



Alliance for the Betterment of  
Citizens with Disabilities

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**Empowering People: Providers Shaping Policies**

July 1, 2026

**Re: Fiscal Year 2027 State Budget. Defending the Achievement**

Dear Members, Colleagues and Friends,

The Sherrill Administration and the New Jersey Legislature have shown their commitment to investment in evidence-based programs which support individuals with disabilities. With the passage of federal HR1 and possible cuts to Medicaid, many states are considering cuts to optional services like HCBS. We laud Governor Sherrill and her Administration for their continued commitment to supporting and expanding the opportunity for individuals with IDD to live and thrive in the community through their continued support of Early Intervention and of the HCBS CCP/SP Waiver.

Despite the state's structural deficit and possible cuts to Medicaid beginning in October of 2026, their dedication to infants, toddlers and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities remains constant.

Several provisions in the FY 2027 State Budget recognize 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. As a result, more adults will be able to receive our services and at the level they require.
- Refusing to cut \$100 million from the budget for Home and Community Based services.
- \$9.1 million to annualize the January 1, 2026, CPI increase received by Direct Support Professionals and Supervisors
- \$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 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>1</sup>

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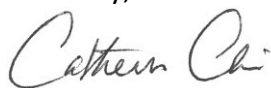
<sup>1</sup> State of New Jersey Budget in Brief, Fiscal Year 2027. page 29.

- \$23.9 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. NJ's actions will ensure continued access for individuals in need of nutritional assistance.
- 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. Individuals and their service system need firmer footing which would include an annual COLA and policies which do not disproportionately disadvantage those who have multiple physical, neurological, or mental health issues, the latter of which we have already begun to fight for through the 2028 Waiver process. The full needs of our diverse population must be reflected in our budgets and policies.

Finally, as we have shown from our monthly videos chronicling everything from individuals who built a life after decades of institutionalization to infants receiving therapies to minimize and prevent permanent disabilities, thank you for your continued efforts to expand and defend societies' achievements.

Sincerely,



Executive Director