



# IDEALS OF JUSTICE AND EQUITY

*The Second 25 Years of The Fund for New Jersey*

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# IDEALS OF JUSTICE AND EQUITY

“We are a continuum. Just as we reach back to our ancestors for our fundamental values, so we, as guardians of that legacy, must reach ahead to our children and their children. And we do so with a sense of sacredness in that reaching.”

– Paul Tsongas

For 50 years, The Fund for New Jersey has focused its philanthropy on improving the quality of life in the Garden State by supporting good policy decision-making, which – at its core – is the remediation of injustice and inequity. Since its founding,\* The Fund’s grantmaking has addressed the compounding inequities in opportunity, outcome, and influence, and sought to ameliorate these injustices. (Go [here](#) for a 1994 essay detailing The Fund’s evolution over its first 25 years, including work on environmentally sound land-use planning, equitable funding of urban schools that meets obligations set forth in the state constitution, and urban development that prioritizes the needs of residents.)

The Fund today is firmly established as a force for progress in the development and implementation of public policy. The Fund asks, “What does New Jersey need?” It does so with determination, optimism, and devotion to the ideal of a better New Jersey that might well be termed “state patriotism.”

Over the second 25 years of its existence, 1995-2020, that approach led to innovative, effective grantmaking that accomplishes two important and intertwined aims. One, it helps improve the lives of New Jerseyans. Two, it strengthens partner organizations whose research, analysis, advocacy, and grassroots mobilizing

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shape an infrastructure of ideas that puts forth policy solutions *and* strategically promotes the discourse needed for those solutions to win acceptance.

Among the important policy changes Fund grantee partners helped bring about over the past 25 years are:

- ▶ Abolishing the death penalty in New Jersey
- ▶ Creating and then expanding paid family and medical leave so parents and caregivers get help juggling work and family
- ▶ Protecting the New Jersey Highlands and fending off efforts to weaken Pinelands protection
- ▶ Establishing and then strengthening a state Earned Income Tax Credit for working people who struggle to make ends meet
- ▶ Legalizing civil unions and then full marriage equality for same-sex couples
- ▶ Increasing the number and geographic distribution of affordable homes so low-paid families can live in areas of opportunity
- ▶ Expanding free public preschool so children can get a strong educational foundation
- ▶ Creating a more equitable state tax structure so that those who can afford more contribute more
- ▶ Advancing pro-democracy reforms ranging from restoring the right to vote for residents on parole or probation to banning dual office holding
- ▶ Making driver's licenses accessible for qualified people, including undocumented immigrants and people experiencing homelessness, so they can more easily work and travel

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*“The Fund has played an important role in helping progressive organizations get underway and helping them sustain their role in the policy arena.”*

— Richard Roper

None of these policy accomplishments happened overnight, which makes another aspect of The Fund’s grantee-support strategy so beneficial. The Fund supports grantees for longer than tends to be common practice in the philanthropic world. “The Fund has played an important role in helping progressive organizations get underway and helping them sustain their role in the policy arena,” says Richard Roper, The Fund’s board Chair and trustee since 2007. The Fund’s steadfast support demonstrates trust in its grantee partners and helps them to achieve ambitious goals.

### **LONG-TERM COMMITMENT TO NEW JERSEY**

Over the years, The Fund’s approach has been consistent: combining accurate information and broad participation. “Good public policy decisions require both accurate data and the input of a variety of perspectives – especially the participation of people who are directly affected,” says Kiki Jamieson, The Fund’s President since 2011. Through its history, The Fund’s grants have supported this type of fact-centered policy analysis and public engagement.

Public education has long been one of The Fund’s major areas of interest and concern. Significantly, The Fund supported the groundbreaking *Abbott v Burke* litigation aimed at equalizing public school funding so that students in districts with weak tax bases would have the same educational opportunities as students in wealthier districts. The Fund has also provided grants to organizations working to advance curricular innovations, upgrade facilities, and expand parent involvement. More recently, The Fund has supported the New Jersey Coalition for Diverse and Inclusive Schools and partner nonprofits in their efforts to address New Jersey’s segregated schools and to offer remedies that will improve education and integrate classrooms.

The Fund has consistently supported efforts to make housing affordable for all New Jerseyans, and to foster inclusion so that families that struggle to make ends meet, often Black and Latinx, can live in homes they can afford in communities that offer better

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schools, healthier environments, and higher-quality job prospects. Other grants have helped revitalize distressed communities, supported smart growth that protects critical natural resources, and improved transportation access throughout the state and the region. More recent grants have targeted the state's antiquated built environment, in which aging houses' paint and water pipes harm children through exposure to lead.

Fair and equitable economic policies and racial justice are twin goals that have sustained the work of The Fund and many of its grantees for decades. New Jersey Policy Perspective and New Jersey Citizen Action are among the nonprofits focusing rigorous attention on state and local tax policies that unfairly benefit the wealthy and disadvantage New Jerseyans who are paid too little to support their families and build a secure future. The New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, Drug Policy Alliance, and the New Jersey chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union have worked steadfastly, with support from The Fund, to right historic wrongs created by inequitable and racially discriminatory laws and criminal justice policies.

Larry Lustberg, board Co-Chair 2009 to 2015 and trustee since 1997, describes The Fund's ethos: "Philanthropy is unbounded by the need to be re-elected," he explains. "It's unbounded by the realities of politics. Philanthropy is liberated to try new things, and to get thought leaders together to come up with novel solutions. That is a philosophy that pervades every board meeting and underlies every one of our grants."

Living up to its ideals, The Fund over the years has become a major source of start-up grants to nonprofit entrepreneurs who have the vision to see policy gaps and fill them with ideas and action. Though not all fledgling nonprofits grow into mature organizations, several policy problem-solving entities might not exist today but for The Fund's nurturing. These organizations have gone on to play significant roles in tax and budget policy, affordable housing, children's health and education, environment, immigrant rights, and many other areas.

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Among long-term grantees are several that began as *ad hoc* groups, focused on a particular geographic area or site-specific issue, and later evolved into multi-issue organizations of statewide prominence in their fields. An early grant to the new Citizens Committee for Children, for example, was an early catalyst for the formation of Advocates for Children of New Jersey, now a powerful voice for the state's youngest vulnerable residents and their families. Early challenges to exclusionary zoning in Bergen County and elsewhere merited several small grants that ultimately grew into larger levels of support for statewide organizations including the Fair Share Housing Center and the Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey.

Ongoing operational support has helped many Fund grantees put down deep roots, develop expertise in their fields, and build the credibility needed to become influential voices. Their hard work has firmly established them as designers and influencers of New Jersey public policy.

The way The Fund supports key grantee partners does more than enable these organizations to survive. It also helps them to evolve. This adaptability is fundamental to grantee partners' success and a key element of The Fund's effectiveness. That means a nonprofit organization can work on an issue today that it could never have dreamed of 10 years earlier – the benefit of a decade's work opening minds and changing the policy landscape enough to make a new idea possible. It enables Fund grantees to be catalysts of change, with one policy advance creating the climate for others.

## **EVOLVING WITH THE TIMES**

In addition to how *long* it supports many grantee partners, *how* The Fund manifests that support is an important key to its impact.

The second 25 years of The Fund's work saw dramatic changes that affect policy debate. New technology and the radically

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reshaped economics of media have lessened the relevance of newspapers. The Internet brought new ways to get and spread information, often resulting in a cacophony of voices, some far more credible than others. Arguably, New Jersey state politics – mirroring the nation’s – has grown more partisan. The influence of money, through campaign contributions and in issue debates, threatens at times to drown out reasonable discourse.

So, although a stand-alone 20-page research report or a daylong conference once was able to influence public policy in New Jersey, these approaches have less of an impact today unless they are combined with other strategies. “The Fund for New Jersey, in these rapidly changing times, continues to facilitate information sharing to build consensus-seeking public policy in the public interest,” says former Gov. James Florio, trustee since 2008 – “the goal being to develop new ideas in the service of longstanding ideals.”

The Fund has adapted to these new realities by supporting such diverse ways of informing policy discussion and bringing change as:

- ▶ Convening and coalition building
- ▶ Leveraging investments
- ▶ Community organizing
- ▶ Enabling litigation
- ▶ Establishing “brick and mortar” centers
- ▶ Promoting public information
- ▶ Supporting the creation of new organizations
- ▶ Serving as a primary source of policy analysis

In all The Fund’s work, as the late Candace Ashmun, Fund Vice Chair 2009-2020 and trustee 1990-2020, put it: “We team up with people and organizations, keeping the structure of the nonprofit movement together.”

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— Feather O’Connor  
Houstoun

## CATALYZING COALITIONS

The Fund often finds itself playing the role of convener, inviting organizations and people involved in similar or related activities to join forces to deepen their impact.

The environmental movement offers perhaps the most vivid example of disparate nonprofit organizations focused on issue-specific or site-specific areas of concern. The Fund has been a consistent source of funding for many advocacy groups concerned about the quality of New Jersey’s air and water, the impact of its land use policies, and the injustice of serious environmental hazards inflicted on less affluent communities. Over the years, The Fund’s grantees have included the Eastern Environmental Law Center, the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions, the American Littoral Society, the Pinelands Preservation Alliance, and the New Jersey Highlands Coalition.

The Fund fosters collaboration among its grantees in addressing issues about which they have – or should have – common concerns. “The convening function of The Fund is a huge contribution that we make to the development of public policy across diverse issue areas,” says Edward Lloyd, trustee since 2004. “A few years ago, we convened all the environmental groups to talk with the Fund and each other about not only what they were doing, but what the state’s environmental agenda should be, going forward. That meeting was very productive. None of those groups was working on climate change at the time, but every one of them agreed that was the most important issue to work on.”

Jersey Renews is a product of this agreement. Organized by three Fund grantees – Environment New Jersey Research and Policy Center, GreenFaith, and NJ Work Environment Council – it is a broad coalition of labor, faith, community, and environmental organizations urging elected officials to speed action to address climate change. Jersey Renews advocates for environmental justice, clean renewable energy, good jobs, and protections for workers and communities.



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Similarly, The Fund's support for New Jersey Future helped the organization to create the Lead in Drinking Water Task Force, a working group housed within Jersey Water Works, a nonprofit-government-utility collaborative that advocates to improve the state's aging, inadequate water infrastructure. The 30-member Task Force produced a report outlining a decade-long plan to eliminate lead in drinking water. Among the report's recommendations are a state-level campaign to reduce exposure to lead from such sources as water, paint, and soil; legislation to both require and empower water utilities to replace dangerous lead pipes regardless of ownership; and actions to remove lead from water used by schools and child care facilities.

Just as the looming threat to the planet posed by climate change brought New Jersey's environmental movement together, the threat posed to New Jersey's communities of color by federal immigration policy spurred The Fund for New Jersey to act.

Forty percent of New Jersey residents are immigrants or the children of immigrants. New Jersey has the nation's third largest immigrant community behind California and New York. Immigration-related policies in all forms – from federal enforcement policies to local language access to workers' rights, housing, and everything in between – are New Jersey issues because those are the issues most salient to its diverse communities

With start-up support from The Fund for New Jersey – and with a membership list that includes many Fund grantees – the New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice was established in 2013 and has become a forceful and influential policy advocate for New Jersey's immigrant community. The Alliance works to develop policies and strategies that support family unity and economic opportunity for immigrants to fully participate in civic life. Its effectiveness has attracted support from other state and national funders.

Closely related to concerns about immigration policy were fears about the accuracy of the 2020 Census. The danger that New Jersey's diverse population would be undercounted because of the

reluctance of residents to participate in the Census, which would result in New Jersey receiving fewer federal dollars than the state would otherwise be entitled to, prompted The Fund to make the goal of a full and accurate Census count a top priority.

“Long before anybody else was paying attention to the 2020 Census, The Fund for New Jersey initiated a statewide effort to ensure that our state population would be accurately and fully counted,” notes Feather O’Connor Houstoun, who became a trustee in 2016. “We enlisted the involvement and support of numerous grantees and other nonprofits and foundations across the state. As a result, New Jersey was way ahead of other states in preparing communities that might otherwise be undercounted for participation in the Census.”

The Fund’s concern about the accuracy of the Census led to creation of the statewide Census 2020 New Jersey Counts Coalition, composed of racial, ethnic, immigrant, religious, health, education, labor, housing, social services, and business groups working in partnership with state and local governments and the Census Bureau to achieve an accurate count. The Coalition successfully advocated for the state’s first Complete Count Commission and first budget allocation: \$9.5 million to support a complete count. Convened by Fund grantee Advocates for Children of New Jersey, the coalition brought together several longstanding Fund partners, including the League of Women Voters of New Jersey and the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, and organizations focusing on outreach to hard-to-count population groups, including the Asian American Federation, the Latino Action Network Foundation, the immigrant advocacy group Make the Road New Jersey, and the faith-based immigrant resource center Wind of the Spirit. In addition, The Fund recruited a broad group of funders – private, community, family, and corporate foundations – to supplement public resources with more than \$2.4 million in philanthropic support. Despite the many challenges, from federal policy obstacles to the COVID pandemic, New Jersey’s 2020 Census count was more accurate and complete than before.

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## LEVERAGING INVESTMENTS

The Fund's leadership making early investments and encouraging other foundations to co-fund was a key contributor to the success of the 2020 Census effort. But the impulse was not new.

In 1994, The Fund broadened its mission to incubate the Camden Development Collaborative, New Jersey's first locally-organized consortium of private grantmakers pooling resources to support housing and urban development projects. The Collaborative received a planning grant from the Ford Foundation to assess neighborhood needs and nonprofit capacity for a program to assist community developers and to develop a plan to attract funding partners. Corporate and private foundations (including Prudential Foundation, Campbell Soup, William Penn Foundation, Commerce Bank, and Pew Charitable Trusts) joined The Fund in raising \$5 million, which support grants to 12 community development organizations working on five projects: Save Our Waterfront/North Camden Partnership, St. Joseph's Carpenter Society/Camden Churches Organized for People, Camden County Council on Economic Opportunity, Heart of Camden, and Latin American Economic Development Association.

More recently, The Fund has devoted resources to cultivating co-funding opportunities that support grantee partners and propel new initiatives. The Fund for New Jersey aims to be the first funder supporting new ventures. For example, work on ending childhood lead poisoning began in 2015. By 2020 The Fund had invested almost \$500,000 in the effort, which attracted an additional \$650,000 from other funders and helped facilitate a \$5 million HUD grant to New Jersey as well as state budget allocations (\$5 million for lead paint removal and \$60 million for lead pipe replacement in the FY21 adopted state budget). Early Fund investments and cultivated collaboration yield substantial results.

## EXPANDING COMMUNITY ORGANIZING

The Fund's strategy of supporting community organizing for grassroots engagement goes hand-in-hand with its efforts to promote collaboration. It recognizes that pursuing the right poli-

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— Deborah Poritz

cy is necessary, but not always sufficient, to bring about needed change. Fund grantee New Jersey Citizen Action’s local organizing and engagement work to provide health care to more New Jerseyans and preserve and expand coverage in the state under the federal Affordable Care Act in the face of efforts in Washington to weaken it is a good example. In partnership with local groups, academic centers, and a diverse coalition, New Jersey Citizen Action led advocacy to expand Medicaid in New Jersey and then led organizing to inform people about these opportunities, to equip them with the information and tools they needed, and to keep sustained public pressure to expand health care.

With a similar approach, the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice tackled the problem of incarcerated youth. As the Institute produced reports on the scope of the problem and offered ideas for solutions, those policy proposals were informed by individuals and groups from across New Jersey that had direct experience with the juvenile justice system. This grassroots engagement brought important perspectives into the policy debate and reframed the discussion to prioritize the needs of children and families.

Many of the most important issues take years to resolve and require the efforts of a broad and diverse coalition of supporters. That is why organizing matters. Despite research that demonstrated the increasing number of New Jersey families struggling to pay their bills and meet their basic needs, and despite growing dismay at the anecdotal examples of New Jerseyans who were working hard and not keeping up, the state’s minimum wage remained too low. Although increases were anticipated, legislators intended to exclude categories of workers such as youth. Then Make the Road New Jersey and its youth leaders brought their voices and experiences to the debate, changing the conversation about who deserves fair pay and whose interests would be protected. Thanks to their organizing and public education efforts, the state’s landmark \$15-an-hour minimum wage bill extended protections to most minors.

## SUPPORTING LITIGATION

Sometimes, however, research and community outreach are not sufficient to produce political consensus. That is where litigation comes in. “Many foundations do not support litigation,” observes retired New Jersey Supreme Court Chief Justice Deborah T. Pritz, former Fund board Chair (2015-2020) and trustee since 2006. “We do. We understand that courts are asked to analyze constitutional and statutory provisions, and that the opinions in those cases make up a body of law that drives public policy even when the other branches of government have not reached consensus on the questions raised.”

The Education Law Center in Newark, for example, has been pursuing an equitable system to finance New Jersey public schools through the courts since its founding in 1973. Its legal and policy advocacy, including the New Jersey Supreme Court’s ruling in the landmark case of *Abbott v. Burke*, has made New Jersey’s public school funding system a national standard for excellence in equity.

Over decades, ELC has built on the historic 1990 *Abbott II* ruling that ordered the state to provide urban school districts with funding at “parity” with suburban schools and to offer supplemental programs to meet the special needs of low-income students. Since then, ELC has worked to protect the gains and to advocate for the implementation of high-quality preschool, equitable school construction and facilities investment, and development of wrap-around programs to support at-risk students.

Another example of The Fund’s impact through litigation involves the *Mount Laurel IV* decision in 2015 that culminated a decades-long fight against exclusionary zoning. Fair Share Housing Center, a Fund grantee, successfully argued that in New Jersey, which has among the most expensive housing markets in the nation, most affordable places to live are concentrated in racially and economically segregated urban communities. The exclusionary

policies of many of New Jersey's wealthier, job-rich municipalities perpetuate divisions and reduce the supply of all types of housing, especially housing for lower-income families.

For many years, previous *Mount Laurel* rulings were undermined by the failure of the state Council on Affordable Housing to meet its legal obligations and by the state government's attempts to eliminate the *Mount Laurel* doctrine. In *Mount Laurel IV*, the state Supreme Court issued a unanimous decision directing trial courts to implement the doctrine and named Fair Share Housing Center as an interested party in all declaratory judgment proceedings filed by municipalities under the Court's order. This decision cleared the way for FSHC to work with municipalities to achieve compliance with a doctrine that has resulted in 170,000 low- and moderate-income New Jerseyans having a place to live in high-opportunity neighborhoods with good jobs and effective schools.

## **BUILDING INSTITUTIONS**

At times, The Fund's expansive view of how to improve New Jersey has led to not only supporting institutions, but to making capital investments to support their work. In 1998, The Fund allocated money to convert Fenwick Manor, a five-acre historic farmstead in New Lisbon, into the Richard J. Sullivan Center for Environmental Policy and Education. Named for the state's first environmental commissioner, who served as Fund trustee (1978-2008) as well as board President (1984-1997), the Center houses the Pinelands Commission, and includes a lecture hall/public meeting room, conference room, library, and technology resource center.

Over the following two years, in recognition of the civic and philanthropic contributions of its longtime president (1969-1984), board Chair (1985-1996), and then-Chair Emeritus (1997-2007) Joseph C. Cornwall, The Fund committed money to establish the Joseph C. Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies on the Newark campus of Rutgers University. Its mission is to bring intellec-

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*Thirty years after its founding, the Cornwall Center is a cornerstone of Rutgers University-Newark's leadership in the metropolitan area.*

tual talent and other resources to bear on the challenges of revitalizing Newark and urban communities across the state, focusing on supporting people whose economic circumstances threaten their future.

“Joe Cornwall possessed a drive, a commitment, to see the world improve. He was smart as hell, and visionary. He believed that there were things that had to be done in New Jersey that were not being done. He looked around and said, ‘we can do better than this,’” says Gordon MacInnes, The Fund’s first executive director (1970-1977) and former trustee (1993-2000). “Joe Cornwall was the source of the greatest inspiration for what The Fund for New Jersey has ended up doing.”

Thirty years after its founding, the Cornwall Center is a cornerstone of Rutgers University-Newark’s leadership in the metropolitan area. It sponsors research projects, publications, conferences, and public forums, and incubates demonstration projects that translate research into effective practice. The Center hosts the Newark City of Learning Collaborative, which is committed to meeting the goal of seeing 25% of city residents earn post-secondary degrees, certificates, or substantive credentials by 2025. The Collaborative convenes 60 partners who work to achieve this result and its aim: a more economically vibrant city for Newark residents.

## INFORMING THE PUBLIC

The Fund is no stranger to efforts aimed at boosting coverage of state news. An early grantee, the Coalition for Fair Broadcasting, mounted a vigorous campaign in the 1970s to bring a commercial television station to New Jersey (along with Delaware, the only state with no network-affiliate TV station). These efforts ultimately persuaded the Federal Communications Commission to move the license of WWOR-TV, Channel 9, to New Jersey from New York, and to order the station to increase its coverage of news and events in the Garden State.

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Over the years, Channel 9 paid scant attention to its adopted state, and the FCC showed little interest in enforcing its earlier edict. With the decline of newspapers and a once-robust State House press corps dwindling, it was clear something new was needed. The Fund also supported the Center for Analysis of Public Issues, which for more than 25 years was a prime source of information and ideas on state policy matters. Its monthly magazine, *New Jersey Reporter*, produced outstanding journalism until CAPI went out of existence in 2001. Evolving with the times, The Fund was an early funder of a new kind of journalism in the form of *NJ Spotlight News*, an online, nonprofit news outlet featuring longtime New Jersey reporters and editors putting out issue-oriented news and analysis of state issues.

Trustee Feather O'Connor Houstoun sums up *NJ Spotlight News's* value this way: "In the absence of a statewide newspaper of record and declining readership of newspapers in general, *NJ Spotlight* adds an important online voice to the public conversation through in-depth reporting on education, transportation, energy and environment, health care, and other important statewide policy issues."

### SEEDING NEW ORGANIZATIONS

"I think of The Fund for New Jersey as social venture capital," says Mark Murphy, The Fund's executive director (a title later changed to president) from 1990 to 2009. "You're investing in new ways of thinking. Find the policy niche that's not being exploited, find the talent that's deeply committed to that niche, give them the wherewithal to start up, and give them enough operating support that they're not always looking over their shoulder for the next buck and therefore pulling them off mission."

New Jersey Policy Perspective is a good example. The Fund's support began with money to pay a lawyer to file the proper paperwork to create a nonprofit. Then came a grant for an initial research project, followed by operating support that continues, nearly 25 years later. Over that time, NJPP's blend of



evidence-based research, strategic communications, and collaborative work with grassroots organizations has contributed to a more equitable tax structure, a higher state minimum wage, a more open state budget process, and many other reforms.

## ■ ELEVATING POLICY OPTIONS

Twice in the past 25 years, The Fund felt the timing and nature of challenges facing New Jersey made the moment appropriate for going beyond supporting the work of others and becoming a primary source for developing and disseminating ideas aimed at promoting policy change.

In 2001, when New Jersey would choose a governor and no incumbent was up for reelection, The Fund commissioned *Agenda NJ* essays on six important issues: campaign finance reform, better schools, saving our land and water, state fiscal responsibility, strengthening families, and building our cities. The project tapped the knowledge of many Fund trustees and grantee partners, along with university researchers, corporate and community leaders, and experts in their respective fields. The essay authors put forward policy proposals that were important and timely.

In 2017, another gubernatorial election year with no incumbent on the ballot, The Fund undertook a similarly ambitious effort to provide expert opinion and advice to the state's political leaders and policymakers. Fund Trustees selected seven issues they thought were important for New Jersey — issues that would benefit from having sustained and serious inquiry. They called on the expertise of state policy experts, many of whom led Fund grantee organizations, to identify bold and realistic policy options that merited significant attention.

*Crossroads NJ* produced reports covering state fiscal policy, jobs and the economy, climate and environment, transportation, housing and land use, education, and criminal justice reform. Rather than bearing authors' names, *Crossroads NJ* reports were offered

as the findings and recommendations of The Fund for New Jersey itself. Copies were shared with both gubernatorial campaigns, legislative leaders, state agency officials, and – after the election – with the new Governor’s cabinet.

“We put it out there so that there can be a discussion, a dialogue,” says John Cornwall, Treasurer since 2020 and trustee since 1985. “And that is a precursor to change and improvement.” Within two years of the election, more than half the recommendations had made their way into policy. “*Crossroads NJ* was a tremendous success, and I think everybody around the state would agree with that,” says Richard Roper.

## ADVANCING PUBLIC POLICY

Fifty years after its creation, through a process of evolving and adapting to changes in the state’s needs as well as in the ways people communicate ideas and information, The Fund for New Jersey holds fast to these essential principles: focusing attention on important public policy issues and providing residents and policy leaders with the information and encouragement they need to make sound decisions about these issues.

Over decades, The Fund has supported criminal justice and policing reforms; improved access to health care, housing, and education; and expansion of civil rights. The Fund’s grantee partners have confronted the racial disparities of income, wealth, and job opportunities; pushed for access to clean air and water and environmental justice; and worked to ameliorate the marginalization of immigrants and their families.

If the past is a guide, there will be no diminution in the level of engagement and commitment that embody The Fund’s vision. “Through its grantmaking over 50 years,” Kiki Jamieson says, “the values of The Fund have been consistent: being committed to good public policy decision making, valuing facts over impulse, pursuing long-term results rather than quick fixes, and staying ready to tackle new issues and new challenges as they arise.”

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*If the past is a guide, there will be no diminution in the level of engagement and commitment that embody The Fund's vision.*

In its 50th year, The Fund and its grantee partners faced staggering and interconnected crises. The deaths of unarmed Black Americans sparked widespread public outrage and attracted mainstream media attention. Across the country, people of all races and ethnicities focused on the ways in which Black Americans have been targeted and denigrated by the policies and practices of public institutions. Americans, collectively, began to understand how deeply structural racism has shaped those policies and practices that disproportionately harm Black, Latinx, Asian, and immigrant communities. At the same time, in New Jersey as elsewhere, the COVID pandemic both exposed and worsened those racial disparities and structural inequities. People of color, again, were disproportionately harmed by the public health crisis and bore the brunt of the corresponding economic fallout.

The Fund responded to this urgency for reform by intensifying its commitment to ending systemic racism and to repairing its effects. Recognizing this timely opportunity for systemic change, in 2020 The Fund increased its grantmaking to address structural racism and partnered with other foundations to support New Jersey's nonprofits to improve our state's institutions, policies, and practices with the goal of eliminating structural racism once and for all.

There is no reason to expect that the problems New Jersey will face in the years ahead – and that The Fund and its grantees will address – will be less complex, interconnected, or intractable than those of the past 50 years. And no one can predict whether the political climate in which public debate takes place will continue to grow more contentious or will become more hospitable to reason and finding consensus.

One thing, though, is certain: The ideals of justice and equity that guided The Fund for New Jersey's actions over 50 years will continue to do so. We will reaffirm our commitment to bringing about the constructive change needed for all the state's residents to thrive. At the same time, The Fund commits to supporting

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diversity, equity, and inclusion in the policymaking process and to building strong institutions – led by boards, CEOs, and staff that reflect the racial, ethnic, and gender diversity of the state – necessary to advance progress so that, in promoting the give and take of public discourse, every voice will be heard. “The Fund can do no less,” says Richard Roper, “if its stated commitment to justice and equity is to be taken seriously. And there is no doubt that The Fund’s commitment is real.”

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\* The Fund for New Jersey traces its fundamental values to Charles F. Wallace and Florence Murray Wallace who created the Eljabar Foundation in 1933, the Florence Murray Wallace Fund in 1958, and the Wallace-Eljabar Fund in 1969. The Wallace-Eljabar Fund, renamed The Fund for New Jersey in 1973, was founded to pursue public policy with a keen eye on the generations to come.

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**HIGHLIGHTS, 1970-2020**

# 1970

# COALITION FOR FAIR BROADCASTING

With New Jersey one of only two states without a VHF TV station, and Newark the largest US city lacking one, The Fund created the Coalition for Fair Broadcasting to improve coverage of the Garden State by pushing New York and Philadelphia stations to invest in offices and news operations in New Jersey.

## Results

- The Coalition negotiated with 10 New York and Philadelphia stations, filed actions with the Federal Communications Commission, and appealed to the federal courts.
- In 1982, the Coalition achieved the transfer of one New York station to New Jersey, the opening of WNET's Newark studio, financial support for NJ Nightly News, and the opening of six news bureaus to cover statewide news and state government.



The Fund for  
New Jersey



# 1975

# PROMOTING FAIR HOUSING

**Fair Share Housing Center  
Housing and Community Development Network of NJ  
Latino Action Network Foundation  
New Jersey NAACP**

The state Supreme Court, in *Mount Laurel I* (1975) and *II* (1983), declared unconstitutional municipal land use regulations that block decent, affordable housing opportunities.

## Results

- Launched the largest effort to tackle systemic racial and socioeconomic housing segregation in the country.
- Ordered New Jersey municipalities to plan, zone for, and take action to provide realistic opportunities for their “fair share” of the region’s need for affordable housing.
- Led to the construction of over 70,000 new affordable homes, expanding access to good schools and jobs, with 50,000 more anticipated from current settlements.
- Achieved fair housing settlements with more than 300 higher-opportunity towns since the Court’s 2015 *Mount Laurel IV* decision.



The Fund for  
New Jersey



# 1979

## BUILDING NJ'S NONPROFIT AND PHILANTHROPIC SPHERE

The Fund supported the founding of three organizations that have made indispensable contributions to improving New Jersey through a robust civic sector.

- **Community Foundation of New Jersey, 1979**

The Community Foundation of New Jersey informs and engages people about the power of charitable giving to bring positive change in communities. The Foundation holds more than \$500 million and has distributed some \$700 million since its founding.

- **Center for Non-Profits, 1982**

Through advocacy, management assistance and cost-saving programs, the Center provides non-profits with knowledge, insights and tools so they can pursue their missions more effectively.

- **Council of New Jersey Grantmakers, 1997**

The Council of New Jersey Grantmakers is the center for philanthropy in New Jersey, serving independent, corporate, family, and community foundations by strengthening their capacity to address New Jersey's and society's most difficult problems.



The Fund for  
New Jersey



1994

# CAMDEN DEVELOPMENT COLLABORATIVE

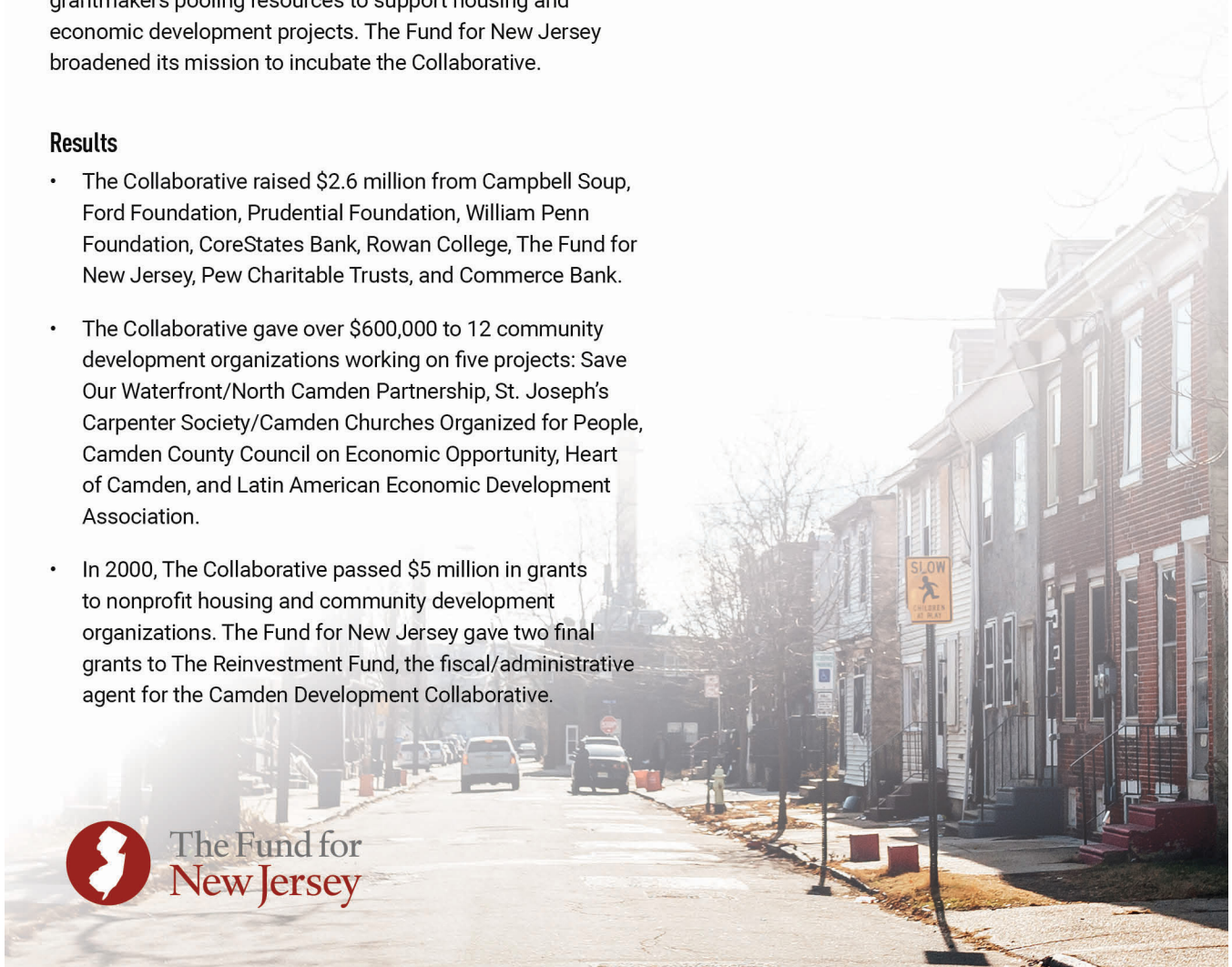
The Camden Development Collaborative became New Jersey's first locally organized consortium of private grantmakers pooling resources to support housing and economic development projects. The Fund for New Jersey broadened its mission to incubate the Collaborative.

## Results

- The Collaborative raised \$2.6 million from Campbell Soup, Ford Foundation, Prudential Foundation, William Penn Foundation, CoreStates Bank, Rowan College, The Fund for New Jersey, Pew Charitable Trusts, and Commerce Bank.
- The Collaborative gave over \$600,000 to 12 community development organizations working on five projects: Save Our Waterfront/North Camden Partnership, St. Joseph's Carpenter Society/Camden Churches Organized for People, Camden County Council on Economic Opportunity, Heart of Camden, and Latin American Economic Development Association.
- In 2000, The Collaborative passed \$5 million in grants to nonprofit housing and community development organizations. The Fund for New Jersey gave two final grants to The Reinvestment Fund, the fiscal/administrative agent for the Camden Development Collaborative.



The Fund for  
New Jersey



1998

# PRESCHOOL EXPANSION

**Advocates for Children of New Jersey  
National Institute for Early Education Research, Rutgers  
NJ Principals and Supervisors Association  
Education Law Center  
NJ Education Association**

After the state Supreme Court's 1998 *Abbott V* decision required the state to offer "well-planned, high-quality preschool," the Early Care and Education Coalition led the charge that established a standard that makes New Jersey preschool programs among the best in the country. Research shows students' learning success continues in later grades.

## Results

- Since the first *Abbott* preschool classes opened in 1999, hundreds of thousands of children (about 50,000 3- and 4-year-olds each year) benefited from an experience that prepares them for success in school and in life.
- Part of the historic fight for educational equity in the *Robinson* and *Abbott* cases, the preschool aspect of the Court's decision made available to heavily Black and brown school districts the opportunities long enjoyed by children in more affluent districts.



The Fund for  
New Jersey



1999

# JOSEPH C. CORNWALL CENTER FOR METROPOLITAN STUDIES

Endowed by The Fund in 1999 in honor of founding Board chair Joseph C. Cornwall, the Center at Rutgers University-Newark brings the campus's intellectual talent and other resources to bear on the challenges of revitalizing Newark and similar communities across New Jersey.

## Results

- Helped to conceive and launch Newark City of Learning Collaborative to increase postsecondary credentials of Newark residents to 25% by 2025 .
- Helped to launch Fairmount Promise Neighborhood, which aims to improve the lives of children and families in the Fairmount community of Newark's West Ward.



The Fund for  
New Jersey

# 2007 HIGHLANDS ACT

**New Jersey Highlands Coalition  
New Jersey Conservation Foundation  
New Jersey Audubon Society  
Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions  
NJ PIRG  
Regional Plan Association**

Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act preserved more than 1,000 square miles of the state's most important natural resources.

## **Results**

- Protected the water supply of over six million people — more than two thirds of the state's residents.
- Preserved natural resources for the benefit of people, wildlife, and ecosystem diversity, including forests and wetlands.
- Created the Highlands Council to govern land use planning and coordinate municipal participation to advance protection of the Highlands Preservation and Planning Areas.



The Fund for  
New Jersey

# 2007

# DEATH PENALTY REPEAL

**New Jerseyans for Alternatives to  
the Death Penalty**  
**Equal Justice USA**  
**Gibbons PC**  
**New Jersey Policy Perspective**  
**New Jersey NAACP**

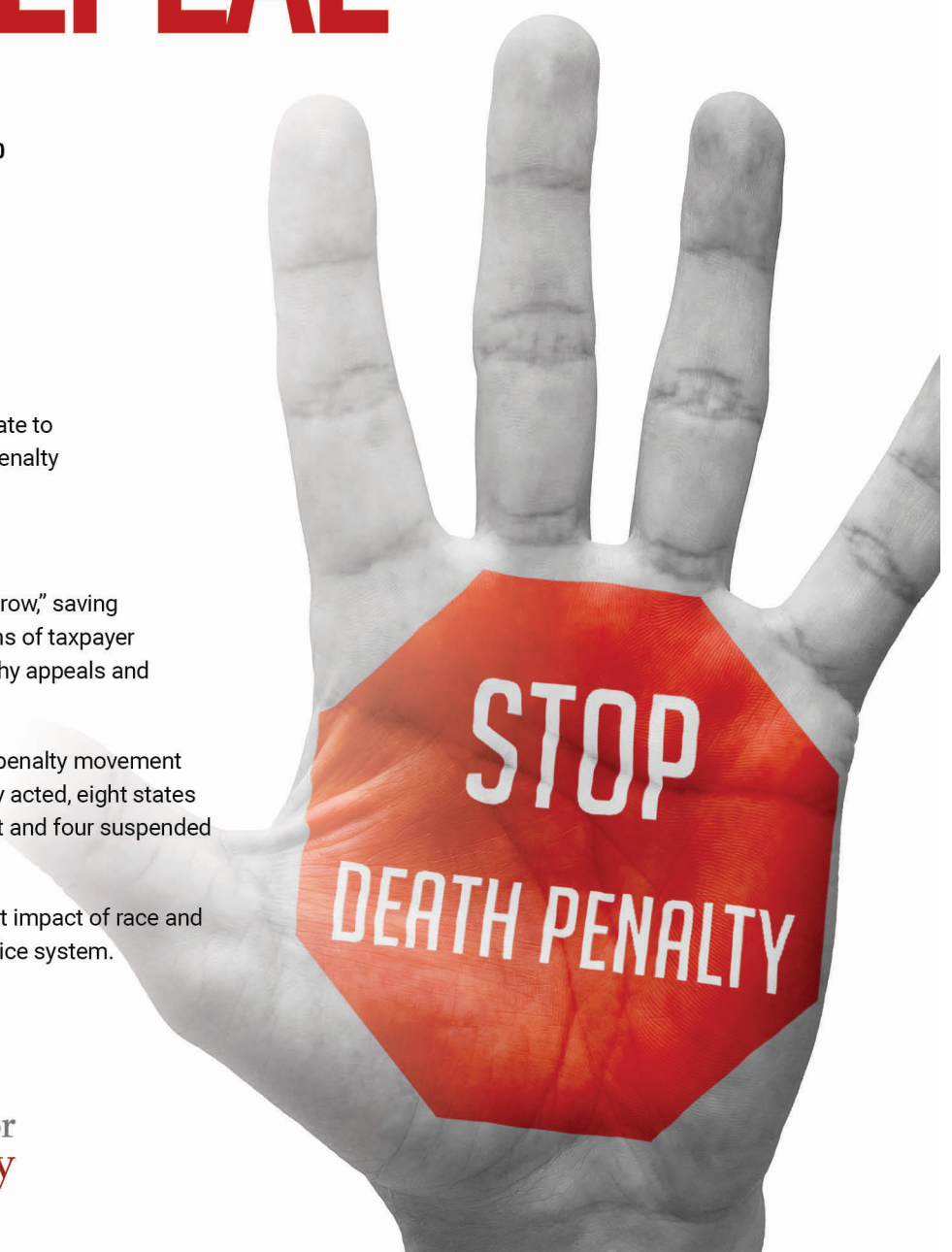
New Jersey became the first state to  
legislatively abolish the death penalty  
since 1965.

## Results

- Took nine people off “death row,” saving their lives and ending millions of taxpayer dollars being spent on lengthy appeals and administrative processes.
- Helped build the anti-death penalty movement nationally. Since New Jersey acted, eight states repealed capital punishment and four suspended all executions.
- Called attention to the unjust impact of race and economic factors in the justice system.



The Fund for  
New Jersey



# 2008

# PAID FAMILY LEAVE ACT

**New Jersey Policy Perspective**  
**New Jersey Time to Care Coalition**  
**New Jersey Citizen Action**  
**Center for Women and Work, Rutgers**

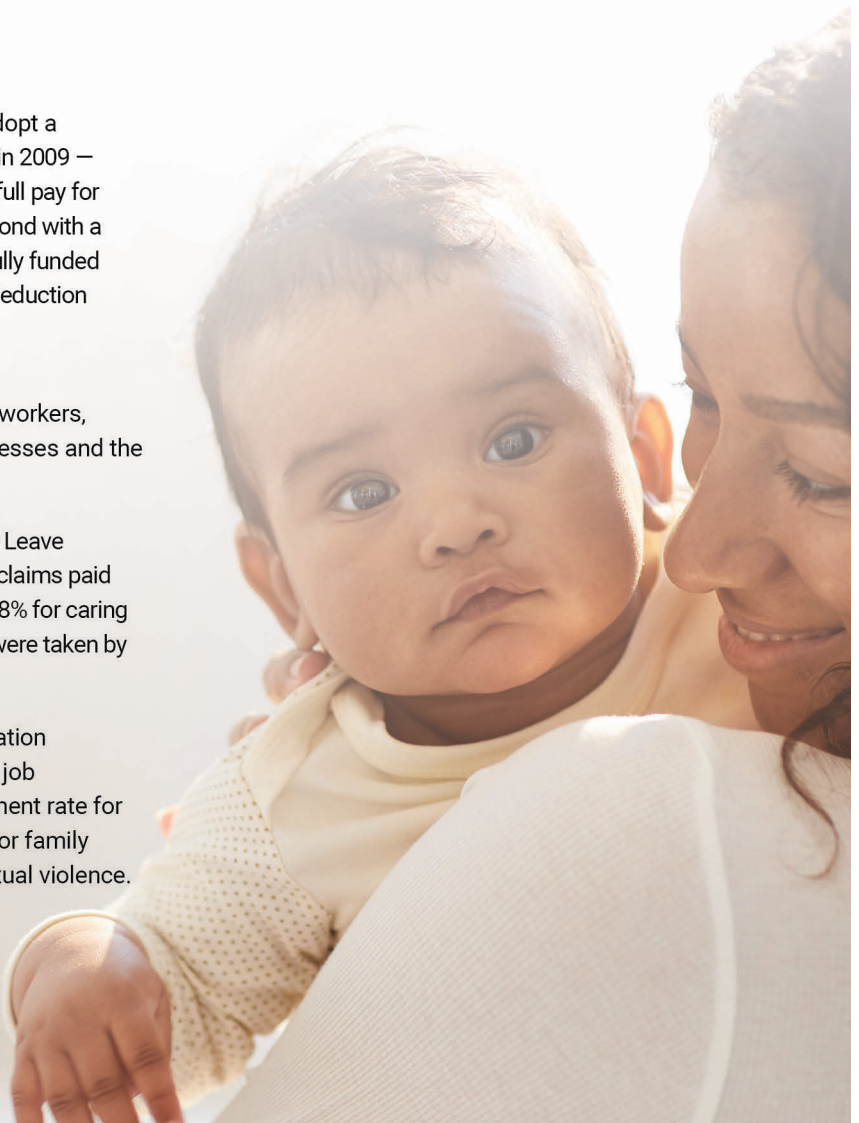
New Jersey became the second state to adopt a paid family leave law, which went into effect in 2009 – providing workers with a percentage of their full pay for up to six weeks to care for a sick relative or bond with a new baby or adopted child. The program is fully funded by employees through a modest payroll tax deduction

## Results

- Paid family leave protects families and workers, especially women, and it benefits businesses and the economy.
- Through 2015, more than 200,000 Family Leave Insurance claims were approved: 80% of claims paid out were for bonding with new children; 18% for caring for a sick family member. 86% of leaves were taken by women.
- In 2019, Governor Murphy signed legislation expanding the law to provide additional job protections and a higher wage replacement rate for those who miss work caring for a child or family member, or because of domestic or sexual violence.



The Fund for  
New Jersey



# 2013

# AFFORDABLE CARE ACT/MEDICAID EXPANSION

**New Jersey Citizen Action / NJ For Health Care  
New Jersey Policy Perspective  
Anti-Poverty Network**

New Jersey expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act to include a broader range of low-income households. A grassroots effort informed community leaders and promoted coverage now available to more New Jersey residents.

## **Results**

- More than 800,000 New Jerseyans enrolled: 500,000 low-income New Jerseyans through expansion and 300,000 in the Marketplace.
- The share of New Jerseyans without health insurance dropped by half, to under 9%. Many got coverage for the first time.
- The longstanding health care coverage and equity gap narrowed as more people of color became insured.
- State Exchange launched in 2020, providing affordable coverage options to more New Jersey residents.



**The Fund for  
New Jersey**



# 2013 MARRIAGE EQUALITY

**Garden State Equality / New Jersey United for Marriage  
Gibbons PC  
ACLU of NJ  
Lambda Legal**

Same-sex marriage became law in New Jersey, allowing all couples the benefits of legal marriage. Nine years after the mayor of Asbury Park began issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples, six years after civil unions were legalized in New Jersey, and after a lawsuit in the state Supreme Court, New Jersey joined 13 other states in legalizing marriage equality.

## **Results**

- Committed same-sex couples and their families, including at least 10,000 same-sex couples raising children, received immediate access to approximately 800 state-level rights and benefits previously denied.
- LGBTQ people in general were almost immediately more accepted and included in all aspects of society.
- In 2015, the US Supreme Court ruled in favor of marriage equality, ending marriage discrimination across the country.



**The Fund for  
New Jersey**



# 2017 BAIL REFORM

**Drug Policy Alliance  
ACLU of New Jersey  
Due Process**

In 2013, 12% of the people in New Jersey's jails were imprisoned only because they could not afford bail of \$2,500 or less. People of color were disproportionately imprisoned under this cash bail system. The New Jersey Criminal Justice Reform Act essentially eliminated money bail.

## **Results**

- More than a 40% decrease in the pretrial jail population.
- Eliminated a system that jailed people because of their poverty rather than analysis of risks they posed.



**The Fund for  
New Jersey**

# 2019 DRIVER'S LICENSES FOR ALL

New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice  
Wind of the Spirit  
Faith in New Jersey  
New Jersey Policy Perspective  
Make the Road NJ

The Let's Drive NJ Campaign was a group effort over more than a decade that resulted in New Jersey passing a law allowing undocumented immigrants to obtain driver's licenses.

## Results

- Approximately 719,000 New Jerseyans can get a license and the economic benefits that come with it -- undocumented people, as well as people who are formerly incarcerated, living in shelters, or survivors of domestic violence.
- Expanded licensing means more tested, licensed, and insured drivers, making the roads safer for everyone.
- Individuals will be less at risk of deportation and families will be less at risk of separation following traffic stops and minor traffic violations.



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New Jersey



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Dr. Ernestine Schlant Bradley, 2005-2006  
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(President 1969-1984, Treasurer 1969-1999,  
Chair 1985-1996, Chair Emeritus 1997-2007)  
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\*Leonard Lieberman, 1987-2015  
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\*Meyer Melnikoff, 1970-1981  
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\*Neil A. Upmeyer, 1989-1990  
\*Stanley C. Van Ness, 1970-1980

## CURRENT STAFF

Kiki Jamieson, President  
Lucy Vandenberg, Senior Program Officer  
Alison Streit Baron, Office Manager  
Erik Cruz Morales, Program Associate  
and Lieberman Fellow

## PAST STAFF AND DATES OF SERVICE

Robert Corman, Executive Director, 1978-1989  
Sofia Flores, Program Associate and  
Lieberman Fellow, 2016-2018  
Leigh Gibson, Senior Program Officer, 2012-2013  
Richard Greenberg, President, 2010-2011  
Ami Kachalia, Program Associate, 2014-2016  
Jenny-Ann Kershner, Program Officer, 2005-2012  
Betty Lehn, Office Administrator, 1998-2012  
Reginald Lewis, Director of Policy and  
Program Development, 2000-2002  
Gordon MacInnes, Executive Director, 1970-1978  
Laura Garber Mandell, Office Manager, 2012-2019  
Brandon McKoy, Program Associate, 2012-2014  
Mark Murphy, President, 1990-2009  
\*Rita Nutting, Secretary, 1972-1998  
Vanessa Raymond-Garcia, Program  
Associate and Lieberman Fellow, 2018-2020  
Glorianne Robbi, Executive Assistant, 1994-2004  
Carol Schlitt, Executive Assistant, 2004-2005

\*Deceased

