



May 28, 2024

Burlington County Board of Commissioners
49 Rancocas Road, Room 123
P.O. Box 6000
Mount Holly, NJ 08060

Dear Commissioners,

It is with great enthusiasm that I write to share a new program recently launched by Mental Health America (MHA) with support from Otsuka America Pharmaceuticals, Inc. called Equity Impact Zones (EIZ). The EIZ program will help New Jersey communities implement and sustain solutions to address mental health equity gaps. Through Otsuka's support of MHA, the first EIZ program will offer multi-year grant funding to non-profit organizations in Burlington County and the City of Trenton that are actively working to improve mental health equity in local communities.

As you may be aware, Otsuka and its affiliates oversee research, development and commercialization activities for innovative products in North America. At Otsuka, our driving philosophy is to defy limitation so others can too. We respect the value within every mind—whether it's a grand idea that changes the world, a simple human connection that changes someone's life, or something in between.

Each community eligible for funding through the EIZ program will have a community-based and community-led strategy for addressing their specific mental health equity need. The goal of this investment is to enable recipients to quickly deliver a visible improvement soon after a project has begun, as well as to demonstrate plausibility, scalability, and the possibility of change.

Of particular note, MHA will offer each non-profit funded through the program technical support and assist each organization in building a Community Impact Board (CIB). These are local multi-sector collective impact vehicles that are based on collective impact theory—bringing multiple stakeholders together to target a shared goal, in this case scaling an evidence-informed mental health metric.

Interested non-profit organizations in Burlington County or the City of Trenton will need to take an eligibility assessment and if eligible, apply by submitting a concept proposal by Monday, May 20, 2024. If selected by early June, organizations will be invited to submit a full application by Friday July 19, 2024. Both the eligibility assessment and more information can be found on MHA's website at www.mhanational.org

We appreciate the opportunity to help inform you and your constituents about this valuable program that will help our communities lead the way to increasing equity around mental health. We would be happy to discuss this program further with you or your staff. Patrick Stone of our State Government Affairs team can be reached at (410) 279-6012 or Patrick.Stone@otsuka-us.com should you have further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Debra Barrett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'D' and 'B'.

Debra Barrett
Vice President, Corporate Affairs
Otsuka America Pharmaceutical, Inc.