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STATE BUDGET INVESTS IN CAMDEN COALITION HOUSING FIRST PROGRAM

Camden Coalition praises state leaders for investing in critical support services for at-risk and chronically homeless individuals with complex health and social needs

Today, the Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers applauded state leaders in Trenton for including a provision in the New Jersey state budget that invests \$500,000 in the Camden Coalition Housing First program. Narrowly avoiding a government shutdown, lawmakers and the governor came together around a common set of priorities that also included renewal of the Accountable Care Organization Demonstration Project.

“We want to thank Governor Murphy, Senate President Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Coughlin, Senator Cruz-Perez, Assemblywoman Jones, and the entire New Jersey Legislature for their leadership on complex care,” said Kathleen Noonan, CEO of the Camden Coalition. “The Camden Coalition Housing First program is a critical intervention for chronically homeless individuals struggling with medical and social complexities. The state’s investment in support services for this population demonstrates its commitment to improving the lives of the most vulnerable New Jerseyans.”

Housing First is an evidence-based program that provides permanent housing and support services to individuals facing long-term housing challenges. Absent permanent housing, many chronically homeless individuals grapple with how to manage their health and rely on multiple systems to meet basic needs. Hospitalization and incarceration often become their default systems of care, costing taxpayers thousands of dollars per person per year.

The Camden Coalition Housing First program was launched in November 2015 in response to significant rates of homelessness among patients with complex health and



social needs. With the help of community partners, the Camden Coalition provides participants with safe, dignified housing and extensive wrap-around services so they can improve their health and manage chronic conditions. Preliminary findings show a more than 60 percent reduction in inpatient and emergency room use for enrolled patients.

“The Housing First program has been transformational for so many of our patients,” said Camden Coalition Senior Program Manager Laura Buckley. “For many individuals, it has been years since they have had stable housing, let alone an apartment of their own. Although there are many barriers to getting individuals housed, the life-changing impact housing has on patients’ lives speaks for itself. We are so glad the state has continued to invest in this important program.”

About the Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers

The [Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers](#) is a citywide coalition of over 25 hospitals, primary care providers, and community organizations working together to deliver better health care to vulnerable citizens in Camden, NJ. Founded by Dr. Jeffrey Brenner in 2002, the Coalition knits together a fragmented health care system for patients with complex needs and repeated, ineffective and expensive hospitalizations, using smart data and holistic, multi-disciplinary team care. We believe if we can deliver better care at lower cost here in Camden, it can be done for everyone, everywhere in America.

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