



For More Information:
Kiki Jamieson
609-356-0421 ext. *14
kjamieson@fundfornj.org

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The Fund for New Jersey Joins Census 2020 Amicus Brief

Princeton, NJ –[The Fund for New Jersey](#) joined 30 foundations and philanthropy-serving organizations nationally in submitting an Amicus Brief to the U.S. Supreme Court opposing the addition of a citizenship question to the 2020 Census. Signatories included national, regional, and state organizations, including private foundations, community foundations, philanthropy serving organizations and a state association of United Ways.

Kiki Jamieson, President of The Fund for New Jersey, stated, “Foundations such as The Fund for New Jersey rarely file amici briefs. But the Trustees of The Fund for New Jersey recognize that the proposed addition of a citizenship question to the 2020 Census has profoundly negative ramifications for philanthropy and the non-profits we serve. Addition of a citizenship question to the 2020 Census is untested and risky and would almost certainly lead to an undercount of New Jersey residents. Such an undercount would hurt The Fund for New Jersey’s ability to access reliable data to inform decisions, tailor solutions, and make data-driven investments in public policy solutions, thus undercutting our mission to improve the quality of public policy decision-making here in New Jersey.”

There are many examples of ways in which New Jersey non-profits rely on accurate Census data. As noted in the Amicus Brief:

Advocates for Children of New Jersey (ACNJ), a grantee of...The Fund for New Jersey, uses tract-level decennial census data to create interactive maps on key topics affecting children and to report on those topics in its annual *KIDS COUNT* reports. In its *Newark Kids Count* reports, ACNJ cross-references census data on households with children with data from the Centers for Disease Control on lead testing results throughout the City of Newark. These analyses have allowed ACNJ to identify specific neighborhoods in which targeted outreach may be necessary to ensure that young children are tested for the presence of lead. The organization’s findings are shared with local health-focused groups to strengthen public health outreach within Newark.

[The Fund for New Jersey](#) works to improve the quality of public policy decision-making on the most significant issues affecting the people of New Jersey and our region. For 50 years, The Fund has supported organizations and initiatives that advance systemic and sustainable solutions to public problems through the work of policy, advocacy, analysis, and organizing.

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