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Spotlight on Primary Care: Share Your Story

Welcome, New Member - The Institute for Data, Research, and Innovation Science (IDRIS)



Quality Institute Co-Leading the Essential Jobs, Essential Care New Jersey Coalition

Everyone cared for at home, in a group home, or in a long-term care facility, is supported by a workforce that often is unseen or undervalued. Yet without these direct care workers, our health care system would collapse. At the Quality Institute, we know that achieving safer, more accessible, and higher-quality health care must include support for those who care for our state's older adults and people with disabilities. The workers taking care of our most vulnerable residents include Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs), Home Health Aides, and Direct Support Professionals — all of whom generally make just above minimum wage for their essential and challenging work.

CNAs mostly work in nursing homes; Home Health Aides work in homes; and Direct Support Professionals work with people who have developmental disabilities. While these direct care workers often serve in different settings, their shared experiences

and challenges make their collective voice more powerful. Nationally, a coalition, Essential Jobs, Essential Care, was launched in 2020 to bring these workers together to advocate for improved wages and career pathways, including increased access to training.

The Essential Jobs, Essential Care Coalition is led by PHI, a national organization focused on the direct care workforce. The Coalition began in Michigan, North Carolina, and New Mexico before coming to New Jersey in 2022. The Quality Institute co-leads the [Essential Jobs, Essential Care New Jersey Coalition](#), working alongside PHI and many of our members to elevate and amplify the voices of direct care workers...

[Read Full Story](#)

TAKE FIVE INTERVIEW

Brittany L. Holom-Trundy, PhD,
Senior Policy Analyst, New Jersey Policy Perspective



Interviews with members, influencers, and noteworthy people

[New Jersey Policy Perspective](#) is a member of the Quality Institute's Consumer Council.

Interview Sneak Peek: *How should the New Jersey state budget be changed to help more people access care and meet social needs to promote a healthier state?*

Our state budget reflects the values we prioritize. A key lesson we must apply is the importance of proactively investing in health care. Yet the funding for that investment is currently being threatened at the federal level, with billions of dollars at stake. So it is essential that we identify revenue and plan our state budget in such a way that we can continue to commit state funding to our essential health programs and coverage - like Cover All Kids - and ensure that everybody has access to affordable coverage and care through uncertain times.

With the looming federal cuts we know more people will be uninsured and relying on programs like Charity Care, so that means leaders will need to increase support, both in the health care setting and through anti-poverty programs, that helps residents who are starting to fall through gaps and may not have the coverage to pay for all of the care they need. And it also means dedicating funding wherever possible to keeping both data and facilities secure so that no one fears seeking care...

[Read Full Interview](#)

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT



The Quality Institute, in partnership with [Seton Hall Law](#), recently submitted [joint comments](#) to the [New Jersey Department of Health](#) supporting proposed regulations to create a single integrated license for outpatient care. This important step will help break down barriers to coordinated physical and behavioral health care. We offered targeted recommendations to strengthen the rule and ensure it advances equity, efficiency, and whole-person care. Thank you to Seton Hall Law and to our members who signed on to lend their voices to this collective effort.

[Read Comments](#)

[Op-Ed: New Jersey must act to protect public health from federal sabotage](#), *NJ Spotlight News*: In this op-ed, Dr. Eddy Bresnitz, the former deputy commissioner and state epidemiologist for the [New Jersey Department of Health](#), Heather Howard, a Professor of Practice at [Princeton University's School of Public and International Affairs](#), and Linda Schwimmer, the President and CEO of the Quality Institute, discuss how New Jersey can take immediate action to protect vaccine access and safeguard public health following recent changes to federal vaccine advisory bodies.

[Read the Op-Ed](#)



SPOTLIGHT ON PRIMARY CARE: SHARE YOUR STORY

[Primary care clinicians](#)—help us show the impact of your work.

We're collecting brief stories that highlight how your care has made a meaningful difference in patients' lives. These real-life examples will strengthen our advocacy for comprehensive primary care in New Jersey.

[Your voice helps us bring the human impact of primary care to light](#)—thank you for your continued dedication.

Please do not include names, locations, or any PHI.



[Share Your Story](#)

NEW MEMBER



WELCOME

[The Institute for Data, Research, and Innovation Science](#) (IDRIS), an interdisciplinary hub for applied ethical scholarship and practice in data science, emerging technologies and society. IDRIS focuses on data-driven solutions to address difficult problems facing local, state, national and global urban communities. "Data work is what we do."



For information on how to join, please contact Virginia Tesser at vtesser@njhcqi.org.

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

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