

The Fund for New Jersey News

- The Fund for New Jersey is proud to announce that for the fourth quarter of 2016 it has awarded grants in the amount of \$715,000 to advance public policies in the areas of public media, anti-poverty, civil rights & criminal justice, HIV/AIDS prevention and non-profit advocacy. Read details [here](#).

Grantee News

Policy Victories:

- Due to a successful appeal by the Pinelands Preservation Alliance, Environment New Jersey, and partners, the South Jersey Gas Pinelands Pipeline project was remanded to the Pinelands Commission and the State Board of Public Utilities. Former Governors Byrne, Florio, and Whitman also joined the case. The court ruled that the Pinelands Commission's Executive Director did not have the authority to determine that the project complied with the agency's Comprehensive Management Plan, and remanded the matter back to the full Pinelands Commission for review. Read more [here](#).
- As a result of longstanding advocacy by Drug Policy Alliance, Hyacinth AIDS Foundation, and partners, Asbury Park City Council unanimously passed an ordinance to start a Syringe Access Program in Asbury Park, making it the seventh program in the state. This builds on the law signed by Governor Christie in late August expanding the state's syringe access program from five pilot locations to statewide access.
- Bolstered by efforts by New Jersey Policy Perspective and partners, this past November voters overwhelmingly rejected a proposal to expand casino gambling to Northern New Jersey, with the largest margin of defeat for any referendum in the state's history. NJPP published the report *Big Promises, Few Answers on Casino Expansion* which, through a historical analysis of Atlantic City's casino policies, determined that the expansion would be an overall loss. Read more [here](#).
- As a result of litigation by ACLU-NJ, five New Jersey schools will change or clarify enrollment forms to no longer require documentation that demonstrates immigration status. The ACLU-NJ plans to send letters to other school districts with similar identification requirements to ensure undocumented immigrants are not deterred from their right to public education. Read more [here](#).
- Due to advocacy by Council of New Jersey Grantmakers, the Center for Non-Profits and other partners, Governor Christie released all the remaining funds frozen under Executive Order 209. In June, Governor Christie issued an executive order for more than \$100 million in funds to be held in reserve until savings for public employee and retiree health care costs are met. CNP and CNJG issued an Op-ed which argued that most of these frozen funds have negatively impacted non-profits providing essential services. Read more [here](#).



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- As a result of long standing advocacy by New Jersey Policy Perspective, the State's Economic Development Authority will adopt new rules for corporate tax break award calculations that will take effect in February. While previously awards were not consistent with the time corporations committed to remain in New Jersey, they will now be tied to the amount of time they are obligated to stay in New Jersey. NJPP has highlighted that the previous calculation resulted in many corporations fleeing prior to the calculation parameters. Read more [here](#).
- Due to advocacy by New Jersey League of Conservation Voters and partners, a November 2017 ballot measure will allow voters to decide whether New Jersey's constitution should specifically require environmental settlement funds to be dedicated for environmental purposes. The ballot measure was developed after Governor Christie vetoed a bill that would have provided for such dedication of funds and would ensure that environmental settlement funds are not used to balance the budget. Read more [here](#).

Policy Setbacks:

- Despite advocacy by ACLU-NJ and partners, Governor Christie vetoed solitary confinement reform Bill S-51. The bill would have prohibited solitary confinement for more than 15 consecutive days or 20 days in a 60-day period, required medical clearance and daily evaluations for prisoners in solitary confinement, and banned solitary confinement for the most vulnerable populations. Read more [here](#).

Policy Updates:

- Due to advocacy by Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey and other Housing partners, A333 was passed through the Assembly in December and awaits action by Governor Christie. The bill would provide short-term relief for Hurricane Sandy Victims, allowing them to qualify for forbearance on their mortgage payments to prevent foreclosure. Read more [here](#).

Policy Reports:

- Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey released its *Build a Thriving New Jersey* blueprint urging next leaders of state government to invest \$601 million annually to create affordable homes. Read the blueprint [here](#).
- New Jersey Policy Perspective released *Fast Facts: Removing All Undocumented New Jerseyans Would Harm the State's Economy*. The report provides a national comparative analysis of the loss to Gross Domestic Product if undocumented immigrants were removed, with New Jersey suffering the largest economic loss. In the wake of the federal election and threats to repeal the Affordable Care Act, New Jersey Policy Perspective also released *Repealing the Medicaid Expansion Would Reverse Health Coverage Gains & Deepen New Jersey's Financial Crisis*, providing both fiscal and impact analysis. Read the full reports [here](#) and [here](#).
- New Jersey Institute for Social Justice released *Bring Our Children Home: Ain't I A Child?*,



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revealing that despite reductions in incarceration rates overall, racial disparities are persistent. The report recommends diversion and alternatives to incarceration in order to mitigate New Jersey's Black-white commitment disparity, the third highest in the nation. Read more [here](#).

- New Jersey Work Environment Council released *Access Denied*, documenting New Jersey's lack of public access to up-to-date Emergency Response Plans (ERP) on both the municipal and county level. The report highlights the necessity of ERPs given that 91 facilities in New Jersey pose dangerous risks with 12 million people regionally living or working in these danger zones. Read more [here](#).

Events

- January 11—[Rally Against Solitary Confinement](#)
- January 21—[Women's March on New Jersey](#)
- January 24—[Protect The Pine Barrens Play-In](#)
- January 25—[Anti-Poverty Network General Meeting](#)
- January 28—[Dear President: What You Need to Know About Race](#)
- January 28—[Latino Action Network Legislative Conference](#)
- March 10—[Progress 2017: Paving the Way Toward Prosperity Conference](#)

Job Announcements

- American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey—[Executive Director](#)
- American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey—[Data Assistant](#)
- American Sustainable Business Council—[Statewide Coordinator](#)
- Aspen Institute—Young Leaders Fellowship
- Drug Policy Alliance—[Managing Directing of Policy](#)
- Isles, Inc.—[Job Developer](#)
- Isles, Inc.—[Community Health Worker \(Part Time\)](#)
- New Jersey Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council—[GIS Specialist II](#)
- New Jersey Institute for Social Justice—[Law and Policy Director](#)
- New Jersey Institute for Social Justice—[Senior Counsel Position](#)
- New Jersey Institute for Social Justice—[Juvenile Justice Field Organizer](#)
- New Jersey Working Families Alliance—[Communications Director](#)

The Fund for New Jersey's news updates will be distributed monthly. Please send policy news and updates, job announcements, and staff updates to Sofia Flores at sflores@fundfornj.org or you can Tweet to @FundforNJ.