

## MAIN OFFICE

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## MEMBER HOSPITALS

AtlantiCare Regional Medical  
Center - City Division

AtlantiCare Regional Medical  
Center - Mainland Division

Cape Regional Medical Center

Cooper Health System

Kennedy Health Systems,  
Washington Township Campus

Lourdes Medical Center  
of Burlington County

Our Lady of Lourdes  
Medical Center

Shore Memorial Hospital

South Jersey Healthcare-  
Elmer Hospital

South Jersey Healthcare-  
Regional Medical Center

The Memorial Hospital  
of Salem County

Underwood-Memorial Hospital

Virtua Memorial

Virtua Voorhees

The Cooperative is the state  
licensed maternal and child  
health consortium of health  
care providers and consumers  
serving pregnant women,  
infants and children in the  
seven county southern New  
Jersey region.



April 12, 2010

The Honorable Chris Christie  
Governor of New Jersey  
State House, P.O. Box 001  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0001

Dear Governor Christie:

The Southern New Jersey Perinatal Cooperative (SNJPC) is responsible for improving perinatal outcomes and the health of mothers and children in the seven southern counties of New Jersey. We are aware that your proposed 2011 budget completely eliminates funding for family planning services and we urge you to restore these funds for the vital services they provide.

Each public dollar spent to provide family planning services saves an estimated \$4 that would otherwise be spent in Medicaid-related costs alone. **So, for the \$7.5 million saved by eliminating state funding for women's health care, the state will pay at least \$30 million more in Medicaid expenses.**

SNJPC has developed a strong partnership with Planned Parenthood and FamCare, whose evidence-based and high quality services are well established in the seven southern counties of New Jersey. Teens and low income families rely upon these agencies to provide affordable reproductive screening, counseling and education. These services are essential to assuring positive birth outcomes and healthy families in our region. The absence of these services will, no doubt, result in higher rates of unintended pregnancy, late entry to prenatal care and unhealthy birth outcomes in many communities already at risk.

In 2009, New Jersey's family planning agencies provided reproductive health care services to over 136,000 women and men. These services included a wide range of preventive health services such as routine gynecological exams; screening for high blood pressure, anemia and diabetes; contraception; breast and cervical cancer screening and education; screening and treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs); HIV testing and counseling; pre-pregnancy counseling and education; pregnancy testing and prenatal care and/or referral. State family planning dollars do not support abortion services.

