



## Family Success Legislation Summary & Proposed Budget A-3323/S-1726 & A-4819/S-2887

### Introduction.

The Family Success Movement promotes public policies, resource allocations and government practices that offer families, particularly the most vulnerable, the services, opportunities and supports they need to successfully raise their children from conception to young adulthood. A growing statewide collaborative of over 75 public and non-profit organizations, the FSI Learning Community, is facilitating community conversations and information-sharing across the state to expand family success services. A primary achievement of the FSI Learning Community is the development and introduction of this transformative legislation.

### Summary of the Bills.

**A-3323/S-1726: The Bill of Rights for Children and Families** makes the basic social, environmental and economic conditions that every child and family needs to succeed in life **a right for all, not a privilege for some**. Modeled on the United Nations International Treaty on the Rights of the Child, this bill guarantees communities and families of need an equal voice in defining the life conditions essential for their wellbeing and commits the State to supporting that threshold level of service for all families and communities. Both the City of Newark and Camden County have adopted similar Bills of Rights for Children and Families. Portions of this bill were derived from those enacted resolutions, but this bill will make New Jersey the first state in the nation to codify these rights for all families.

**A4819/S2887: The Community Recovery and Family Success Act** provides the administrative framework and funding for bringing family success to every community in the State. It will start a transformational shift in state policy, funding, and practice by investing in holistic, community-driven service networks designed to assure that **ALL** New Jersey families have the resources, opportunities and supports needed to raise their children from conception to young adulthood.

The bill establishes a state level Family Success Council and 21 county-based Family Success Councils, each charged with organizing community-based family success service networks. At the outset of FY 2024, the state and local-level Councils will undertake the council member appointments process, define guiding principles and identification of priorities, and establish the mechanisms for budget and program monitoring, including third party performance evaluation. Needs assessments and service planning with community residents will be undertaken in all 21 counties. The resulting holistic service networks, designed and managed by the local Family Success Councils will make investments in programs and resources that will improve social and economic outcomes for children and families. These investments will reduce the volume and need for “distress-related” activities that attempt to “pick up the pieces” when individuals and families are unable to meet their basic needs and aspirations. By FY 2025, all 21 counties will be actively implementing their tailored family success service plans, overseen and evaluated by the state level Family Success Council.

### **Projected Costs.**

A4819/S2887 request \$71,000,000 million of funding over the next two fiscal years to support the initial phases of implementation on a statewide basis. Appropriation of \$25,400,000 in FY 2024 will support community directed needs assessments, service planning, procurements/RFPs and program start-up activities in every county. The \$45,6000,000 balance of this initial funding will be requested in FY 2025 to support a growing volume of **community based and directed** family success services. *(Note: **The state's FY 2023 budget includes \$7.8 billion of spending for distress-related programs and services, responding to economic and social conditions which are fueled by a lack of investment supporting family success. This \$71,000,000 of investment in laying the foundation for family success represents .09% of one year's budgeted expenditures for those distress-related remediation services).***

Below is a summary of how the proposed \$71 million funding level for A4819/S2887 will expand services focused on family success across the state.

1. **Current Spending on Treating Distress.** As documented in the Family Success Institute's comprehensive benefit cost analysis of the state's FY2018 budget, over \$7 billion – or 85% - of current state spending in this area is devoted to mitigating the effects of distress in people's lives. This legislation will begin the slow process of increasing the investment in success directed services and resources for children and families. These funds will support community based and directed networks of services designed and delivered by local government agencies, non-profit service providers and community-based agencies, working in collaboration with one another. This bold program demands teamwork among providers, together taking an holistic approach to addressing the needs of children and families.
2. **\$71 million Investment in Success.** The actual drawdown of these funds, \$25.4 in FY 2024, \$45.6 million in FY 2025, by each local family success council will only occur when each county or large city has established a local family success council and assembled a service plan approved by the statewide Family Success Council. Some counties have family success networks or services in place today, and this funding will enable them to expand those services or complement them with additional ones. They will qualify for funding sooner than others, but over the two-year period it is expected that every county will form a local family success council and launch or enhance qualified services.
3. **Program Oversight and Insight.** Essential to the oversight of these local councils is the statewide Family Success Council established in the bill, comprised of 7 state level cabinet officers, local officials, community leaders and advocates and non-profit service providers. This council will give community leaders, local government and parent advocates an equal voice in decision making with state officials on program design and service standards. The Council will develop the criteria for distributing funds to local family success councils. Those funds will support services designed and delivered by local agencies with deep roots in the communities they serve. Local family success councils will identify what services and in what neighborhoods will address persistent problems and offer families and their children positive life experiences, such as extended child care, after school programming, additional food and nutrition, local health clinics, pre-natal counselling, rent relief or eviction prevention, promise neighborhood

and place based programs, targeted employment and training, fatherhood programs, expanded family success centers, and a myriad of other choices. The state level Council will also be responsible for outcome based assessments of these networks of local services.

4. **Public Private Collaboration.** The structure of each local family success council will vary, and some family success networks are already emerging. In Monmouth County, the local government has built a public-private partnership with non-profit agencies. In Middlesex County, the United Way of Central Jersey is taking the lead in building out service offerings in collaboration with both city and county government. In Union County, the county government is taking a lead in developing a Family Success network. In Newark and Camden, federally funded Promise Neighborhoods are building out services and programs tailored to meet community specific needs.
5. **Rewarding Community Innovation.** In response to adverse conditions laid bare by the Corona virus pandemic, many community-based agencies responded to meet emergent needs, providing support and innovative services to children and families. These emerging programs relied on shifting resources from other programs to support success directed initiatives and are now positioned to expand those programs in response to proven demand and effectiveness. A statewide collaborative of family success advocates and agencies, called the FSI Learning Community, has grown to over 100 members and is leading a series of Community Action Forums focused on Family Success, sponsored in large part by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Fund for New Jersey and The Schumann Fund. These small group forums, convened by trusted community based organizations, are identifying individual communities' and families' needs and aspirations, yielding a roadmap for more family success services. The \$71 million proposed will offer every county on average \$3.4 million of funding over two years for new and expanded services. Below is a proposed county by county formula for this level of funding, reflecting county population and concentration of child poverty. It also identifies the kinds of services that these funds will support.

#### **Projected FY 2024-2025 Funding for Implementation of \$71,000,000 Appropriation**

Start-Up activities at the state and local levels, commencing in the first quarter of FY 2024 will offer planning and administration grants of \$50,000 to \$150,000 for all 21 jurisdictions, as well as a State Council allocation of \$100,000. Spending on local service delivery will commence when each county-based council's plan is approved as "ready" by the State Council. In addition, a set-aside for third-party monitoring and evaluation (by an accredited research entity managed through the State Council) would require \$400,000. A service fund of \$5,400,000 would be managed by the State Council to support either state-wide family success service efforts and/or to supplement promising initiatives at the local level. These administrative supports of \$2,600,000 represent only 3.66% of the total \$71,000,000 appropriation.

The proposed county by county allocation of funding for local Family Success Councils shown below is based on a simple formula that gives equal weight to the total child population and the percentage of children in poverty in each county. Allocations by county would correspond to the County's Tier Rank as

displayed below.\* The State Family Success Council would identify Counties for implementation based on an assessment of need and County readiness for execution.

\* Tier A = \$4.65 Million Tier B = \$3.1 Million Tier C = \$1.55 Million (County 2-year Allocations)

**Proposed 2 year budget for planning and launch of local Family Success Service Networks**

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Year 1 Planning, Administration, Evaluation, and Services</b>	<b>Year 2 Administration, Evaluation, and Services</b>	<b>2 Year Total</b>
<b>Tier A Counties (7)</b>	<b>\$11,550,000</b>	<b>\$21,000,000</b>	<b>\$32,550,000</b>
<b>Tier B Counties (7)</b>	<b>\$7,700,000</b>	<b>\$14,000,000</b>	<b>\$21,700,000</b>
<b>Tier C Counties (7)</b>	<b>\$3,850,000</b>	<b>\$7,000,000</b>	<b>\$10,850,000</b>
<b>State Council</b>	<b>\$2,300,000</b>	<b>\$3,600,000</b>	<b>\$5,900,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$25,400,000 **</b>	<b>\$45,600,000</b>	<b>\$71,000,000</b>

FY'24 Allocation: Tier A = \$1.65 Million Tier B = \$1.1 Million Tier C = \$.55 Million

\*\* Assumes average service implementation initiated in 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of FY 24

## Appendix

### County Rankings Based on Total Population and Children Living Below the Poverty Threshold (Year 2019)

	<u>Tot. Pop</u>	<u>Child Pov</u>	<u>% Pov</u>	<u>Rank Pop</u>	<u>Rank Pov</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Tier</u>
Camden	506,471	17,408	16	8	6	14	A
Essex	798,975	34,918	19	3	4	7	A
Hudson	672,391	27,469	21	4	1	5	A
Middlesex	825,062	21,068	12	2	10	12	A
Ocean	607,186	19,949	14	6	7	13	A
Passaic	501,826	24,691	21	9	1	10	A
Union	556,341	15,246	12	7	10	17	A
Atlantic	263,670	7,353	13	15	9	24	B
Bergen	932,202	9,920	5	1	20	21	B
Cumberland	149,527	6,025	17	16	5	21	B
Mercer	367,430	10,908	14	12	7	19	B
Monmouth	618,795	7,913	6	5	19	24	B
Morris	491,845	6,994	7	10	15	25	B
Salem	62,3852	2,591	20	21	3	24	B
Burlington	445,349	6,719	7	11	15	26	C
Cape May	92,039	1,764	11	20	12	32	C
Gloucester	291,636	4,400	7	14	15	29	C
Hunterdon	124,371	229	1	18	21	39	C
Somerset	328,934	6,159	9	13	14	27	C
Sussex	140,488	845	7	17	15	32	C
Warren	105,267	1,901	10	19	13	32	C
New Jersey	8,882,190	235,470	12 (Av.)				

*Source: NJ Kids Count 2020, Advocates for Children of New Jersey*

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