



CNJG

Council of New Jersey Grantmakers'
2019 Conference for the Social Sector

CENSUS 2020

Defining the Next 10 Years

June 11, 2019 | 9:00am - 3:15pm

The Palace at Somerset Park in Somerset, NJ



Maria Vizcarrondo
President and CEO, Council of New Jersey Grantmakers

Maria Vizcarrondo, named as the Council's president and CEO in March 2019, has more than 25 years of experience transforming service organizations and has served her communities as both an appointed and elected official.

Vizcarrondo, who spent most of her career in northern New Jersey, came to the Council from Cabrini University in Philadelphia, where she most recently was Director of Community Development and External Relations. She was inaugural Executive Director of the school's Nerney Leadership Institute, launched in 2013.

In 2006, when he was first elected Mayor of Newark, Cory Booker tapped Vizcarrondo to head Newark's Health and Human Service Department, the largest of its kind in New Jersey. One of her first actions in that role was to develop a Children's Bill of Rights to benchmark improvements in the lives of children and families throughout the city. Her accomplishments included securing state funding to establish Family Success Centers to provide neighborhood-based services, and launching a major citywide campaign to raise the immunization rates of Newark's children.

Prior to her mayoral appointment, Vizcarrondo served as the first woman president and CEO of United Way of Essex and West Hudson. Her pioneering work in re-engineering the organization's mission into community building was documented in the *United Way Transformation Diaries*. In the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, she led the New Jersey United Ways in a statewide

coordination of services for affected families and managed the distribution of corporate funding for these efforts.

Vizcarrondo was elected Essex County Surrogate in 1993 and served four years of a five-year term before leaving to join United Way. She has been listed among the “100 Most Influential People in New Jersey” and was a founding member of the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice. A New York City native, Vizcarrondo was raised in Newark. She earned a bachelor's degree from Kean University and a master's degree in public policy and administration at Columbia University.