



Executive Order and/or Statute

Governor Murphy established an Office of Health Care Affordability and Transparency (OHCAT) in 2020 to develop and coordinate efforts to address health care costs. In January 2021, the Governor issued an [Executive Order](#) creating the Health Care Affordability Interagency Working Group, to be chaired by the Director of OHCAT and a Health Care Affordability Advisory Group. The group was charged with setting up the infrastructure to support the state’s development and implementation of health care cost growth benchmarks. In addition to OHCAT, the group is comprised of the Commissioners of the Departments of Banking and Insurance, Health, Human Services, Treasury and the Division of Consumer Affairs.

In [December 2021](#), Governor Phil Murphy signed [Executive Order #277](#), which launched the New Jersey Health Care Cost Growth Benchmark Program. The Governor also announced a stakeholder compact that unites New Jersey insurers, health care providers, and health care advocates in support of the new program and the goal of working together to provide more affordable health care for all New Jerseyans.

Website



[New Jersey Develops Health Care Cost Growth Benchmark Program](#)

Implementation status

Target Set	Policy or Legislative Activity	Benchmark/Target Analysis	Cost Driver Analysis	Enforcement
Yes, 3.5% for 2023, 3.2% for 2024, 3.0% for 2025, 2.8% for 2026, and 2.8% for 2027	Blueprint with value methodology and policy recommendations to be released	In progress	In progress	Not yet

"Now more than ever, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of equitable access to more affordable health care and the critical need to advance New Jersey’s efforts to build a more accessible, affordable and transparent health care system for our residents, families, and employers. We thank the Peterson Center on Healthcare and the Milbank Memorial Fund for this opportunity and look forward to working with Bailit Health for their expertise and guidance as we develop and implement health care cost growth targets in our state, to help stem the tide of rising health care costs. I believe this work will help New Jersey lay a strong foundation for years to come of more robust and focused health care affordability work.

Shabnam Salih

Key Staff

Shabnam Salih, Director, New Jersey Office of Health Care Affordability and Transparency, Shabnam.Salih@nj.gov

Shabnam Salih is the first Director of the Office of Health Care Affordability and Transparency, launched in 2020, in the New Jersey Governor’s Office. The office’s objective is to guide the administration’s work on improving health care affordability and accessibility for consumers and cost transparency. She previously served as the Senior Policy Advisor on Health and Human Services to the governor, where she was responsible for advancing key priorities in the area of health, human services, health insurance, and children and families. Before that, Salih was with the Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers as Associate Director of Policy and Engagement. Salih has a master’s degree in Public Administration from Baruch College and a bachelor of arts from The College of New Jersey. She resides in Mercer County with her family.

Additional Policy Initiatives

- The Executive Order directs the Interagency Working Group to develop additional policy recommendations that help achieve goals higher quality, value, and equitable care through more whole person, integrated, and value-based care. Policy development will be informed by the cost drivers analysis.
- The Executive Order also directs the Department of Banking and Insurance to develop health insurance affordability standards.
- The Murphy Administration has made critical progress on health care cost and accessibility for residents over the last three years through a number of efforts. For more information please see [this overview of New Jersey’s health care cost saving efforts.](#)

