

The Fund for New Jersey News

- The Fund for New Jersey is proud to announce that for the second quarter of 2018 it has awarded grants in the total amount of \$800,000 to advance public policies in the areas of climate change and clean energy, water quality, criminal justice reform and social justice, and transportation. Read the full press release [here](#).

Grantee News

Leadership:

- Congratulation to Greg Remaud for his promotion to CEO of NY/NJ Baykeeper, succeeding Debbie Mans, who now serves as Deputy Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. Greg has worked at Baykeeper for over 20 years in various roles including most recently as Deputy Director. Read more [here](#).
- Welcome to Sharron Greenberg to the Environment NJ Policy and Research Center team as Donor Development Associate. Read more [here](#).
- Welcome to Louis De Paolo, New Jersey Policy Perspective's new Director of Communications. He previously was Legislative Director for New Jersey Working Families Alliance, is a member of New Leaders Council, and serves as a councilman in Dumont. Read more [here](#).
- Congratulations to Dan Fatton, former Executive Director of NJ Work Environment Council who was recently hired to be the Energy Foundation's New Jersey State Director. In his new role in philanthropy, Dan will continue to advance clean energy policy in the Garden State.

Policy Victories:

- Due to long-standing efforts by NJ Citizen Action Education Fund and partners, legislation (A-2039/S-485) to rein in out-of-network charges was signed by Governor Murphy. The law requires state-regulated insurance plans to settle disputed bills via arbitration, increases transparency by providers on participation in insurers' networks and out-of-network charges, and creates a reporting mechanism to the state regarding savings from the legislation. Read more [here](#).
- As a result of advocacy by Advocates for Children of NJ and partners, Governor Murphy signed a package of bills to address child hunger by expanding the number of poor and low-income students receiving federally funded meals at school and tracking those not being fed. A-350/S-1894 requires districts where at least 70% of students are eligible for free or reduced-price meal to serve breakfast after the start of the school day, to be implemented at an estimated 500 schools serving breakfast to an estimated 300,000 students. A3503/S-1895 requires certain school districts to submit reports on nonparticipation in "Community Eligibility Provision" of national School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, A-3502/S-1896 requires school districts to report quarterly to the DOA the number of all students denied breakfast or lunch at school, and

A-3504/S-1897 expands summer meal programs to all school districts with 50 percent or more of students eligible for free or reduced price meals were all passed. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

- In line with long-standing advocacy by NJ Citizen Action Education Fund and partners, Governor Murphy signed the strongest equal pay legislation (A-1850/S-104) in the nation into law. The provision makes it illegal for an employer to offer lower pay and benefits to workers of protected classes. Employees can claim up to six years and three times as much as the pay and benefits denied, with employers having to prove discrepancies were based on experience or education. Read more [here](#).
- Due to advocacy by Wind of the Spirit, Make the Road NJ, and partners, Governor Murphy signed (A-3467/S-699) into law, making state financial aid accessible to New Jersey's undocumented students. The law reinstates a provision initially included under the Tuition Equality Act, but conditionally vetoed by Former Governor Christ Christie, expanding on New Jersey's tuition accessibility laws that allow undocumented immigrants to pay in-state tuition rates. Read more [here](#).
- Due to efforts by ACLU-NJ, NJ Institute for Social Justice, and partners, Governor Murphy signed a law (P.L.2018, c.6.) in April making New Jersey the 13th state in the nation to automatically register eligible voters when they apply for driver's licenses, renewals or permits, unless registration is declined. Read more [here](#).
- Consistent with research and advocacy by Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence and partners, New Jersey passed a package of gun regulation legislation. Key provisions include a process for firearms seizure by certain health care professionals who determine a patient poses a threat of harm to themselves or others, reduction of the maximum capacity of ammunition to 10 rounds, and prohibition of ammunition capable of penetrating body armor. New Jersey also became the eighth state to adopt an Extreme Risk Protective Order law, which allows a police officer, family or household member of a gun owner to petition authorities to seize the weapon. Read more [here](#).
- In line with efforts by Advocates for Children of New Jersey, Governor Murphy signed legislation (A-2192/S-1876) into law, which requires the Commissioner of Education to include data on chronic absenteeism and disciplinary suspensions on School Report Card. The law also requires schools with high chronic- absenteeism rates to develop corrective action plans to improve attendance. With more than 700 schools with more than 10% of their students chronically absent in the 2016-2017 year alone, ACNJ will continue to educate school districts on best practices to promote attendance. Read more [here](#).
- Due to efforts by NJ Citizen Action Education Fund, NJ Policy Perspective and partners, a bill (A-3380/S-1877) to stabilize the state healthcare marketplace in response to federal rollbacks to the affordable care act was signed into law. The New Jersey Health Insurance Market Preservation Act implements a state-level individual mandate through an income tax penalty and requires the state Department of Banking and Insurance to request a federal waiver to establish a state reinsurance fund. Read more [here](#).

- Consistent with long-standing advocacy and research by NJ Citizen Action Education Fund, NJ Policy Perspective, and partners, Earned Sick and Safe Days legislation (A-1827/S-2171) was signed into law, allowing nearly all workers in the state to accrue one hour of earned sick leave for every 30 hours worked and up to 40 hours annually. The law, which will take effect in late October, is estimated to expand benefits to 1.2 million workers, allowing them to take time off to recover from an illness, take care of a sick relative, attend school related meetings, and more. Read more [here](#).
- Due to advocacy by NY/NJ Baykeeper and partners, NJ Department of Environmental Protection rejected two development proposals on preserved portions of Liberty State Park: a marina on the south portion of the park and a golf course in the Caven Point area. The decision comes after a judge temporarily halted NJDEP's lease for the private marina in December 2017, ordering a restraining order of the company from entering into the agreement until Governor Murphy took office. Read more [here](#).
- In line with advocacy by Jersey Renews coalition (led by Environment New Jersey, NJ Work Environment Council, and GreenFaith) and other environmental advocates, Governor Murphy signed Executive Order 28 directing the NJ Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) to overhaul the Energy Master Plan to recognize the need for significant investment and support for clean energy sources. The Executive Order directs NJBPU adopt a new EMP by June 1, 2019, requires the EMP provide a plan to convert energy production to 100% clean energy by 2050, calls for advancement of community solar, establishes a 2,000MW clean energy storage goal by 2030, and calls for exploration of clean energy and electric technology alternatives in New Jersey's transportation sector. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).
- Consistent with long-standing efforts by environmental advocates, Governor Murphy signed a package of bills to promote clean energy. The new laws direct New Jersey utilities to generate 50% of their electricity from renewable sources by 2030, establish a new community solar program, codify the Governor's goal to build 3,500MW of off-shore wind by 2030, call for 600MW of energy storage capacity by 2021, and require utility investment in energy-efficiency measures. Read more [here](#).
- Due to litigation by the Criminal and Youth Justice Clinic at Rutgers Law School in Newark, and support by partners ACLU-NJ and Advocates for Children of NJ, the NJ Supreme Court unanimously ruled that requiring juvenile sex offenders to register for life, with no eligibility to be removed, is a violation of due process. The court ruled that instead juveniles who have committed sex offenses and served their time could ask the court to be removed from the registry after 15 years if they have not re-offended. Read more [here](#).
- Due to advocacy by American Friends Service Committee, Make the Road NJ, and partners, the FY2019 New Jersey Budget included \$2.1 million to help pay for attorneys for immigrants fighting deportation proceedings. Currently only a third of immigrants who need counsel receive it, but those who do triple their chances of winning their case. Read more [here](#).

- Consistent with long-standing advocacy by NJ Policy Perspective, Anti-Poverty Network, and partners, the State Budget for Fiscal Year 2019 included an increase for families in the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) benefit level—for the first time in 31 years—and the elimination of the family cap. In addition, the budget included an increase in the state Earned Income Tax Credit from 25% to 40% over the next two years. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).
- In line with efforts by NJ Policy Perspective and partners, the state budget also included provisions for a fairer tax code including the creation of a new tax bracket for the state's wealthiest individuals for a tax rate of 10.75%, an average 2% surtax on large corporations, and combined reporting. New Jersey is the 27th state to adopt combined reporting, a measure that prevents corporations from hiding taxable income outside of the state. Read more [here](#).
- As a result of efforts by Pre-K Our Way, Advocates for Children of NJ, and partners, the state budget included nearly \$83 million for preschool funding: \$25 million for new expansion communities, \$25 million in continued funding for the districts recently expanded under former Governor Chris Christie, and \$33 million for the original 35 school districts, which is the first increase in funding for nearly a decade. Read more [here](#).
- Due to advocacy by Environment NJ Research and Policy Center and partners, Governor Murphy passed a law (P.L.2018, c.7.) to deter off-shore drilling and pipeline or other infrastructure used to transport oil or natural gas on New Jersey's coast. The decision comes after the Trump administration's efforts to rollback bans on offshore drilling. Read more [here](#).
- Consistent with long-standing efforts by Environment NJ Research and Policy Center, Governor Murphy signed a bill requiring BPU to accept application from Fishermen's Energy to approve a small pilot offshore wind project three miles from Atlantic City and review it within 90 days. Read more [here](#).

Policy Setbacks:

- Despite advocacy and litigation by Environment NJ Research and Policy Center, and partners, Governor Murphy will use \$125 million of the state's \$225 million settlement of its pollution lawsuit against ExxonMobil to be diverted to the general fund, in much the same way that former Governor Christie diverted \$225 million in ExxonMobil settlement funds for the general fund. The decision comes after the NJ Supreme Court held that environmental groups had no legal standing to bring lawsuits against the decision. The decision comes after voters approved a referendum that environmental settlement money must be used primarily for restoring natural resources damaged by pollution. Read more [here](#).
- Despite advocacy by NJ Alliance for Immigrant Justice, American Friends Service Committee, Faith in New Jersey, Wind of the Spirit, Make the Road NJ, and partners, Temporary Protective Status (TPS) for Hondurans and Nepalese have been terminated. The decision comes after termination of TPS for Haitians and Salvadorians. The status allows nationals from countries in which conditions, such as war and environmental disaster, prevent them from returning safely to their home country or where their home country cannot handle their return, to live and work within the U.S. The decision comes after President Trump ended programs for Sudan and

Nicaragua, with a likely decision on the status of Hondurans later this year. In New Jersey, 13,900 people from El Salvador, Honduras, and Haiti have TPS. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

- Despite advocacy by Environment NJ Research and Policy Center and partners, Governor Murphy signed a law to provide \$300 million in ratepayer subsidies to keep three South Jersey nuclear plants from closing in South Jersey. PSEG had threatened to close these plants and argued the subsidy is necessary because they provide 40% of the state's energy and 90% of its carbon-free electricity; PSEG was not transparent, however, in demonstrating the financial need for the subsidy and the law appears to exclude the ratepayer advocate from the proceedings to establish the subsidy. Read more [here](#).
- Contrary to earlier proposals to divert allocations from the state Affordable Housing Trust Fund to fill budget holes in the general fund, \$15 million was set aside for its designated use to construct homes. While \$60 million was still diverted, advocates believe that the allocation of some funds to its intended purpose is a step in the right direction. Combined with the expansion of the Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Credit by \$5 million, the first increase in the programs history, overall funding for housing has improved from previous years in line with efforts by The Housing and Community Development Network of NJ and partners. Read more [here](#).

Policy Updates:

- In line with advocacy by NJ Alliance for Immigrant Justice and partners New Jersey joined a multi-state lawsuit against the federal government, alleging that the administration's refusing to accept asylum seekers and separating families violates the Constitution and undermines states' interests. The lawsuit is in response to the Trump administration's "zero-tolerance" immigration policies. Read more [here](#).
- Consistent with efforts by Drug Policy Alliance, Hyacinth AIDS Foundation, and partners, the Senate passed a bill (S-483) which would require hospitals and health care professionals to offer hepatitis C testing to individuals born between 1945 and 1965, who are five times more likely to be infected with hepatitis C than those in any other age group. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).
- Consistent with litigation by ACLU-NJ, the NJ Supreme Court ruled that judges cannot make detention determinations based only on the crime committed, except in cases involving murder and other crimes that carry a penalty of life imprisonment. The decision is the most recent state's Supreme Court ruling shaping the state's bail reform law. Read more [here](#).
- In line with advocacy by NY/NJ Baykeeper and partners, S-1073 passed the Senate and moves on to the Assembly. The bill would let towns and counties assess fees on sources of runoff to cover the costs of fixing aging stormwater systems that exacerbate flooding and pollution across the state. Fixing the aging stormwater system in New Jersey is projected to be a \$15 billion expense. Read more [here](#).
- Due to advocacy by Drug Policy Alliance, ACLU-NJ, and partners a bill (A-3442/S-1963) to address gaps in reporting of civil asset forfeiture passed the Senate and awaits action by the Assembly. Civil asset forfeiture is a practice that allows law enforcement to seize cash, cars, real estate or

other property suspected of being connected to criminal activity. Advocates are hopeful the law will provide necessary information on this practice given that in New Jersey property can be seized and forfeited even when criminal charges are never filed against a property owner. Read more [here](#).

- As a result of efforts by NY/NJ Baykeeper, Association of NJ Environmental Commissions, and partners, a bill to prohibit public schools and universities from selling food and beverages in Styrofoam containers passed the Senate. Studies have found that 38% of the plastic floating in New Jersey's estuaries are Styrofoam pieces. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).
- On May 17, the 64th anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education*, NJ Coalition for Diverse and Inclusive Schools filed a lawsuit in Mercer County Superior Court against The State of New Jersey and NJ Board of Education. The lawsuit argues that highly segregated schools violate students' rights under the New Jersey State Constitution and asks the court to mandate that the Legislature and NJ Department of Education devise a plan to better integrate schools. Read more [here](#).
- Due to advocacy by the Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey A-3294 passed/S-866 the legislature and went to Governor Murphy's desk for approval. The bill would extend the state's Housing Assistance and Housing Hardship extension programs, which expired in 2015 with a permanent housing assistance program to those who meet certain criteria. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).
- In line with litigation and advocacy by Fair Share Housing Center and partners, a superior court ruling set statewide housing quota for new affordable units at over 150,000 units by 2025. The decision may influence more than 100 municipalities that have not settled and where methodology trials are still to be held. While Fair Share Housing Center is pleased with the overall decision, it has not yet determined whether it will appeal other aspects of the decision. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).
- Due to advocacy by Drug Policy Alliance and partners S-761 was passed by the Senate and awaits approval by the Assembly. The parole reform bill would allow for people serving time for low-level offenses to be released at their first eligibility date, provided that they have not committed any serious disciplinary infractions while incarcerated. Read more [here](#).
- Consistent with efforts by NJ Work Environmental Council and partners, an oil train safety bill (A3783/S-1833) passed the senate and moved to the assembly. The bill would ensure 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](#) and [here](#).
- In line with advocacy by NJ Institute for Social Justice, Wind of the Spirit, and partners, New Jersey joined a multi-state lawsuit challenging the U.S. Department of Commerce decision to add a question about citizenship to the Census. The lawsuit asserts that the additional question threatens the fair representation of some states with large immigrant communities and is a violation of the U.S. Constitution. Read more [here](#).

- The legislature passed a bill (A-3267/S-2600) that would impose a 5-cent fee on each paper and plastic single-use bag provided by chain stores and large retailers throughout the state. The bill, which awaits Governor Murphy's approval, is projected to raise about \$23 million, which would be allocated to a lead abatement fund in the NJ Department of Environmental Protection. NY/NJ Baykeeper and Association of NJ Environmental Commissions have been working to reduce plastic bag use, but are concerned with provisions that pre-empt adoption of any local bag ordinances and allow exemptions for certain plastic bags. Read more [here](#).
- The FY19 Budget included a \$350 million increase in K-12 funding, which was welcomed by Education Law Center and partners. However, at the same time, many districts below or slightly above adequacy will have their state aid reduced by a total of over \$600 million in seven years. Further, the budget did not include any funding for the state school construction program for the 381 health and safety, capital maintenance and major project applications pending funding since the program funding depleted. Read more [here](#).

Policy Reports:

- Advocates for Children of New Jersey published *Nourishing Our Youngest Children: How to Expand the Child and Adult Care Food Program*. ACNJ conducted a survey of more than 120 childcare providers and organizations participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program and found that nearly 90% agreed that children need the nutrition provided through the program. The report also recommends ways to improve the program by creating food buying hubs, conducting outreach to engage more childcare providers to participate in the program, and collecting accurate data to measure participation. Read the report [here](#).
- Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence published *The Economic Cost of Gun Violence in New Jersey*, which found that the overall economic cost of gun violence in New Jersey exceeds \$3.3 billion, with a direct annual cost to New Jersey taxpayers of approximately \$273 million. Read more [here](#).
- The National Low Income Housing Coalition published its annual Out of Reach report for 2018, which finds that for those living in New Jersey making minimum wage would have to work 107 hours a week to afford rent for a modest one-bedroom home. Further, New Jersey ranks fourth for states with the largest shortfall between average renter wage and two-bedroom housing wage. Read more [here](#).
- The Center for Diversity and Equality in Education published *The New Promise of School Integration and the Old Problem of Extreme Segregation: An Action Plan for New Jersey to Address Both*, updating the 2013 study on New Jersey's intensely segregated schools. Updated 2016-2017 school year data show poverty and racial isolation persisting together. While the state saw a decrease in the percentage of apartheid schools, the combined percentage of intensely segregated and apartheid schools increased slightly between 2015-2016 and 2016-2017. Read the full report [here](#).
- NJ Policy Perspective released the report *Legal Representation in Immigration Courts Leads to Better Outcomes, Economic Stability*. The report finds that individuals detained for civil

immigration violations are three times as likely to prevail in their cases when they have legal representation and that the state's economy would lose \$18 million in wages and \$1.6 million in total tax revenue from detained immigrants. Read more [here](#).

- NJ Work Environmental Council co-published *Offshore Wind Means Blue-Collar Jobs for Coastal States* with the Center for American Progress. The report provides a regional picture of the workforce opportunities in offshore wind, including case studies and policy recommendations for implementation that support high quality job creation. Read the full report [here](#).

Events

- July 18—[Anti-Poverty Network General Meeting](#)
- July 26—[New Jersey Congressional Housing Reception](#)
- July 30—[New Jersey Kids Count Report: Babies Count](#)
- August 1—[Healthy Homes and Communities Summit](#)
- October 12—[2018 Environmental Congress](#)
- October 12—[Under One Roof 2018](#)

Job Announcements

- NJ Conservation Foundation—[South Jersey Metro Regional Manager](#)
- Eastern Environmental Law Center—[Development Manager](#)
- NJ Institute for Social Justice—[Development Officer](#)

Please send policy news and updates, job announcements, and staff updates to Lucy Vandenberg at lvandenberg@fundfornj.org or you can Tweet to @FundforNJ.

