

# ON BOARD

January 10, 2024



News and Views from the New Jersey Local Boards of Health Association

Saturday, January 20, 2024  
**NJLBHA Board Meeting**  
10:00 AM EST

[Meeting  
Details](#)

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[Current Articles and Requests for Participation](#)

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[Maintaining Vigilance for Cases of Measles Amidst Measles Cluster in Philadelphia](#)

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Dear Colleagues,

Recently we shared the news with you that Maisha Simmons has been promoted to a new position at RWJF and that Kerry Anne McGearry will lead our New Jersey grantmaking in an interim leadership role for six months while we conduct a search for our next leader.

Today we are pleased to share the official job posting, which is [linked here](#).

Elevating this position to an assistant vice president reflects our strong and growing commitment to dismantling structural racism and addressing the social determinants of health to promote fair and just opportunities for health and wellbeing for everyone in New Jersey.

RWJF's New Jersey department plays a special, unique role in our Foundation. It embodies our deep, abiding commitment to our home state. This new position will help us capitalize on bringing RWJF's nationally developed tools, resources, networks, and assets to bear as a strategic thought partner, grantmaker, impact investor, employer, and community member working to enhance the health and wellbeing of the people of New Jersey. Similarly, the new AVP will also help us to elevate lessons learned from working together with New Jersey communities and partners to a national stage.

We are eager to consider a large and diverse pool of applicants, so we are asking you to share the job posting widely with potential candidates who share our commitment to New Jersey. The Foundation is an equal opportunity employer and strongly encourages applications from people of color, persons with disabilities, women, LGBTQ+, and other underrepresented applicants.

Thank you for helping to spread the word as we identify a leader who will carry our vision forward in partnership with me and all of you.

Sincerely,

Michelle Larkin  
Vice President, Program Management



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Health Policy Research  
Scholars

Are you a doctoral student who's passionate about influencing public policy to create healthier, more equitable communities?

[Health Policy Research Scholars](#) is a leadership program for full-time doctoral students across diverse disciplines and backgrounds who center equity in their research.

As an HPRS participant, you'll:

- ☆ Gain access to the tools, insights, and diversity of mentors needed to accelerate and distinguish your research.
- ☆ Receive an annual award of up to \$30,000.
- ☆ Become a part of a tightly knit network of visionary change agents.

[Register now](#) for an informational webinar on January 25 from 1–2 p.m. ET.  
Application deadline: March 7 at 3 p.m. ET.



## HELP US MONITOR TOBACCO PRODUCT USE BY TEENS!

Funded by NIH and FDA, the **Rutgers Center for Excellence in Rapid Surveillance of Tobacco** seeks to better understand emerging tobacco and nicotine product use among teens.

If you work in a middle or high school, and have access to tobacco and/or nicotine products that have been confiscated from students, **YOU CAN HELP!**

### Here's How:

**Scan the QR code and follow the instructions to upload a photo**

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## CDC Recommended Immunization Schedules

**NCIRD**  
National Center for  
Immunization and  
Respiratory Diseases



Prevention of disease, disability, and death through immunization and by control of respiratory and related diseases.

[2024 Recommended Immunization Schedules Now Online](#)



## State, local health leaders clash over funds for regional communication

December 12, 2023

[Read full article](#)

## FDA 50-State Conference Call to Discuss Dollar Tree Follow-up Activities and Urgent Request for Assistance

Update on investigation by FDA

December 18, 2023

[Read full article](#)

## Antivirals Can Protect Against Severe Illness from COVID-19. Take Advantage.



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
CDC 24/7: Saving Lives, Protecting People™

**CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019  
(COVID-19)**



[CDC.gov/COVID-19](https://www.cdc.gov/COVID-19)





# Universal Home Visiting

Family Connects NJ is a **free, voluntary program** offering a visit at home by specially trained nurses for any family caring for a newborn baby. The program is available to all New Jersey families.

During the critical first weeks following childbirth, Family Connects NJ provides families with a private visit at home by a specially trained nurse. Program nurses will check the baby's weight, assess physical and emotional health of both newborn and parents. Family Connects NJ nurses also provide information on important topics like feeding, sleeping, and community resources available, if needed.

## How to Enroll

Families can learn more information and request a nurse visit by visiting the Family Connects NJ website. For families who would rather enroll by phone, the website also includes phone numbers for local Family Connects NJ nurse providers in your home county.

To learn more and sign-up, visit [FamilyConnectsNJ.org](https://FamilyConnectsNJ.org) or scan the QR code.



## Program Highlights

- ✓ Care is provided at **no cost to you**, in the comfort of the family home, and is completely voluntary.
- ✓ Services are available to **birth, adoptive, and resource families** with a newborn, as well as parents experiencing a stillbirth or loss of their newborn.
- ✓ Nurse visits are initially open to residents of Essex, Middlesex, Mercer, Cumberland, and Gloucester Counties starting in January 2024.\*
- ✓ **Specially-trained registered nurses** evaluate health, screen for potential complications, answer questions, and address any unexpected changes families are experiencing during the first two weeks after delivery.
- ✓ Nurses will connect families to **community resources** based on their specific circumstances.

\*While the program will initially be limited to select counties, it will gradually expand service to additional NJ counties.



# UPDATE

Your source for events, funding opportunities, new resources and more!

## Apply for a NJBPU Community Energy Planning Grant

The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities is accepting applications for Community Energy Planning Grants. This grant program provides up to \$25K for municipalities to identify and plan energy initiatives for the community. Sustainable Jersey has created an array of resources to support municipalities in completing these plans, including community energy data for all New Jersey municipalities, a model plan, and a template RFP for selecting planning consultants. Free technical assistance is also available to support the creation of community energy plans. Visit the [project page](#) for more information and to apply.

An [informational webinar](#) will be held on **Tuesday, January 9th, 2024 at 1:00pm**

**Application Deadline: Friday, February 23, 2024**





# HARVARD

## MEDICAL SCHOOL

### Research Study of Moral Injury, Moral Distress and Spirituality Among Public Health Emergency Responders

If you are a public health emergency responder (i.e. a person who provides public health and medical services during public health emergencies) you may be eligible to participate

#### We are interested in learning about your unique experiences!

We are assessing factors which may help improve job satisfaction and job retention by mitigating moral injury and moral distress. This study is completely voluntary. If you choose to participate, you will take part in an anonymous single online approximately 30-minute survey. The online survey will have all personal identifiers removed. **There is no compensation for participating in this research study.**

**This is an independent study through Harvard Medical School Center for Bioethics.** This project and any publications as a result of this project are not endorsed/supported by HHS. All responses will remain anonymous. HHS/ASPR/NDMS team members can voluntarily choose to participate in their personal capacities during their own time. However, they may not share non-public information while participating if they choose to participate.

#### Are you eligible?

- You are eligible if you are a public health emergency responder.
- You are eligible if you have been a public health emergency responder for at least 3 years.
- You are at least 18 years old.

Enrollment period: 11/06/2023 to 03/31/2024

#### TO PARTICIPATE:

Click here:

[https://hms.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_ehcmiGcMhn5TWHc](https://hms.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ehcmiGcMhn5TWHc)

Or scan this QR Code:



#### Please contact the project PI if you have any questions:

Dwight Ferguson, PhD  
MS Bioethics Student  
Harvard Medical School, Center for Bioethics  
[dwight\\_ferguson@hms.harvard.edu](mailto:dwight_ferguson@hms.harvard.edu)

*This study has been approved by the Harvard Medical School  
IRB: IRB#23-1070-02; Approval Date: 10/31/2023*





## I Raise the Rates! December Edition



### Traumatic Brain Injury Research Study

We invite you to participate in a study designed to understand the gaps in services for TBI survivors, caregivers, and providers in New Jersey. The study survey will take approximately 15-30 minutes to complete.

To participate, you must be:

- ! A resident of New Jersey
- ! Over the age of 18
- ! Receiving or providing services for traumatic brain injury in New Jersey
- ! A survivor, caregiver, or provider for TBI



For more information, please contact Sakina Ladha at [sladha@bianj.org](mailto:sladha@bianj.org)

If you wish to complete this over the phone or in paper form, please contact Sakina at (609-480-2271)

> **Participants will be entered in a pool to win a \$10 gift card.**

#### HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE:

Please consider completing our survey and focus group interest form, which can be accessed via the following links:

- SURVEY: <https://www.bianj.org/tbi-surveys/>
- FOCUS GROUP INTEREST FORM: <https://forms.office.com/g/ZqnnztFaYN>

Additionally, your role may allow you to identify others who meet the survey criteria:

- Is at least 18 years old
- Lives in the state of NJ
- Is a survivor, caregiver, or service provider of Traumatic Brain Injury

***We would be grateful if you could share the survey and focus group links within your network including caregivers and other professionals.***

Your insights and those of your colleagues are integral to driving positive change for the TBI community. For further information or if you have any concerns, feel free to contact me at [swilkinson@bianj.org](mailto:swilkinson@bianj.org) or call 775-471-6592.



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[View as Webpage](#)

New Jersey Local Boards of Health Association, PO Box 5069, Kendall Park, NJ 08824

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