

## 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 [press conferences](#), and the CDC's [website](#) for the latest information.
- Fund grantee partners: We understand your work and priorities will continue to shift because of the COVID crisis. Please continue to prioritize the health and safety of your employees, partners, clients, and communities. Please let us know if The Fund can help. If you have policy updates with regard to your organization's work on COVID-19 and its lasting effects, please share them with [Vanessa Raymond-Garcia](#) or you can Tweet to @FundforNJ.
- The Fund for New Jersey is proud to announce that in June it awarded grants in the total amount of \$955,000 to advance public policies in the areas of climate and clean energy, environmental protection, voting rights, criminal justice reform, social justice and civil rights, and transportation.
- 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](#).
- The Fund for New Jersey has postponed its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary to a date to be determined once it is safer for large groups to gather indoors based on current and forecasted COVID-19 information. We look forward to celebrating with you all at a later date and until then, stay safe.

## Grantee News

### Policy Victories:

- As a result of advocacy by New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, American Civil Liberties Union – New Jersey, and partners, Attorney General Grewal announced all New Jersey law enforcement agencies must publicly identify officers who commit serious disciplinary violations starting later in 2020 and every year thereafter. The new mandate comes as governments nationwide are grappling with public demand for more transparency regarding police abuse of power. Read more [here](#).
- In an effort supported by the Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey and partners, Governor Murphy announced the establishment of a \$100 million short-term emergency rental assistance program to aid individuals and families severely impacted by the pandemic crisis. Residents who are low-to-no-income, homeless, or at-risk of homelessness will be prioritized. Read more [here](#).
- Following advocacy by the Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey and partners, Governor Murphy announced new measures and resources for renters and

homeowners impacted by the pandemic, including allowing renters to use security deposits to cover rent, the launch of a FAQs page for tenants and landlords about rights and responsibilities, more information for homeowners, and an announcement about some larger landlords. Read more [here](#).

- With support from New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, Salvation and Social Justice, and partners, a new law signed by Governor Murphy requires the reporting and release of racial and other demographic data regarding COVID-19 testing, attempted treatment, hospitalization, and deaths. This legislation is critical to understanding the impact of the coronavirus on vulnerable communities in the state. Read more [here](#).
- As a result of 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 state Department of Environmental Protection suspended a key permit for the construction of the Southern Reliability Link (SRL) pipeline project after three recent drilling-related spills had caused the SRL pipeline to pollute sensitive environments. Read more [here](#).
- Governor Murphy announced the development of the New Jersey Wind Port, the first port in the country specifically built for offshore wind manufacturing. The port is expected to create thousands of high-quality jobs, bring millions of investment dollars to the state, and establish New Jersey as the national capital of offshore wind, in keeping with priorities advanced by Jersey Renews. Read more [here](#).

#### Policy Updates:

- Following litigation by the American Civil Liberties Union – New Jersey and partners, the state’s Superior Court ordered the Murphy administration to overhaul how it handles requests from prisoners to be released amid the pandemic, finding the state had not done enough to ensure prisoners’ rights were protected. The slow rollout of Governor Murphy’s executive order to safely release as many prisoners as possible to slow the spread of the coronavirus in state prisons led to New Jersey having the highest per-capita COVID-19 prison death rate in the nation. Read more [here](#).
- Governor Murphy signed into law a bill that requires generators of food waste such as hospitals, prisons, restaurants, and supermarkets to recycle food garbage rather than send it to incinerators or landfills. Read more [here](#).
- Based on research conducted by the New York Times in July, the Trump administration has officially reversed, revoked, or rolled back nearly 70 environmental rules and regulations and more than 30 additional rollbacks are still in progress; many have been carried out by the federal Environmental Protection Agency. These rollbacks could significantly increase greenhouse gas emissions and lead to thousands of extra deaths from poor air quality each year that could affect New Jerseyans. Read more [here](#).
- Following litigation and advocacy by American Civil Liberties Union – New Jersey and partners, New Jersey’s Supreme Court heard arguments virtually in late April on a bid by the police union

in Newark to limit the powers of the Newark Civilian Complaint Review Board, powers which were previously restored by an appeals court. Read more [here](#).

- Governor Murphy announced his support of an environmental justice bill that would require a cumulative impact analysis from the state Department of Environmental Protections when permitting in “overburdened” communities. This bill would protect particularly vulnerable communities from further environmental hazards caused by pollutants. Read more [here](#).

*Policy Reports:*

- New Jersey Institute for Social Justice released a report highlighting the structural racism embedded in New Jersey’s housing policy through nationwide government policies called “redlining” that excluded Black and other non-white families from owning a home in certain areas. The report proposes six recommendations to help close the racial wealth gap caused in part by these historic policies. Read more [here](#).
- New Jersey Policy Perspective released a report reviewing New Jersey’s many county primary ballot designs and comparing them to ballot designs from other jurisdictions across the country. New Jersey’s confusing ballot designs often lead to voters incorrectly filling out the ballot and following the “party line” to the benefit of the majority county party organization. Read more [here](#).
- New Jersey Policy Perspective released a report detailing how a decade of budget cuts to critical state departments came at a cost to public health and economic security, especially during a time of crisis when the demand for services is at an all-time high. Read more [here](#).
- New Jersey Policy Perspective released a report proposing recommended revisions to the state’s income tax code to raise revenue to strengthen the state’s recovery from the pandemic crisis. Read more [here](#).
- New Jersey Policy Perspective released a report outlining how New Jersey can create a fairer and more inclusive tax code by expanding the state’s Earned Income Tax Credit to immigrants who file taxes with an Individual Tax Identification Number. Read more [here](#).
- Education Law Center created a Frequently Asked Questions brief for students with disabilities during the COVID-19 crisis. The brief serves as an informational guide regarding a child with a disability’s educational rights during this time. Read more [here](#).
- Tri-State Transportation Campaign released a report aimed at public transit agencies, government officials, riders, and businesses to understand how to make mass transit safer in the COVID era. The report features over 50 recommendations to make transit safer for riders during and after the pandemic crisis. Read more [here](#).
- Tri-State Transportation Campaign released a report surveying over 1,000 public transit riders across New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut about their thoughts on what they need to see from transit agencies in order to feel safe riding on trains and buses as the economy reopens. Read more [here](#).
- New Jersey Work Environment Council, in partnership with the National Council for Occupational Safety and Health, released a report outlining comprehensive guidelines for workplace safety, worker participation, and fair compensation for sick, injured, and at-risk

workers. The report's purpose is to help protect and empower workers to build a more inclusive and equitable economy and to end health, social and economic disparities. Read more [here](#).

- Jersey Renewables released a report outlining 10 recommendations intended to guide the process for New Jersey's reopening and long-term just and green recovery that will simultaneously stimulate the economy. Read more [here](#).
- New Jersey Work Environment Council, in collaboration with the national Coalition for Healthier Schools, released a report on how to make school facilities as safe as possible for students and staff as the state begins to reopen. Read more [here](#).
- Make the Road New Jersey released a report revealing disparities in access to health care, financial insecurity, and labor rights violations and proposing recommendations based on testimony from its members. Read more [here](#).
- New Jersey Policy Perspective released a report outlining the unemployment insurance taxes paid by undocumented workers in New Jersey, but from which they are excluded from receiving. Read more [here](#).
- New Jersey Policy Perspective, in collaboration with the Time to Care Coalition, released a policy brief of recommendations to strengthen and expand the state's earned sick days law to meet workers' needs during the COVID-19 crisis and beyond. Read more [here](#).
- Advocates for Children of New Jersey shared policy recommendations regarding what child care needs in order to reopen based on feedback from early childhood providers as the state takes steps to fully reopen. Read more [here](#).
- The national American Civil Liberties Union released a report demonstrating racial disparities in arrests nationwide continue to persist and have not improved in recent years, and overall marijuana arrests are still widespread. Read more [here](#) and explore the interactive data [here](#).
- New Jersey Policy Perspective released a report examining the drop in candidates enrolling in, and graduating from, teacher preparation programs in New Jersey and how this coincides with state policies that cut pay, benefits, and worker protections for educators. Read more [here](#).

#### Leadership and Organizational Developments:

- It is with great sadness that the Trustees and staff of The Fund for New Jersey share the news of the passing of our longtime friend, colleague, Vice Chair, and co-Trustee, Candace McKee Ashmun. We extend our deepest sympathies to Candy's children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and extended family and to her countless friends and admirers in New Jersey and beyond. Candy will be profoundly missed by all of us at The Fund for New Jersey. Read the full announcement [here](#).
- It is with great sadness that The Fund shares the news of Ruth B. Mandel's passing. Her four-decade tenure at the Rutgers University Eagleton Institute of Politics, including the Center for American Women and Politics, exemplified her commitment to democracy and civic engagement through young people, especially women, actively participating in it. She will be dearly missed. Read her obituary [here](#).
- Congratulations to Ruth Ann Norton, President and CEO of Green and Healthy Homes Initiative, on being named a member of the Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee as part of

the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). She will help advise the EPA, along with her fellow Committee members, on wide ranging environmental issues that affect the health of children in the U.S. Read more [here](#).

- New Jersey Policy Perspective's Health Policy Director Ray Castro retired at the end of May. His work advanced Medicaid expansion, Affordable Care Act protections, and improvements to the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program to protect many New Jersey residents. He will be missed and we wish him the best in his retirement! Read more [here](#) and [here](#).
- Congratulations to John McAlpin in his new role as New Jersey Spotlight's Managing Editor. He brings years of experience covering New Jersey issues from his previous roles with the Burlington Times, The Record, and the Associated Press. We look forward to his coverage on public affairs issues affecting the state. Read more [here](#).

## Events

- Various – [New Jersey Work Environment Council Weekly Webinars](#)
- July 20<sup>th</sup> – [Jersey Water Works Membership Meeting](#)
- July 29<sup>th</sup> – [Anti-Poverty Network Virtual General Meeting](#)

Please send policy news and updates, job announcements, and staff updates to [Vanessa Raymond-Garcia](#) or you can Tweet to [@FundforNJ](#).