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**NEW JERSEY PARTNERSHIP FOR HEALTHY KIDS RECEIVES  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH POPULATION HERO AWARD**

*Award recognizes leadership and commitment in creating changes that surround families with opportunities to make healthy choices*

**Trenton, New Jersey –June 8, 2017**– The New Jersey Partnership for Healthy Kids (NJPHK), a program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, was recently presented with one of the first Department of Health Population Hero Award in the category of Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration.

Presented on June 7th during the Department of Health’s annual Population Health Summit at Rider University attended by more than 350 public health professionals, the award acknowledges NJPHK’s leadership and collaboration in improving health through leadership and innovation.

“Shifting the healthcare system’s focus to wellness and collaborating with communities to build healthier environments that promote wellness are cornerstones of the Department’s work,” said Health Commissioner Cathleen D. Bennett. “Inspiring initiatives to improve Population Health are ongoing in every region of our state, and it’s important that we shine a spotlight on this incredible work not only to honor our awardees but to encourage others.”

“NJPHK has collaborated with community partners across the state to help build a Culture of Health and create healthy communities for children and families,” said Dr. Darrin Anderson, Deputy Director of NJPHK. “It is an honor to receive this award in

recognition of the positive impact we have made in the lives of some many New Jerseyans.”

Over the past five years, NJPHK and its community partners have made significant strides in implementing more than 200 environmental and policy changes to increase access to physical activity and healthy eating. These changes include: assisting with the development of school wellness policies, renovating playgrounds, installing bike lanes, partnering with more than 160 local corner stores to include healthier product offerings and launching healthy farmer’s markets in combination with health screenings.

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New Jersey Partnership for Healthy Kids (NJPHK) is a statewide program of the [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#) with technical assistance and direction provided by the [New Jersey YMCA State Alliance](#). The goal of the program is to convene, connect and empower community partnerships across the state to design and implement strategies that create a Culture of Health and build healthy, equitable communities. The program places special emphasis on working in five key communities—Camden, Newark, New Brunswick, Trenton, and Vineland. For more information, visit [www.njhealthykids.org](http://www.njhealthykids.org). Follow NJPHK on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#).

**About the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation:**

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is the largest private foundation in New Jersey and the nation’s largest philanthropy working to improve the health and health care of all. The Foundation is striving to build a national Culture of Health that will enable all to live longer, healthier lives now and for generations to come. RWJF has invested more than \$1.5 billion in New Jersey since 1972. For more information, visit <http://www.rwjf.org/nj>. Follow the Foundation on Twitter at <http://www.rwjf.org/twitter> or on Facebook at <http://www.rwjf.org/facebook>.