



**Alliance for the Betterment of  
Citizens with Disabilities**

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**Empowering People: Providers Shaping Policies**

Governor Sherrill's FY'2027 Budget Proposal for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities and Delays  
and their Service Providers

Defending the Achievement

Dear Members, Colleagues and Friends,

Governor Mikie Sherrill delivered her first budget address on March 10, 2026, presenting a proposed \$60.7 billion dollar budget. Despite New Jersey's \$3 billion structural deficit and the looming possible cuts to Medicaid later this and next year, "the budget continues targeted investment in evidence-based programs that support individuals with disabilities."<sup>1</sup> ABCD is supportive of the additional monies provided for childcare assistance, Medicaid funding, and for rapid rehousing programs, which directly impact the population we serve and the people who serve them.

Several provisions in the proposed budget reflect meaningful recognition of the needs of our population:

- \$145 million trend increase to meet the needs of adults served in the community by the Division of Developmental Disabilities.
- \$9.1 million to annualize the January 1, 2026, CPI increase received by Direct Support Professionals and Supervisors
- \$22.4 million for the Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled (PAAD) and Senior Gold prescription discount programs.
- \$4.6 million for increased wages in the Preferred Preference Program.
- \$30.2 million to maintain a minimum monthly \$95 SNAP benefit for 40,000 households and \$85 million for aid to the State's food banks and emergency feeding organizations. SNAP helps one in three individuals with disabilities access affordable, nutritious food.
- Despite the burden imposed by H.R.1 wherein the federal government is cutting its share of SNAP administrative funding from 50 percent to 25 percent, shifting a significant cost burden onto states and counties, NJ will assume this \$71 million burden on behalf of counties.
- \$12.8 million for a statewide expansion of Family Connects NJ, the State's program to deploy registered nurses to conduct home visits for mothers and newborns within two weeks after

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<sup>1</sup> NJ FY 2027 Budget in Brief, page 25.

birth. “By embedding early intervention and health screenings directly in the home, this program improves maternal recovery, supports infant development, and proactively identifies urgent potential health concerns.”<sup>2</sup>

- Restoration of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund to its intended purpose, reducing diversions by more than \$70 million and making \$30 million available for new construction
- Continued focus by the Department of Labor and Workforce Development to provide career opportunities for individuals with disabilities. To ensure that workforce investments are delivering the strongest possible outcomes, Governor Sherrill is requesting a review of existing workforce development programming across the State. This review will evaluate program effectiveness, identify opportunities to better align training with employer demand, and improve coordination among state agencies.

ABCD is alert to the gaps this budget has not fully addressed which include support for the community-based licensed, certified and approved care providers. ABCD looks forward to working with the Administration and Legislature to ensure that the needs of our population are fully reflected in the final FY '27 budget which include a 3% COLA increase for Early Intervention and DDD Community providers in addition to increased support for those members of our community which are disproportionately disadvantaged due to multiple physical, neurological or mental health issues.

ABCD is grateful to the Sherrill Administration for their support of our community and looks forward to working with the Administration and Legislature to create a budget that truly serves our population.

Cathy Chin, Executive Director

March 11, 2026

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid, page 29.