

## The Fund for New Jersey News

- The Fund for New Jersey is proud to announce that for the third quarter of 2016 it has awarded grants in the total amount \$310,000 to advance public policies in the areas of civil rights, sustainable business development, education, and social justice. Read details [here](#).

## Grantee News

### *Policy Victories:*

- Due to advocacy by American Friends Service Committee and partners, S1880/A1419 was signed into law in late August, making New Jersey the second state to pass legislation regulating the high cost of prison phone calls. The law mandates that county jails and detention centers not receive commissions, call fees will be capped at 11 cents per minute, and most fees will be prohibited. Read more [here](#).
- Due to advocacy by New Jersey Working Families, New Jersey Citizen Action, Wind of the Spirit, and other partners, Morristown passed a paid sick leave ordinance in September 2016. The decision makes Morristown the 13<sup>th</sup> New Jersey municipality to adopt such measures. Employees of businesses with fewer than ten employees will be entitled to three earned sick days per year, and those with more will be entitled to five days. Due to employees' typically low earnings and increased contact with food and people, businesses in the food industry, childcare, or home health care are required to provide five days regardless of number of employees. Read more [here](#).
- As a result of longstanding advocacy by Drug Policy Alliance, Hyacinth AIDS Foundation, and partners, Trenton City Council unanimously passed an ordinance to start a Syringe Access Program in Trenton, making it the sixth program in the state. This builds on the law signed by Governor Christie in late August expanding the state's syringe access program from five pilot locations to statewide access.
- In early October, due to advocacy by the Center for Non-Profits, Council of New Jersey Grantmakers, and other partners, Governor Christie released an additional \$8.4 million in funds which had been frozen under Executive Order 209, including the majority of frozen non-profit funds. In June 2016, Governor Christie had issued the executive order for more than \$100 million in funds to be held in reserve until the Legislature and public employee unions found \$250 million in savings for public employee and retiree health care costs. CNP and CNJG issued an op-ed making the case that the Governor's decision to freeze these funds has harmed non-profits providing essential services and made them collateral damage in a dispute that does not involve them. Read more [here](#).



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- Thanks to advocacy over many years by Environment New Jersey and partners, PSEG Power announced in October that it will close the last two coal-fired power plants in New Jersey -- the Hudson and Mercer Generation Station Coal Plants in Jersey City and Hamilton Township -- by mid-2017. Coal-fired power plants are the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the energy sector, and they are also a major source of harmful pollutants that contribute to asthma, cancer, heart disease, and birth defects. Read more [here](#).

### Policy Setbacks:

- Governor Christie vetoed a bill that sought to gradually raise the wage floor to \$15 dollars over five years. Despite advocacy by Anti-Poverty Network, New Jersey Policy Perspective, and partners to get the bill through both legislative houses, it was not signed into law. New Jersey Policy Perspective released a [report](#) analyzing the positive impact it would have had on poor and low-income families. Read more [here](#).
- Despite New Jersey Policy Perspective, New Jersey Working Families, and partners' advocacy for a robust Transportation Trust Fund Deal, the final bill signed into law by Governor Christie included a host of tax cuts and was reported a credit negative on already strapped state finances. The deal is composed of two bills: A-12, which instituted a 23 cent gas tax increase and \$1.4 billion in tax cuts, most notably a complete phase-out of the estate tax; and A-10, which allows \$2 billion a year in TTF spending on infrastructure projects. The deal was reached on a Friday without public input soon after the tragic NJ Transit Hoboken crash, which exemplified the harmful consequences of long-delayed investment in transit. Read more [here](#).

### Policy Updates:

- Due to advocacy by ACLU-NJ, Drug Police Alliance, Faith in New Jersey, New Jersey Institute of Social Justice, Latino Action Network, and others, the New Jersey Senate passed S-2469, which now awaits action by the NJ Assembly. If passed into law, the bill would require independent investigations and prosecutions when someone dies at the hands of law enforcement. ACLU-NJ proposed independent investigations for police violence in its five-point plan released this summer. Read more [here](#).
- Due to advocacy by ACLU-NJ and partners, S-51, a bill to restrict the use of solitary confinement in NJ's prisons and jails, was passed by both houses of the Legislature, and is now awaiting action by Governor Chris Christie. If passed and signed into law, the bill would require facilities to use solitary confinement only as a last resort, prohibit solitary confinement for more than 15 consecutive days or 20 days in a 60-day period, ban the isolation of vulnerable populations, and require medical clearance and daily evaluations for prisoners in solitary confinement. Read more [here](#).



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- New Jersey Highlands Coalition, Greenfaith, ANJEC, government leaders and citizens united to call on the Christie administration to withdraw a proposed rule that would open up the most environmentally sensitive parts of the Highlands to more development. The rule would increase the septic tank density standards in the Highlands region, which provides clean drinking water for 70% of the State's population, including Jersey City and Newark. Read more [here](#).
- The New Jersey Supreme Court will hear an appeal by Fair Share Housing Center in late November regarding the obligation to calculate and zone for affordable housing needs that went unmet between 1999 and 2015 (the "gap period"). This case is an appeal of the decision by the NJ appellate division which forgave obligations incurred during this time period, a decision that Fair Share Housing Center argues is contrary to established law. Read more [here](#).

### Policy Reports:

- The New Jersey Climate Adaptation Alliance released two reports in October 2016: *Assessing New Jersey's Exposure to Sea-Level Rise and Coastal Storms* and *Integrating Science into Coastal Resilience Planning and Decision Making*. The reports both provide likely sea level rise probability outcomes as well as example methods practitioners can use to integrate these outcomes into planning. Read the full reports and summary [here](#).
- New Jersey Policy Perspective released *The Notorious Nine: How Key Decisions Sent New Jersey's Financial Health Spiraling Down Over Two Decades*. The report gives historical and policy context for the current state financial crisis and emphasizes the importance of financially sound policies. New Jersey Policy Perspective also released *The Promise of North Jersey Casinos is Not as Advertised*, which analyzes the impact of a Casino in North Jersey in preparation of the November 8<sup>th</sup> ballot question. Read the full reports [here](#) and [here](#).
- Advocates for Children of New Jersey published *Showing Up Matters: The State of Chronic Absenteeism in New Jersey* in September and *Healthy Foods Strong Kids: Building a Community Response to Child Hunger* in October. *Showing up Matters* reveals the prevalence of chronic absenteeism in New Jersey and its increased likelihood to affect low-income children of color. *Health Foods Strong Kids* analyzes funding and participation changes for school breakfast programs over the years and ranks school districts that have been successful and unsuccessful in implementation. Both reports outline policy solutions, recommendations for implementation and emphasize the need for community champions to solve these issues. Read the full reports [here](#) and [here](#).
- New Jersey Public Radio published a *Kids in Prison* five-part radio series paired with a Data News team analysis report which explores issues within New Jersey's juvenile criminal justice system. The report highlights the reality that Black teenagers in New Jersey are tried as adults more than any other racial or ethnic group and makes the link between being tried as an adult and longer sentences, but also points towards solutions, drawing on prison practices in Germany. Listen and read the series and report [here](#).



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## Events

- November 2—[Refugees and Migrants: A Global Humanitarian Crisis](#)
- November 4—[New Jersey Impact Investment Gathering](#)
- November 15 & 17—Pre-K Our Way Community Communication Meeting
- November 16—[Anti-Poverty Network of NJ General Meeting](#)
- November 18- [The Impact of Lead Exposure on our Students](#)
- December 2—[18<sup>th</sup> Annual New Jersey Supportive Housing Conference 2016](#)
- December 7—[2016 Annual NJ Non-Profit Conference](#)
- December 12—[25th Anniversary of Kids Count Celebration](#)

## Job Announcements

- American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey—[Communications Strategist](#)
- American Friends Service Committee—[Senior Detention Attorney](#)
- Isles, Inc.—[Job Developer](#)
- Isles, Inc.—[Urban Agriculture Coordinator](#)
- Legal Services of New Jersey—[Secretary](#)
- Legal Services of New Jersey—[Public Interest Family Law Attorneys](#)
- NJ Alliance for Immigrant Justice—[Outreach Coordinator](#)
- NJ Conservation Foundation—[Easement Steward](#)
- NJ Conservation Foundation—[Campaign Project Assistant](#)
- NJ Institute for Social Justice—[Human Resources Administrator](#)
- NJ Working Families Alliance—[Communications Director](#)
- Regional Plan Association—[Planner, Community Planning and Design](#)

The Fund for New Jersey's news updates will be distributed monthly. Please send policy news and updates, job announcements, and staff updates to Sofia Flores at [sflores@fundfornj.org](mailto:sflores@fundfornj.org).