

### The Fund for New Jersey News

- The Fund for New Jersey is proud to announce that in December it awarded grants in the total amount of \$278,000 to advance public policies in the areas of public media, economic equity and health equity. 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](#).
- The Fund for New Jersey will be celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on April 1<sup>st</sup>! Please mark your calendars – details are forthcoming.

### Grantee News

#### *Policy Victories:*

- After advocacy by New Jersey Policy Perspective, Make the Road New Jersey, Anti-Poverty Network, New Jersey Citizen Action, and partners, the minimum wage in New Jersey increased to \$11 per hour as of January 1, with full phase-in of \$15 per hour by 2024. Read more [here](#).
- With support from New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice, Wind of the Spirit, New Jersey Policy Perspective, Faith in New Jersey, American Civil Liberties Union – New Jersey, Make The Road New Jersey, and partners, Governor Murphy signed the driver’s license expansion bill into law to allow an estimated 440,000 undocumented residents in New Jersey the opportunity to earn a driver’s license – New Jersey is now the 15<sup>th</sup> state in the country with this provision. Read more [here](#).
- As a result of advocacy by the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, American Civil Liberties Union – New Jersey, the League of Women Voters, and partners, Governor Murphy signed into law a bill that will restore voting rights to more than 80,000 people who are on probation or parole in the state. Read more [here](#).
- Following litigation by Fair Share Housing Center representing the state’s interests to support affordable housing under the Mount Laurel doctrine, the municipality of Princeton has finalized an affordable housing agreement, agreeing to zone or build 537 units and rehabilitate another 75. Princeton is the last in Mercer County to reach agreement. Read more [here](#).
- In an effort supported by New Jersey Conservation Foundation, Rethink Energy NJ, Pinelands Preservation Alliance, Environment New Jersey, and partners, the PennEast pipeline was delivered a further setback when a U.S. Appellate court denied the PennEast Pipeline LLC bid to rehear a case involving the company’s attempt to condemn state-owned land for the 120-mile project. Read more [here](#).
- After advocacy by New Jersey Citizen Action and partners, Governor Murphy signed an executive order that will create a 14-member task force to explore the option of establishing a public bank in New Jersey. Read more [here](#).

- As a result of advocacy by Garden State Equality and partners, Attorney General Grewal issued the statewide “LGBTQ Equality Directive” in conjunction with the release of a report by the state’s Transgender Equality Task Force to ensure that individuals are treated fairly and equally in their encounters with law enforcement. Read more [here](#).
- Following successful advocacy by New Jersey Conservation Foundation, Pinelands Preservation Alliance, Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC), and partners, Governor Murphy announced the purchase of 1,400-acre Cumberland County farm to preserve New Jersey’s largest concentration of endangered species. Read more [here](#).

Policy Updates:

- The U.S. Census Bureau is hiring 45,000 temporary workers in New Jersey to help get a complete count of every resident in the state for Census 2020, especially in hard-to-count areas. Learn more [here](#).
- Following advocacy by Environment New Jersey, ANJEC, New Jersey Work Environment Council, Greenfaith and partners as a part of the ChargeVC Coalition, Governor Murphy approved a bill that asks local governments to determine locations to install charging stations for electric vehicles as part of a broader push to further decrease the state’s reliance on fossil fuels. A separate bill that would appropriate \$100 million to various state agencies to increase the number of public and private charging stations available is pending state Senate approval. Read more [here](#).
- Education Law Center has challenged the state in a New Jersey Supreme Court filing contending the state has failed to uphold its decision under previous Abbott rulings to provide adequate school buildings and facilities to 31 of the state’s Abbott districts. Read more [here](#).

Policy Reports:

- The Center for Non Profits published reports on *New Jersey Non-Profit Diversity 2019* and *New Jersey Non-Profit Compensation & Benefits 2019*. The former lays out the significant racial, ethnic and gender barriers that confront New Jersey non-profits in leadership, recruitment and retention, and can be viewed [here](#). The latter covers the salaries health coverage, paid time off, and other benefits in addition to characteristics and demographics of non-profit staffs and boards of New Jersey non-profits, and can be viewed [here](#).
- The Regional Plan Association released a report detailing the benefits of extending the PATH to Newark International Airport, an update to [this](#) previous report. The report highlights the progress in PATH extension planning since 2013, changes in regional housing, employment, and transportation trends, and industry-wide developments in airport-area real estate. Read the full report [here](#).
- The Education Law Center published a report spotlighting the ways in which K-12 school funding continues to be unfair in many states and a contributing factor to disparities in education resources, opportunities and outcomes for the 50 million public school children across the U.S. Read the full report [here](#).
- The American Civil Liberties Union -- New Jersey published a data report that examines continued racial disparities in New Jersey’s marijuana-related arrests. Read more [here](#).

- New Jersey Policy Perspective published a report explaining the benefits of expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) to childless workers and its effectiveness as a tool to relieve poverty for working-age households in the U.S. Read the full report [here](#).
- Garden State Equality published a report to address discrimination against transgender New Jerseyans, with recommendations encompassing areas of data collection, healthcare, housing, and more. Read the full report [here](#).

*Leadership and Organizational Developments:*

- We welcome Chris Miller as the new Executive Director of the Eastern Environmental Law Center. Read more [here](#).

Events

- February 1<sup>st</sup> — [Latino Action Network 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Legislative Conference](#)
- March 24<sup>th</sup> — [Eagleton Institute of Politics Re-drawing the Lines Conference](#)

Job Announcements

- [South Jersey Community Organizer](#), Faith in New Jersey
- [Policy and Program Internship](#), New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice
- [Drug Policy Analyst](#), New Jersey Policy Perspective
- [Staff Attorney](#), Eastern Environmental Law Center

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