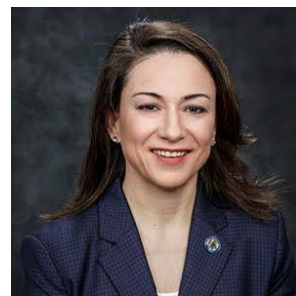
Income limits have increased this heating season significantly, opening up eligibility for more New Jerseyans. Please pass this information along!

More information on the [partnership, income limits, and applications is online](#). While some individuals and families may not be eligible for some utility assistance programs, community resource specialists can help explore other local resources.

*NJ 211 is a statewide information and referral agency that assists residents who need help with life's most basic needs. Our database is rich in resources to help with food, utilities, affordable housing, rental assistance, mental and physical health, substance use disorders, childcare, senior needs, legal advice, transportation, disability services, and more. We are multilingual, free, and available 24/7. You can reach us by dialing 2-1-1, texting your zip code to 898-211, or chatting through our website [nj211.org](http://nj211.org).*

## NJHC In the News!

### Assembly passes Dunn bill relaxing SNAP



**TRENTON, N.J.** – Financially-strapped New Jersey college students receiving Educational Opportunity Fund awards should not have to worry about how they are going to afford their next meal, says Assemblywoman Aura Dunn. Her bill calling on the federal government to relax the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program's 20-hour work requirements for EOF students was passed by the full Assembly on Monday.

"Thirty-six percent of students know someone who has dropped out due to food insecurity during the pandemic. This bill supports students and builds on our efforts to fight hunger on college campuses," Dunn (R-Morris) said.

Since SNAP was established pursuant to federal law, Dunn's bill (A4168) requires the N.J. Department of Human Services to apply to the federal Food and Nutrition Service to approve a waiver that would relax SNAP's work requirements for EOF award recipients. After federal approval, New Jersey would launch a public awareness campaign about the new SNAP eligibility criteria.

"We know that almost half of community college students have reported being food insecure at some point during their enrollment. While many colleges have responded by creating food banks and some even offering emergency grants, expanding SNAP eligibility would help significantly and may make the difference for some students in whether or not they can remain enrolled and persist to graduation," said Hudson County Community College's Secaucus Center and Early College Programs Executive Director Christopher Conzen.

Undergraduate EOF awards range from \$200 to \$2,650 annually depending on the type of institution and financial need. Forty-two of New Jersey's colleges and universities participate in the fund and oversee program participation, recruitment and admission.

"Economically disadvantaged and often first-generation college students in the EOF program are

really hurting from increased food costs and rising tuition rates,” Dunn added. “Many of us have to save and scrimp to be able to go to college, but forgoing food is a sacrifice no one should have to make.”

Laura O’Reilly-Stanzilis, executive director of The North Jersey Health Collaborative, stressed the importance of policies that recognize the connection between access to good nutrition and health outcomes later in life.

“The Covid-19 pandemic has displayed health inequities in communities, and economic burdens associated with the pandemic are making it increasingly more difficult for some individuals to have regular access to healthy food,” she said. “In order to improve future health outcomes, we must take actions to strengthen policies and improve practices to ensure that children and young adults have access to nutrition assistance.”

Currently, students, ages 18 to 49, attending an institution of higher education more than half-time are eligible for SNAP if they meet income and asset eligibility standards, and at least one of a number of other conditions like working at least 20 hours a week, caring for a child under 6 years old or participating in an on-the-job training program.

## Are we on YOUR schedule?

Stay tuned to our activities and our partners' events  
by checking our calendar frequently

[NJHC Meeting and Events Calendar](#)

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