

CITY
OF **NEWARK**
Mayor Ras J. Baraka

Department of Health and Community Wellness
Director's Office

A City We Can All Believe In

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To Whom It May Concern:

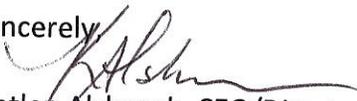
It is with great pleasure that I submit this letter of support for the renewal of State-appropriated funds to RWJ Barnabas Health (RWJBH) in the FY2027 New Jersey State Budget. RWJBH has been an invaluable partner to the City of Newark, serving as a benefactor and sponsor for a variety of interventions meant to address the socio-economic needs of the community.

The Newark Department of Health & Community Wellness is the local health department (LHD) for the City of Newark providing essential public health services that protect the health of its citizens. Its mission is to provide and advocate for comprehensive healthcare access and social and environmental services to all citizens and consumers so that they can attain an optimal level of health and well-being. The Newark Health Department also operate a federally qualified health center that provides medical and dental care, as well as behavioral health and women's health services.

Without the support of RWJBH, our health center would not be able to provide transportation services to our patients nor would we have been able to afford much needed upgrades to our medical and dental equipment. The holiday season can be a challenging time for those who are economically disadvantaged. With the help of RWJBH, our health department was able to provide much needed food assistance to our patients and their families. To address food security on a more consistent basis, the Department of Health is working with RWJBH to implement a Food Pharmacy program that adopts the "Food is Medicine" strategy and will help to manage underlying health conditions through dietary interventions.

The commitment and investment that RWJBH has given our organization is priceless to us. Without it, we could not expand to address the socio-economic needs of our patients and clients. We implore you to renew their state appropriated funding.

Sincerely,



Ketlen Alsbrook, CEO/Director
Newark Department of Health & Community Wellness
Mary Eliza Mahoney Health Center