

The Fund for New Jersey News

- The Fund for New Jersey is proud to announce that for the first quarter of 2017 it has awarded grants in the total amount of \$730,000 to advance public policies in in the areas of immigration, affordable housing, and education. Read the full press release [here](#).

Grantee News

Policy Victories:

- A federal judge issued a preliminary injunction stopping the Trump administration's attempts to withhold funding from "sanctuary cities" that do not cooperate with U.S. immigration authorities, as outlined in his Executive Order *Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States*. The judge ruled the President does not have the authority to attach new conditions to federal spending. New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice and partners have advocated for adoption of fair and welcoming policies throughout the state and have assured that such policies are protected by the Constitution. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

Policy Setbacks:

- Despite advocacy to protect and defend access to health care by NJ Citizen Action Education Fund and partners, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the "American Health Care Act" on May 4, which would shrink Medicaid, cut insurance subsidies, eliminate the individual mandate, and strip protections for those with pre-existing conditions, among other provisions. The bill won by a five-vote margin, spearheaded by New Jersey Representative Tom MacArthur's amendment, after its initial failure to pass in March. New Jersey Policy Perspective found that about a half million New Jerseyans stand to lose their health insurance and up to 1.8 million seniors, people with disabilities and children will receive reduced healthcare under the proposal. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).
- Despite American Friends Service Committee and local partners' efforts, the Cape May County Sheriff's Office enrolled in the 287(g) program, which authorizes correctional officers to perform immigration law enforcement. As the fourth program in the State, it ties New Jersey for second most 287(g) programs in the nation with Arizona, Georgia, and Texas. Read more [here](#) and track new programs [here](#).
- Despite long-standing advocacy by Drug Policy Alliance and partners, Governor Christie conditionally vetoed the parole reform bill (S-895/A-2182). The bill would have allowed for the presumptive release of low-risk individuals from prison after they have served their basic sentence, provided they commit no serious disciplinary infractions while incarcerated and participate in rehabilitation programs. Read more [here](#).

- Governor Christie vetoed S-2267, a bill that would have required county and state prosecutors to publish information on civil asset forfeiture. The practice is controversial because it allows police officers to take assets like money and cars from individuals prior to being convicted of a crime. ACLU-NJ and DPA both advocated for the bill's passage and emphasized the importance of providing transparency around this practice. Read more [here](#).

Policy Updates:

- Due to advocacy by NJ Work Environment Council, NY/NJ Baykeeper, Environment NJ, and Ironbound Community Corporation, the Oil Train Safety bill (A-2463/S-806) passed the legislature and was sent to Governor Christie's desk. The bill ensures that owners or operators of high-hazard trains have discharge response, cleanup, and contingency plans to transport certain hazardous materials by rail, and requires that the plans be filed with the State. Read more [here](#).
- In the long-standing battle over the proposed South Jersey Gas pipeline, Pinelands Preservation Alliance, Environment New Jersey and partners are appealing the Pinelands Commission approval of the South Jersey Gas Pipeline. The Pinelands Preservation Alliance also filed for a motion for stay in beginning construction. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).
- Penn East pipeline permit applications were deemed incomplete by both the NJ Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in late April. This came shortly after the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a favorable Final Environmental Impact Statement, which started a 90-day deadline for Penn East to receive permits. The Delaware River Basin Commission has yet to review Penn East application. NJ Conservation Foundation through the ReThink Energy NJ Campaign, Eastern Environmental Law Center, and partners have engaged in advocacy and litigation to force a more comprehensive energy planning response that moves New Jersey to clean energy solutions. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).
- Due to pressure by Education Law Center and advocates, the NJ Department of Education released data on how much districts would be due if the School Funding Reform Act were fully funded. The newly released data provides a more comprehensive look at school funding levels, an issue that has been at the center of this year's state budget debate. Read more [here](#).
- In line with long standing advocacy by the Pinelands Preservation Alliance, New Jersey Highlands Coalition, Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions, New Jersey League of Conservation Voters, and the New Jersey Conservation Foundation through the Save H2O NJ campaign, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection published its updated Water Supply Master Plan. Last published in 1996 despite a legal requirement to update ever five years, the plan finds that the state has enough water to meet future needs provided it increases conservation efforts and addresses outdated water infrastructure, particularly in urban areas. While advocates say the plan is a step in the right direction there is still much to be done around water management and in sub-watersheds. Read more [here](#) and access the full report [here](#).

Policy Reports:

- NJ Institute for Social Justice released *Bridging the Two Americas: Employment & Economic Opportunity in Newark and Beyond*. The report frames NJISJ's Newark 2020 efforts to create 2,020 jobs by 2020 as it finds that just 18 percent of Newark jobs are held by local residents and only 10 percent of those workers earn at least \$40,000 a year. Read the full report [here](#).
- Environment New Jersey published *Get the Lead Out: Ensuring Safe Drinking Water for Our Children at School*, assessing New Jersey's state policies at a C- for protections for children against lead. Among its recommendations are requiring lead testing in water outlets in schools and disclosing all available information about lead in water infrastructure. Read the full report [here](#).
- The Center for Non-Profits released *New Jersey Non-Profits 2017: Trends and Outlook Survey Results*, detailing non-profit funding and expenses, outlook for the coming year, and actions taken by non-profits to address 2017 trends. Read the full report [here](#).
- New Jersey Policy Perspective published *Boosting Families, Boosting the Economy: How to Improve New Jersey's Paid Family Leave Program*. The report finds that despite being one of the few states to offer family leave insurance, which provides workers with paid leave to take care of a new child or sick relative, just 12 percent of New Jersey's eligible new parents are receiving family leave benefits. The report outlines recommendations for improving the program including increasing the two-thirds wage replacement and raising the cap on leave earnings. Read the full report [here](#).
- New Jersey Policy Perspective also co-published *Raising the Minimum Wage to \$15 by 2024 Would Boost the Pay of 1.2 Million New Jerseyans* with the Economic Policy Institute. The report analyzes the potential state impact of the *Raise the Wage Act of 2017*, a proposed bill benefiting a diverse group of workers in high-cost New Jersey. Read more [here](#).
- Advocates for Children of New Jersey released *Quality Costs How Much? Estimating the Cost of Quality Child Care in New Jersey*, which provides cost estimates of operating a child care center or family child care home at various quality levels. Findings indicate that current funding levels of publicly funded care centers cannot meet higher state standards that define quality and that maintaining quality without an increase in childcare subsidy rates is impossible. Read the full [report here](#).
- Fair Share Housing Center released *New Jersey Gap Present Need Housing Obligations, 1999-2015*, an updated assessment using the most up-to-date data available. Responding to the NJ Supreme Court's recent decision that municipalities must address the affordable housing need that accumulated from 1999-2015, the study found a present need accumulated during this period of more than 146,000 homes. Read more [here](#).

Events

- May 18—[Education Justice Lecture and Reception](#)
- May 18—[Youth Justice New Jersey: Decarceration Campaign Meeting](#)
- May 22—[Advocates for Children of NJ release of New Jersey Kids Count 2017](#)
- May 24—[APN General Meeting](#)
- May 25—[American Sustainable Business Webinar: Hone Your Message and work with the Media to Get it Out](#)
- July 26—[New Jersey Congressional Housing Reception](#)

Job Announcements

- Ironbound Community Corporation—[N-CAP Community Organizer](#)
- Eastern Environmental Law Center—[Development Manager](#)
- Make the Road New Jersey—[Senior Organizer](#)
- Make the Road New Jersey—[Community Organizer](#)
- American Civil Liberties Union-New Jersey—[Administrative Assistant](#)
- NJ Citizen Action Education Fund—[Director of Financial Coaching](#)
- NJ Institute for Social Justice—[Law and Policy Director](#)

Please send policy news and updates, job announcements, and staff updates to Sofia Flores at sflores@fundforNJ.org or you can Tweet to @FundforNJ.