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Together in Health

*Newsletter of The Healthcare
Foundation of New Jersey*

Issue 6 - September 2023

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Our Impact Report



Read our 2022 Impact Report [here](#).

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Healthy Individuals, Healthy Communities

Dear Community Partner,

What makes a person healthy? The food we eat. The exercise we get and the fresh air we breathe. The ability to receive high-quality, appropriate medical care where and when we need it. The feeling of security in our neighborhood and the contentedness we have with life.

At The Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey, we have – since our founding in 1996 – understood that what constitutes “health” consists of much more than what goes on in doctors’ offices or hospitals. As such, we have supported a multi-pronged and pluralistic approach to servicing the needs that keep individuals and communities healthy.

prevention programs, and much more. Each grant cycle, we classify the grants we give across ten categories – hospitals; medical care; behavioral health; health worker training; public health & prevention; food insecurity and access; homelessness; social services; humanism in medicine; and research.

Our just-concluded third quarter grant cycle reflects well the diversity of human needs our grantmaking addresses. We took a pause in regular giving during the second quarter of 2023 to spend time to reflect internally on our processes and launch new initiatives (see below). This quarter, therefore, represents a roaring back into grantmaking. During the summer we reviewed 28 requests for funding, and we are pleased to announce that we will be making 20 awards totaling \$2,802,521. Read below for details on this quarter's awards and the variety of human needs addressed - vision care for children; dental care for veterans; food for the hungry; mental health counseling for young people; and more. This quarter's diverse grant docket demonstrates well the holistic approach HFNJ takes to addressing the full health of an individual and that of the community.

In good health!



Amy Schechner Michael Schmidt
Board Chair Executive Director and CEO

HFNJ Announces \$2,802,521 in Third Quarter Giving

We are pleased to announce that HFNJ has awarded \$2,802,521 to twenty New Jersey non-profit organizations in the third quarter of 2023.

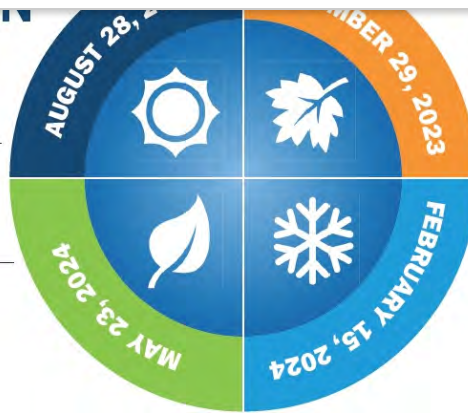
The majority of the grants awarded this quarter (15 of the 20) were second- or third-year renewals of projects previously funded by HFNJ. The two largest grants of the quarter were both new projects. The South Ward Alliance will receive \$500,000 to fund the South Ward Wellness Center, which will provide healthcare, social services, maternal health, community programs, and a fitness center at one easily accessible location in the heart of the Newark's South Ward. University Hospital Foundation will receive \$400,000 to launch a mobile breast cancer screening program.

[Learn about all our recent grantees](#)

APPLICATION DEADLINES

FUNDING TO COMMENCE IN
DECEMBER 2024

FUNDING TO COMMENCE IN
SEPTEMBER 2024



FUNDING TO COMMENCE IN
MARCH 2024

FUNDING TO COMMENCE IN
JUNE 2024

Q&A: HFNJ's Revised Application Forms

Over the past quarter, HFNJ continued our efforts to improve our internal processes and be responsive to changing community needs by updating our grant application forms. Staff members along with Board Chair Amy Schechner, Honorary Board Chair Beth Levithan, and Grants Evaluation Co-Chair Sue Wasserman examined our existing forms and revised them to clarify the information we seek, while reducing redundancies throughout the process.

Q: What are the different types of applications that organizations can choose from when applying for funding from HFNJ?

A: HFNJ currently has five grant types for which nonprofit organizations may apply. **Standard grants** provide support for 12-month projects. **Renewal grants** are requests for an additional year of funding of previously awarded grants. **Capital grants** are funds for construction/renovation projects or large equipment purchases. **Special One-time grants** are awards up to a maximum of \$35,000 for unique one-time or emergency needs and are awarded on a rolling basis rather than in a granting cycle. Finally, the Foundation provides a limited number of **Multi-year awards**. These applications are invitation-only and do not have a publicly accessible application form. Any applicants considering applying for multi-year grants must first speak with HFNJ's CEO Michael Schmidt.

"We are pleased to introduce three substantially revised and one brand new application form. HFNJ employs a rigorous review process, and these refreshed applications ensure that our trustees will get the pertinent information they need to evaluate the strength of the proposal, while streamlining the process for those requesting funding."

-Beth Levithan, HFNJ Honorary Chair

Q: What are the major changes grantees will notice with the new forms?

A: While HFNJ has awarded capital grants since its founding, this is the first time the Foundation will use a separate application form for capital requests. The form puts an emphasis on helping us understand the timeline and ultimate impact of the project. Because the impact of capital projects extends far beyond the typical 12-month time frame of our grants, the application does not require a logic model, and has tailored requirements for evaluation.

For the standard and renewal applications, the role of the logic model has increased emphasis. Applicants will use a revised logic model template to demonstrate their project design. In addition, areas of the application form that largely repeated information contained on the logic model (such as objectives and outcomes) have been removed to eliminate redundancy. There is a heightened emphasis on data collection and forms of evaluation, with more specificity asked about how grantees intend to measure the impact of their project.

"Our hope is that the new application forms will allow aspiring grantees to share details about their proposed projects in a straightforward manner, with less duplication, and focus more on the expected impact of the grant and how they will measure success."

-Sue Wasserman, HFNJ Trustee and Co-Chair Grants Evaluation Committee

Q: Have the application deadlines changed?

A: The deadlines have *not* changed. HFNJ will consider special one-time requests on a rolling basis and will consider all other requests on a quarterly schedule, which can be found [on our website](#). The next application deadline is November 28, 2023, for awards in early 2024.

Q: Where can I go for more information?

A: We have created a new [page on our website](#) with specific details on what is required for each of our application types, as well as the calendar of upcoming application deadlines.

Interview: Jasmine Joseph-Forman, Chief Program Officer of Newark Opportunity Youth Network

Jasmine Joseph-Forman is Chief Program Officer at Newark Opportunity Youth Network (NOYN). For the past two years, HFNJ has funded an innovative partnership between NOYN and District 1199J (a local healthcare workers union) to train young people to enter the health professions. In this interview, she explains how the program is already making a difference in the healthcare industry in greater Newark.



How has the employment environment for the health professionals you train changed in recent years - especially as a result of the pandemic?

Today, employers require more skilled and qualified workers than are available. We've also seen that the average age of those in the health professions continues to rise, and it rose even more so since the pandemic. This means there is a huge need for younger workers. In addition, it has become evident that healthcare workers need to come with stackable credentials and be able to use those skills immediately. This creates a demand for strong employability skills and adequate training.

What is the definition of an "Opportunity Youth?" And how does training these young people to enter health professions advance health equity?

Opportunity youth are young people ages 16-24 who are not in school and are not working. Training these young people to enter health professions advances health equity by placing them in an industry where they would normally be excluded. In addition, this collaboration and ability to train young people supports diversity in the field and helps to dismantle unfair practices within health systems.

[Read the full interview](#)

Video: Ribbon Cutting for Trinitas Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities

On July 13th, HFNJ's Board Chair Amy Schechner and Executive Director/CEO Michael Schmidt were honored to join the team at Trinitas Regional Medical Center for a ribbon cutting of its new Center for Autism and Developmental Disorders.



Funded in part by a \$1 million challenge grant from The Healthcare Foundation of NJ, the Center is New Jersey's only hospital facility dedicated to caring for people with autism and other disorders who may need acute psychiatric hospitalization, crisis stabilization and psychiatric assessment.

Article: HFNJ Bus Tour of Newark

In June, over a dozen trustees and staff members of HFNJ embarked on a unique bus tour of Newark to connect with current HFNJ grantees and reconnect with the Foundation's roots. The tour highlighted the theme of interconnectedness: connecting the past to present and strengthening the ties of Foundation trustees and staff to the community.



On July 14, *NJ Jewish News* published an article by The Healthcare Foundation of NJ's Executive Director/CEO Michael Schmidt and Grants and Community Outreach Manager Kevin McManemin which describes the tour in detail.

[Read the article](#)

What We Are Reading and Watching

- An extraordinary [front-page feature in *The New York Times*](#) covers how NJY Camps is dealing with the mental health crisis affecting young people as they attend camp this summer – thanks in a large part to a grant from HFNJ.
- Newark is an urban heat island. [In *NJ Spotlight News*](#), Bobby Brier covers efforts to turn the temperature down in Newark - and focuses on the Ironbound's Down Bottom Farms.
- Kean University [spotlights Professor Zahava Friedman](#), Ph.D, and her HFNJ-funded project “Raising Families,” which brings together interdisciplinary teams to support child development and parent mental health.
- [NJ Jewish News](#) writes about South Orange's JESPY House, which HFNJ has supported since 1997. The article charts how the organization has grown over the years while staying true to their Jewish roots as it advances its mission of helping adult with developmental disabilities.

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