

The Fund for New Jersey News

- Erik Cruz-Morales has joined The Fund for New Jersey as our new Leonard Lieberman Philanthropy Fellow and Program Associate. Erik brings a passion for public policy, public service, and civic engagement. All of us at The Fund welcome Erik enthusiastically. We look forward to introducing him to all of you. He can be reached at ecruz-morales@fundfornj.org.
- 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 Erik Cruz-Morales at ecruz-morales@fundfornj.org or you can reach us through Twitter [@FundforNJ](#).
- The Fund for New Jersey is proud to announce that for the 3rd quarter of 2020 it has awarded grants in the total amount of \$490,000 to advance public policies in the areas of lead poisoning prevention, public education, and criminal justice reform. [Read the full press release](#).
- The Fund for New Jersey would like to share a resource that is now available at no cost to New Jersey nonprofit organizations. Thanks to a partnership with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, *Catchafire* is offering free and unlimited access to its platform, which connects talented professionals looking to give back with New Jersey nonprofit organizations. The platform provides nonprofit organizations with access to expertise in marketing, web development, operations, and strategy. You can learn more [here](#).

Grantee News**Policy Victories:**

- Governor Phil Murphy reached an agreement with the New Jersey Legislature to approve a Millionaires' Tax. The new law would boost the tax rate on annual incomes over \$1 million to 10.75%, from 8.97%. Previously, earned income exceeding \$5 million was subject to the 10.75% rate. This new law will allow the state to maintain investments in key programs and services that will help New Jersey recover from the

pandemic. This success was made possible after years of advocacy by NJ Policy Perspective and partners. Read more [here](#).

- The FY2021 state budget included key wins for low-income children and families, including expansion of the state's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) to include more young adults, \$10 million for preschool expansion, \$5 million to the Lead Hazard Remediation Fund, and new investments in the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Credit program. These investments were made possible through advocacy by Advocates for Children of New Jersey, NJ Policy Perspective, Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey, and partners. Read more [here](#).
- Governor Murphy and the New Jersey Legislature approved a \$6.2 million allocation in the FY2021 budget to expand a publicly funded program providing access to counsel for immigrants detained and facing deportation in New Jersey. While that money still covers fewer than half of the hundreds of New Jerseyans arrested by U.S Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), statistics show that immigrants with lawyers are more likely to avoid deportation. Immigrant advocates said the money would help keep families together and save the lives of asylum seekers. The success was made possible through the advocacy of the NJ Coalition for Immigrant Representation, which includes Fund grantees American Friends Service Committee, Make the Road NJ, NJ Policy Perspective, and ACLU-NJ. Read more [here](#).
- In September, New Jersey has become the first state on the East Coast and the 15th state nationwide to remove citizenship or immigration status requirements from occupational licensure. This new law will allow for the state's 500,000 undocumented immigrants to be eligible for licenses in industries such as nursing, counseling, and cosmetology. This bill's passage was made possible by advocacy from Make the Road NJ, NJ Alliance for Immigrant Justice, American Friends Service Committee, ACLU-NJ, Faith in NJ, NJ Policy Perspective, Wind of the Spirit, and partners. Read more [here](#).
- On October 28, Governor Murphy signed an executive order to protect all workers by requiring *all* New Jersey employers to provide PPE and implement social distancing measures as well as conduct daily health checks and notify employees of any known exposure to COVID-19 at the worksite. These requirements are mandatory and enforceable and were instituted as a result of a lack of federal workplace safety standards to protect workers from Covid-19. This executive order followed advocacy by the Coalition to Protect NJ Workers, including Fund for NJ grantees Wind of the Spirit and Make the Road NJ. Read more [here](#).

- In November, Gov. Phil Murphy signed a new law protecting New Jersey's environment by banning businesses from handing out single use plastic bags, Polystyrene food containers, plastic straws and paper bags in New Jersey, effective May 2022. The New Jersey law serves as a model for other states, taking the strictest stance against single use plastics in the nation. A report published by NY/NJ Baykeeper in 2016 estimated that 165 million pieces of plastic were floating in New York City area waters, from the East River to Raritan Bay. The majority of that pollution was in the form of microplastics, which are tiny pieces of plastic fragments that can make their way into the food chain, and eventually into our meals. This victory was made possible through advocacy by ANJEC, NY/NJ Baykeeper, and partners. Read more [here](#).
- Governor Phil Murphy signed legislation (S2529) to expedite the release of certain inmates who are approaching the end of their sentences to reduce Covid-19 transmission to other inmates and correctional facility staff. The new law resulted in the early release of 2,258 prisoners in one day and is expected to result in the early release of an additional 1,000 prisoners, resulting in a 35% reduction in the prison population since the start of the pandemic. This victory was made possible by advocacy from Salvation and Social Justice, ACLU-NJ, American Friends Service Committee, and partners. (In a related setback, ICE arrested 88 inmates who had been released from prison in November as part of the law. Read more [here](#).) Read more [here](#) and [here](#).
- In September, Gov. Phil Murphy signed a landmark environmental justice law (S232) requiring the NJ Department of Environmental Protection to evaluate new facilities such as gas-fired power plants, incinerators, sewage plants, landfills, and others when reviewing permit applications. New Jersey will be the first state in the nation to require mandatory permit denials if an environmental justice analysis determines that a new facility will have a disproportionately negative impact on communities overburdened by pollution. The work was led by NJ Environmental Justice Alliance, Ironbound Community Corporation, and partners. Read more [here](#).

Policy Setbacks:

- With fewer than 90 days remaining until the expected implementation of the landmark legislation expanding access to driver's licenses for all, immigrant communities are calling on Governor Murphy to rectify the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission's (MVC) proposed regulations. The proposed regulations would require undocumented immigrants who do not have an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) or a Social Security Number (SSN) to first get a letter of ineligibility from the federal Social Security Administration (SSA) before they can go to their local MVC agency to apply for a basic driver's license. This regulation is an additional and unnecessary requirement that

could put immigrant families and communities at risk and is not required by the legislation. Read more [here](#).

Policy Reports:

- NJ Policy Perspective released a report, *Building a More Immigrant Inclusive Tax Code: Expanding the EITC to ITIN filers*. This report explains how a history of systemic racism in the United States shaped policymaking and access to economic opportunity, resulting in massive inequities in the distribution of wealth nationally and in New Jersey. Read more [here](#).
- NJ Policy Perspective published a report highlighting health disparities in the COVID-19 pandemic. Nationally, Black and Latinx residents have been three times more likely than white residents to contract COVID-19 and nearly twice as likely to die from it. This report examines racial disparities in New Jersey throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and suggests policy solutions to alleviate these problems and build more equitable conditions for the future. Read more [here](#).
- The New Jersey Policy Perspective released a report, *School Funding in New Jersey: A Fair Future for All*. The report provides an in-depth look at the current state of school finance in New Jersey, including how the state got here, consequences for students, and how the state should proceed in the face of the current crisis. Read more [here](#).
- The NJ Institute for Social Justice released *Black and Brown in New Jersey: The Garden State's Shameful Racial Wealth Gap*, which highlights the staggering racial disparities in wealth and other financial factors between Black and Latinx New Jerseyans and their white peers. Read more [here](#).
- The Green and Healthy Homes Initiative published a national report, *Health Justice Strategies to Eradicate Lead Poisoning: An Urgent Call to Action to Safeguard Future Generations*. This report provides a comprehensive examination of best practices for addressing lead poisoning and proposes urgent reform measures at the local and state levels. Read more [here](#).
- New Jersey Future published *The Geography of Digital Equity in New Jersey*. This report takes a look at the digital divide in NJ and how broadband access is just another symptom of federal and state policies that continue to segregate New Jerseyans by race and income. Read more [here](#).
- New Jersey Future released a report that explores the differential in black and white homeownership rates across the state. The homeownership rate for Black households in

New Jersey, at 41.0%, lags almost 36 percentage points behind the homeownership rate for non-Hispanic white families (76.9%). Read more [here](#).

Leadership and Organizational Announcements

- Congratulations to Jael Davis on her new role as Lead-Free New Jersey program manager for New Jersey Future. In this position, Jael will lead an inclusive and equitable collaborative that ensures lead-free children and a lead-safe environment through changes to state and local policies. The Fund for NJ looks forward to working with Jael.
- Congratulations to Anthony Diaz on his new role as a part-time community coordinator for Lead-Free New Jersey.

Events

- December 2 & 3 - Center for Non-Profits [virtual conference](#)

Job Announcements

- [Legal Department Manager/Communications Director](#) , ACLU-NJ
- [Executive Director](#), NJ Alliance for Immigrant Justice
- [Director, Criminal Justice Reform Program](#), NJ Institute for Social Justice
- [Various Positions](#), NJ Citizen Action
- [Staff Attorney/Senior Attorney](#), Fair Share Housing Center
- [Various Positions](#), Legal Services of NJ
- [Various Positions](#), NJ Higher Education Student Assistance Authority

Please send policy news and updates, job announcements, and staff updates to Erik Cruz-Morales at ecruz-morales@fundfornj.org or you can Tweet to [@FundforNJ](#)

