



THIRTY-FIVE YEARS OF  
COMPASSIONATE CARE  
FOR OUR COMMUNITY

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On behalf of Zufall Health, I am expressing my strong support for RWJBarnabas Health and the renewal of State-appropriated funds to RWJBH in the FY 2027 New Jersey State Budget. Zufall Health is a nonprofit community health center providing access to quality and affordable medical, dental, and behavioral health care people who face barriers to care in northern and central New Jersey, including Essex County. Serving more than 50,000 patients annually, we are the fifth largest health center in the state by patient volume and consistently rank within the top 10 percent of our peers nationwide for clinical quality. These State-appropriated funds allow RWJBH to support organizations like ours that directly address health disparities for people who earn low incomes and are either Medicaid-insured or uninsured.

Zufall's partnership with RWJBH aligns closely with our belief that everyone deserves equal opportunity for good health. Two of the most impactful programs made possible by RWJBH's support in Essex County are our collaboration with Clara Maass Medical Center for pregnant patients, and Uber Health, a no-cost transportation service.

Established in 2016, our partnership with Clara Maass makes it possible for un/underinsured patients receiving prenatal care at Zufall - West Orange to deliver safely and affordably with a trusted hospital team in Belleville. This collaboration supports complete prenatal care, delivery, and postpartum follow-up, and it consistently produces excellent outcomes. In 2024, 99% of babies were born full-term and 98% had normal birthweight—both significantly higher than state averages and federal benchmarks. Patients also maintained near-perfect compliance with postpartum follow-up care last year.

Uber Health has become an indispensable resource for patients who use our West Orange office. The service makes it possible for people to reach critical care they may struggle to access elsewhere, including physicals and sick visits, dental services, mental health counseling, and medication for substance use disorders. The service also provides transportation to referral appointments with other providers. Without Uber Health, many West Orange patients would be forced to rely on limited public transportation options. For some, this would involve multiple bus transfers and travel times of 90 minutes or more—often an unrealistic option for someone working multiple jobs at a low hourly wage. Uber Health removes these barriers and allows patients to focus on their care rather than the logistics of getting there.

Continued State investment in RWJBH's partnerships is essential to sustaining programs that directly benefit people in need across New Jersey. If you require additional information about Zufall's work or our partnership with RWJBH, I would be happy to provide it.

Sincerely,

Michelle Blanchfield, MPH  
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*Providing care in Bridgewater, Dover, Flemington, Franklin Township, Hackettstown, Morristown, Newton, Plainsboro, Somerville, and West Orange and on the Highlands Health Van and Zufall Health Delta Dental Mobile*

