

- The Fund for New Jersey welcomes Hellen Zamora-Bustos as the Leonard Lieberman Philanthropy Fellow and Program Associate. Hellen brings a strong commitment to justice, equity, and inclusion and significant experience in community development and organizing. Feel free to give her a warm welcome at hzb@fundfornj.org.
- The Fund for New Jersey awarded grants totaling \$442,000 to advance public policies in the areas of environmental justice, economic equity, health equity and public media. Read the full press release [here](#).

Grantee News**Policy Updates:**

- Effective in the New Year, New Jersey became the eighth state to require abortion coverage in private health insurance plans. A Department of Banking and Insurance study found expanded coverage necessary and mandated under the Freedom of Reproductive Choice Act. The Attorney General's Reproductive Rights Strike Force was also established. American Civil Liberties Union of NJ (ACLU-NJ) and New Jersey Policy Perspective (NJPP) were strong advocates of expanded coverage. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).
- Governor Murphy signed gun-reform legislation to establish criteria for obtaining a permit to carry a handgun, create an official list of places where guns wouldn't be allowed, and impose fees, fines, and insurance requirements and storage mandates on gun owners. However, a federal lawsuit questions the law's constitutionality. Read more [here](#).
- In response to advocacy by Environmental Justice Alliance, Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions, NY/NJ Baykeeper, and NJ Highlands Coalition, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) moved to adopt Inland Flood Protection (IFP) Rules that would update data and regulations to account for climate change. The IFP rule is the first to advance, as related rules established by the Protecting Against Climate Threats (PACT) initiative, established under Executive Order 100 three years ago, have been delayed. Read more [here](#).
- The Murphy administration announced that it aims to increase the availability of affordable homes through improvements to the construction permitting process and the deployment of over \$19 million in housing funds. A total of 17 developers were awarded these funds, an investment of 79 units through the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, National Housing Trust Fund, and the HOME Community Housing Development Organizations Production Program. The Housing and Community Development Network of NJ (HCDNNJ) advocated for expanded funding. Read more [here](#).

- Due to advocacy by Environment NJ, NJ Conservation Foundation, and partners, the NJ Board of Public Utilities announced the third Offshore Wind Solicitation and established a Competitive Grid Scale Solar Program. New requirements include setting a solicitation target range from 1,200MW to 4,000MW, offering an inflation adjustment mechanism, providing specific direction on NJ requirements for new or expanded supply chain facilities, providing minimum standards for the environmental and fisheries protection plans. The new solar program not only expands clean, solar energy while reducing the costs of solar incentives but also requires sound siting that avoids the most productive farmland, forests, and environmentally sensitive areas. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).
- The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) released the first Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) permit to develop local strategies to repair sewer systems and regulate and reduce overflows in impacted communities. Although the first permits are in North Bergen and Guttenberg they will inform the process, projects, timelines, and costs finalized in the other regional CSO permits. Read more [here](#).
- Due to advocacy by NJ Citizen Action Education Fund, NJ Alliance for Immigrant Justice, and Latino Action Network Foundation, Governor Murphy expanded eligibility of the Cover All Kid's program to an estimated 16,000 children regardless of immigration status. Since Cover All Kids program launch in 2021 more than 47,000 New Jersey children are now insured. Read more [here](#).

Policy Setbacks:

- The Attorney General directed law enforcement agencies to publicly disclose officer misconduct to a total of seven reporting categories, including discrimination, domestic violence, and filing false reports. However, NJPP and ACLU-NJ have advocated for more comprehensive reporting requirements. Read more [here](#).
- Despite testimony by the ACLU-NJ and NJ Institute for Social Justice, the legislature advanced a package of bills to roll back criminal justice reforms by extending the list of crimes requiring pretrial detention and upgrading penalties for stealing cars and burglarizing homes. Read more [here](#).

Policy Reports:

- NJPP released the report, *People Pay, Hospitals Profit: Rising Prices Drive High Health Care Costs*. The report found that New Jersey loses more money every year to high hospital prices, paying out \$1.26 billion more than the “commercial breakeven rate”—the rate a hospital needs to receive to cover its expenses without profit. Read more [here](#).

- NJPP released the report, *Stop the Raids: The Clean Energy Fund Should Fund Clean Energy*. Since FY 2010, nearly \$2 billion has been raided from the Fund, hampering the state's ability to reach its climate goals and keep its residents safe and healthy. With a new budget season upon us, NJPP urges lawmakers to use the Clean Energy Fund as the source of funding for clean energy projects that it was initially intended to be. Read more [here](#).
- The HCDNNJ, Ironbound Community Corporation, and directly-affected renters themselves, with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, collaborated with Regional Plan Association to highlight inequality and affordability challenges for renters in Atlantic City, Camden, New Brunswick, Newark, Paterson, Perth Amboy and Trenton. *Renter Empowerment and Neighborhood Tools (RENT) for Health Equity*, released earlier this month, offers a guide to increasing the opportunity for everyone in New Jersey to live their healthiest life in a safe, affordable residence of their choosing. Read more [here](#).
- Fair Districts New Jersey published the report *Drawing New Lines: How Advocates in New Jersey Put Communities on the Redistricting Map*. The report provides lessons learned from the coalition with recommendations for advocacy and reform. Some recommendations include more public hearings, greater transparency, increased accessibility, non-partisan mapmaking standards, and independent redistricting commissions composed of ordinary citizens. Read more [here](#).

Leadership and Organizational Announcements

- David Sciarra, Executive Director of Education Law Center (ELC) is retiring. We congratulate David and thank him for over 25 years of leadership in education policy. ELC welcomes Robert Kim, who served at the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S. Department of Education in the Obama years and was on the Biden transition team. Read more [here](#).

Events

- January 27 – [Myth of BIPOC Pipeline](#)
- January 30 – Conference for Cover All Kids
- May 23 – CNJG Spring Conference

Job Announcements

- ACLU-NJ – [Legal Internships \(Summer 2023\)](#), [Legal and Intake & Administrative Assistant](#), [Decarceration Attorney](#)

- American Friends Service Committee – [Social Worker, Detention and Deportation Defense Initiative](#)
- Council of New Jersey Grantmakers – [Manager of Programs and Learning](#)
- New Jersey Institute for Social Justice – [Director, Democracy and Justice Program](#),
- New Jersey Policy Perspective – [Policy Director](#)
- New Jersey Citizen Action – [Fair Housing Test Coordinator](#), [Director of Fair Housing](#)
- Environment New Jersey – [Clean Energy Advocate](#)
- New Jersey Conservation Foundation – [Director of Development and Major Gifts](#)
- Housing and Community Development Network of NJ – [Housing Justice Organizing Specialist](#)
- Rutgers Center on Law, Inequality, and Metropolitan Equity – [Various Positions](#)
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation – [Various Positions](#)
- Ironbound Community Corporation – [Various Positions](#)

Please send policy news and updates, job announcements, and staff updates to Hellen Zamora-Bustos at hzb@fundfornj.org or you can Tweet to [@FundforNJ](https://twitter.com/FundforNJ).