

Grantee News

Policy Victories:

- The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) reduced rate caps on intrastate calls for inmates in jails and prisons, taking steps to make sure that phone rates are “fair, reasonable, and just” for all. The cap for state and federal prisons is now 11 cents per minute, and the caps for county jails range from 14 to 22 cents per minute depending on the size of the facility. The order also limits unnecessary service fees and discourages commission payments from phone companies to facilities. This action builds on the FCC’s 2014 order to cap rates on interstate calls for inmates in jails and prisons. The NJ Alliance for Immigrant Detainees, American Friends Service Committee, and the NJ Institute for Social Justice have advocated on this issue at the local, state, and federal level. For more information, read [here](#).
- Elizabeth, NJ became the 10th municipality in the state to enact an earned sick leave ordinance after voters overwhelmingly approved a ballot measure on Election Day due to efforts by the NJ Time to Care Coalition, NJ Citizen Action, NJ Working Families Alliance, NJ Policy Perspective, and Anti-Poverty Network of NJ. For more information, read [here](#).
- Jersey City’s City Council passed an ordinance to expand its 2013 earned sick leave ordinance (the first in the state) to include provisions for earned sick leave at businesses employing 10 or fewer workers and at least 5 days of earned sick leave for those in positions with an impact on public health (food service, child care, and elder care). This change brings the 2013 Jersey City ordinance in line with ordinances in other NJ municipalities, and was the result of advocacy by the NJ Time to Care Coalition, NJ Citizen Action, NJ Working Families Alliance, NJ Policy Perspective, and Anti-Poverty Network of NJ. For more information, read [here](#).

Policy Setbacks:

- The NJ Department of Human Services announced that it would not renew housing hardship programs that allowed for chronically ill and disabled people to receive rental assistance payments beyond the 24-month cap of the state’s emergency assistance program, causing more than 3,000 people to lose their housing. Efforts by the Anti-Poverty Network of NJ, Legal Services of NJ, Housing and Community Development Network of NJ, Supportive Housing Association of NJ, and partners led to the establishment of an interim program that will provide four additional months of rental assistance and help with identifying permanent affordable housing. However, a long-term solution is still needed. For more information, read [here](#).

Policy Reports:

- Advocates for Children of NJ and the NJ Food for Thought Campaign released its 5th Annual School Breakfast Report. The report indicates that the number of students eligible for free- or reduced-price school meals who participated in the school breakfast program rose more than 100,000 from 2010 to 2015. Read the full report [here](#).

Updates:

- The Better Choices for New Jersey Coalition, the Anti-Poverty Network of NJ, and the NJ for

Transit coalition spearheaded a joint letter to the NJ Legislature urging members to reject attempts to tie a gas tax increase to an inheritance/estate tax cut. Signers include Clean Water Action, Environment NJ, Fair Share Housing Center, Housing and Community Development Network of NJ, Ironbound Community Corporation, NJ Citizen Action, NJ Policy Perspective, NJ Work Environment Council, and NJ Working Families Alliance. For more information, read [here](#).

- Rethink Energy NJ, a new statewide coalition calling for increased state investment in clean, efficient, and renewable energy, was launched by NJ Conservation Foundation, Pinelands Preservation Alliance and Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association. For more information, read [here](#).
- The John J. Heldrich Center for Workforce Development launched the New Start Career Network to develop and demonstrate effective and efficient strategies for reducing long-term unemployment in New Jersey. More than 41% of NJ's unemployed are long-term unemployed (unemployed for more than six months), the second highest long-term unemployment rate in the country. For more information, read [here](#).
- NJ Work Environment Council announced that it has selected Dan Fatton, former Director of Development and Member Services for the Electrochemical Society, as its new Executive Director. For more information, read [here](#).

Job Announcements

- ACLU-NJ—[Policy Counsel](#)
- ACLU-NJ—[Organizer](#)
- NJ Institute for Social Justice—[Director of Philanthropy](#)
- Advocates for Children of NJ—[Kids Count Coordinator](#)
- Association of NJ Environmental Commissions—[Development Director](#)
- NJ Citizen Action—[Senior Organizer, Work and Family Balance Issues](#)
- NJ Citizen Action—[Health Care Organizer](#)
- Regional Plan Association—[Associate Planner, New Jersey](#)
- Regional Plan Association—[Research Analyst, Energy and Environment](#)
- Regional Plan Association—[Data Analyst](#)
- Regional Plan Association—[Director, Community Planning and Design](#)

Upcoming Events

- November 11, 2015—NJ Institute for Social Justice—[NJ Communities Forward, Newark Forum](#)
- November 16, 2015—NJ Work Environment Council—[Training Workshop on Identifying and Preventing Hazards in the Workplace](#)
- November 17, 2015—Rutgers Center for Urban Research and Education—[Symposium on Housing, Segregation, and Poverty](#)
- November 18-21, 2015—[2015 International Drug Policy Reform Conference](#)
- December 2, 2015—Center for Non-Profits—[2015 NJ Non-Profit Conference](#)
- December 4, 2015—Supportive Housing Association of NJ—[Annual Conference](#)
- December 10, 2015—Urban Water Solutions Initiative—[NJ Urban Water Conference](#)