

Following the announcement of *New Jersey Together* in fall 2007, CNJG members were asked to complete a survey to help rank which criteria for such an undertaking are most important to them and which general issues are most likely to compel them to participate. More than 40 members representing all types of foundations shared their priorities and concerns. Many reported being “willing” or “very willing” to collaborate on education, health, affordable housing, and the environment, and the “most important” criteria for joining are that it must:

- **Have potential for significant positive change**
- **Impact the quality of life in New Jersey**
- **Give rise to measurable outcomes**

Based on this and a breadth of other substantive feedback, a CNJG collaborative committee comprised of trustees and members engaged in a lengthy assessment process to identify specific initiative ideas that address the key criteria and proposed the following five focus areas for the initiative's pilot year:

- **Nutrition/Childhood Obesity**  
A wide-ranging initiative could address childhood obesity issues through links to local foods; access to open space; safe places for kids to play and get exercise; nutrition and fitness education; and public policy issues.
- **Subprime Mortgage Crisis**  
Given the rapidly expanding subprime mortgage crisis, NJ Together could respond quickly to the needs of New Jersey families by focusing on home buying and financing education programs as well as programs to raise awareness of affordable housing issues. This might also include aspects of green affordable housing and/or incentives for greening homes across NJ.
- **Safe Streets and Neighborhoods**  
Governor Corzine recently unveiled a detailed plan “to keep New Jersey’s children safe, healthy and off the streets” through a variety of crime prevention initiatives. The plan advocates jobs and training for at-risk youth, funding and implementing best practices and model programs in communities and a variety of other entry points where members could partner with the state.
- **Climate Change**  
How is climate change affecting New Jersey, both at the shore and across the state? How does it affect our health, our livelihoods, and future generations? An initiative to explore this topic involves many areas of interest including environment, health, and education.
- **Brownfields to Greenfields**  
New brownfields to greenfields policies and programs could integrate issues like urban environmental clean up guidelines, green collar job training, education (schools built on brownfields), public health, environmental justice (transforming brownfields based on community wants/needs), and arts and economic revitalization (brownfields to art studios, public art opportunities, etc.).

At CNJG's 2007 Annual Meeting on December 11, members indicated the strongest interest in *Safe Streets and Neighborhoods*, which was highlighted by special guest speaker Attorney General Ann Milgram. Members also indicated an interest in *Nutrition/Childhood Obesity* and *Brownfields to Greenfields*. The New Jersey Together working group believes all three present robust opportunities for all CNJG members to participate.