

**Grantee News*****Policy Updates***

- After much anticipation, a New Jersey Superior Court Judge reached a decision in the *Latino Action Network et al v. State of New Jersey* case, acknowledging a clear racial imbalance in student demographics across school districts. The decision, however, stated that the plaintiffs' arguments did not prove that New Jersey's school system as a whole, presented an unconstitutional violation along racial or ethnic lines. The ruling raises more questions than answers, and the plaintiffs are working to sort through the details to identify their next course of action. Read more [here](#).
- Environmental advocates, such as Environment New Jersey, showed support for the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) recently released strategic climate action plan. The document reaffirmed DEP's intention to fight against climate change. Though not without controversy, transitioning New Jersey to electric vehicles and phasing out the use of natural gas to heat homes and businesses remain top priorities identified within the plan. Read more [here](#).
- A coalition of nearly 100 business and trade groups stood in opposition to a DEP proposed rule to accelerate the number of electric vehicles driven in New Jersey, arguing that the rule would adversely impact low- and moderate-income residents. Supportive advocacy groups, such as Environment New Jersey, maintain that gasoline powered vehicles remain the state's largest source of pollution, and that the rule is structured to phase the changes in gradually. The proposed rule is currently subject to a 60-day public comment period, after which, DEP could elect to move forward with it. Those opposed asserted that adoption of the rule should be delayed until the Legislature returns in November. Find out more [here](#).
- Organizations like New Jersey Citizen Action and New Jersey Policy Perspective have raised concerns with a growing number of beneficiary terminations by New Jersey FamilyCare, the state's public health insurance program. States were required to reassess or "redetermine" eligibility for Medicaid beneficiaries earlier this year, after a three-year pause on redeterminations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Advocates asserted the need for clearer communication between the state and beneficiaries, particularly given the number of individuals losing coverage for procedural reasons, rather than income ineligibility. Read more [here](#).

### **Policy Reports**

- New Jersey's school funding formula needs an upgrade. New Jersey Policy Perspective (NJPP) breaks down why, in [Unlocking Academic Success: Revitalizing New Jersey's School Funding Formula for Student Achievement](#). In addition to providing an explanation of how the formula works, the report argues that our state's current method of funding has not kept pace with learning standards that have evolved since the School Funding Reform Act (SFRA) was enacted 14 years ago.
- [Getting Back on Track: Fully Fund NJ Transit by Taxing Big Corporations](#), also by NJPP, dives deep into New Jersey Transit's shortcomings. Addressing cause and consequence, the report demonstrates how the consistent lack of stable funding and the failure to identify a dedicated revenue source have hindered the transportation agency. The report also proposes possible remedies to ensure stability and longevity for the agency.
- A [national report](#) recognized New Jersey for its generous child tax credit and it may serve as inspiration for other states. New Jersey Policy Perspective (NJPP) and partners avidly fought for the child tax credit expansion. New Jersey's child tax credit was initially enacted in 2022; however, ongoing economic challenges of families during and after the pandemic made it clear that an expanded tax credit was needed. Now, eligible families may receive double in child tax credit dollars, placing the state as one of five with credits at or above \$1,000. Read more [here](#).

### **Events:**

- October 13 – [2023 Environmental Congress](#), Association of NJ Environmental Commissions.
- October 17 – [Training: Having Nonpartisan Voting Conversations](#), League of Women Voters of New Jersey. This training is part of a [series](#) that will run through December.
- October 18 – [Progress 2023: For the Many, Not the Few](#), New Jersey Policy Perspective
- October 20 – [Under One Roof 2023 Conference](#), Housing and Community Development Network of NJ.
- November 2-3 – [Time for Turbines](#), Jersey Renews.
- November 30 – [Waste Justice Assembly](#), New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance.

### **Job Announcements**

- [Environment NJ](#) – [Clean Energy Advocate](#)
- [Green and Healthy Homes Initiative](#) – [Housing Intervention Specialist](#)
- [Council of New Jersey Grantmakers](#) – [Manager of Communications](#)
- [New Jersey Conservation Foundation](#) – [Campaign Coordinator for New Jersey Clean Building Campaign](#)
- [New Jersey Institute for Social Justice](#) – [Director, Democracy and Justice Program](#)
- [New Jersey Future](#) – [multiple positions](#)
- [The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#) – [multiple positions](#)



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