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 Affordability, Responsibility, and Transparency (HART) 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target Set</th>
<th>Target Methodology</th>
<th>Policy or Legislative Activity</th>
<th>Benchmark/Target Analysis</th>
<th>Cost Driver Analysis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes, 5.5% for 2023, 3.2% for 2024, 3.0% for 2025, 2.8% for 2026, and 2.8% for 2027</td>
<td>75/25 blend of median projected household income and potential gross state product (PGSP). Add-on factors: +0.3% for 2023, -0.1% for 2024, -0.2% for 2025, -0.4% for CY2026-2027</td>
<td>Blueprint with value methodology and policy recommendations to be released</td>
<td>In progress</td>
<td>In progress</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“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**

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