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New Jersey FY27 Budget Abandons New Jersey's Crisis Receiving Stabilization Centers

Without sustainable funding, Bergen, Camden, Essex, Monmouth and Morris County centers may never open

Trenton, N.J. – Full launch of a long-awaited service hub for mental health and substance use care now faces further delays and possible cancellation. The State Fiscal Year 2027 Budget expected to pass today fails to include the operating funding for our state's five Crisis Receiving Stabilization Centers (CRSCs), putting the future of the state's crisis care system in jeopardy.

The absence of operational funding to recruit and retain the medical, clinical, nursing, and peer support workforce needed to operate these centers will present a substantial challenge and likely delay or prevent the opening of CRSC sites across the state. Several centers close to opening may now be forced to lay off staff, pause hiring, or reconsider their ability to open at all.

There is currently no service like this available anywhere in New Jersey. Without immediate action to provide operating funding, CRSCs cannot fulfill the promise made to New Jersey families, leaving people experiencing mental health or substance use crises with nowhere to go for immediate, specialized care.

The current budget includes funding for the 988 Call Centers and Mobile Crisis Outreach Response Teams (MCORTs), but fails to fund the final component of New Jersey's crisis response system.

New Jersey has invested in building a community crisis care continuum centered on someone to call, someone to respond, and somewhere to go. These centers are the critical "somewhere safe to go," providing a safe, clinical setting for people experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis. Without them, people in crisis will continue to be left with crowded emergency rooms, dangerously long wait times, or no care at all.

Once operational, the centers will provide counseling, peer support, clinical treatment, medication management, and stabilization services for up to 24 hours. Services will be delivered regardless of a person's ability to pay, eliminating cost as a barrier to receiving life-saving behavioral health care.

A coalition of advocates including the Mental Health Association in New Jersey, Inseparable, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention New Jersey, NAMI New Jersey and the New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies have worked together throughout this budget process to highlight the urgent need for these centers and the life-saving services they will provide New Jerseyans experiencing mental health or substance use crises.

The coalition will continue to work with both the Legislature and Governor Sherrill's administration to secure the funding needed for full launch of these centers, and ensure every New Jerseyan has the access to the care they need.