

## The Fund for New Jersey News

- The Fund for New Jersey is proud to announce that for the second quarter of 2017 it has awarded grants in the total amount of \$870,000 to advance public policies in the areas of climate and clean energy, protecting land use and water, anti-poverty, and civil rights and criminal justice. Read the full press release [here](#).
- The Fund for New Jersey launched the *Crossroads NJ* series with its first report: “[State Fiscal Policy—New Jersey’s Prosperity Depends on Immediate Fiscal Reforms](#)” in late June. The Fund for New Jersey’s Board of Trustees have directed and participated in *Crossroads NJ* to inform debate in this pivotal year to build on our state’s history and values and where we have come from, and to outline the “policy choices that define our future.” In early July, The Fund released its [Jobs and Economic Growth Report](#), the second of seven reports covering energy and environment, criminal justice, transportation, housing, and education. Read more [here](#).

## Grantee News

### Policy Victories:

- Due to advocacy by New Jersey Highlands Coalition and partners, a concurrent resolution (ACR-192) passed the legislature, blocking NJDEP’s Highland Septic Density Standards rules, which would permit 1,145 more septic systems in the Highlands region. The resolution determined NJDEP’s rule to be inconsistent with legislative intent and NJDEP has 30 days to amend the rule or it may be invalidated. Read more [here](#).
- As a result of litigation by Eastern Environmental Law Center and advocacy by NJ Highlands Coalition, the NJ appellate court affirmed the authority of the Highlands Council and Regional Master Plan in permitting decisions in the Highlands Planning area in May. EELC and the Highlands coalition successfully appealed NJDEP permit issuance for a proposed wastewater treatment facility to discharge into the Rockaway Creek in the Highlands Planning area, arguing that NJDEP failed to consult with the Highlands Council. The decision was remanded to NJDEP with 60 days to make a decision on the final permit. Read more [here](#).
- Thanks to advocacy by NJ Alliance for Immigrant Justice and partners, Newark passed a Fair and Welcoming City policy through a mayoral executive order, one of the strongest municipal policies in the state to date. Under the policy, ICE officials will not be permitted to enter municipal properties without a judicial warrant, ICE interaction with the city will be tracked, public employees are barred from asking individuals about immigration status, an Immigrant Commission is being established, and free translation services will be provided to Newark residents with limited proficiencies in English. Read more [here](#).

- Due to advocacy by NJ Alliance for Immigrant Justice and local partners, New Brunswick adopted a municipal ID program. The program is expected to begin in September and is one of several county and municipal programs in the state. Read more [here](#).
- Thanks to long-standing efforts by Pre-K Our Way and partners, the FY18 NJ State budget included \$25 million for pre-k expansion funding, the first significant expansion in nearly a decade. The allocation marks the initial step in bringing NJ's full day, state-funded pre-k to 50,000 3- and 4-year-olds across hundreds of NJ's communities. Read more [here](#).
- Due to advocacy by Advocates for Children of New Jersey and partners, the FY18 state budget included \$7 million in funding for lead testing in schools and \$850,000 for Court Appointed Special Advocates. The budget also ended a freeze on essential services for school children with special needs with \$25 million in new funding for special education. Read more [here](#).
- As a result of advocacy by Housing and Community Development Network of NJ and partners, in early May Governor Christie signed code blue legislation (A-815/S-1088), which requires county emergency management coordinators to provide shelter to the homeless during severe weather events. Read more [here](#).
- Due to advocacy by Drug Policy Alliance-NJ and partners, S-295/A-2334 was enacted, expanding access to naloxone by making it available without a prescription in more pharmacies across the state. The bill is in line with the DPA Overdose Prevention Campaign's previous efforts. Read more [here](#).
- Thanks to long-standing advocacy by Work Environment Council, the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development and Department of Health issued an updated Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health Hazard Communication rule (N.J.A.C. 12:100-7). The rule did not weaken chemical labeling requirements, ensuring all hazardous substances in factories, hospitals, schools, and other workplaces will continue to be labeled with their chemical names so workers know what hazards they face and can encourage prevention.

*Policy Setbacks:*

- Despite advocacy by NJ Policy Perspective, Anti-Poverty Network and partners, Governor Christie line-item vetoed language from the state budget that would have strengthened several NJ safety-net programs. "Heat and Eat" benefits that tie federal nutritional benefits to state heating assistance would have been restored, which without restoration have already resulted in 160,000 NJ households Supplemental Assistance Program (SNAP) Benefits being cut by on average \$90 per month. Governor Christie also vetoed repealing the "family cap" for Work First NJ, which has denied assistance to over 20,000 newborns in NJ. Finally, an allocation of \$2 million from the paid family leave program's fund to improve the timeliness of paid leave claims processing and \$1 million for paid leave education and community outreach were also vetoed. Read more [here](#).
- The NJ budget tapped \$75 million from the state Clean Energy Fund for supplemental appropriations, originally intended for renewable energy and energy conservation programs. A

total of \$1.5 billion has been diverted from the Clean Energy Fund during Governor Christie's tenure. In addition, a cumulative total of about \$10 million was diverted from the Unclaimed Utility Deposits Trust fund and the state recycling fund to balance the state budget. Similarly, the governor line-item vetoed language that would have ensured half of environmental settlement funds would go to remediation, restoration, and clean up instead of being diverted to other areas. Environment NJ Research and Policy Center, Clean Water Fund, New Jersey League of Conservation Voters, and partners have advocated against these diversions of environmental funds away from their intended uses. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

- Despite advocacy by NJ Work Environment Council, Environment NJ, and Ironbound Community Corporation, the Oil Train Safety bill (A-2463/S-806) was vetoed by Governor Christie. The bill would have ensured 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](#).

#### Policy Updates:

- 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 Education Fund, and the New Jersey Conservation Foundation through the Save H2O NJ campaign, the Department of Environmental Protection published the Water Supply Master Plan in early May. The plan was last published in 1996 despite a legal requirement to update ever five years. Despite identifying four watersheds with deficits and 11 more with potential deficits, the plan finds that the state has enough water to meet future needs provided increased efforts are made to conserve water. While advocates believe the draft plan is a step in the right direction, it does not adequately address water deficits, focuses too much on water quantity without addressing water quality, and stops short of making concrete recommendations. Public hearings on the plan are underway. Read more [here](#) and access the full report [here](#).
- As a result of efforts by Environment New Jersey Research and Policy Center, Clean Water Fund and partners, S-3029 passed the Senate and moved to the Assembly. The bill would allocate NJ's portion of the \$1.2 billion in Volkswagen settlement funds, a result of litigation over the manufacturer installing software to cheat on emissions tests on millions of vehicles, to reducing diesel emissions in NJ ports and to installing charging stations for zero emission vehicles. Read more [here](#).
- Due to advocacy by NJ Policy Perspective, NJ Citizen Action Education Fund, and partners, a bill (S-3085/A-4927) to expand paid family leave now awaits Governor Christie's action. The bill would expand family leave times, increase paid compensation for leave time, cover more family members, and improve job protections. The legislative reforms are in line with NJ Policy Perspective's report: *Boosting Families, Boosting the Economy: How to Improve New Jersey's Paid Family Leave* recommendations to boost the only 12 percent of eligible new parents that are using the program. Read more [here](#) and read the report [here](#).

- In line with long-standing advocacy by NJ Conservation Foundation and partners, NJ Department of Environmental Protection rejected a request for an application extension by PennEast for its pipeline after it failed to submit pertinent information. The application is now administratively closed, necessitating a new permit application and likely delaying review to a new state administration. Read more [here](#).
- Due to advocacy by Drug Policy Alliance-NJ, Anti Poverty Network, and partners, S-677/A-3677 passed both houses. The bill would authorize racial and ethnic impact statements (REIS) for proposed criminal justice policies to assist policymakers in detecting unforeseen policy biases before moving forward. The bill was conditionally vetoed by Governor Christie with the direction to include impacts on public safety. Advocates welcome the condition as it broadens the legislation, making it the first REIS to include public safety analysis. The bill will go back to the legislature for approval. As one of the states with the worst racial disparities in prison populations in the country, advocates emphasize the importance for New Jersey of the bill's adoption. Read more [here](#).
- Although addressing only a small portion of the \$2 billion school funding gap, the inclusion in the state budget of an additional \$181 million in school funding for 300 districts marks the first move in almost a decade to follow the School Funding Reform Act. Although a step in the right direction, Education Law Center and other advocates remain concerned about the \$31 million in funding taken away from more than 100 districts under the compromise. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).
- Due to advocacy by Housing and Community Development Network of NJ, several bills aimed at mitigating homelessness and protecting the homeless passed the Assembly in late June and move to the Senate. The bills (A-4406, A-4765, A-4767, A-4768) include provisions to ensure access to emergency homeless shelters, maintain open enrollment for federal Housing Choice Voucher pre-applications, and improve services for those homeless due to domestic violence. Read more [here](#).
- Due to litigation by Fair Share Housing Center, three municipalities in Mercer County reached pre-trial settlements: Ewing, Hamilton and Robbinsville. Lawrence and East Windsor signed settlement agreements establishing 1,110-unit and 736-unit obligations respectively. East Windsor also agreed to support a 100-percent affordable development and new supportive housing for people with disabilities while providing a special focus on very-low income families and people with disabilities. Princeton is still in negotiations. Read more [here](#).
- Due to litigation by Eastern Environmental Law Center and advocacy by the Ramapough Lenape Nation, a Superior Court judge vacated the temporary restraining order against the Ramapough Nation in its legal battle with the Mahwah Township over the construction of tepees on the Sweetwater prayer site at the Ramapo Hunt and Polo club. The Tribe has filed an application for a use variance with the Zoning Department on religious grounds and has been active in protests against the Pilgrim pipeline. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

- Due to advocacy by Environment New Jersey Research and Policy Center and partners, the Senate and Assembly passed resolutions urging Governor Chris Christie to join the United States Climate Alliance. Since President Trump pulled out of the Paris Accord Climate agreement, 13 states have joined the alliance and agreed to reducing emissions 26-28 percent from 2005 levels and meeting or exceeding the targets of the federal Clean Power Plan. Read more [here](#).
- Due to advocacy by the Housing and Community Development Network of NJ and partners, "New Jersey Housing Assistance for Veterans Act," (A-306/S-2017) passed the Assembly. The bill would establish a pilot program to assist low income or disabled veterans with housing modification and rehabilitation, appropriating \$5 million. Read more [here](#).

Policy Reports:

- Advocates for Children of New Jersey released its *2017 NJ Kids Count Report: A Statewide Profile of Child Well-Being* with new data on family economic security, early childcare and education, child health and protection, teens and young adults, and immigrant families. The report features a new layout with explanations of specific indicators and updates on how certain information is collected and measured. Read the full report [here](#).
- New Jersey League of Conservation Voters Education Fund published a comprehensive environmental policy agenda for its Green in 17' campaign. The platform includes recommendations for achieving 100% clean energy by 2050, modernizing public transit, preserving lands and parks, and promoting environmental justice. Read the full report [here](#).
- NJ Institute for Social Justice and the Brennan Center for Justice co-published *An Agenda for a Renewed Democracy in New Jersey*, recommending the legislature implement automatic voter registration, restore voting rights to residents with past criminal convictions who are living in the community, and set minimum early voting requirements. The report finds that New Jersey disenfranchises more formerly incarcerated people living and working in its communities than any other state in the Northeast. Read more [here](#).
- American Civil Liberties Union of NJ published *Unequal & Unfair: New Jersey's War on Marijuana Users*. The report provides a comprehensive analysis of New Jersey's marijuana possession practices. Findings include increasing arrests for marijuana possession, racial disparities in marijuana arrests at an all-time high, \$143 million per year in government funds used to enforce marijuana laws, and nine out of ten marijuana arrests are of users rather than dealers. Read the full report [here](#).
- NJ Policy Perspective released *Fairly and Adequately Taxing Inherited Wealth Will Fight Inequality & Provide Essential Resources for All New Jerseyans* which argues the restoration of the estate tax is essential for NJ as the state with the seventh widest income gap in the country. *It's Time for New Jersey to Rebalance the Economic-Development Scale*, which highlights the surge in corporate tax subsidies and proposes ten reforms, was also released. Read the full reports [here](#) and [here](#).

- The Coalition for Healthy Ports released a report, *Evaluation of the Port of New York & New Jersey Clean Trucks Program Rollback*, and a gubernatorial briefing book. The report found that a dramatic increase in the risk of premature death from exposure to diesel emissions from trucks serving the Ports of NY & NJ will result from the Port Authority's decision to not enforce its previously enacted ban on older trucks. The report recommends that the Port Authority implement clean truck programs funded by container fees, create incentives to expedite clean truck replacements through port container fee waivers for clean trucks, and adopt diesel emissions-reduction policies similar to those in California that can dramatically decrease harmful pollution across the entire goods movement industry. Included in its briefing book are recommendations around good governance, community benefits, and clean air for the next gubernatorial candidate. Read the full report [here](#) and the gubernatorial briefing book [here](#).

## Events

- July 17—NJWEC [Runaway Inequality – Camden Seminar](#)
- July 19—[Center for Non-Profits Workshop: An Overview of Strategic Planning](#)
- July 19 [APN General Meeting](#)
- July 26—Monarch Housing Associates [Congressional Housing Reception](#)
- September 12—[ACNJ Children's Summit](#)
- September 28 & 29—[Black Issues Convention](#)
- October 13—[ANJEC Environmental Congress](#)
- October 19 & 20—[2017 Under One Roof Conference & Membership Meeting](#)
- October 27—APN [2017 Poverty Summit](#)

## Job Announcements

- New Jersey Policy Perspective—[Director of Development](#)
- American Civil Liberties Union-New Jersey—[Administrative Assistant](#)
- 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](#)

The Fund for New Jersey is a private foundation and does not directly engage in lobbying. This newsletter's purpose is to report on the progress of our grantees' public policy goals, which often includes legislative advances.

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.