

The Fund for New Jersey News

- The Fund sincerely hopes you and your loved ones are as safe and healthy as possible during these uncertain times of the COVID-19 pandemic. Please see the New Jersey state [website](#), Governor Murphy's [daily press conferences](#), and the CDC's [website](#).
- Fund grantee partners: We understand your work and priorities will have shifted because of the Covid crisis. Your health and the health of your employees, partners, clients, and communities should be the top priority. Please let us know if The Fund can help. If you have policy updates with regard to your organization's work on COVID-19, please share them with Vanessa Raymond-Garcia at vraymond-garcia@fundfornj.org or you can Tweet to @FundforNJ.
- The Fund for New Jersey is proud to announce that in March it awarded grants in the total amount of \$910,000 to advance public policies in the areas of immigration, housing, education, public media, and worker rights. Read the full press release [here](#).
- The Fund for New Jersey supports a fair and accurate count of all New Jersey residents in the 2020 Census. To learn more about how nonprofits and civic organizations can get involved, read more [here](#). Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, certain Census timetables have been extended. To learn more, read [here](#).

Grantee News

Policy Victories:

- New Jersey Chief Justice Stuart Rabner signed an order negotiated by criminal justice stakeholders, including the American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey, to temporarily release up to 1,000 people serving sentences in county jails in the state to prevent further spread of COVID-19 in a close-quarters environment. Read more [here](#).
- In an effort supported by the Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey, Governor Murphy signed an Executive Order requiring mortgage payment relief by financial institutions to state residents facing economic hardship as a result of COVID-19. Read more [here](#).
- As a result of advocacy by Advocates for Children of New Jersey, New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, American Civil Liberties Union – New Jersey, and partners, Governor Murphy signed a host of measures meant to help formerly and currently incarcerated youth successfully reintegrate into society, including expunging some former crimes, minimizing the length of detention for youth offenders, eliminating fines and fees, and changing how parole decisions are made. Read more [here](#).
- With support from New Jersey Future, Jersey Water Works, Green and Healthy Homes Initiative, Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey, Advocates for Children of New Jersey, and partners, Governor Murphy signed legislation to allow municipalities to adopt an

ordinance to enter private properties to perform lead service line replacements to address the state's growing lead crisis. Read more [here](#).

- After advocacy by Make the Road New Jersey and partner organizations, New Jersey is the first state to guarantee severance pay for mass layoffs. The legislation signed into law by Governor Murphy requires that workers of employers with more than 100 employees be given severance pay equal to one week's compensation for every year of service with the company. Read more [here](#).
- Following advocacy by the Anti-Poverty Network, Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey, and partners, Governor Murphy created the New Jersey Eviction Crisis Task Force to study the housing and eviction crisis across the state. Read more [here](#). Additionally, the Governor signed two bills to create a statewide standard for Code Blue alerts and require the New Jersey Department of Health to provide more comprehensive services to individuals and families in need of shelter during the coldest days of the year. Read more [here](#).
- In an effort supported by Anti-Poverty Network of New Jersey, Advocates for Children of New Jersey, and partners, Governor Murphy signed legislation to dedicate \$4.5 million in state funds toward making reduced-price breakfast or lunch for public school students free. Read more [here](#). Additionally, First Lady Murphy announced a reduction in co-payments by 50 percent for parents who receive state assistance paying for childcare. Read more [here](#).
- With support from New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, American Civil Liberties Union – New Jersey, and partners, a new law signed by Governor Murphy brings an end to prison gerrymandering in New Jersey. The legislation requires incarcerated persons to be counted as residents of their last known address when drawing the state's legislative districts. Read more [here](#).
- Following litigation by Fair Share Housing Center representing the state's interests to support affordable housing under the Mount Laurel doctrine, Englewood Cliffs has been required to build 347 affordable housing units as decided by a Bergen County Superior Court ruling and Fair Haven has settled on 371 affordable housing units to be built in the borough. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).
- In an effort supported by Garden State Equality, a person accused or charged with murder can no longer legally argue the victim's sexuality or gender identity provoked them to commit the crime under a new law signed by Governor Murphy. Read more [here](#).
- With support from Jersey Renews partners New Jersey Work Environment Council, GreenFaith, Environment New Jersey, the ChargeVC coalition, Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions, and other advocates, Governor Murphy signed a bill to significantly reduce greenhouse gases and air pollution over the next decade by electrifying transportation. The legislation sets aggressive goals for electric vehicle sales, provides rebates for the purchase of electric vehicles, establishes a statewide network of electric vehicle charging stations, and sets a goal for electrification of New Jersey Transit's entire bus fleet by 2032. Read more [here](#).
- In an effort supported by New Jersey Citizen Action, New Jersey Policy Perspective, Anti-Poverty Network, and other partners, Governor Murphy signed into law a package of nine bills to protect New Jersey's residents from federal actions to undermine the Affordable Care Act by

requiring all plans to cover basic services, not exclude or charge extra for patients with preexisting conditions, allow children to remain on their parent's plan until age 26, and invest at least 85% of revenue in patient care. Read more [here](#).

- After advocacy by Environment New Jersey, Pinelands Preservation Alliance, New Jersey Highlands Coalition, New Jersey Conservation Foundation, Delaware Riverkeeper Network, and partners, the Murphy administration unveiled the state's Energy Master Plan to reduce reliance on fossil fuels in the state. Read more [here](#). The Governor also signed an executive order directing the state's Department of Environmental Protection to make sweeping regulatory reforms to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change, making the state the first in the nation to pursue such comprehensive and aggressive climate change regulations. Read more [here](#).
- Following advocacy by the Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey, Governor Murphy's administration has begun the disbursement process for the \$60 million earmarked in the 2020 fiscal year budget for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund to support the creation of affordable homes for state residents. The fund had been diverted to be used to sustain other programs for nearly a decade. Read more [here](#).

Policy Updates:

- Governor Murphy announced an executive order requiring child care centers to close by April 1st unless they are solely serving children of essential workers. Read more [here](#).
- As a result of advocacy by Advocates for Children of New Jersey, Anti-Poverty Network of New Jersey, and partners, Attorney General Grewal joined 15 other states in suing the federal government to block a new rule expected to cut food aid through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to approximately 12,000 New Jersey residents and as many as 850,000 people nationwide. Read more [here](#).
- Following litigation by Latino Action Network Education Foundation, Salvation and Social Justice, Education Law Center, New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, and partners, the state's Superior Court heard arguments bringing the case of New Jersey's school segregation to the courts. Read more [here](#).
- Despite efforts by the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions, Environment New Jersey, and other groups, legislation to ban plastic and paper bags as well as Styrofoam food containers and limit single-use plastics in the state did not make it to Governor Murphy's desk in the last legislative session. However, a new version was introduced during the latest legislative session and is making headway. Read more [here](#).
- As a result of efforts by Make the Road New Jersey, Rutgers Center for Women and Work, and partners, the Fair Work Week Act campaign is underway to advocate for more predictable work schedules for shift workers. Read more [here](#).
- Thanks to advocacy by Advocates for Children of New Jersey and Pre-K Our Way, for the third consecutive year, Governor Murphy's proposed state budget includes support for districts currently offering pre-school and pre-school expansion to new districts. Read more [here](#).

- New Jersey environmental groups joined a lawsuit against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to address pollution from out-of-state upwind sources that exacerbate air quality issues in New Jersey. Read more [here](#).
- The Trump administration announced the repeal of key provisions of the Clean Water Act that will allow for increased pollution in water sources across the country. This affects up to three million New Jersey residents who depend on drinking water from natural sources that may no longer be protected by federal law. Read more [here](#).
- The U.S. Supreme Court issued an order to allow the federal Department of Homeland Security to implement the “public charge” rule, which will bar immigrants who are deemed likely to rely on social safety net programs from applying to enter the U.S., extend a visa, or convert their temporary immigration status into a green card or naturalization. This may have a lasting impact on the thousands of immigrants who are residents of New Jersey. Read more [here](#).
- Despite efforts by Regional Plan Association and partners, the Trump administration approved funding only for a signal bridge in New Jersey and not the Gateway Tunnel project also needed to improve rail transit in the region. Read more [here](#).
- The federal Department of Justice filed suit against a number of states over laws that some federal officials claim undermine immigration enforcement, including New Jersey Attorney General Grewal’s “Immigrant Trust” directive. Read more [here](#). American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey responded to the suit by filing a friend-of-the-court brief in support of the Attorney General’s directive. Read more [here](#).
- As a result of advocacy by the Education Law Center and partners, the New Jersey Schools Development Authority listed buildings in 18 districts to be reconstructed to address overcrowding and age issues. However, funding has yet to be appropriated. Read more [here](#).
- Despite advocacy by Pinelands Preservation Alliance, New Jersey Highlands Coalition, Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions, New Jersey Conservation Foundation, Delaware Riverkeeper Network, and partners, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission sided with the PennEast Pipeline LLC in court filings seeking to build the PennEast pipeline. Read more [here](#).

Policy Reports:

- New Jersey Policy Perspective released a report highlighting the need for New Jersey to continue to raise revenue in order for the state to adequately protect public service programs and those most at-risk in the aftermath of a global pandemic. Read more [here](#).
- The Center for Non Profits published their annual report New Jersey Non-Profits: Trends and Outlook to gauge trends, experiences, and expectations among New Jersey non-profit organizations, and to explore the effects of the economy on New Jersey’s charitable community. Read more [here](#).
- The Rutgers Center for Women and Work released a report highlighting how women working in the retail, food service, and logistics industries experience unpredictable work schedules. Workers who do not enjoy predictable schedules reported frustration with scheduling doctor’s

appointments, paying late fees at childcare pickup, and letting co-workers down when they are unable to meet the demands of last-minute schedule notices and changes. Read more [here](#).

- The Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey, in collaboration with the National Low Income Housing Coalition, released a report showing how difficult it is for New Jersey's low income renters to find homes that are affordable in the current rental market. Read more [here](#).
- Advocates for Children of New Jersey published its latest data on Newark children and making Newark count in the 2020 Census, including census tract maps on hard-to-count populations in the city. Read more [here](#).

Leadership and Organizational Developments:

- Kevin Walsh, formerly Executive Director of Fair Share Housing Center, has been named New Jersey's state comptroller. He spent the last 20 years with Fair Share working to strengthen New Jersey's fair housing laws to be more inclusive. We wish him the best in this new role. Read more [here](#). Adam Gordon, formerly Fair Share's Associate Director since 2015, has become the organization's Executive Director and Rev. Eric Dobson has been promoted to Deputy Director. Congratulations!
- Congratulations to Karen Yi in her new role as a New Jersey reporter and producer for NJPR. Read more [here](#).
- Johanna Calle announced her departure from the New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice. We wish her the best in her new role. Welcome to Maneesha Kelkar, who is serving as Interim Executive Director.

Job Announcements

- [Intake and Internship Coordinator](#), American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey
- [Senior Staff Attorney](#), Fair Share Housing Center
- [Staff Attorney](#), Fair Share Housing Center
- [Jersey Renews Organizer](#), New Jersey Work Environment Council

Please send policy news and updates, job announcements, and staff updates to Vanessa Raymond-Garcia at vraymond-garcia@fundfornj.org or you can Tweet to @FundforNJ.