The Fund for New Jersey reopened its search for a Program Associate. We urge aspiring leaders in public policy to apply for this two-year fellowship position, named in honor of New Jersey public policy leader Leonard Lieberman, who served The Fund with distinction from 1987 to 2015 and led the Board as Chair from 1997 to 2008. View the full job description and application instructions here. We encourage our partners to share with their networks.

Grantee News

Policy Updates:

• On November 2, New Jersey’s Department of Community Affairs received an extra $51 million from the federal government to help residents with rental assistance. The agency estimates it will help another 4,100 to 4,600 families. Fund grantees Fair Share Housing Center and the Housing Community Devolvement Network of NJ continue to advocate for additional rental assistance and more affordable housing. Read more here.

• A new report from the Harm Reduction Coalition showed that skin and soft-tissue infections from drug injections resulted in thousands of hospitalizations, killed hundreds of people, and cost more than $1 billion in hospital charges in New Jersey in 2019. Researchers with the New Jersey Harm Reduction Coalition said their findings show why it’s essential for the state to expand safe syringe sites statewide. In January 2022, three bills were signed into law that expanded harm reduction services. Since then, advocates have been concerned that delays in codifying the new laws could derail ongoing efforts to generate support for new programs, especially in communities that experience high rates of IV drug use and HIV/AIDS, which is often spread through shared needles. Fund grantee Hyacinth AIDS Foundation continues to advocate for the expansion of harm reduction centers, funding support, and other critical resources that support harm reduction. Read more here.

• Fifty environmental, labor, and health advocates, including Fund grantees of the Jersey Renews coalition, called on the Murphy administration to protect the Clean Energy Fund. In a letter to Governor Murphy, advocates said that the governor and Legislature have diverted over $500 million intended for the state’s Clean Energy Fund over the last four budget cycles, funds that could have expanded programs to reduce air pollution, develop clean and renewable sources of energy, lower rates, and create sustaining jobs. Read more here.

• The deadline for residents to submit supporting documents to receive financial assistance from the Excluded New Jerseyan Fund has been extended until November 30. If approved, individual applicants can claim one-time payouts of up to $2,000, and
families can claim up to $4,000. This program was possible through advocacy and organizing of Fund grantees Make the Road NJ, NJ Alliance for Immigrant Justice, Wind of the Spirit, and other partners. Read more here.

Policy Setbacks:

• On October 5, a federal appeals court ruled against the decade-old program Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA) that protects hundreds of thousands of young undocumented immigrants who came to the country as children, paving the way for more court action on the long-disputed policy. A three-judge panel for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit decided that the Department of Homeland Security does not have the authority to provide protections to immigrants under DACA. This decision leaves the future of many DACA recipients uncertain and vulnerable to deportation. Read more here.

• On October 19, state senators abruptly canceled a planned vote on the Temporary Worker Bill of Rights that would give new rights to temporary workers across New Jersey. The proposed law (S511) has been strongly opposed by business leaders. Each day without labor protection, thousands of temporary workers become vulnerable to wage theft, unsafe working conditions, and discrimination. Read more here.

• The New Jersey Assembly approved a measure that would allow police presence at some polling locations. Bill S-2912 is on track to be signed into law and change the current law, which prohibits police officers from coming within 100 feet of a polling place or drop box unless there is a threat or emergency. While the new rule has been proposed to help protect students and seniors, police presence can intimidate voters, especially Black and Brown voters who are regularly disenfranchised and have higher rates of negative interactions with police. Read more here.

Policy Reports:

• Make the Road NJ (MRNJ) released the report, Housing Insecurity: A Survey of Tenants in Elizabeth, Passaic, and Perth Amboy. MRNJ polled nearly 400 tenants in Elizabeth, Passaic, and Perth Amboy, cities with the highest percentages of renters. According to the study, most tenants live in dangerous, unhealthy conditions, forgoing basic needs to afford their rent and without access to government aid. In addition, the report highlights the roughly 58,000 eviction cases filed by New Jersey landlords in the first half of 2022, with low-income renters of color shouldering the worst of it. Read more here.

• Make the Road NJ, along with SEIU 32BJ and the New American Voters Campaign, released the report, New American Voters in New Jersey. The report shows that N.J. is now home to more than 170,000 newly naturalized U.S. citizens who are registered to vote in the upcoming election. Most of these new voters are also younger and more
diverse, with many of them from South and Central America. The report offers data that illustrate how New American Voters can have an outsized impact. Read more here.

Events

- November 10 – Smart Growth Awards 2022, NJ Future
- December 7 – 2022 NJ Nonprofit Conference, NJ Center for Nonprofits

Job Announcements

- The Fund for New Jersey – Program Associate/Leonard Lieberman Philanthropy Fellowship
- Advocates for Children of NJ – Director of Policy and Youth Development Advocacy
- ACLU-NJ – Legal Department Manager, Legal and Intake & Administrative Assistant, Decarceration Attorney
- New Jersey Institute for Social Justice – Director, Democracy and Justice Program, Associate Counsel, Economic Justice
- American Friends Service Committee – Community Organizer
- New Jersey Policy Perspective – Policy Director
- New Jersey Future – Advocacy and Government Affairs Manager, Development and Administrative Associate, Funding Navigator Program Manager
- New Jersey Council for the Humanities – Development Associate
- New Jersey Citizen Action – Tax Preparers
- Environment New Jersey – Clean Energy Advocate
- New Jersey Conservation Foundation – Director of Development and Major Gifts
- NJ Environmental Justice Alliance – Program Manager, Law and Policy Program Manager
- Rutgers Center on Law, Inequality, and Metropolitan Equity – Various Positions
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation – Various Positions
- Ironbound Community Corporation – Various Positions
- Hyacinth Aids Foundation – Various Positions

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.