

## The Fund for New Jersey News

- The Fund for New Jersey is proud to announce that for the third quarter of 2017 it has awarded grants in the total amount of \$167,000 to advance public policies in the areas of public education, environmental sustainability, healthcare, workers' rights, tax reform, and gun violence prevention. Read the full press release [here](#).
- As a part of the *Crossroads NJ* series, The Fund for New Jersey released [Transportation Must Again be the Backbone of New Jersey Economy](#) and [Communities of Opportunity: New Jerseyans Need More Affordable, Convenient, and Safe Places to Call Home](#) in September. In October [Providing High-Quality Public Education to All New Jersey Children](#) and [Reducing Mass Incarceration Would Benefit New Jersey's Communities](#) were released.

## Grantee News

### Policy Victories:

- Thanks to longstanding advocacy by Pinelands Preservation Alliance and partners, The Pinelands Commission approved a resolution to limit damage caused by off-road vehicles in Wharton State Forest. The resolution establishes a map designating sand roads for use by vehicles. Advocates hope to continue to work with State Park Police to restore and protect the Pinelands. Read more [here](#).
- In line with advocacy by Education Law Center and partners, Governor Christie signed S2081/A3790 into law, prohibiting most expulsions and suspensions and requiring early detection and prevention programs for behavioral issues for students in preschool through second grade. Read more [here](#).
- Due to advocacy by League of Conservation Voters Education Fund, NJ Highlands Coalition, NJ Conservation Foundation, and partners, voters approved a constitutional amendment that requires environmental settlement funds to be dedicated for environmental purposes. The decision comes after the Governor Chris Christie vetoed a similar measure in the FY18 state budget that would have ensured half of environmental settlement funds would go to remediation, restoration, and clean up. The amendment marks a pivotal step in advocates' long-term efforts to ensure environmental funds are not diverted to balance the budget. Read more [here](#).

### Policy Setbacks:

- After the first significant preschool expansion in nearly a decade, bolstered by Pre-K Our-Way, Advocates for Children of New Jersey, and partners, \$5.6 million of the \$25 million allocated for preschool expansion was diverted to fund the Governor Christie's anti-opioid initiative. The

funding diversion will leave 500 3- and 4-year-olds without access to early education. Read more [here](#).

- Despite advocacy by Advocates for Children of New Jersey, New Jersey Citizen Action, and partners, Congress missed the September 30 deadline to reauthorize The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). The program covers children with family incomes above Medicaid eligibility limits who often lack access to affordable private coverage. Without reauthorization, New Jersey is estimated to run out of CHIP funding by April 2018, forcing the state to decide whether to fund the program itself or cut and cap the program. Read more [here](#).
- After a court rule that remanded the Southern Reliability Link project approval to the full Pinelands Commission for review, the Pinelands Commission voted to approve the Southern Reliability Link pipeline. The Pinelands Preservation Alliance and partners will continue their long-standing advocacy on the issue through appeals to permits issued by the Department of Environmental Protection and Board of Public Utilities and advocacy against approval of the pending Southern Reliability Link application to the United States Air Force. Read more [here](#).
- Despite advocacy by Education Law Center and NJ Work Environment Council, the NJ Department of Education approved state funding for only 5% of the 429 school district applications for emergent facilities repairs. The Potential Emergent Projects Program provides funding for capital projects necessary to address a building condition that causes imminent peril to the health and safety of students and staff. Read more [here](#).

#### Policy Updates:

- In line with long-standing advocacy by ACLU-NJ, Drug Policy Alliance, and partners, a preliminary injunction, which aimed to overturn New Jersey's landmark bail reform, was denied in federal court. While the lawsuit brought by Lexington National Insurance Corp., an insurance company that serves the bail bond industry, is one of two federal lawsuits still pending, the decision on the preliminary injunction ensures bail implementation continues through what may be a lengthy legal challenge. Read more [here](#).

#### Policy Reports:

- Rutgers Climate Institute published *An Examination of Policy Options for Achieving Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions in New Jersey*, a comprehensive review of policy options for the state to uphold the Global Warming Response Act. The report outlines the status of current greenhouse gas emissions, legal and policy frameworks to address emissions, leading mitigation policies in other states, and policies that could improve conditions in communities that bear disproportionate environmental burdens. Read the full report [here](#).
- The report, *A Clean Energy Pathway for New Jersey*, was prepared for the New Jersey Conservation Foundation as part of ReThink Energy NJ by the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research and PSE Healthy Energy. The report outlines recommendations for the state to halve its electric power sector carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 while maintaining

affordability for consumers through a combination of greater energy efficiency, continuing New Jersey's solar growth, and new focus on offshore wind. Read more [here](#).

- Anti-Poverty Network released *The Uncomfortable Truth: Racism, Injustice and Poverty in New Jersey*, which explores the ways in which structural racism perpetuates poverty in the state. It emphasizes the importance of addressing structural racism as an explicit public priority and recommends requiring racial impact statements for state legislation, requiring data collection and dissemination by race/ethnicity and socioeconomic status, reinstating the Public Advocate, and strengthening the Division of Civil Rights. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).
- New Jersey Policy Perspective published *New Jersey Must Make Higher Education a Priority Again*, which provides a history of the 21 percent decline in financial support for public college costs since the Great Recession and recommends the formation of a diverse commission to explore and analyze key solutions to develop the most effective investments. In light of the federal budget debate, New Jersey Policy Perspective also released *Fast Facts: New Jersey Third Hardest Hit State Under House Tax Proposal*. The report found that under the current proposal, New Jersey's wealthiest taxpayers would receive an average \$25,100 tax break each year while more than 1 in 4 New Jerseyans would pay an average of \$2,200 more in federal taxes. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

## Events

- November 15—[APN General Meeting](#)
- November 16—[FY18 Budget Outlook for Affordable Housing Programs Webinar](#)
- November 20—[Regional Plan Association Report Release: Fourth Regional Plan](#)
- December 1—[Jersey Water Works Conference](#)
- December 1—[19<sup>th</sup> Annual New Jersey Supportive Housing 2017 Conference](#)
- December 6—[2017 NJ Non-Profit Conference](#)

## Job Announcements

- American Civil Liberties Union—[ACLU Summer Institute](#)
- American Friends Service Committee—[Staff Attorney](#)
- The Burke Foundation—[Executive Assistant](#)
- Faith in New Jersey—[South Jersey Community Organizer](#)
- Housing and Community Development Network of NJ—[Community Building Coordinator](#)
- NJ Alliance for Immigrant Justice—[Communication and Operations Associate](#)
- NJ Citizen Action Education Fund—[Grant Writer](#)
- NJ Future—[Program Manager of Jersey Water Works](#)

Please send policy news and updates, job announcements, and staff updates to Sofia Flores at [sflores@fundfornj.org](mailto:sflores@fundfornj.org) or you can Tweet to [@FundforNJ](https://twitter.com/FundforNJ).