

- The Fund for New Jersey is proud to announce that for the 1st quarter of 2022, it has awarded grants in the total amount of \$905,000 to advance public policies in the areas of immigration, housing, education, and public media. Read the full press release [here](#).
- On February 24 and March 12, the [Imagine More: Racial Justice Begins With Us](#) series held its first two events. You can access resources and watch the recording for each program: “Eliminating the Racial Wealth Gap” ([resources](#) and [recording](#)) and “Disrupting the Criminal Justice System” ([resources](#) and [recording](#)). The next event will focus on Achieving Safe and Healthy Homes for All on April 26.. [Register Here](#).

Grantee News**Policy Victories:**

- On March 3, a New Jersey federal judge granted final approval of a class action settlement agreement in *Adam X v. New Jersey*, which will reform special education in state prisons. The settlement requires the New Jersey Department of Corrections to provide at least four hours of instruction per day in a regular classroom setting, refrain from using worksheets as the primary method of teaching, and develop essential education plans tailored to the individual needs of each incarcerated student. ACLU-NJ co-led litigation efforts with Disability Rights Advocates and Proskauer Rose LLP. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

Policy Updates:

- On March 3, State Superior Court Judge Robert Lougy heard oral arguments on the school segregation lawsuit. The suit argues that New Jersey officials have permitted segregation to persist by requiring students to attend schools in their home municipalities, which reflect the state’s history of residential segregation. Nearly half of the state's Black and Latino students attend public schools that are 90% non-white. The Judge's decision is now pending. Litigants include the Latino Action Network and the NAACP- New Jersey State Conference. Read more [here](#).
- According to a new [report](#) by the Vera Institute of Justice, New Jersey’s prison population fell by one-third last year, the second largest drop in the country. New Jersey’s leadership in decarceration is due to its landmark law that allowed eligible inmates to reduce eight months of their sentence during the state’s public health emergency. More than 5,500 adults and juveniles were released under the program, with more than 200 freed in early February. Efforts were led by the ACLU-NJ and its partners including Salvation and Social Justice, Faith in New Jersey, and others. Read more [here](#).

Policy Reports:

- Education Law Center released a new report, *Black and Latino Students Endure the Brunt of New Jersey Public School Underfunding*. The report finds that Black and Latino students in New Jersey are far more likely to attend schools that are spending well below the level set as “adequate” in the state’s school funding formula, while white and Asian students typically attend districts spending at or even above the adequate funding level. Read more [here](#).
- *Get the Lead Out: Contaminated Drinking Water in Atlantic County Schools*, a report by Environment New Jersey Research and Policy Center found that contamination has been particularly pervasive in Atlantic County, with lead detected in 92% of schools in the county that provided testing data. Forty-five percent of the faucets and fountains tested in Pleasantville and Galloway Township schools detected lead. Read more [here](#).
- New Jersey Policy Perspective (NJPP) released the report *Making New Jersey Affordable for Families: The Case for a State-Level Child Tax Credit*. The report analyzes the benefits of multiple state tax credit scenarios for families based on the number of people, race, ethnicity, and income level. NJPP determines that an effective program would include: fully refundable credit going directly to households with children, relatively simple eligibility, and avoidance of perverse incentive of lower-income families getting less help. Read more [here](#).
- *New Jersey School Funding: The Higher the Goals, the Higher the Costs*, a report released by NJPP, outlines increases to the state’s learning standards since 2008. The analysis finds that greater financial investment is associated with better student performance: the higher the goals, the higher the costs. New Jersey’s most affluent school districts have the resources they need, and more, to provide a rigorous education. However, the state’s large, high-poverty districts have far less funding than needed to meet the same exacting standards. Read more [here](#).
- The New Jersey Institute for Social Justice released *Making the Two New Jerseys One: Closing the \$300,000 Racial Wealth Gap in the Garden State*. The report reveals that although New Jersey is one of the most prosperous states in the nation, it is characterized by some of the starkest racial and economic inequities. To address the key drivers of economic disparities and repair the harm from generational historic divestment a Reparations Task Force should be established. Read more [here](#).
- The Pinelands Preservation Alliance released its annual report summing up the health of the preservation efforts by federal, state, and local government agencies. This annual review is the most comprehensive account of public policy actions that affect the Pinelands National Reserve. Read more [here](#).

Events

- [Imagine More: Achieving Safe and Healthy Homes for All](#) – April 26

Job Announcements

- [President/Co-Presidents](#), New Jersey Policy Perspective
- [Office Manager](#), Work Environment Council of New Jersey
- [Corporation and Foundation Development Officer](#), La Casa de Don Pedro
- [Front Line Communications Manager](#), Ironbound Community Corporation
- [Director of Fair Housing, Health Care Organizer](#), NJ Citizen Action
- [Community Planning Associate, Office Administrator](#), New Jersey Future
- [Campaigns Director](#), New Jersey League of Conservation Voters
- [Various Positions](#), Hyacinth

Please send policy news and updates, job announcements, and staff updates to Erik Cruz Morales at ecruz-morales@fundfornj.org or you can Tweet to [@FundforNJ](https://twitter.com/FundforNJ).