

# ASSEMBLY, No. 4819

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 20, 2022

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman REGINALD W. ATKINS**

**District 20 (Union)**

**Assemblywoman SHAVONDA E. SUMTER**

**District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

**Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON**

**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

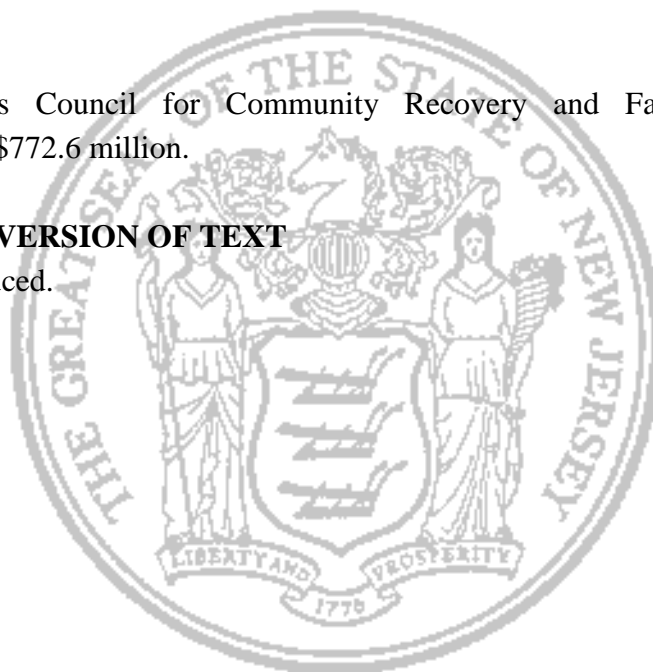
**Assemblywomen Jimenez, Tucker, Chaparro, Assemblymen Caputo, Karabinchak, Sampson, Schaer, Stanley, Assemblywoman Carter, Assemblyman Mejia, Assemblywoman Jaffer, Assemblyman Wimberly, Assemblywomen Haider, Timberlake, Speight, Assemblymen Spearman, Kennedy and Assemblywoman Jasey**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes Council for Community Recovery and Family Success; appropriates \$772.6 million.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/14/2022)**

1 AN ACT establishing the Council for Community Recovery and  
2 Family Success, supplementing Title 9 of the Revised Statutes,  
3 and making an appropriation.  
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
6 of New Jersey:  
7

8 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

9 a. As a State, our child and family services and the resources  
10 appropriated to fund those services are primarily designed to  
11 respond to crisis-related events. Consequently, the services  
12 provided to children and their families struggle to produce long-  
13 term positive results.

14 b. A growing body of literature suggests that comprehensive,  
15 integrated, and sustained investments in family support, prevention,  
16 early intervention, and infant, child, youth, and family well-being  
17 are more cost-effective than a fragmented approach of various  
18 programs providing services that only address the symptoms that  
19 cause family crises and distress.

20 c. The solution to improving outcomes for all children and  
21 families of New Jersey is to provide an interdisciplinary approach  
22 to family support and preventive services and to enact a Bill of  
23 Rights for Infants, Children, Youth, and Families in New Jersey.  
24 This Bill of Rights, based on the United Nations Treaty on the  
25 Rights of the Child, would recognize and protect the rights of  
26 infants, children, youth, and families in New Jersey and provide a  
27 framework for the provision of preventive services to at-risk  
28 infants, children, and youth and their families.

29 d. It is therefore in the best interests of the State to invest in  
30 and implement programs that promote prevention, early  
31 intervention, and infant, child, youth, and family well-being in  
32 order to improve the outcomes for all infants, children, youth, and  
33 families who reside in New Jersey.  
34

35 2. a. There is established the Council for Community  
36 Recovery and Family Success in, but not of, the Department of  
37 Children and Families. For the purpose of complying with the  
38 provisions of Article V, Section IV, paragraph 1 of the New Jersey  
39 Constitution, the Council for Community Recovery and Family  
40 Success is allocated within the Department of Children and  
41 Families, but, notwithstanding this allocation, the council shall be  
42 independent of any supervision or control by the department or by  
43 any officer or employee thereof.

44 b. The council shall consist of 25 members as follows:

45 (1) the Commissioners of Children and Families, Community  
46 Affairs, Corrections, Education, Health, Human Services, and Labor  
47 and Workforce Development, and the Executive Director of the

1 Juvenile Justice Commission in the Department of Law and Public  
2 Safety, or their designees, who shall serve ex officio;

3 (2) 13 public members appointed by the Governor, which  
4 members shall include a representative of the Advocates for  
5 Children of New Jersey, a representative of the Family Success  
6 Institute, a representative of Parents Inc. of New Jersey, a  
7 behavioral health representative, a representative of the Center for  
8 Family Services, a representative of the United Way of New Jersey,  
9 a representative of the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, a  
10 representative of a family success center, a representative of a faith-  
11 based organization, a community leader, and three parents or  
12 guardians whose children are receiving State-funded services;

13 (3) two public members appointed by the Senate President, one  
14 of whom shall be a representative of municipal government, and  
15 one of whom shall be a representative of a Promise Neighborhood  
16 program; and

17 (4) two public members appointed by the Speaker of the General  
18 Assembly, one of whom shall be a representative of county  
19 government, and one of whom shall be a community representative.

20 c. Vacancies in the membership of the council shall be filled in  
21 the same manner provided for the original appointments. The  
22 members of the council shall serve without compensation but may  
23 be reimbursed for traveling and other miscellaneous expenses  
24 necessary to perform their duties, within the limits of funds made  
25 available to the council for this purpose.

26 d. The council shall organize as soon as practicable but no later  
27 than 60 days following the appointment of its members, and shall  
28 select a chairperson and vice-chairperson from among the members.  
29 The chairperson shall appoint a secretary who need not be a  
30 member of the council.

31 e. The council may meet at the call of its chair and hold  
32 hearings at the times and in the places it deems appropriate and  
33 necessary to fulfill its charge. The council shall be entitled to call  
34 to its assistance and avail itself of the services of the employees of  
35 any State, county, or municipal department, board, bureau,  
36 commission, or agency as it may require and as may be available to  
37 it for its purposes, and shall be entitled to call on the assistance of  
38 the Administrative Office of the Courts for information relevant to  
39 its purposes.

40 f. The council may seek the advice of experts, such as persons  
41 specializing in the field of social work, education, law, human  
42 services, economic development, workforce development, or other  
43 related fields, as deemed appropriate by the membership of the  
44 council.

45 g. The council shall annually prepare its administrative budget  
46 and work plan in conformance with its duties, and shall secure staff  
47 services from the departments of Children and Families,  
48 Community Affairs, Corrections, Education, Health, Human

1 Services, and Labor and Workforce Development and the Juvenile  
2 Justice Commission, as well as from other council member  
3 organizations and from other contracted professional staffing and  
4 support services, as may be necessary for the council to carry out its  
5 duties under this act.

6  
7 3. a. The purpose of the council shall be to guide and oversee  
8 the development and implementation of a Statewide initiative  
9 focusing on the social and economic well-being of infants, children,  
10 youth, and families and the provision of holistic, age and  
11 developmentally appropriate services that support a child's  
12 development from birth to young adulthood. The initiative shall be  
13 based on the four pillars of family success:

- 14 (1) positive family relationships and community connections;  
15 (2) safety and financial security;  
16 (3) high quality education and quality learning environments;  
17 and

18 (4) good health and infant, child, youth, and family well-being.

19 b. (1) In order to implement the Statewide initiative, the  
20 council shall:

21 (a) use the Bill of Rights for Infants, Children, Youth, and  
22 Families established pursuant to P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending  
23 before the Legislature as Senate Bill No. 1726 or Assembly Bill No.  
24 3323 of 2021-2022) to provide a framework for the initiative's  
25 implementation;

26 (b) identify policies, procedures, practices, and financial  
27 priorities relating to preventive services for at-risk infants, children,  
28 youth, and families and the gaps in those policies, procedures,  
29 practices, and financial priorities, and develop strategies to promote  
30 the well-being of infants, children, youth, and families and  
31 encourage family success;

32 (c) review the programs, policies, and initiatives of the  
33 Departments of Children and Families, Community Affairs,  
34 Corrections, Education, Health, Human Services, Labor and  
35 Workforce Development, and Law and Public Safety, and any other  
36 departments of State government and any community-based  
37 organizations as may be appropriate, and make recommendations  
38 that will enable such departments and organizations to better  
39 coordinate and improve the effectiveness of the department's or  
40 organization's programs, policies, and initiatives;

41 (d) conduct ongoing, comprehensive cost-benefit analyses of the  
42 budgets of State departments and community-based organizations  
43 that provide services to at-risk infants, children, youth, and families,  
44 and State and local funding mechanisms for infant, child, youth, and  
45 family service systems, to identify and make recommendations on  
46 how to redirect resources and programmatic focus from distress  
47 services to preventive services for at-risk infants, children, youth,  
48 and families and for family success initiatives;

1 (e) explore strategies to maximize and effectively utilize all  
2 State, county, municipal, and federal funding sources, as well as  
3 any funds from business and philanthropic investments as may be  
4 available, for the purpose of providing supportive and preventive  
5 services to infants, children, youth, and families and to improve  
6 family success outcomes; and

7 (f) establish community recovery and family success councils in  
8 each county of the State, which councils shall:

9 (i) assess local infant, child, and youth demographics, including  
10 age, gender, race, socio-economic status, and ethnicity, as well as  
11 indicators of well-being;

12 (ii) collect and analyze information concerning the services and  
13 resources that are currently available, the cost and availability of  
14 services and programs, and the met and unmet needs of infants,  
15 children, youth, and families in the county; and

16 (iii) develop methods that support innovative preventive  
17 services for at-risk infants, children, youth, and families and the  
18 development of local family success initiatives.

19 (2) The goal of the Statewide initiative shall be to:

20 (a) promote positive family relationships, community  
21 connections, and preventive services to ensure the financial  
22 security, quality education, good health, safety, permanency, and  
23 well-being of infants, children, youth, and families through an  
24 integrated service planning and delivery system of care;

25 (b) develop and recommend the adoption of community-  
26 informed family success outcomes, including specified  
27 performance-based outcome measures and objectives;

28 (c) identify obstacles that impede or prevent family success and  
29 develop strategies to successfully overcome such obstacles;

30 (d) explore the role of institutional racism and bias in the  
31 delivery of services to at-risk infants, children, youth, and families,  
32 and how racism and bias can impede or prevent family success;

33 (e) identify policies and practices that promote the delivery of  
34 preventive services to at-risk infants, children, youth, and families  
35 and encourage family success; and

36 (f) incorporate input from key stakeholders, including parents,  
37 family members, community members, and children receiving  
38 preventive services from the Departments of Children and Families,  
39 Community Affairs, Corrections, Education, Health, Human  
40 Services, Labor and Workforce Development, and Law and Public  
41 Safety, and any other department of State government or from a  
42 community-based organization, on the development of a plan to  
43 design, strengthen, and implement local family success initiatives.

44 c. Subject to the availability of funds, the council shall  
45 implement the Statewide initiative pursuant to this section over the  
46 course of the next three fiscal years. The council shall establish  
47 criteria for the allocation of funds made available to the council,  
48 assigning priority based on both the total child population and

1 percentage of child poverty in each eligible jurisdiction. The initial  
2 funding of local family success councils shall be based on an  
3 assessment of need and county readiness.

4 d. All departments and agencies of the State and all  
5 community-based organizations that provide relevant distress or  
6 preventive services, maintain relevant data sets, or perform  
7 functions pertinent to relevant distress or prevention programs shall  
8 assist the council in its responsibilities pursuant to subsection b. of  
9 this section.

10 e. As used in this section:

11 "Distress services" means services intended to remediate  
12 circumstances, including, but not limited to, educational, social, and  
13 parental failures, and family crises, that endanger the safety,  
14 permanency, health, and well-being of infants, children, and youth.

15 "Preventative services" means services that promote the safety,  
16 permanency, health, and well-being of infants, children, youth, and  
17 their families and divert the need for crisis-related services.

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19 4. The council shall submit an annual report to the Governor  
20 and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the  
21 Legislature, with the council's recommendations for legislative and  
22 administrative actions regarding the use of federal, State, county,  
23 municipal, and business and philanthropic funds to support the  
24 development and implementation of innovative family success  
25 initiatives and preventive services for all infants, children, youth,  
26 and families in New Jersey.

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28 5. The Council for Community Recovery and Family Success  
29 shall adopt, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"  
30 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and regulations  
31 necessary to effectuate the purposes of this act.

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33 6. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Council  
34 for Community Recovery and Family Success the sum of  
35 \$772,600,000 to implement the provisions this act. Of this amount,  
36 the council shall expend no more than \$71,400,000 in State Fiscal  
37 Year 2023, no more than \$280,000,000 in State Fiscal Year 2024,  
38 and no more than \$421,200,000 in State Fiscal Year 2025.  
39 Unexpended amounts appropriated to the council pursuant to this  
40 section shall not be returned to the General Fund at the close of a  
41 fiscal year, and shall be retained by the council in the succeeding  
42 fiscal year for the purposes of implementing the provisions of this  
43 act. The council shall be authorized to invest unexpended funds  
44 appropriated pursuant to this section, and to use dividends and  
45 interest earned on the amount invested for the purposes of  
46 implementing the provisions of this act.

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48 7. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

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This bill establishes the Council for Community Recovery and Family Success in, but not of, the Department of Children and Families (DCF), which council will be tasked with developing strategies to promote the well-being of infants, children, youth, and families and encourage family success. Notwithstanding its allocation within the DCF, the council will be independent of any supervision or control by the DCF or by any DCF officer or employee.

The council will consist of 25 members, including the Commissioners of Children and Families, Community Affairs, Corrections, Education, Health, Human Services, and Labor and Workforce Development, and the Executive Director of the Juvenile Justice Commission in the Department of Law and Public Safety, or their designees, who will serve ex officio, and 17 public members, with the Governor appointing 13 of the public members and the Senate President and the Speaker of the General Assembly each appointing two of the public members. The bill specifies that the public members represent certain entities that provide services to children and families or have certain experience with receiving family services in New Jersey.

The members of the council will serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for traveling and other miscellaneous expenses necessary to perform their duties, within the limits of funds made available to the council for its purposes. The council is to organize as soon as practicable but no later than 60 days following the appointment of its members. The council will be entitled to call to its assistance and avail itself of the services of the employees of any State, county, or municipal department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as it may require and as may be available to it for its purposes, and will be entitled to assistance from the Administrative Office of the Courts to provide information needed for the council's purposes. The council will be required to annually prepare its administrative budget and work plan in conformance with its duties, and will secure staff services from the State entities represented by the ex officio members, as well as from other council member organizations and from other contracted professional staffing and support services, as may be necessary for the council to carry out its duties under the bill.

The purpose of the council will be to guide and oversee the development and implementation of a Statewide initiative focusing on the social and economic well-being of infants, children, youth, and families and the provision of holistic, age and developmentally appropriate services that support a child's development from birth to young adulthood. The initiative will be based on the four pillars of family success: positive family relationships and community connections; safety and financial security; high quality education

1 and quality learning environments; and good health and infant,  
2 child, youth, and family well-being.

3 In order to implement the Statewide initiative, the council will:

4 (1) use the Bill of Rights for Infants, Children, Youth, and  
5 Families, which will be established under companion legislation  
6 pending in the current Legislative session, Senate Bill No. 1726 and  
7 Assembly Bill No. 3323, to provide a framework for the initiative's  
8 implementation;

9 (2) identify policies, procedures, practices, and financial  
10 priorities relating to preventive services for at-risk infants, children,  
11 youth, and families and the gaps in those policies, procedures,  
12 practices, and financial priorities, and develop strategies to promote  
13 the well-being of infants, children, youth, and families and  
14 encourage family success;

15 (3) review the programs, policies, and initiatives of the  
16 Departments of Children and Families, Community Affairs,  
17 Corrections, Education, Health, Human Services, Labor and  
18 Workforce Development, and Law and Public Safety, and any other  
19 departments of State government and any community-based  
20 organizations as may be appropriate, and make recommendations  
21 that will enable such departments and organizations to better  
22 coordinate and improve the effectiveness of the department or  
23 organization's programs, policies, and initiatives;

24 (4) conduct ongoing, comprehensive cost-benefit analyses of  
25 the budgets of State departments and community-based  
26 organizations that provide services to at-risk infants, children,  
27 youth, and families, and State and local funding mechanisms for  
28 infant, child, youth, and family service systems, to identify and  
29 make recommendations on how to redirect resources and  
30 programmatic focus from distress services to preventive services for  
31 at-risk infants, children, youth, and families and for family success  
32 initiatives;

33 (5) explore strategies to maximize and effectively utilize all  
34 State, county, municipal, and federal funding sources, as well as  
35 any funds from business and philanthropic investments as may be  
36 available, for the purpose of providing supportive and preventive  
37 services to infants, children, youth, and families and to improve  
38 family success outcomes; and

39 (6) establish community recovery and family success councils in  
40 each county of the State, which councils will assess local infant,  
41 child, and youth demographics, including age, gender, race, socio-  
42 economic status, and ethnicity, as well as indicators of well-being;  
43 collect and analyze information concerning the services and  
44 resources that are currently available, the cost and availability of  
45 services and programs, and the met and unmet needs of infants,  
46 children, youth, and families; and develop methods that support  
47 innovative preventive services for at-risk infants, children, youth,  
48 and families and the development of local family success initiatives.



1       The goal of the Statewide initiative will be to: promote positive  
2 family relationships, community connections, and preventive  
3 services to ensure the financial security, quality education, good  
4 health, safety, permanency, and well-being of infants, children,  
5 youth, and families through an integrated service planning and  
6 delivery system of care; develop and recommend the adoption of  
7 community-informed family success outcomes, including specified  
8 performance-based outcome measures and objectives; identify  
9 obstacles that impede or prevent family success and develop  
10 strategies to successfully overcome such obstacles; explore the role  
11 of institutional racism and bias in the delivery of services to at-risk  
12 infants, children, youth, and families, and how racism and bias can  
13 impede or prevent family success; identify policies and practices  
14 that promote the delivery of preventive services to at-risk infants,  
15 children, youth, and families and encourage family success; and  
16 incorporate input from key stakeholders, including parents, family  
17 members, community members, and children receiving preventive  
18 services from the Departments of Children and Families,  
19 Community Affairs, Corrections, Education, Health, Human  
20 Services, Labor and Workforce Development, and Law and Public  
21 Safety, as well as any other department of State government and  
22 any community-based organization, on the development of a plan to  
23 design, strengthen, or implement local family success initiatives.

24       Subject to the availability of funds, the council will be required  
25 to implement the Statewide initiative over the course of the next  
26 three fiscal years. The council will establish criteria for the  
27 allocation of funds made available to the council, assigning priority  
28 to both the total child population and percentage of child poverty in  
29 each eligible jurisdiction. The initial funding of local family  
30 success councils will be based on an assessment of need and county  
31 readiness.

32       All departments and agencies of the State and community-based  
33 organizations that provide relevant distress or preventive services,  
34 maintain relevant data sets, or perform functions pertinent to  
35 relevant distress or prevention programs will be required to assist  
36 the council in its responsibilities.

37       The bill defines “distress services” to mean services intended to  
38 remediate circumstances, including but not limited to, educational,  
39 social, and parental failures, and family crises, that endanger the  
40 safety, permanency, health, and well-being of infants, children, and  
41 youth; and “preventative services” to mean services that promote  
42 the safety, permanency, health, and well-being of infants, children,  
43 youth, and their families and divert the need for crisis-related  
44 services.

45       The council will be required to submit an annual report to the  
46 Governor and the Legislature with the council’s recommendations  
47 for legislative and administrative actions regarding the use of  
48 federal, State, county, municipal, and business and philanthropic

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1 funds to support the development and implementation of innovative  
2 family success initiatives and preventive services for all infants,  
3 children, youth, and families in New Jersey.

4 The bill appropriates from the General Fund to the council the  
5 sum of \$772.6 million to implement the provisions of the bill. Of  
6 this amount, the council may expend no more than \$71.4 million in  
7 State Fiscal Year 2023, no more than \$280 million in State Fiscal  
8 Year 2024, and no more than \$421.2 million in State Fiscal Year  
9 2025. Unexpended amounts appropriated to the council will not be  
10 returned to the General Fund at the close of a fiscal year, and will  
11 be retained by the council in the succeeding fiscal year for the  
12 purposes of implementing the provisions of the bill. The council  
13 will be authorized to invest unexpended funds appropriated under  
14 the bill, and to use dividends and interest earned on the amount  
15 invested for the purposes of implementing the provisions of the bill.