



December 4, 2025

It is my pleasure to express our strong support for RWJBarnabas Health and the renewal of State-appropriated funds to RWJBarnabas Health (RWJBH) in the FY 2027 New Jersey State Budget. Community Roots Health Collaborative is a community-based nonprofit dedicated to improving access to nutritious food, preventive health resources, and wellness education for underserved families across New Jersey. Our organization has more than a decade of experience addressing food insecurity and the social determinants of health, particularly in high-need neighborhoods. These State-appropriated funds allow RWJBH to support community-based programs like ours that directly address barriers to health and wellness.

Our mission is deeply aligned with RWJBH's commitment to building and sustaining healthier communities. RWJBH's role as an anchor institution, and its long-standing focus on addressing barriers that drive poor health outcomes, makes its partnership essential to the work we do. Through our collaboration, RWJBH has supported our year-round food access programs by providing volunteers, distributing nutrition education materials, and contributing fresh produce and holiday food resources. Over the past year alone, RWJBH's support enabled us to reach more than 8,000 families across our service area, significantly expanding our ability to meet urgent food needs and strengthen our outreach capacity.

We have worked closely with RWJBH for several years, and this partnership has proven consistently reliable, impactful, and mission-driven. Their expertise, community outreach infrastructure, and ability to mobilize resources have strengthened our programs and increased our capacity to serve vulnerable households. The continuation of State-appropriated funds to RWJBH is critical: without these funds, the system's ability to support community partners like ours would be significantly diminished. Reduced investment would directly affect the number of families we can reach, limit access to fresh and nutritious foods, and hinder our shared efforts to address the root causes of food insecurity across the state.

Visit us at: www.carcnj.org

 Community Affairs & Resource Center

We express our sincere appreciation for our partnership with RWJBarnabas Health and remain grateful for their ongoing commitment to building and sustaining healthier communities throughout New Jersey.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Beatriz Oesterheld". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Beatriz Oesterheld - CEO