DDS Mission

DDS serves as the lead state agency representing the interests of individuals with disabilities by providing information and support to enhance health, education, employment, recreation and social engagement, while also ensuring representation in policy and decision-making.
Inclusive Healthy Communities Grant Program

Overarching objective:

The IHC Grant Program is designed to drive sustainable transformation of policies, systems, and environmental conditions to ensure that people with disabilities equitably benefit from efforts to address social determinants of health and build healthy communities.
The Basics:

- Administered by DDS within DHS
- State appropriation - $2M annually
- 2 cohorts:
  - Cohort 1 – 18 grantees over 18 months
  - Cohort 2 – 12 grantees, over 12 months
  - Cohort 3 – TBD, over 24 months
- Capacity building and implementation grants
- Partner with the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Rutgers University
- To our knowledge, nationally unique
Inclusive Healthy Communities Grant Program

Core Principles

- Health Equity/disability justice
- PSE Change
- Equity, diversity and inclusion
Inclusive Healthy Communities Grant Program

What makes the IHC innovative?
### PSE Change Approach vs. Event/Program Approach

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics of PSE Change</th>
<th>Characteristics of Event or Program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>One and done</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundational: Often produces behavior change over time</td>
<td>Additive: Often results in only short-term behavior change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community/Population Level Change</td>
<td>Individual Level Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part of an ongoing plan</td>
<td>Not part of an ongoing plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-term</td>
<td>Short-term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustaining</td>
<td>Non-Sustaining</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Inclusive Healthy Communities**

NJ Division of Disability Services
A healthy community is one in which all residents have access to conditions that support optimal health and well-being, and where there are systems, resources and policies in place to ensure that inclusion, racial equity, affordability, stability, safety, political capital, and justice for all are consciously interwoven into the cultural fabric.
The IHC Grant Program gives priority consideration to proposals that include the following provisions that are strongly encouraged but not required:

✔ Seek to advance policy, systems, and environmental changes to enhance healthy community outcomes for people with disabilities who also may experience societal discrimination as a result of, but not limited to: age, race, gender, socioeconomic or immigration status, and/or sexual orientation;

✔ Serve participants in areas of highest need in terms of disability population, economic burden, and underserved communities;

✔ Leverage matching funds through direct dollars or in-kind services;

✔ Employ people with disabilities at a fair wage with meaningful involvement.
Disability Access as Social Justice

Beyond Disability Rights: Building Disability Justice

Credit: Ford Foundation

Credit: Ricardo Levins Morales Art Studio

Credit: New York Times
Early IHC Experiences
Inclusive Healthy Communities Grant Program

Meet Cohort 1 Grantees:

- Sustainable Jersey
- Pinelands Preservation Alliance
- Township of Evesham
- Children’s Specialized Hospital
- NJ Association of Community Providers
- County of Hudson
- Rowan University Foundation
- NJ - American Academy of Pediatrics
- Abbott Leadership Institute
- Supportive Housing Association of NJ

- Jewish Community Center of Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren Counties
- Ocean County Board of Health
- City Green
- Family Resource Network
- Allies in Caring
- Woods Services
- Trenton Health Team
- Township of Hanover
Inclusive Healthy Communities Grant Program

Meet Cohort 2 Grantees:

- Pinelands Preservation Alliance*
- Newark Beth Israel
- NJ Association of Community Providers*
- County of Hudson*
- Nutley Township
- Rowan University*
- Family Resource Network*
- Allies in Caring*
- Livingston Township
- Trenton Health Team*
- Young Audiences
- Freehold Township

*Returning grantee
Inclusive Healthy Communities Grant Program

Grantee Spotlight

❖ Community safety/law enforcement encounters and development of a safety resource hub (CSH)
❖ Workforce development (Allies in Caring, NJHA)
❖ Access to primary care, women’s healthcare, behavioral health, oral health (Rowan, Allies, NJAAP)
❖ Inclusion of PWD in civic processes (S. Orange, Sustainable Jersey, Livingston, Freehold, Nutley)
❖ Increase access: Housing & transportation (SPA, Hanover Twp., Hudson Co.)
❖ Expand access to recreational opportunities, parks and gardens, healthy food (PPA, City Green, JCC, OCHD, THT, NBI)

Inclusive Healthy Communities
NJ Division of Disability Services
Inclusive Healthy Communities Grant Program

Independent Evaluation Study

Other Key Findings

• Grantees need extensive skills and knowledge building
• Challenges in finding/engaging available professionals with disabilities
• PSE change is hard
• Limited awareness of disability justice concepts

• Full report of findings is available at: https://bit.ly/3QIBhgY
Phone: 1-888-285-3036  
Website: [www.nj.gov/humanservices/dds/home](http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/dds/home)  
Email: [DHSCO-DDS-Information@dhs.nj.gov](mailto:DHSCO-DDS-Information@dhs.nj.gov)