

Hudson County, New Jersey  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
ADMINISTRATION ANNEX  
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July 8, 2024,

**Immediate Release**

**Hudson County Commissioners authorized the application and acceptance of \$500,000 in funds, if awarded, from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GUSNIP) Produce Prescription Grants Program**

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***Hudson County***- The Hudson County Board of Commissioners authorized the application and acceptance of \$500,000 in funds, if awarded, from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GUSNIP) Produce Prescription Grants Program.

This funding will enable the county to launch “food pharmacies” at federally qualified health centers throughout Hudson County to provide low-income individuals with preexisting medical conditions access to fresh fruits and vegetables.

The term of this grant shall be for the period of September 1, 2024, through August 31, 2025.

The primary goals and objectives of the GUSNIP Produce Prescription

Program are to demonstrate and evaluate the impact of projects on the improvement of dietary health among low-income individuals with preexisting medical conditions through increased consumption of fruits and vegetables; the reduction of individual and household food insecurity; and the reduction in healthcare use and associated costs. The program model works to achieve this by providing the target population with prescriptions for fresh fruits and vegetables, financial or non-financial incentives for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables and offering educational resources on nutrition.

The Nutrition Incentive Hub, created by the Gretchen Swanson Center will serve all Hudson County residents. Each “farmacy” will provide fresh produce and nutrition education to patients with prediabetes, diabetes and hypertension. Physicians at each center will refer eligible patients to the food farmacy where they would meet with a nutrition educator and receive vouchers to exchange for fresh produce onsite. Patients in the program will participate in quarterly health screenings to assess improvements from their improved diets.

Board Chairman Anthony Romano and the Hudson County Board of Commissioners are providing the necessary resources to promote better access to nutritious food for individuals with pre-diabetes, diabetes and hypertension in Hudson County.

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