



Executive Summary

New Jersey Health Initiatives: An RWJF statewide program

New Jersey Health Initiatives (NJHI) supports projects by nonprofit, community-based organizations to improve the health and health care of the state's residents. The program has supported 252 projects since 1987, and has 45 active projects (as of March 2012). The Board of Trustees of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has authorized *NJHI* for a total of \$72.3 million since 1987.

[Read the full report.](#)
[Learn more about the program here.](#)

CONTEXT

Like the rest of the nation, New Jersey—the home state of RWJF—faces an array of health and health care problems. Meeting the needs of the state's residents requires innovation in health services, provider arrangements, and financing mechanisms, as well as new partnerships.

THE PROGRAM

Nearly all *NJHI* projects fall into one of two areas of focus:

- Addressing specific health and health care needs in New Jersey¹
- Bringing to New Jersey effective models and best practices, based on work “done in some way, shape, or form” elsewhere with funding from RWJF.²

In 2008, *NJHI* began requiring grantees to partner with other organizations.

¹ *NJHI* awards an average of 10 two- or three-year grants in this area annually, with funding ranging from \$250,000 to \$400,000.

² The number of grants in this area varies: in 2011, *NJHI* awarded 17. These grants run two or three years, and funding ranges from \$150,000 to \$250,000 per grant.

Key Results

Grants in the first category focus on a specific topic each year. Examples include:

- *Transitions in Care*: In 2011, *NJHI* supported nine projects to improve transitions for adults with multiple chronic health conditions and complex social circumstances, as they move across health care settings and providers.
- *Young Men at Risk*: In 2010, *NJHI* supported five projects to foster intellectual and emotional development and prevent violence and related health-risking social behaviors (such as substance abuse, physical aggression, and delinquency) among young men at risk.

Examples of bringing models and best practices to New Jersey include:

- *Collaborating for Community Needs Assessment*: This program funded nonprofit hospitals to work with other health care providers, public health experts and organizations, and residents to develop community needs assessments and health improvement plans. This work builds on the **County Health Rankings**, which RWJF funded the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute to develop.³
- *New Jersey Expecting Success: Excellence in Cardiac Care*: This program was based on RWJF's national program of the same name, which aimed to improve the quality of cardiac care and reduce disparities in that care based on race, ethnicity, and language.

AFTERWARD

RWJF anticipates renewing support for the program when authorization expires in July 2014.

Program Managed by: Rutgers University, Camden, N.J.

Program Officer: Marco Navarro

³ A video introducing the 2010 County Health Rankings is available [online](#).