

The Fund News

- On January 22, The Fund honored and celebrated Kiki Jamieson’s impactful work while leading the foundation and officially welcomed Brandon McKoy as its new President.

Grantee News

- New Jersey Spotlight welcomed [Benjamin J. Hulac](#) to the NJ Spotlight News team. As a Washington, D.C.-based correspondent, Benjamin will cover New Jersey’s congressional delegation in his reporting.

Policy Victories

- Thanks to robust collaboration from grantee partners like the League of Women Voters of New Jersey, the American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey, Fair Share Housing Center, Faith in New Jersey, Ironbound Community Corporation, Latino Action Network, Make the Road New Jersey, New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice, New Jersey Citizen Action, New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, New Jersey Policy Perspective, Salvation and Social Justice, and Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center, several key policies within “[The People’s Lame Duck Agenda](#),” which was presented to members of the state legislature last year, were signed by the governor. These new laws include measures that:
 - expand language translation and data disaggregation for racial and ethnic communities (read more [here](#) and [here](#)),
 - codify and protect the rights of domestic workers (read more [here](#) and [here](#)),
 - reduce inequities within the sale of foreclosures for families (read more [here](#)),
 - protect the legal representation of juveniles navigating the judicial system (read more [here](#)),
 - expand the provision of harm reduction supplies to better serve those with substance use disorders (read more [here](#))
 - establish community-based crisis response teams as an alternative to use of police (read more [here](#)).
- The New Voter Empowerment Act is now law due to support from organizations like The League of Women Voters of New Jersey and the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice. The new law, which will take effect January 1, 2026, allows 17-year-olds the right to vote in primary elections, pending they turn 18 on or before the next general election. Read more [here](#).
- The League of Women Voters celebrated the signage of bipartisan legislation promoting student’s civic engagement. Students in middle and high school now have one excused absence per school year to attend a civic event. The day may be used to participate in activities sponsored by government entities, community-based organizations, or

nonprofits. They must include an element of service learning or address a public issue or concern. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

- Grantee partners like the Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey, the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, and Fair Share Housing Center, have long highlighted unfair practices within the home appraisal process that disproportionately harm families of color. In response, the Attorney General launched the Home Appraisal Discrimination Initiative, which will investigate alleged cases of bias and refer them to the state’s Division on Civil Rights. Read more [here](#).
- At the local level, Newark City Council voted to approve lowering the municipal voting age for school board elections to 16 years of age—the first city in the state to do so. The New Jersey Institute for Social Justice played a key role in this effort, releasing their policy brief, [Let Us Vote: Why 16-and-17-Year-Olds Should Be Allowed to Vote in Local Elections and Beyond](#), in August 2023. Read NJISJ’s statement [here](#).

Policy Updates

- In January, five counties launched the Family Connects NJ initiative, which will connect all residents giving birth with a trained nurse home visitor. This initiative was spearheaded by organizations like Advocates for Children of New Jersey, who successfully advocated for a universal home visiting law in 2021 in order to connect families to crucial support early in a child’s life. Read more [here](#).

Policy Reports

- The [2024 State of the Pinelands](#) report, the Pinelands Preservation Alliance’s annual publication, assesses federal, state, and local efforts to preserve and protect the Pinelands National Reserve. The report uses a “thumbs up or thumbs down” rating system to show when appropriate or detrimental actions were taken.
- The Education Law Center (ELC) released [Litigating Under the New Jersey Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights, A Guide for Advocates](#), a policy guide designed to educate both parents and attorneys on key provisions of the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights (ABR). This publication is part of ELC’s larger Advocacy Guide Series.
- New Jersey Future’s [Guide to Local Climate Change Adaptation Planning](#) encourages local action to ensure that people and communities are less vulnerable to climate hazards like extreme heat, severe storms, and persistent flooding to name a few. The guide further explains how hazard assessments, proper adaptation and implementation can mark significant safety changes.
- New Jersey Institute for Social Justice has released [Two New Jerseys: One State of Inequity](#), a county-by-county data analysis. The report builds on two prior NJISJ publications, [Making the Two New Jerseys One](#) and [The Two New Jerseys by the Numbers](#), and addresses the stark economic disparities impacting the everyday lives of Black and other families of color in New Jersey.

Events



- March 26 – June 25 [Migration Justice Webinar Series](#), American Friends Service Committee.

Job Announcements

- [New Jersey Citizen Action](#) – [multiple positions](#)
- [New Jersey Conservation Foundation](#) – [multiple positions](#)
- [New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance](#) – [Director of Policy and Organizing](#)
- [New Jersey Institute for Social Justice](#) – [Democracy and Justice Policy Analyst](#)
- [Eagleton Institute of Politics](#) – [multiple positions](#)

Please send policy news and updates, job announcements, and staff updates to Hellen Zamora-Bustos at hzb@fundfornj.org or you can Tweet: [@FundforNJ](https://twitter.com/FundforNJ)