

[View this email in your browser](#)



QUALITY INSTITUTE NEWS & UPDATES

MWC 20th Anniversary Activities - How You Can Get Involved

For our 20th anniversary, MWC is focusing on four priority areas: capacity building, healthy aging, food security, and mental health, plus new monthly office hours. Our usual opportunities are still here too: interactive workshops and community health initiatives, funding opportunities, and public recognition.

[Explore our Activities Flyer](#)

Apply for our Community Mental Health Initiative Funding

The MWC is now accepting applications for the 2027 Community Mental Health Initiative, funded by Walmart in partnership with the New Jersey State League of Municipalities.

Municipalities may apply for \$5,000, \$10,000, or \$15,000 to support programs that address:

- Mental health
- Substance use
- Intimate partner violence
- Stigma reduction

Review the Technical Assistance Webinar recording below to learn about the funding opportunity, application process, and tips for developing a strong proposal.

[Review the RFP](#)

[Watch the Recording](#)

Monthly MWC Office Hours

Have a question about the MWC or want to talk through an idea for your community? Starting **October 20**, join the MWC team for **virtual office hours on the third Tuesday of every month at 12 p.m.**

These are informal, drop-in sessions with no set agenda. Bring your questions, ideas, or challenges related to MWC, Healthy Town, funding opportunities, community partnerships, program planning, or other health and wellness efforts. No preparation needed.

Register once to add the monthly office hours to your calendar, then join us whenever you need support.

[Register Here](#)

 MAYORS WELLNESS CAMPAIGN

MONTHLY OFFICE HOURS

 **OCTOBER 20**

 **12 P.M. TO 1 P.M.**

 **ZOOM**

<https://njhcqi.info/mwcofficehours>





HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT THE MAYORS WELLNESS CAMPAIGN OR WANT TO TALK THROUGH AN IDEA FOR YOUR COMMUNITY? JOIN US FOR OUR MONTHLY VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS!

Join Us at NJLM

Heading to the NJLM Annual Conference this November? Add these MWC opportunities to your schedule:

- **MWC Panel:** Join us on Tuesday, November 17, at 2 p.m. to hear from Red Bank, Linden, and Bass River about how they are advancing health and wellness in their communities. Hear ideas and lessons you can bring to your own town.
- **Chat with Health Commissioner Dr. Raynard E. Washington:** On Wednesday, November 18, at 1 p.m., following the State of Health Address, join us to connect with Commissioner Washington and discuss your community's health priorities.
- **Visit the MWC Booth:** Stop by Booth 107 to connect with our team, learn what is coming up for MWC, and sign the MWC Pledge to earn an entry into our Annual Incentive Drawing.



Mark your calendar and make MWC part of your NJLM Conference plans!

2026 Healthy Town Application Webinar

The 2026 MWC Healthy Town Application [opens for submissions on November 1, 2026](#) and is [due January 15, 2027, by 5 p.m.](#) Communities can begin preparing now by reviewing the application and rubric, gathering information on their 2026 health and wellness activities, and identifying areas they may want to strengthen before submitting.

Review the Healthy Town Application and watch the webinar recording for:

- Walkthrough of the application and scoring rubric,
- Guidance on developing a strong application,
- Examples from successful applications, and
- Tips for documenting your community's programs, policies, partnerships, and engagement

The recording is useful for both first-time applicants and communities seeking to renew their Healthy Town designation.



[Watch the Webinar Recording](#)

ICYMI: Watch our Municipal Resources Webinar

Our Connecting Municipalities with Organizations, Programs, & Resources Webinar brought together organizations working across New Jersey to share programs, resources, and partnership opportunities available to municipalities.

[Watch the recording](#) and [view the presentation slides](#) to learn about resources related to:

- Mental health and substance use
- Food security
- Healthy aging
- Community planning, funding, and partnerships



COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Social Connections Conference

Join [Samaritan](#) and the Social Isolation, Loneliness and Connection Collaborative (SILCC) on **December 10** for a half-day conference focused on addressing social isolation and loneliness in New Jersey.

The conference will bring together municipalities, community organizations, health care providers, aging and disability services, policymakers, researchers, and other partners to explore program innovations, cross-sector partnerships, and strategies for strengthening social connection.

- **When:** Thursday, December 10, 8:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
- **Where:** Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Princeton, NJ
- **CEUs:** Available for multiple disciplines, including social workers, nurses, physicians, and pharmacists

[Learn More and Register Here](#)

Grandparents for Vaccines: A Storytelling Movement

Grandparents for Vaccines is a growing, volunteer-driven nonprofit movement helping communities remember what life was like before vaccines protected children from diseases such as measles, polio, and rubella. [Grandparents for Vaccines NJ](#) is seeking mayors, community partners, volunteers, and grandparents willing to share their real-life stories of “the bad old days” to replace fear and confusion with trust and protection.

Mayors can help by connecting Grandparents for Vaccines NJ with senior groups, libraries, schools, health organizations, and residents who have a story to share, want to learn more, or would like to volunteer. All are welcome!

[Learn More](#)

[Contact Grandparents for Vaccines NJ](#)

“Technoference” and Relational Health in the Family

There is growing concern about the overuse of digital devices, not just by children and youth, *but by adults, too*, and its effects on the quality of parent-child relationships.



The NJ Department of Children and Families (DCF) has launched a website, [DCF | Technoference](#), with many resources and a [public service awareness campaign](#) video related to **Technoference** — the everyday interruptions in interpersonal interactions between parents/caregivers and their children, caused by digital devices — and its growing impact on relational health, family dynamics, and child development.



Free Naloxone in Your Community

Through New Jersey's [Naloxone365](#) program, residents ages 14+ can obtain free, anonymous naloxone at participating pharmacies, no prescription needed. Municipalities can use the State's website to identify participating pharmacies, share locations with residents, and access information on responding to an opioid overdose and free community naloxone trainings.

[Explore Naloxone365 and Find Participating Pharmacies](#)

NJ FamilyCare Changes Webinar

Join [New Jersey Citizen Action](#) on **September 30 at 7 p.m.** for a public webinar on upcoming changes to NJ FamilyCare work requirements. The webinar will cover what is changing, who may be affected, and what residents need to know to maintain their health coverage. Municipalities and community organizations can also use this information to help residents understand and prepare for the new requirements.

[Register Here](#)

Use Urban Forestry to Support a Healthier Community

[Vibrant Cities Lab](#) is a free resource from the USDA Forest Service and American Forests that helps communities plan, build, and maintain healthy urban forests. Municipal leaders can access an Urban Forestry Roadmap, research, case studies, and practical tools related to tree canopy, community engagement, tree equity, planning, policies, funding, and maintenance.

[Explore the Vibrant Cities Lab](#)

NJDOH's Community Calendar

[The New Jersey Department of Health](#) has launched Stay Well, Learn Well, a statewide campaign connecting families with health and wellness resources. The Community Calendar helps residents find local vaccination clinics, health screenings, family wellness events, and other services across New Jersey. Municipalities can share the calendar with residents and submit their own upcoming health and wellness events to help more families find local resources.

[Explore the Community Calendar and Submit an Event:](#)



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program

Due: October 13, 2026

Funding Amount: Up to \$600,000

The USDA Forest Service's [Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program](#) provides funding to local governments, Tribes, and qualified nonprofits to acquire private forestland and establish community forests. Projects must protect forestland from conversion and provide public benefits such as recreation, environmental benefits, economic opportunities, or forest-based education. Public access and a funding match are required.

[View the Funding Opportunity](#)

2026 National Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Cost Share Grant Program

Due: October 12, 2026

Funding Amount: \$200,000– \$750,000

The USDA Forest Service's [2026 National Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Cost Share Grant Program](#) supports projects that develop or expand ways to reuse wood from tree pruning, removals, storms, pests, and disease. Projects can turn this wood into products such as lumber, furniture, flooring, or biochar while reducing

disposal costs, supporting workforce development, and strengthening community resilience. This opportunity may be particularly relevant for municipalities and partners interested in connecting urban forestry with sustainability, waste reduction, workforce development, and local economic opportunities.

[Apply Here](#)

Local Food Security Funding

[The New Jersey Office of the Food Security Advocate \(OFSA\)](#) maintains a regularly updated list of funding opportunities that align with New Jersey's approach to food security. Municipalities and community partners can use the page to identify grants supporting food access, healthy communities, local food systems, partnerships, and related initiatives. OFSA periodically adds funding opportunities, making this a useful resource to check throughout the year.

[Explore Food Security Funding Opportunities](#)

NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE
QUALITY INSTITUTE

THANK YOU TO OUR 2026 - 2027
MAYORS WELLNESS CAMPAIGN SPONSORS

CRYSTAL

 GILEAD  Hackensack Meridian Health  UHC

PLATINUM

 AmeriHealth  capitalhealth  Horizon  Medina Social Services Foundation

GOLD

 NJM Insurance Group  RUTGERS HEALTH Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy  Summit Health vimo®

SILVER

 inspira HEALTH  AtlantiCare  New Bridge Medical Center  Bristol Myers Squibb  HolyName  JASFEL ANALYTICS  MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY  the NEW JERSEY YMCA STATE ALLIANCE  Parker  Planned Parenthood

SILVER

 RUTGERS HEALTH University Behavioral Health Care  sanofi  Valley Health System  Virtua Health  advocate  BAYER  CarePlus NEW JERSEY  CHEMED  Children's Hospital of Philadelphia  CJFHC

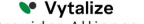
SILVER

 COMMUNITY FOUNDATION of NEW JERSEY  Fox Rothschild  Integrity  NABIP  novo  RWJ Barnabas Health  Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Hamilton  rwjf robert wood johnson foundation

SILVER

 Saint Clare's Health  SAINT PETER'S HEALTHCARE SYSTEM  Samaritan  St. Joseph's Health  Taft  THE COOPERATIVE

SILVER

 RWJ Barnabas Health  Trinitas Regional Medical Center  Vanova Health  vna Health Group  Vytalize  MAYORS WELLNESS CAMPAIGN



[More Information:](#)

Mayors Wellness Campaign: Katie Bisaha - kbisaha@njhcqi.org.

Become a Member: Virginia Tesser - vtesser@njhcqi.org.

To learn more about our current initiatives, please visit our website at www.njhcqi.org.

Copyright 2023 *|NJHCQI, All rights reserved.*

Our mailing address is:

New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute

P.O. Box 2246, Princeton, New Jersey 08543

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).