

Grantee News

Policy Victories:

- Due to efforts by ACLU-NJ, Advocates for Children of NJ, NJ Institute for Social Justice, and the Rutgers Criminal and Youth Justice Clinic, Governor Christie signed a juvenile justice reform bill that placed limits on the use of solitary confinement for juvenile offenders and raised the age at which juveniles are eligible to be waived into adult court or transferred into adult facilities. For more information, read [here](#).
- Hudson and Cumberland Counties and Newark passed resolutions in support of expanding access to drivers' licenses for undocumented residents due to efforts by Faith in New Jersey, Wind of the Spirit, NJ Alliance for Immigrant Justice, and partners. Read for more information on [Hudson](#) and [Cumberland](#) counties and [Newark](#).
- Anti-wage theft ordinances passed in Highland Park, Newark, and Jersey City due to advocacy by the NJ Alliance for Immigrant Justice, New Labor, NJ Working Families Alliance, and partners. Read for more information on [Highland Park](#) and [Jersey City](#).
- Five years after reducing the state's earned income tax credit and due to advocacy by the Anti-Poverty Network of NJ, NJ Policy Perspective, NJ Citizen Action, and the NJ Working Families, Governor Christie signed into law an increase from 20% of the federal level to 30% of the federal level. On average, this change will provide an additional \$250 a year to approximately 500,000 NJ residents, the majority of whom earn less than \$20,000 a year. For more information, read [here](#).
- Due to efforts by NJ Work Environment Council and partners, the New Jersey Supreme Court affirmed an appeals court ruling that found that the state's whistleblower law includes watchdog employees, such as those whose jobs entail identifying health and safety risks. For more information, read [here](#).
- The NJ Department of Education issued guidance on PARCC student participation, stating that sit-and-stare policies should be avoided and delayed the use of PARCC exams as a graduate requirement by an additional year (it was previously delayed until 2018) due to advocacy and organizing by the Education Law Center and Save Our Schools NJ Community Organizing. For more information, read [here](#).
- The Environmental Protection Agency adopted the final Clean Power Plan rules which limit existing power plant carbon emissions and gives states one year to develop a plan to reduce carbon emissions. Dr. Nicky Sheats of the NJ Environmental Justice Alliance played a key role in EPA's incorporation of environmental justice and equity provisions into the Clean Power Plan. Governor Christie announced his intent to fight the Clean Power Plan requirements.
- Due to efforts by NJ Conservation Foundation, Eastern Environmental Law Center, and partners, LG Electronics agreed to a new design for its project in the Palisades, decreasing the height of the building from 143 feet to 70 feet. For more information, read [here](#).

Policy Setbacks:

- Delaware Riverkeeper, Environment NJ, Clean Water Action, and Sierra Club are challenging the State's \$225 million settlement with Exxon Mobil which was approved by Judge Michael Hogan in August. This follows an earlier unsuccessful attempt to intervene in the settlement by NY/NJ Baykeeper, Clean Water Action, Environment NJ, Delaware Riverkeeper, and partners. For more information, read [here](#).
- Despite advocacy by Pinelands Preservation Alliance and partners, the controversial South Jersey Gas pipeline through the Pinelands was pushed through without a vote after the executive director of the Pinelands Commission said that the project did not require the Commission's approval. For more information, read [here](#).
- Despite efforts by Environment NJ and partners, Governor Christie adopted rules formally repealing NJ's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative four years after unilaterally withdrawing NJ from the regional program to curb emissions. For more information, read [here](#).
- The NJ Transit Board approved a proposed nine percent fare hike and service cuts despite advocacy by the NJ For Transit coalition (members include NJ Policy Perspective, Environment NJ, Tri-State Transportation Campaign, and partners). NJ Transit made additional service cuts in September without any public notice (while the aforementioned fare hike and service cuts were the subject of nine public hearings), noting that federal law does not require a public hearing. For more information, read [here](#) and [here](#).

Policy Reports:

- The NJ Advocates for Immigrant Detainees (members include American Friends Service Committee and ACLU-NJ) released *23 Hours in the Box, Solitary Confinement in Immigration Detention*, detailing the overuse of solitary confinement in immigration detention and violations of state regulations and international standards. Read the full report [here](#).
- NJ Policy Perspective released *Increasing the Earned Income Tax Credit Would Boost NJ's Working Families* (highlighting the positive impact of the increase to 30% of the federal level), *Executive Actions on Immigration Would Help Many New Jerseyans While Boosting the Economy* (highlighting the positive economic benefits of the two administrative relief programs that are currently tied up in the courts), and *Governor's Medicaid Proposal Would Shift Costs to New Jersey Taxpayers and Health Care Providers* (highlighting the negative impacts of the Governor's Medicaid proposal). To read the reports, go [here](#).
- Advocates for Children of NJ released *Showing Up Matters: The State of Chronic Absenteeism in New Jersey*, detailing how approximately 10% of NJ students enrolled in K-12 schools are chronically absent (absent for at least 10% of the school year). Read the full report [here](#).

Job Announcements

- ACLU-NJ—[Policy Counsel](#)
- ACLU-NJ—[Organizer](#)
- Hyacinth AIDS Foundation—[Development Associate](#)
- NJ Alliance for Immigrant Justice—[Communications Consultant](#)

- NJ Conservation Foundation—[Central Jersey Project Manager](#)
- NJ Institute for Social Justice—[Associate Litigation Counsel](#)
- NJ Institute for Social Justice—[Associate Policy Counsel](#)
- NJ Institute for Social Justice—[Director of Philanthropy](#)
- NJ Institute for Social Justice—[Communications Associate](#)
- NJ League of Conservation Voters—[Director of Digital Engagement](#)
- Advocates for Children of NJ—Kids Count Coordinator. See attached description.

Upcoming Events

- October 9, 2015—Association of NJ Environmental Commissions—[Environmental Congress](#)
- October 13, 2015—Anti-Poverty Network of NJ—[Poverty Summit](#)
- October 16, 2015—NJ Spotlight—[NJ Spotlight On Cities](#)
- October 20, 2015—Housing & Community Development Network of NJ—[Community Development Conference & Membership Meeting](#)
- December 2, 2015—Center for Non-Profits—[NJ Non-Profit Conference](#)
- December 4, 2015—Supportive Housing Association of NJ—[Annual Conference](#)