

The Fund News

The Trustees and staff of The Fund for New Jersey honor the legacy and mourn the loss of Congressman Donald M. Payne Jr., who died April 24, 2024.

A Newark native, Rep. Donald M. Payne Jr, was a dedicated advocate for environmental justice, health and safety, and racial justice, committed to his district and its residents. His work to achieve the TEST For Lead Act and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, are a great testament to his dedication to the future of New Jerseyans.

We extend our deepest condolences to the Congressman's friends and family. Our state has lost a great champion with his passing; he will be missed.

Grantee News

- New Jersey Environmental Justice welcomed [Oriana Holmes-Price](#) as the **Director of Organizing**.

Policy Updates

- Thanks to advocacy efforts from New Jersey Institute of Social Justice, American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey, League of Women Voters of New Jersey, New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice, New Jersey Policy Perspective, and Salvation and Social Justice, a federal appeals court barred the Democratic party from using the county-line ballot design in New Jersey's upcoming primaries. As of now the ruling applies only to the Democratic party, who will be required to use a standard office-block design this coming June. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).
- The Jersey Water Works coalition celebrates the US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) announcement of new drinking water standards. After years of research on the effects of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) on our health, New Jersey became the first state to establish a standard for PFAS in drinking water. The new EPA announcement introduces standards that are more stringent than the Garden State's. Read about [PFAS](#). Read more [here](#).

Policy Setbacks

- Multiple school boards voted to revoke a state policy advising school districts to refrain from school faculty or staff automatically outing transgender and nonbinary students to their families. The American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey (ACLU-NJ), along with Garden State Equality, authored letters to 16 districts urging them to readopt the policy. On the matter, ACLU-NJ Staff Attorney, Elyla Huertas, stated "as LGBTQ-plus students are facing renewed threats across the country, New Jersey

has a responsibility to lead by example here and ensure that students are safe and welcome in our schools.” Read more [here](#) and the ACLU-NJ statement [here](#).

Policy Reports

- New Jersey Policy Perspective and the Immigration Research Initiative have co-authored *New Immigrants Drive Economic Growth in New Jersey*. The [report](#) highlights the many ways in which new immigrants bring a wealth of skills and talents that enrich New Jersey.
- The Education Law Center released [The Impact of Census-Based Funding for Special Education](#). The report demonstrates how New Jersey’s move to a census-based funding model as part of the School Funding Reform Act (SFRA) does not meet the needs of special education students.
- [The Latinx Experience in NJ Schools: A Preliminary Overview](#) report, is a powerful collaboration between The Latino Action Network Foundation and the Joseph C. Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies. The work, funded by the Institute for the Study of Global Racial Justice (ISGRJ) at Rutgers University and The Office of the Chancellor at Rutgers-Newark, examines the experiences of Latinx students across a variety of metrics from preschool to postsecondary education over the past decade.

Events

- *March 26 - June 25* – [Migration Justice Webinar Series](#), American Friends Service Committee
- *May 5* – [Moderator Training Workshop](#), League of Women Voters of New Jersey
- *June 5 - 7* – [New Jersey Planning and Redevelopment Conference](#), New Jersey Future and APA New Jersey
- *June 18* – [Council of New Jersey Grantmakers’ Spring Colloquium – A Conversation on the Social Sector](#)

Job Announcements

- [ACLU-NJ](#) – [Director of Appellate Advocacy](#)
- [Eagleton Institute of Politics](#) – [multiple positions](#)
- [New Jersey Citizen Action](#) – [multiple positions](#)
- [New Jersey Conservation Foundation](#) – [Director of Policy](#)
- [New Jersey Institute for Social Justice](#) – [multiple positions](#)
- [Salvation and Social Justice](#) – [Licensed Social Worker](#)

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