



The Fund for New Jersey

August Newsletter 2025

News from The Fund

In this month's newsletter we highlight the upcoming Crossroads NJ Conversation, policy updates and news from the Fund's grantee partners.

Crossroads NJ 2025: The Future of the Environment and Transportation in New Jersey

New Jersey is at a crossroads. When people ask how you showed up, what will you say? The third Crossroads NJ Conversation in this year's series will bring together leading experts and policymakers to discuss how environmental protections and infrastructure investments can shape a stronger, more resilient future for New Jersey's communities and economy.

Together, we'll explore sustainable solutions and innovative policies to address New Jersey's most pressing environmental and transportation challenges. The path forward isn't simple, but this conversation is a critical step in understanding where we go from here. Be there to hear the ideas shaping what's next. Light refreshments will be served.

Register today to secure your spot: tinyurl.com/CrossroadsNJ2025-3.

The Fund for New Jersey
CROSSROADS NJ
CREATING A NEW JERSEY WE DESERVE

**THE FUTURE OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND
TRANSPORTATION IN NEW JERSEY**

Peter Kasabach
Executive Director
New Jersey Future

Adriana Abizadeh
Executive Director
Kensington Corridor Trust

**Tamara Toles
O'Laughlin**
National Climate Strategist

Doug O'Malley
State Director
Environment New Jersey

**Wednesday
August 20
6PM - 9PM**

Cathedral Kitchen
1514 Federal St.
Camden, NJ 08105

This event is free and open to the public.

Register at tinyurl.com/CrossroadsNJ2025-3

This summer, the staff at Fund have been closely monitoring a range of developments at both the state and federal levels. We would like to share a selection of articles that we found particularly insightful and informative.

- **Census** - Preparation for 2030 Census efforts have already started at the U.S. Census Bureau. The Bureau is the federal government's largest statistical agency responsible for producing reliable statistics for the county. Additionally, the results of the decennial count are used to determine federal funding to states, appropriate Congressional seats and allocates political representation in Congress, statehouses and local legislative bodies. Advocates and staff at the Census Bureau are concerned that recent staff reductions will create data collection issues with the Current Population Survey. Read more: [U.S. Census Bureau data faces danger of brain drain](#) (NPR)
- **NJ State Budget** - State lawmakers passed a \$58.8 billion budget for FY2026. Analysis of the budget showed tax increases on high-dollar real-estate sales, alcohol, cigarettes and marijuana, as well as a broadening of the sales tax base, support for NJ Transit, budget surplus, and property tax relief. Since the budget was

passed before the passing of “One Big Beautiful Bill Act”, it is still unknown how the state lawmakers will close the gaps left by reductions in federal aid for programs like Medicaid and SNAP. [NJ Spotlight News](#) and [NJ Monitor](#) provide more analysis of the NJ FY2026 budget.

- **Immigration** - The U.S. government passed a new law that adds new fees to apply for asylum application and obtain work permits. This change will make it harder for asylum seekers to obtain documentation, access support and increase costs for organizations that support immigrants seeking asylum. Learn more about the changes at [Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project](#).
- **Public Media** – On July 18, The House approved a plan to rescind \$9 billion in previously allocated funds, including \$1.1 billion for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) — a move that cuts all federal support for NPR, PBS and their member stations — and about \$7 billion in foreign aid. Learn more about the impacts from [NJ Monitor](#), [NJPR/WNYC](#), [NJ Spotlight News](#), [WBGO](#), and [WHYY](#).

Grantee News

- **Green and Healthy Homes Initiative** [reported](#) that a judge in U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland ruled that the EPA unlawfully terminated \$180 million in congressionally authorized funding for environmental and public health projects that the EPA had previously designated under its Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program. The program supports 15 states and 315 Federally Recognized Tribes. GHHI resumed work on EPA Region 3 Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program on June 17.
- **Ironbound Community Corporation (ICC)** joined the City of Newark in filing a [lawsuit](#) to stop the construction of a \$232.7 million gas-powered backup generation plant near the Ironbound neighborhood. ICC argues the project would worsen pollution in an already overburdened community.
- **Lead Free-NJ, NJ Future** and partners are applauding the extension of the application deadline for school districts seeking funds to address lead and other contaminants in drinking water systems through the [Securing Our Children’s Future Bond Act \(SOCFBA\): Water Infrastructure Improvement Grant](#). Originally set for July 25, the deadline has now been extended to August 31 thanks to advocacy efforts—giving schools more time to apply for this critical health and safety funding. Learn more [here](#).
- The **NJ Center for Nonprofits** published an article explaining the impacts the [federal tax legislation](#) that was passed on July 3 and signed into law by President Trump on July 4. The Center for Nonprofit’s article explains the reductions to Medicaid and SNAP programs, increases to standard deductions and the impacts to large segments of communities across the country and nonprofits that provide a range of social services. An important note is that “the final bill DOES NOT INCLUDE the provision that would allow the Treasury Secretary to unilaterally deem nonprofits “terrorist supporting organizations” and strip their tax exemption without due process. “ Read the full article [here](#).

Policy Updates

- **Advocates for Children of New Jersey** celebrated the signing of legislation (S3910/A5717, S4476/A5780 and A5908/S4695) that strengthen and expand access to early childhood education. The core legislation ([S3910/A5717](#)) codifies New Jersey’s preschool funding formula into statute, strengthening and sustaining the state’s pre-K expansion effort, while also setting the course to provide full-day kindergarten by 2030. To learn more about the legislation, read ACNJ’s recent [policy update](#).
- **Fair Share Housing** reported that 424 municipalities have adopted and filed Housing Element and Fair Share Plans (HEFSPs), detailing how they will meet their affordable housing responsibilities. To learn more about Fair Share Housing’s monitoring and review of municipalities’ legally mandated responsibilities, read their [press release](#).
- **Housing and Community Development Network of NJ** and **Fair Share Housing** continued advocacy for the revenue of mansion tax to be directed to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, New Jersey’s only dedicated source of funding for affordable homes. Read HCDNNJ’s recent [op-ed](#) and Fair Share

Housing's [statement](#) to learn more about this issue.

- **New Jersey Future** and partners celebrated the passage of legislation in both the Senate and the Assembly that advances work of Lead-Free NJ and Jersey Water Works Lead in Drinking Water Advisory Council. The first piece of legislation (A2929 AcaSa (2R) 2024 - 2025) requires disclosure of lead drinking water hazards to tenants of residential units; prohibits landlords from obstructing the replacement of lead service lines; and testing of certain property for lead drinking water hazards. The second bill (S4632 Sca (1R) Session 2024 - 2025) establishes a \$2 million grant program in the NJ Department of Education for public schools to purchase and install point-of-use filtered bottle-filling stations and filtered faucets. Both bills now await the Governor's signature.

Grantee Reports

- **Education Law Center** released three new national advocacy tools -- the first allows users to [estimate potential federal revenue losses](#) in states; the second allows users to [project the cost of universal vouchers](#) in any state; and the third allows users to view federal education spending by [school or congressional district](#).
- **Housing and Community Development Network of NJ** published, [Out of Reach](#). Released annually, the report highlights the widening gap between current wages and what people need to earn to afford their rents and shows how affordable rental homes are out of reach for millions of low-wage workers and other families across the United States. In NJ, a worker would need to earn \$39.99 per hour to afford a two-bedroom apartment.
- **Housing and Community Development Network of NJ** released an [economic impact study](#), highlighting that since 2019, nonprofit developers have driven \$2.45 billion in economic activity, created over 12,500 jobs, and built 4,730 homes.
- **New Jersey Policy Perspective** analyzed New Jersey's Fiscal Year 2026 Budget and highlighted the impacts to budget surplus and deficits, school funding, services for immigrants, tax credits for working, public transportation, clean energy. Read the full report, [here](#).

Events

- August 5 - [2025 Summer Joint Policy Forum: Nonprofit and Philanthropic Champions for New Jersey](#) (NJ Center for Nonprofits)
- August 5 - [Paterson Environmental Justice \(EJ\) Affinity Group Community Meeting](#) (Paterson Alliance)
- August 9 - [ETC Environmental Justice Storytelling Event](#) (East Trenton Collaborative)
- August 20 – [Crossroads NJ 2025 Conversation: The Future of the Environment and Transportation in New Jersey](#) (Fund for NJ)
- August 28 - [Bridging The Gap: Blacks in Philanthropy Conference](#) (Smith Family Foundation of New Jersey)

Job Announcements

- **AAPI-NJ** - [Multilingual Community Organizer](#) and [Development Director](#)
- **Hyacinth AIDS Foundation** - [multiple positions](#)
- **League of Women Voters NJ** - [Community Organizer](#)
- **NJ Environmental Justice Alliance** - [Policy Fellow](#)
- **NJISJ** - [Associate Counsel for Democracy & Justice](#), [Associate Counsel for Economic Justice](#) and [Policy Analyst for Economic Justice](#)
- **WHYY** - [Planned Giving Manager](#)

We welcome your policy updates, job announcements, and staff news. Please send submissions to Naeema Campbell, ncampbell@fundfornj.org or Alana Vega, avega@fundfornj.org for inclusion in our newsletter.

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