

SHA will be advocating for the following budget line items as presented by Governor Murphy.

HOUSING

- Additional \$100 million in federal ARP funds for the preservation of affordable units and development of new workforce housing units.
- \$15 million investment in First-Generation Homebuyer Down Payment Assistance.

HOUSING SUPPORT

- \$3.5 million to create 150 community placements or housing subsidies for individuals with mental illness.
- \$12 million to increase housing assistance rates to reflect fair market rent increases, ensuring that rental amounts are sufficient for continued access to housing for individuals. FMR rent increases will include programs within the Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services (DMHAS), Division of Developmental Disabilities, (DDD) and Division of Family Development (DFD). The funding will increase housing assistance and vouchers for direct rental payments for DMHAS and DFD. For DDD, this includes \$5 million to fund a 10 percent increase in the housing component of the rates paid to group home providers.
- \$13 million to develop housing options for individuals residing in nursing facilities and institutional settings who could be supported in the community and wish to transition to less restrictive settings. This initiative will be primarily focused on individuals under the age of 65 with mental illness and/or intellectual and developmental disabilities.

PROVIDER SUPPORT

- \$72 million in state and federal funding for an increase across the board for all fee-for-service I/DD provider rates to partially offset the impact of inflation.
- Nearly \$37 million in state and federal funding to support community providers of behavioral health services.

WORKFORCE

- Direct support professionals, or DSPs: More than \$83 million in state and federal funding for another DSP and supervisor wage increase.
- \$250,000 in state and federal funding for a support brokerage rate increase
- Certified nurse aides: \$30 million in state and federal funding to raise wages for these workers who provide the majority of the direct care in most nursing facilities.
- Private duty nurses: Increasing the Medicaid reimbursement rate for private duty nurses to \$62 per hour when provided by a registered nurse and \$50 per hour when provided by a licensed practical nurse.
- Major investments in workforce development to include Nearly \$20 million for loan redemption and similar programs for community-based care workers in fields such as behavioral health care, private duty nursing, applied behavioral analysis, and substance use disorder treatment and up to \$60 million for recruitment and retention bonuses for the workforce that serves individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, mental health conditions, and substance use disorder.

OTHER

- The budget eliminates the 28-day waiting period for individuals eligible for the General Assistance program.
- \$30 million to ensure that all SNAP households in New Jersey receive at least \$95 in monthly SNAP benefits
- Expanding the Senior Freeze property tax relief program to those with incomes up to \$150,000. That means additional property tax relief for 50,000 more older adults.
- \$1.4 million to increase income limits by another \$10,000 under the Pharmaceutical for the Aged and Disabled, or PAAD, and Senior Gold prescription assistance programs that help eligible seniors and individuals with disabilities save money on prescription drug costs.