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WASHINGTON -- Abilities of Northwest Jersey, Inc. has received a \$5,000 grant from the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation for the agency's newest initiative, Health & Wellness, designed to address the chronic deficiencies in healthcare and self-care for the individuals with disabilities served by Abilities.

According to the NJ Dept. of Human Services, 29% of people with disabilities have unmet healthcare needs compared to 12% of people without disabilities, and the obesity rate for adults with disabilities is 57% higher than for non-disabled adults. Abilities goal with Health & Wellness is to promote healthier lifestyles, improve healthcare outcomes and reduce absenteeism for the 350 individuals the agency serves every day.

"Abilities is grateful to the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation, for their support of an endeavor designed to improve the quality of life for the people we serve," said Cynthia B. Wildermuth, Abilities CEO. "Abilities appreciates the support of New Jersey companies like Bristol-Myers Squibb, corporations that support people in their own communities."

Abilities of Northwest Jersey, Inc. is a not-for-profit agency incorporated in 1974 and dedicated to improving the quality of life and employability of persons with different abilities through vocational training and individualized services. For additional information, contact Abilities at (908) 689-1118, or visit Abilities website at [www.abilitiesnw.com](http://www.abilitiesnw.com).