

The Fund for New Jersey News

- The Fund for New Jersey is proud to announce that for the 2nd quarter of 2021 it has awarded \$1.25 million in grants to advance public policies in the areas of climate change and clean energy, environmental protection, voting rights, education, criminal justice reform, social justice and workers' rights, and transportation. Read the full press release [here](#).
- The Fund sincerely hopes you and your loved ones are safe and healthy after the recent damage caused by tropical storm Ida. The state of New Jersey has created a website with resources available to those affected by the storm. Click [here](#) for more information.

Grantee News

Policy Victories:

- On July 7, Governor Murphy signed a package of bills to advance New Jersey's transition to a clean energy future to further the Administration's goal of reaching 100% clean energy by 2050. The legislation will increase solar development and facilitate the installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure throughout the state. Read more [here](#). Fund grantees Environment NJ Policy and Research Center, NJ Work Environment Council, and GreenFaith (Jersey Renews) advocated for the passage of these bills.
- On July 22, after strong advocacy by members of [Lead-Free NJ](#) including Fund grantees Green & Healthy Homes Initiative and NJ Future, Governor Murphy signed into law provisions that aim to remove two common sources of lead exposure in the state: paint and lead service lines carrying water. The laws: create a new requirement that any rental property in New Jersey built before 1978 be inspected for lead; require every community water system in the state to identify and replace every lead service line in its distribution network within 10 years; and remove restrictions on special assessments and bond issuances to ease financing for the replacement of residential lead service lines. These new laws are a significant step toward a lead-free New Jersey. Read more [here](#).
- On August 11, Acting Governor (Lieutenant Governor) Sheila Oliver signed legislation creating a two-year "Restorative and Transformative Justice for Youths and Communities" pilot program in the Juvenile Justice Commission at the Office of the Attorney General. This legislation appropriates \$4.2 million in FY22 and FY23, for a total of \$8.4 million over two years, to the Juvenile Justice Commission to assist with reintegrating young people released from juvenile facilities back into their communities, aiming to prevent initial and/or repeated involvement with the youth justice system. Fund grantees Salvation and Social Justice and the NJ Institute for Social Justice advocated for this program. Read more [here](#).

- On August 20, Governor Murphy signed legislation that changes how New Jersey counts people who are incarcerated for the purposes of congressional redistricting. Under the new law, people who are incarcerated in the state will be counted at their address prior to incarceration including at the municipal, county, and regional school district levels — rather than at their detention facility. This new law builds on existing legislation that enacted the same for state legislative redistricting. Fund grantee NJ Institute for Social Justice along with partners advocated for this new law. Read more [here](#).
- On August 20, Governor Murphy signed a new law barring local and private jails or detention centers from entering into, renewing, or extending immigration detention agreements with US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). New Jersey becomes the fifth state to limit or ban such contracts. New Jersey was home to four ICE detention centers before Essex County shut down its operations in August. Hudson County has announced they will stop housing detainees and work to phase out the program. Bergen County and CoreCivic (one of the country’s largest private prison companies) still have agreements with ICE. Immigrant rights groups, including Fund grantees American Friends Service Committee and NJ Alliance for Immigrant Justice and its members, advocated tirelessly for many years to end these contracts. Read more [here](#).

Policy Reports:

- New Jersey Policy Perspective released the following reports:
 - *Separate and Unequal: Racial and Ethnic Segregation and the Case for School Funding Reparations in New Jersey*. The report examines the history, policies, and practices that negatively affect Black and Hispanic/Latinx students in New Jersey. Read more [here](#).
 - *Redistricting: Where Do Incarcerated People Count?* The report looks at prison gerrymandering and how communities where prisons and jails were built receive outsize representation based on their incarcerated population. Conversely, communities that have been disproportionately harmed by mass incarceration have had their populations artificially lowered by their incarcerated population, even though incarcerated people will inevitably require services, infrastructure, and representation upon their return. Read more [here](#).
 - *How New Jersey’s Population Changed Since 2010 and What it Means for Redistricting*. This report is an initial first look at the Census 2020 results and what they mean for redistricting. The report emphasizes that basic race and ethnicity data should be carefully considered when redrawing district boundaries to not dilute the voting power of racial and ethnic groups. As it stands, New Jersey’s state legislature is disproportionately white, with low representation from Asian and Latinx/Hispanic communities. Read more [here](#).
 - *A War on Us: How Much New Jersey Spends Enforcing the War on Drugs*. This report highlights state budget spending dedicated to arrest, prosecute, and incarcerate residents for drug war violations over the past decade. The analysis is contextualized

with the racist origins of drug war policies, comparisons of New Jersey's drug war spending to spending on public health, and the stories of residents directly harmed by the drug war. Read more [here](#).

- *Early Education Matters: Connecting High-Quality Pre-K to K-3 Classrooms*. The report explains that investing in kids' early education, particularly those growing up in neighborhoods with high poverty rates, is one of a state's best policy choices. The report explains that when kids are young, they learn faster than they will when they're 13 or 35. In addition, given the connection between wealth and economic outcomes later in life, investments in early education provide opportunities to kids living in poverty that they otherwise wouldn't have. Read more [here](#).
- *The Consequences of School Underfunding*. The report examines New Jersey's school funding formula and the consequences of not fully funding it, including less competitive teacher wages, lower test scores, and larger class sizes. The report emphasizes that every child deserves a rich curriculum as outlined by New Jersey learning standards and that every child deserves the same access to highly educated and experienced teachers. Read more [here](#).
- *State Takeover of Camden Schools Did Not Improve Students' Academic Performance*. This report examines the impact of the state's takeover on students' standardized test scores and the criteria used most consistently by Camden's state-appointed superintendents to gauge performance. The analysis finds no evidence that state control of the district improved standardized test scores in Camden. Read more [here](#).
- *Blueprint to Secure a Just Recovery*. The report sets a new vision for New Jersey that focuses on tax and budget, economic security, health, labor, education, public safety, housing, climate and environment, and democracy. The report analyzes the different areas that are critical to securing a just and equitable recovery. Read more [here](#).
- Environment NJ Research and Policy Center released the report *Safe for Swimming?* The report explains that runoff from paved surfaces, overflows from aging sewage systems, and manure from industrial livestock operations threaten the waters where Americans swim. These pollution threats are getting worse with climate change, as more extreme precipitation events bring heavy flows of stormwater. Read more [here](#).
- New Jersey Future released the report, *Creating Great Places to Age for Every Person in Every Neighborhood*. The report examines aging populations and how certain communities were not necessarily built with the unique needs of older people in mind. In addition, the report explains that expanding local aging-friendly investments more equitably across municipalities is essential for all residents. Read more [here](#).
- The New Jersey Institute for Social Justice released the report, *To Record and Protect*. This report focuses on why New Jersey needs a statewide first amendment policing policy. The report emphasizes that having a first amendment policing policy would protect residents'

rights to record and criticize police conduct, allowing communities to hold law enforcement accountable. Read more [here](#).

Leadership and Organizational Announcements

- Michele S. Byers, executive director of the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, is retiring at the end of the year. Thank you for your many years of service. Read more [here](#).
- New Jersey Conservation Foundation also announced that Alison Mitchell, Tom Gilbert, and John Watson will become co-directors. We wish them all much success in their new roles! Read more [here](#).

Job Announcements

- [Lead-Free NJ Program Manager, Communications Director, Policy Manager](#), NJ Future
- [Digital Organizer](#), NJ Citizen Action
- [Policy & Advocacy Director](#), NJ Work Environment Council
- [Movement Communications Strategist, Transportation Policy Analyst](#), New Jersey Policy Perspective
- [Communications Associate, Policy Associate](#), Housing and Community Development Network of NJ
- [Associate Counsel for Economic Justice, Program Assistant](#), New Jersey Institute for Social Justice
- [Environmental Justice Organizer, Housing Justice Program & Policy Manager](#), American Friends Service Committee
- [Immigrant Children and Youth Attorney, Immigrant Children and Youth Social Worker, Legal Assistant, Immigrant Children](#), American Friends Service Committee
- [Education Rights Attorney](#), Education Law Center
- [Community Organizer](#), Unidad Latina en Accion
- [New Jersey Lead & Healthy Homes Technical Assistance Specialist](#), Green & Healthy Homes Initiative
- [Environmental Justice Manager, Media Consultant, Social Media Consultant](#), New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance
- [Program Officer, Program Associate](#), Ford Foundation
- [Various Positions](#), Hyacinth Foundation
- [Various Positions](#), Make the Road NJ
- [Various Positions](#), ACLU-NJ

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