



RAS J. BARAKA

MAYOR
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

December 10, 2025

To whom it may concern:

On behalf of the City of Newark, we are proud to express our strong support for RWJBarnabas Health (RWJBH) and the renewal of State-appropriated funds in the FY 2027 New Jersey State Budget. RWJBH has been an invaluable partner in our shared mission to build healthier, stronger, and more equitable communities—not only through clinical care, but through initiatives that address the root causes of health disparities and economic inequality.

RWJBH's commitment goes far beyond hospital walls. As an active member of the Hire.Buy.Live.Newark / Newark Anchor Collaborative, RWJBH plays a critical role in reducing poverty, creating local jobs, and shifting procurement dollars back into Newark. Their efforts to support Black and Latinx entrepreneurs and small businesses demonstrate a deep understanding that health and economic opportunity are connected. By tying these initiatives to the Hire.Buy.Live.Newark framework, RWJBH is helping to drive inclusive growth and create pathways for long-term community stability.

Our partnership with RWJBH has also brought innovative projects to life—like Harvest: An RWJBarnabas Health Farm to Community Center, located in the historic Hahne's Building on Halsey Street. This first-of-its-kind hub combats food insecurity, provides nutrition and wellness education, supports local food entrepreneurs, and offers space for community health programming. Harvest reflects RWJBH's holistic approach to health: addressing immediate needs while investing in sustainable solutions that empower residents.

Through collaborations like these, RWJBH has consistently shown up for Newark—mobilizing volunteers, distributing fresh produce, and expanding access to preventive health resources. Their support strengthens our ability to meet urgent needs and tackle systemic challenges. Over the past year alone, RWJBH's contributions have helped thousands of families access nutritious food and wellness education, while also creating opportunities for local businesses to thrive.

The continuation of State-appropriated funds to RWJBH is critical. These resources enable RWJBH to sustain and expand programs that directly impact Newark residents—programs that fight food insecurity, promote health equity, and drive economic inclusion. Without this funding, the ripple effect would be felt across our city: fewer families served, fewer local businesses supported, and fewer opportunities to address the social determinants of health that shape our community's future.

We deeply value RWJBarnabas Health as a trusted partner and anchor institution. Their leadership and investment in Newark's health and economic vitality make them an essential part of our city's progress. We urge the State to continue supporting RWJBH so that together, we can keep building a healthier, more equitable Newark for all.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Baraka', is positioned above the typed name.

Ras J. Baraka
Mayor of Newark