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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NJCDD AWARDS DENTAL SERVICES GRANT FOR PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

(TRENTON) – The New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities (NJCDD) awarded Columbia University’s National Center on Children in Poverty a \$150,000 one-year grant to identify barriers to dental care for people with developmental disabilities in New Jersey.

“This project will further the work of the NJCDD and our comprehensive five-year advocacy plan for New Jersey that identifies how to improve statewide capacity to deliver dental services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD),” said Mercedes Witowsky, executive director, NJCDD.

Since October 1, 2018, Columbia University researchers and staff have been working with dental, medical and social services providers as well as consumers, caregivers and advocates to assess barriers to quality dental care. They will also develop recommendations to address those barriers.

Columbia University will assess the needs of people with I/DD and their caregivers through one-on-one interviews. Columbia will also develop a database of dental services.

Columbia University will partner with Rutgers School of Dental Medicine’s Special Needs Patients’ Clinic in Newark, New Jersey, and the American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry.

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