



# NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE QUALITY INSTITUTE

**A BI-WEEKLY LOOK AT THE BUSINESS & POLITICS OF  
HEALTH CARE IN NEW JERSEY**

## What's Included In This Edition:

**Schwimmer Script** - Time To Strengthen, Not Destroy, Medicaid

**Take Five Interview** - Robert Brenner, MD, MMM, FACHE, President & CEO of Valley Health System

**Conversation of Your Life (COYL) Partner Meeting Highlights**

**Maternity Action Plan Virtual Work Session Round-Up**

**What We're Reading.**



## Schwimmer Script

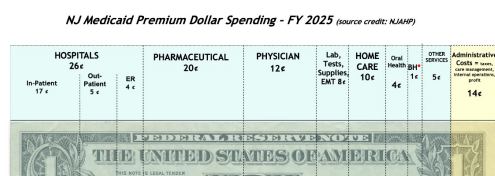
Linda Schwimmer, JD  
President & CEO,  NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE QUALITY INSTITUTE

## Time To Strengthen, Not Destroy, Medicaid

As New Jersey lawmakers work on the next budget, Congress is considering deep cuts to federal programs, including Medicaid. Strengthening New Jersey's Medicaid program is a central focus of the Quality Institute and critical to our members. Medicaid is the largest overall funder of health care services in New Jersey. The program's mission is to ensure that children, people with disabilities, those who are pregnant, the elderly, and people with no-to-low-income have access to essential health care.

Today, New Jersey Medicaid covers about 1.8 million people, including one in three children. The program is jointly funded, with a current annual overall cost of \$24 billion, comprised of \$14 billion from federal funds and \$10 billion in state funds (Details on who is covered and a breakdown of expenditures can be found in Charts no.1 and 2).

Eligibility Category	Age < 21	Age > 20	Total
Aged	0	105,991	105,991
Blind	81	781	862
Disabled	31,326	168,082	199,408
Non-ABD Children	837,844	0	837,844



Non-ABD Adults	22,386	690,732	713,118
<b>Total</b>	<b>891,637</b>	<b>965,586</b>	<b>1,857,223</b>

Chart 1



Notes - This Does Not Reflect Spending On MLTSS Including Nursing Homes and Other Home Care Services.  
 \* FY 2023 Total Behavioral Health (BH) was excluded from MLTSS spending.  
 - All Data based on SFY 2022 FRC NJ Medicaid Managed Care Capitation Rates.  
 - Pharmaceutical does not include injectable Rx.

Chart 2

If the proposed cuts are enacted, the impact will be painful and unprecedented. The New Jersey Department of Human Services [created a comprehensive review](#) of each of the proposed cuts being considered by Congress and outlined how each would directly reduce the \$14 billion in federal funds New Jersey currently receives. These cuts are so large that the state will not be able to replace the lost funds - meaning people would lose Medicaid coverage or benefits would be drastically reduced...

[Read Full Story](#)

# TAKE FIVE INTERVIEW

Robert Brenner, MD, MMM, FACHE  
*President & CEO, Valley Health System*



## Interviews with members, influencers, and noteworthy people

[Valley Health System](#) is a member of the Quality Institute's Provider Council.

**Interview Sneak Peek:** *You have focused on alternative payment models for many years. Can you share how Valley Health System participates in these models?*

The value-based model in health care is not moving as aggressively away from fee-for-service as we thought it would. We are going to always have, as people say, one foot in the canoe, one foot on the dock. Having said that, we have shared savings models with most insurers.

[ColigoCare](#), our clinically integrated network, is ranked #1 in New Jersey and 12th of the 453 ACOs in the nation. We are top tier in Horizon and have a 100 percent quality score with Aetna and UnitedHealthcare. Our clinically integrated network works toward improving quality and reducing costs. We have benefited from shared savings, but we are mostly focused on quality for our patients...

[Read Full Interview](#)



Thank you to everyone who joined our April 3rd [Conversation of Your Life \(COYL\)](#) Partner Meeting, featuring a [powerful discussion](#) on Medical Aid in Dying (MAiD) with guest speaker Elizabeth Stanton, MSN, Ed, of [Compassionate Endings NJ](#). As we recognize [National Healthcare Decisions Day](#) on **April 16th**, we encourage you to lead by example—reflect on your health care preferences, start conversations with those you care about, and ensure your wishes are documented.

Your leadership helps normalize and advance these vital conversations in our communities. If your organization is hosting an event or campaign in honor of National Healthcare Decisions Day, let us know; we're happy to help amplify your efforts.

[Become a COYL Partner](#)

[Register for the Next COYL Partner Meeting](#)



We had an incredible turnout of 200+ people for our [Maternity Action Plan \(MAP\)](#) virtual session, *Pregnancy Under Pressure: A Coordinated Response to Preeclampsia*, on April 2nd. Experts shared insights on barriers, community solutions, and policies to improve maternal health equity.

The key takeaway was the importance of coordinated, equity-driven efforts for early care to prevent preeclampsia. If you missed it or want to revisit, check out the full presentation and all [MAP resources](#). Join us for our next virtual work session on **June 11th** from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., which will focus on postpartum care.

[Watch the Recording](#)



[Op-Ed: It's time for more NJ leaders to support services that keep people housed, NJ Spotlight](#): In this op-ed, Kathleen Noonan, President and CEO of the Camden Coalition, draws attention to the proven fiscal and other long-term benefits of housing-first programs.



For information on how to join, please contact Virginia Tesser at [vtesser@njhcqi.org](mailto:vtesser@njhcqi.org).

To learn more about our current initiatives, please visit our website at [www.njhcqi.org](http://www.njhcqi.org).

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