



December 10, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to express our strong support for RWJBarnabas Health (RWJBH) and the renewal of State-appropriated funds to RWJBH in the FY 2027 New Jersey State Budget on behalf of La Casa de Don Pedro, one of Newark’s leading community development organizations. The support we receive from RWJBH allows our organization to invest directly in community-based initiatives and partnerships that advance health and well-being across our shared communities.

Our goals are deeply aligned with RWJBH’s mission to “partner with our communities to build and sustain a healthier New Jersey.” This partnership matters because RWJBH serves as an anchor institution uniquely positioned to address systemic health disparities and strengthen local capacity. Their support has been transformative for La Casa de Don Pedro. Most notably, RWJBH provided \$1 million to launch El Barrio Wellness, our new comprehensive mental health clinic—a much-needed resource for Newark families. This center delivers bilingual, trauma-informed counseling for children, adults, and families, and is helping us meet one of the most urgent needs in our community: equitable access to mental health care.

Our collaboration with RWJBH is longstanding and multifaceted. I am proud to serve on the Newark Beth Israel Medical Center’s Greater Newark Community Advisory Board which identifies and prioritizes community health needs to inform strategies that improve outcomes across Greater Newark. This shared commitment to addressing social determinants of health ensures that our partnership is not only impactful but strategic and forward-looking. Without continued State investment in RWJBH, these critical programs would face severe reductions—limiting access to mental health and other vital wellness services and weakening the safety net for thousands of families who depend on this support.

We express our sincere appreciation for our partnership with RWJBarnabas Health and their unwavering commitment to building and sustaining healthier communities. Continued State investment in RWJBH’s community partnerships is essential to sustaining programs that directly benefit residents across New Jersey.

Sincerely,

Peter T. Rosario
President & CEO
La Casa de Don Pedro

