

**The Fund for New Jersey News**

- The Fund for New Jersey is proud to announce that for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2021 it has awarded grants in the total amount of \$823,000 to advance public policies in the areas of Environmental Justice, Immigration, Housing, and Public Media. Read the full press release [here](#).

**Grantee News****Policy Victories:**

- On February 25, The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) permanently banned fracking throughout the Delaware River Watershed, affecting four states and water supplies for millions. The ban resolution prohibits the use of high-volume hydraulic fracturing or “fracking” to extract gas wherever it is located within the basin (which includes parts of PA, NY, and NJ). Coalition organizations and over 100,000 members of the public campaigned for fracking to be banned entirely, including Fund grantees Delaware Riverkeeper Network and Environment NJ. Read more [here](#).
- On March 9, Governor Murphy signed the New Jersey Foreclosure Prevention Act. The bill grants the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency the power to purchase eligible properties and mortgage assets from institutional lenders to produce affordable homes. Moreover, the law’s Foreclosure Intervention Fund presents an opportunity to establish a regular, revolving stream of capital for purchasing eligible properties. The effort was supported by the Housing and Community Development Network of NJ and its partners. Read more [here](#).
- On March 30, Gov. Murphy, joined by legislators and advocates, including national voting rights leader Stacey Abrams, signed legislation (S3203) establishing in-person early voting in New Jersey. The law allows registered voters to vote using machines at polling places before the day of certain primary and general elections in New Jersey. This law will make voting more accessible to voters in New Jersey, particularly in Black and other communities of color. Over 80 advocacy groups, including Fund grantees New Jersey Institute for Social Justice and the League of Women Voters of New Jersey, strongly advocated for this policy change. Read more [here](#).
- On April 26, the Census Bureau released initial 2020 Census results, showing that New Jersey’s population grew by 5.7% or 497,100 people in the last decade to a total of 9,288,994 people. This population growth exceeded the Bureau’s own estimates by 4.5% -- the largest margin in the country. New Jersey now ranks 11/50 for total population and will keep all 12 of its Congressional seats. Fund grantees Advocates for Children of NJ, New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, Make the Road New Jersey, Wind of the Spirit, Latino Action Network Foundation, League of Women Voters, and Asian American Federation, among other grassroots groups, worked to reach hard-to-count



communities in New Jersey. Thanks to their efforts, many NJ residents, especially in hard-to-count communities, were counted. Read more [here](#).

- On April 28, Essex County announced that it would end its contract with Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) that provided detention bed space at the jail in Newark. Immigrant rights groups, including Fund grantees American Friends Service Committee and NJ Alliance for Immigrant Justice and its members advocated tirelessly for many years. Read more [here](#).
- After advocacy by the Housing and Community Development Network of NJ, the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) announced \$11.4 million in funding awards to 18 community-based nonprofit organizations across the state through the Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Credit (NRTC) Program. Read more [here](#).

### **Policy Reports:**

- New Jersey Policy Perspective released a report, *Roadmap to Electrifying New Jersey's Public Bus Fleet*. The report examines the critical benefits of public transit, particularly for people of color and low-income populations. It also describes the environmental and public health perils of a diesel-based fleet and reviews electric buses' environmental and health benefits. The report offers funding recommendations along with recommendations for a smoother and more equitable transition from diesel to electric public buses. Read more [here](#).
- Education Law Center released a report, *From Courthouse to Statehouse and Back Again*. The report analyzes how different strategies from litigation to research to grassroots organizing to communicating with the public can combine to achieve successful school funding reform in states. The report is the first of its kind in the field to explore these approaches in school funding reform. Read more [here](#).
- New Jersey Future released a report, *Warehouse Sprawl: Plan Now or Suffer the Consequences*. The report looks at the growth of e-commerce, the volume of trade at the Port of New York and New Jersey, and how it has increased the amount of land needed for warehousing. The report calls for a regional perspective to ensure that Port-oriented storage and distribution functions are not consuming outlying lands that are better used for farming, recreation, or some other non-industrial use and that redevelopment opportunities near the Port that are ideal for warehousing aren't instead allocated to some other land use that lacks the same location constraints. Read more [here](#).
- In collaboration with the National Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA) affiliates, the Center for Women and Work at Rutgers University released a report on *Domestic Workers in New Jersey*. The report sheds light on the precarious working conditions and obstacles that domestic workers in New Jersey face. The Center for Women and Work



worked with four NDWA affiliates to survey more than 400 immigrant women who work as housecleaners, nannies, and home health aides in New Jersey, revealing a pattern of exploitation, including employers committing wage theft, refusing to grant sick leave, and even denying lunch and rest breaks. [Read the report](#) to learn more about the key survey findings and policy recommendations.

- Make the Road NJ released a report, *Respect and Dignity*, setting forth a four-year platform that advocates for reforms on the state and federal level in immigration, worker's rights, housing, access to aid, health care, criminal justice, and democracy. Recommendations come from a participatory and iterative process with membership, including meetings, and workshops and are voted on and approved by Make the Road NJ membership. Read more [here](#).
- Fund grantees New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, ACLU-NJ, and League of Women Voters of NJ, together with members of the New Jersey Election Protection Coalition, release a report, *Issues New Jersey Voters Encountered from October 15 through November 3, 2020*. The report highlights the challenges posed in an election cycle during a global pandemic and notes that New Jersey administered a safe and sound election despite these challenges. Read more [here](#).
- The Center for Non-Profits released a report, *Trends and Outlooks*. The report is the latest in a series of annual surveys designed to gauge trends, experience, and expectations among New Jersey nonprofit organizations and explore the effects of the economy on New Jersey's charitable community. This year the report also included the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the nonprofit sector. Read more [here](#).

### **Leadership and Organizational Announcements**

- Congratulations to Renae Reynolds on her new role as Executive Director of Tri-State Transportation Campaign. We wish her the best of success in her leadership role!
- The Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey has launched a new free resource for renters, landlords, and homeowners who have been impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. With support from the New Jersey Pandemic Relief Fund and the New Jersey Affordable Housing Trust Fund – Innovation Fund, the Network has launched a new website, a toll-free number, and a text alert system for NJ residents to find resources and assistance. More information [here](#).

### **Job Announcements**

- [Communications Director](#), ACLU-NJ
- [Bilingual \(Spanish/ English\) Intake and Outreach Coordinator](#), NJ Citizen Action
- [Various Positions](#), Legal Services of NJ



- [Campaign Associate](#), Environment New Jersey Research and Policy Center
- [Various Positions](#), New Jersey Policy Perspective
- [Human Resource Manager](#), Ironbound Community Corporation
- [Major Gifts Manager](#), New Jersey Conservation Foundation
- [Occupational Health & Safety Trainer](#), NJ Work Environment Council
- [Project Manager for the Hopatcong Creek Initiative](#), NJ Highlands Coalition
- [Executive Assistant](#), Ironbound Community Corporation
- [Associate Counsel for Redistricting](#), NJ institute for Social justice
- EJ Staff Attorney, Eastern Environmental Law Center

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