

## The Fund for New Jersey News

- The Fund for New Jersey is proud to announce that for the first quarter of 2019 it has awarded grants in the total amount of \$855,652 to advance public policies in the areas of immigration, housing, education, and anti-poverty. Read the full press release [here](#).
- The Fund for New Jersey joined other foundations and philanthropy-serving organizations nationally in the submitting an Amicus Brief to oppose the addition of a citizenship question to the 2020 Census. Addition of a citizenship question to the 2020 Census is untested and risky and would almost certainly lead to an undercount of New Jersey residents. Read the full press release [here](#).
- To learn more about the broader state and federal immigration policy context, read a new policy paper on The Fund's website [here](#).

## Grantee News

### Leadership and Organizational Developments:

- Debra Coyle McFadden was promoted to Executive Director of the New Jersey Work Environment Council. Read more [here](#).
- NJ Spotlight, acquired by WNET in March, looks forward to delivering comprehensive coverage of issues facing the state as a new multi-platform state policy news source. Read more [here](#).
- New Jersey Policy Perspective welcomed its new President on March 1 – former Fund for New Jersey Program Associate and inaugural Philanthropy Fellow, Brandon McKoy. Read more [here](#).
- Greg Romano, Director of Land Protection at the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, is retiring in June. Thank you for your many years of service. Read more [here](#).

### Policy Victories:

- Following advocacy by New Jersey Policy Perspective, Make the Road New Jersey, Anti-Poverty Network, New Jersey Citizen Action, and partners, New Jersey became the fourth state in the nation to raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour, with full phase-in by 2024. Read more [here](#).
- Fair Share Housing Center has reached more than 270 settlements with municipalities throughout the state creating thousands of new affordable housing opportunities using the *Mt. Laurel* doctrine as the implementation framework. Read more [here](#).
- After successful advocacy by New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice, Make the Road New Jersey, Wind of the Spirit, Faith in New Jersey, American Friends Service Committee, and partners, State Attorney General Grewal issued the “Immigrant Trust” directive to limit state and local law enforcement interaction with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The directive took effect in March. Read more about the directive [here](#).
- Following litigation by Education Law Center and the American Civil Liberties Union – NJ, and longtime advocacy by Save Our Schools NJ Community Organizing, a state Appellate court ruled



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against using passage of the PARCC standardized exam as a high school graduation requirement. Read more [here](#).

- With support from Hyacinth AIDS Foundation and Garden State Equality, Governor Murphy signed LGBTQ+ inclusive curriculum into law, making New Jersey the second state in the nation to require Boards of Education to teach and accurately portray the political, economic, and social contributions of LGBTQ people throughout history. Read more [here](#).
- As a result of research and advocacy by New Jersey Citizen Action, New Jersey Policy Perspective, the Rutgers Center for Women and Work, and partners, Governor Murphy in February signed into law an expansion of the state's family leave law, doubling the amount of time that can be taken for family leave, broadening the definition of family, and increasing the weekly payment to make leave accessible to lower income households. Read more [here](#).
- After persistent advocacy by Pinelands Preservation Alliance, RC Cape May Holdings announced it would not build the South Jersey Gas pipeline through a 22-mile stretch of the Pinelands. Read more [here](#).
- The Pinelands Preservation Alliance's advocacy efforts contributed to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's October rejection of a plan to build a housing and commercial project on 930 acres in the Pinelands National Reserve. Read more [here](#).
- As a result of Advocates for Children of New Jersey's advocacy, Governor Murphy's administration announced a \$38 million investment in quality infant and child care and support for working families last October. Read more [here](#).
- Following advocacy by Ironbound Community Corporation and partners, Newark passed an ordinance in December providing no cost legal representation for low-income residents facing eviction in housing court. Newark is the only city in the state and only the third in the country to pass such a "Right to Counsel" ordinance. Read more [here](#).
- After advocacy by Faith in New Jersey, ACLU-NJ, and partners, Governor Murphy in January signed a law requiring the state attorney general to assign an independent prosecutor to handle cases which involve fatal police encounters. Read more [here](#).
- With support from NJ Future, Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions, New York/New Jersey Baykeeper and partners, Governor Murphy in March signed a new stormwater utility law. The new law allows towns and counties to assess fees on sources of runoff to cover the costs of fixing aging stormwater systems that exacerbate flooding and pollution across the state. Read more [here](#).
- In an effort led by the Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey and the Anti-Poverty Network, Governor Murphy in March signed a law allowing county homelessness trust funds to be used for code blue emergency shelter services. Read more [here](#).
- As a result of advocacy efforts by the Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey and partners, Governor Murphy signed a new law extending Emergency Assistance to cover caretakers of people with disabilities, permanently disabled people, and those over 60 or chronically unemployable. The bill also included the most recent compromise on Emergency Assistance expansion, lifting the seven-year lifetime limit. Read more [here](#).



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- Following successful advocacy by the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, Governor Murphy in February announced a \$2.8 million grant to hire and train new apprentices in the state within 12 months. Read more [here](#).

### Policy Setbacks:

- The Drug Policy Alliance-NJ chapter and the ACLU-NJ led advocacy efforts to legalize recreational marijuana while including a measure on expungement of previous and current marijuana convictions, but the bill failed to gather enough legislative support, at least for the time being. Read more [here](#).
- Despite litigation by the Eastern Environmental Law Center and advocacy against the project by New Jersey Conservation Foundation, and partners, the PennEast Pipeline Project won an eminent domain ruling in December. However, opportunities remain to prevent its construction through the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection permit review process. Read more [here](#).

### Policy Reports:

- The Housing and Community Development Network made a series of policy recommendations to improve the lives of urban residents in its new report, *Thriving Cities: A New Urban Agenda*. Read more [here](#).
- The Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence published a report on gun violence prevention policy in New Jersey, *New Jersey Gun Violence Impact Analysis and Policy Audit*, with an emphasis on racial equity. Following the report release, former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords announced a \$2 million grant to Rutgers University to conduct research on gun violence. Read the report [here](#) and announcement of the grant [here](#).
- The Education Law Center has a new education data portal for the state and school districts, which provides data current through the 2018-19 school year on implementation of the School Funding Reform Act. Read more [here](#).
- The ACLU-NJ released its civil asset forfeiture resource guide and data analysis, which details how and where police seize property, and offers recommendations for reform. Read more [here](#).
- New Jersey Policy Perspective released a new report in February on the social and economic conditions that determine health outcomes. Read more [here](#).
- The Housing and Community Development Network joined a multi-sector campaign to advocate for more robust and equitable federal affordable housing policies, which resulted in a report detailing long-term federal policy strategies. Read more [here](#).

### Events

- April 11<sup>th</sup> — [Education Law Center Community Schools Lecture](#)
- April 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> — [National Association of Social Workers – NJ Chapter Annual Conference](#)
- May 10<sup>th</sup> — [New Jersey Policy Perspective: Progress 2019 Conference](#)
- May 29<sup>th</sup> — [Anti-Poverty Network General Meeting](#)
- June 11<sup>th</sup> — [Council of New Jersey Grantmakers Spring Conference: Census 2020](#)



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- Multiple dates — [HCDNNJ County Advocacy Team Meetings](#)
- Multiple dates — [Center for Non-Profits Learning and Networking Opportunities](#)

### Job Announcements

- [Director of Land Protection](#), New Jersey Conservation Foundation
- [Accounting Manager](#), New Jersey Conservation Foundation
- [Director of Policy and Advocacy](#), Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey
- [Outreach Coordinator](#), New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice
- [Executive Director](#), Ironbound Community Corporation
- [Multiple Positions](#), Equal Justice USA

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.