

The Fund for New Jersey News

- The Fund for New Jersey launched a third report for its [Crossroads NJ](#) series: [Climate Change Adds Urgency to Restoring Environmental Protection](#) in late July. 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 to outline the "policy choices that define our future." Read more [here](#).

Grantee News

Policy Victories:

- The New Jersey Supreme Court ruled in early July that law enforcement dashboard camera (dash-cam) footage should be made available under common law. When reporters filed an Open Public Records Act (OPRA) request for use-of-force reports, dash-cam videos and the names of the officers involved in the fatal shooting of a civilian in 2014, they were denied all records. After filing a complaint in court, a lower court ruled in favor of the reporters but was later overturned by an appellate panel. The decision was in line with ACLU-NJ's amicus brief on the case, highlighting the importance of dash-cam footage in promoting transparency. Read more [here](#).
- As a result of advocacy by Advocates for Children of NJ, the Nourishing Young Minds Initiative Fund was signed into law (S-2819/A-4363). The fund will support the implementation of federal school breakfast and summer meals programs in high poverty communities in order to increase the number of programs providing meals to low-income students. Read more [here](#).
- Thanks to advocacy by Wind of the Spirit, NJ Alliance for Immigrant Justice, and partners, Morristown unanimously adopted a municipal ID program, which started in August, making it the tenth municipality to adopt a program in New Jersey. In addition, the town of Dover passed a Fair and Welcoming resolution, limiting local police and local government agents from enforcing federal immigration law, ensuring labor law enforcement regardless of immigration status, and affirming its commitment to anti-discrimination policies. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).
- Thanks to advocacy by the Housing and Community Development Network of NJ A-2060/S-2333 was signed into law. The bill amends the state's "Fair Foreclosure Act", establishing a process for consideration of offers from short sale buyers during residential mortgage foreclosures. Read more [here](#).

Policy Setbacks:

- Despite longstanding efforts by NJ Policy Perspective, Anti-Poverty Network, and partners Governor Christie vetoed two bills to improve the Work First NJ program: A33/S-3316 would have repealed the "family cap" and A-31/S-3315 would have increased the benefit levels under the program. The "family cap" has denied assistance to over 20,000 babies in NJ. Governor

Christie also line-item vetoed provisions to repeal the cap from the state budget in late June. Read more [here](#).

- Governor Christie conditionally vetoed a bill (S-3085/A-4927) to expand NJ's paid family leave program. The bill would have expanded paid family leave times, increased paid compensation for leave time, covered more family members and improved job protections. The conditional veto gut the legislation, leaving only portions pertaining to processing, public reporting and promoting the benefits available under the state's existing family leave law. NJ Policy Perspective, NJ Citizen Action Education Fund, and partners, advocated for the bill's passage. Read more [here](#).
- Despite longstanding efforts by Environment NJ Research and Policy Center and partners, Governor Christie vetoed A-4701/S-3059, which would have required the state to return to the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). RGGI is an agreement among states that sets caps on the amount of carbon dioxide power plants can emit, allowing states to auction off emission rights. Prior to Governor Christie withdrawing the state from the pact in 2011, New Jersey had collected \$113.3 million in emissions auctions. Read more [here](#).
- Although NJ Policy Perspective and partners raised concerns over the transfer of the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services from the Human Services Department to the State Health Department, the Christie Administration will go through with the decision. Advocates argued that the decision was made without thorough study of the implications of such a large reorganization on Medicaid funding and the current fee-for service mental health transition. While the Assembly passed a resolution (ACR254) opposing the plan, the Senate did not pass the concurrent resolution in time. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).
- The New Jersey Supreme Court ruled that state prosecution does not have to call witnesses to determine if the accused can be held in jail, further defining the state's bail reform implementation. ACLU-NJ, which has been a lead advocate in bail reform implementation, litigated in opposition to the decision arguing that pre-trial hearings should require significant due process. Read more [here](#).
- Despite advocacy by NJ Alliance for Immigrant Justice and national, state, and local partners, the Trump administration halted processing any new applications and formally rescinded the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. The federal government will continue renewing permits for anyone whose status expires in the next sixth months, setting the clock for Congress to act to preserve the program's protections before recipients lose their status in March 2018, leaving more than 22,000 young New Jersey DACA recipients vulnerable. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

Policy Updates:

- In line with advocacy by Environment NJ Research and Policy Center, NY/NJ Baykeeper, NJ Conservation Foundation and partners, Governor Christie and the NJ Department of Environmental Protection filed formal comments with the federal government in opposition to

any industrialization of the New Jersey coast that could affect the state's natural resources, coastal communities, or economy. The comments are in response to the U.S. Department of the Interior proposal for a five-year program to lease large tracts of underwater areas along the Atlantic coast for oil and natural gas extraction, reversing a federal ban on offshore drilling. Read more [here](#).

Policy Reports:

- Rutgers University Center on American Governor published *From Candidate to Governor Elect: Recommendations for Gubernatorial Transitions*, outlining recommendations for the transition period between the election of a New Jersey governor and his or her inauguration to lay the groundwork for a productive administration. The report draws on recollections, advice and stories from former government officials, political operatives and transition team members. Read the full report [here](#).
- Regional Plan Association published *Crossing the Hudson: How to Increase Transit Capacity and Improve Commutes*. The report urges complementary investments that address the problems of the transit system as a whole, address inadequacies of the current system, create capacity for more robust economic growth, and improve service and reduce travel times on both sides of the Hudson River. Read the full report [here](#).
- NJ Policy Perspective released *Fact Facts: New Jersey's Marketplace Leads the U.S. in Making Health Care Affordable*. The report finds that New Jersey's Marketplace has low deductibles and the nation's slowest growth in premiums. However, threats to cut subsidies would undermine these savings that benefit both consumers and taxpayers. Read more [here](#).
- Advocates for Children of NJ (ACNJ) published *Protecting Infants and Toddlers: A Five-Year Review*, which examines reforms to state policy and practice for young children, from birth to age three, under the care of the state child protection system and makes recommendations for further improvement. Read more [here](#)
- ACNJ also released *Showing up Matters: A Look at Absenteeism Inside Newark's High Schools*, which identified school disengagement, social-emotional health, geographic distance from schools, personal safety, and other issues as contributing factors to poor attendance. The report recommends fostering supportive leadership in school principals and administrators, enhancing professional development for social-emotional learning, and instituting routine communications to reduce chronic absenteeism. Read more [here](#).
- Environment NJ Research and Policy Center released *Rough Waters Ahead: The Impact of the Trump Administration's EPA Budget Cuts on the Delaware River Basin*. The report finds that, considering EPA has jurisdiction for more than 1,000 pollution permits in the Delaware River, proposed budget cuts to EPA water programs would slash enforcement by more than 25 percent. Read more [here](#).

Events

- September 12—[ACNJ Children's Summit](#)

- September 19—[Anti-Poverty Network Report Release: The Uncomfortable Truth: Racism, Inequality and Poverty in New Jersey](#)
- September 27—[Anti-Poverty Network General Meeting](#)
- September 27—[NJ Climate Adaptation Alliance Climate Change Policy Conference](#)
- October 13—[ANJEC 2017 Environmental Congress](#)
- October 19 & 20—[2017 Community Development Conference & Membership Meeting](#)
- October 27—[2017 Poverty Summit](#)
- November 20—[Regional Plan Association Report Release: Fourth Regional Plan](#)

Job Announcements

- American Civil Liberties Union-New Jersey—[Public Policy Director](#)
- 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.