

Grantee NewsLeadership:

- Congratulations to Debbie Mans, former NY/NJ Baykeeper Executive Director, for her appointment to serve as Deputy Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. She brings extensive experience working to advance clean energy and conservation, working in her new role to help DEP lead the nation in developing solutions to such critical issues as climate change and renewable energy. Read more [here](#).
- Congratulations to Jackie Cornell, former New Jersey Policy Perspective Director of Development and External Affairs, for her appointment to serve as the Principal Deputy Commissioner of New Jersey Public Health Services. In her new role she will work to maintain and improve the health and quality of life for New Jersey's citizens by ensuring the reliability of New Jersey's health infrastructure and emergency response network. Read more [here](#).
- Best wishes to Jon Whiten, former NJ Policy Perspective Vice President who was tapped by national affiliate Center for Budget and State Priorities to fill the role of Deputy Director of State Communications. In his new role he will work with state affiliate groups across the country and with the Center's State Fiscal Project team to shape the public debate over public investments and to advance sound policies that build strong, inclusive state economies. Read more [here](#).
- Welcome to Julie Borst in her new role as Executive Director of Save Our Schools Community Organizing. She brings years of experience within the organization, working previously as a co-coordinator and a volunteer organizer.

Policy Victories:

- In line with advocacy by NJ Citizen Action Education Fund and partners, Governor Phil Murphy signed an Executive Order that would bar managers in state government from asking job applicants about their previous salary. The measure was created to promote equal pay for women and advocates are working with lawmakers to introduce complementary legislation. Read more [here](#).
- Due to advocacy by NJ Alliance for Immigrant Justice, American Friends Service Committee, and partners, Hudson County ended its 287(g) program, which deputized corrections officers to enforce federal immigration laws, notifying Immigration and Customs Enforcement about inmates who are not legally in the United States. Whereas New Jersey previously had four 287(g) programs, now only Salem, Monmouth and Cape May counties remain in the program. Read more [here](#).
- In line with continued advocacy and litigation by NJ Conservation Foundation, Pinelands Preservation Alliance, Eastern Environmental Law Center, and partners, the Attorney General -- on behalf of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection and Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission -- filed for a rehearing and stay of the Federal Regulatory Energy Commission's project approval of Penn East pipeline. The State argued the decision was based on a

fundamentally flawed final environmental impact statement. The Penn East Pipeline still needs approval from NJDEP and the Delaware River Basin Commission. Read more [here](#).

- Consistent with long-term efforts by NJ Policy Perspective, Governor Murphy issued an Executive Order directing the State Comptroller's Office to complete a performance audit of the NJ Economic Development Authority's tax incentive program. The Governor cited NJPP's research on the surge in tax subsidies from 2013 and their benefit primarily to large companies over small businesses. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).
- In line with longstanding advocacy by Environment NJ Policy and Research Center, Jersey Renews, and partners, Governor Murphy issued an Executive Order for the State to rejoin the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). The order directs the NJ Department of Environmental Protection and NJ Board of Public Utilities to begin negotiations with current RGGI member states to determine how best to re-join. Complementary legislation (A1212/S611), which would also require legislative approval to pull out of the agreement in the future, passed the Assembly and moved to the Senate. Read more [here](#).
- Consistent with advocacy by Environment NJ Policy and Research Center, NJ Work Environment Council and other Jersey Renews allies, Governor Murphy signed an Executive Order directing the NJ Board of Public Utilities and the NJ Department of Environmental Protection to create an Offshore Wind Strategic Plan to meet a goal of 3,500 megawatts of offshore wind energy generation by the year 2030. Read more [here](#).
- Due to local advocacy by Advocates for Children of New Jersey and national efforts by advocates around the country, Congress reauthorized CHIP for a total of ten years through FY2027 and extended the requirement for states to maintain coverage for children. The laws provided much-needed stability for the program, which expired on October 1, 2017. Without reauthorization, many states had to freeze enrollment or cut off insurance coverage as funding ran dry, although New Jersey had a funding cushion until April 2018. Read more [here](#).

Policy Updates:

- In line with advocacy by NJ Alliance for Immigrant Justice and partners, Attorney General Gurbir Grewal joined two multi-state lawsuit filings, one regarding President Trump's withholding law enforcement grants from cities that limit cooperation with Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the other to ensure that protections afforded to DACA recipients are preserved. In the meantime, a California district court ruled in February that the federal government must continue to accept DACA renewal applications because it had not followed a standard deliberative process before suspending enrollment. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

Policy Reports:

- NJ Institute for Social Justice published *Bring Our Children Home: A Prison-to-School Pipeline for New Jersey's Youth*, detailing the impacts of the school-to-prison pipeline on New Jersey's youth of color. The report provides historical context for Bordentown's transition from a school to a prison and outlines opportunities for the state to create a prison-to-school pipeline by

reinvesting funds into a modern Bordentown school, conducting a qualitative study, and more. Read the full report [here](#).

- With support from The Fund for New Jersey and New Jersey Health Initiatives, a program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Green and Healthy Homes Initiative, in collaboration with Isles, Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey, and Advocates for Children of New Jersey released *New Jersey Lead Poisoning Prevention Action Plan*. The report provides comprehensive action steps to eliminate childhood lead poisoning in ten years in New Jersey. Key policy reforms and investment in housing and other infrastructure will increase the safety of the environment, and risk-based prevention services will prevent lead poisoning in New Jersey's most vulnerable children. Read the full report [here](#).
- American Friends Service Committee in collaboration with Rutgers Law School published *Language Access in Newark: How the city can improve its services and information for residents with limited English proficiency, and why it should*. The report surveyed limited English proficient individuals in Newark to develop policy recommendations, integrating other language access model best practices from DC and New York City. The study found that 40% of respondents reported they read, write, or speak English “not very well,” with 42% stating that the quality of treatment they received when interacting with public services negatively affected them. The report recommends Newark adhere to its newly adopted Fair and Welcoming Policy, which included translation services. Read the full report [here](#).
- New Jersey Policy Perspective published *Investing in New Jersey's Future Will Require New Revenues*, arguing that in order to rebuild a strong state economy, the state must invest in its competitive assets through state tax reform. New Jersey Policy Perspective also released *A \$15 Minimum Wage Would Help Over 1 Million Workers and Boost New Jersey's Economy*. The report finds that a gradual increase to \$15 minimum wage would pump \$4.5 billion in increased wages directly into the state economy and help decrease the state's large poverty rate. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).
- Advocates for Children of NJ published *Expensive, Frustrating and Scary: Parents Reveal the Realities of Finding Child Care for Babies in NJ*, a qualitative analysis of parent focus groups, building on previous studies showing severe shortages of infant-toddler child care. In partnership with Education Law Center, Advocates for Children of NJ also released *School Discipline in New Jersey: A toolkit for students, families, and advocates*, outlining student's rights under school discipline procedures and providing context for the newly adopted prohibition on out-of-school suspensions. Read the full reports [here](#) and [here](#).
- Pinelands Preservation Alliance released its annual State of the Pinelands report, reviewing public policy actions of the past year, outlining their impacts on the pinelands region, and highlighting opportunities for the new administration to protect the Pinelands. Read the full report [here](#).

Events

- March 16 & 17—NJ WEC: [Public Need over Corporate Greed Training](#)

- March 16—[NJ Spotlight Roundtable: NJ's Energy Future](#)
- March 23—[NJ Policy Perspective Progress 2018: Building a More Just and Fair NJ](#)
- March 27—[Newark Kids Count 2018 Release](#)
- March 28—[APN General Meeting](#)
- April 21—[APN The Uncomfortable Truth: Children and Youth stakeholders' forum](#)

Job Announcements

- American Civil Liberties Union—[Policy Director](#)
- American Friends Service Committee—[Pro Bono Coordinator](#)
- Advocates for Children of New Jersey—[Right from the Start Coordinator](#)
- Faith in New Jersey—[South Jersey Community Organizer](#)
- NJ Citizen Action Education Fund—[Work and Family Organizer](#)
- NJ Institute for Social Justice—[Development Associate](#)
- NJ Policy Perspective— [Director of Communications](#)
- Regional Plan Association—[New Jersey 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.