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It is my pleasure to express our strong support for Robert Wood Johnson Barnabas Health and the renewal of State-appropriated funds to RWJBarnabas Health (RWJBH) in the FY 2027 New Jersey State Budget. The Newark Alliance is a multi-faceted organization with a 25-year history of driving inclusive growth through the combined strength and collaboration of its Members. We work across sectors to cement Newark's status as one of America's most diverse, prosperous, exciting, and equitable cities, serving as a national model for inclusive economic growth.

Robert Wood Johnson Barnabas Health has partnered with the Newark Alliance to implement an innovative, evidence-based model for street outreach for Newark's unhoused residents. An Advanced Practice Nurse and Social Worker, supported by RWJBH's investment, partner with the City's Homeless Outreach Team, Rutgers University College of Medicine Substance Use Disorder Clinic and Newark PD to form a cross-disciplinary team that delivers street outreach, case management, psychiatric assessments and access to medication, and that meets vulnerable Newarkers where they are, and links them to medical care and housing. RWJBH also supports a similar medical outreach model in Newark Penn Station, by dedicating two Community Health Workers to the outreach team, working to connect unhoused residents in and around Penn Station with medical care. It is my pleasure to express our strong support for RWJBH and the renewal of State-appropriated funds to RWJBarnabas Health in the FY 2027 New Jersey State Budget on behalf of Newark Alliance.

Newark Alliance works across sectors to build and support a vibrant, thriving Newark in part by addressing the underlying conditions necessary to access economic opportunity, including food security, healthcare access, environmental quality and housing. As the leading anchor healthcare institution and in Newark, RWJBH's partnership is vital to advancing this work, most recently through their support for medical street outreach. To date, these efforts have reached over 1,300 residents, placed more than 275 residents into shelter, referred over 175 residents directly into substance use disorder treatment, placed over 85 directly into housing, and provided on-the-spot psychiatric treatment to more than 80 unhoused residents.

In addition to our most recent collaboration around services to Newark's most vulnerable unhoused residents, Newark Alliance has previously worked with RWJBH on cross-sector analysis of the barriers to health access for Newark residents, which has served as a basis for innovative improvements to patient access, including Uber Health, and we are currently serving as a strategic partner in the development of RWJBH's downtown Newark Harvest facility. Harvest, slated to open in 2026, will create a hub for regional food security activities, nutrition and health education and support for Newark's thriving local food entrepreneurship sector. Newark Alliance is working closely with RWJBH to connect community partners and other Anchor institutions to the planning and implementation of Harvest.

Continued State investment in RWJBH's community partnerships is essential to sustaining programs that directly benefit the communities across New Jersey. For example, without RWJBH's support, the City will have to discontinue the innovative medical street outreach model in the Downtown District and Newark Penn Station, and much-anticipated community programming and small business supports planned for Harvest will be impacted.

We express our sincere appreciation and gratitude for our partnership with RWJBarnabas Health, and their commitment to building and sustaining a healthier Newark. We look forward to continuing to work together to support a healthy, vibrant Newark supported by critical State investment.

Sincerely,

Evan Weiss
President & CEO
Newark Alliance