

# **NJCIC Affirms Importance of Investing in Immigrant Communities Following Governor Murphy's FY 2024 Budget Address**

*On February 28, 2023, the New Jersey Consortium for Immigrant Children was present at the Statehouse in Trenton, New Jersey for Governor Phil Murphy's Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Address.*

**2/28/2023, Trenton, NJ** - The New Jersey Consortium For Immigrant Children was honored to witness in person the momentum for Building the Next New Jersey with a focus on Affordability, Responsibility and Opportunity. The Governor renewed his commitment to Cover All Kids, which aims to provide healthcare coverage for all children regardless of their immigration status, signaling a focus on promoting healthcare equity.

New Jersey is a home to over 2 million immigrants who make up over 25% of the workforce in our state. Our immigrant children, youth and families are an integral part of New Jersey, its history and its future. "As we contemplate the future, we find it encouraging that Governor Murphy emphasized the significance of creating a New Jersey where every child has the opportunity to see themselves in our collective future. Immigrant children, youth, and families play a vital role in the state's economy and social fabric, and ongoing investments in these communities are a reflection of New Jersey's commitment to fostering an inclusive and welcoming environment. We look forward to fully engaging in the budget process and learning about all services and programs that affect our constituents" noted Priscilla Monico Marin, NJCIC's Executive Director in attendance during the Governor's Budget Address.

"As we delve further into the FY 2024 budget season, we look forward to reviewing the comprehensive budget details and collaborating with the

legislature to ensure that children and youth have access to programs that have a meaningful impact on their futures. To ensure a robust quality of life for all New Jersey residents, sustained investments in healthcare, social services, and access to justice are necessary.” stated Lady Jimenez Torres, Policy Director at NJCIC.

The New Jersey Consortium for Immigrant Children is excited to be part of the momentum towards building a better future for all in the state. We remain committed to working with all stakeholders to create a state where every child has the opportunity to thrive. We remain optimistic that the FY 2024 budget will reflect a steadfast dedication to advancing equity and supporting immigrant communities, including by robust and increased funding for legal services for immigrant children and families. Together, we can build a stronger and more inclusive New Jersey for all.

### **About the NJ Consortium for Immigrant Children**

NJCIC works with New Jersey’s young immigrants and their allies to advance their full, fearless participation in our society. We seek lawful status for immigrant children and youth and advocate for systemic change in how they access legal and social services.

For more information or to join our efforts visit our website at <https://njcic.org/>