

Council of New Jersey Grantmakers

# The Evolving Landscape of NJ Volunteerism

Rowena Madden, Executive Director  
Governor's Office of Volunteerism, Department of State

# Mission

- Increase and enhance civic engagement in New Jersey;
- Address the service needs of the State by prioritizing challenges and targeting resources and grants to priority needs;
- Support and recognize the service of New Jersey's 1.5 million volunteers;
- Provide opportunities for service that bring diverse people together, working in common cause to get things done in communities, remove barriers, and promote respect.

# Impact of the Pandemic and our emergence from it

# Volunteer Generation Fund

- Provides modest federal grants to the State's volunteer centers, covering 21 counties.





# AmeriCorps

Funds 20 programs that place 500 members annually in NJ communities to address education, public health, environmental protection, social services, food insecurity, and workforce development.



NJDEPWAP River cleanup in January 2023

# Cultural Commissions



NJ Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Commemorative  
Commission



NJ Hellenic American  
Heritage Commission



NJ Commission on  
American Indian Affairs

# Emergency and Disaster Response

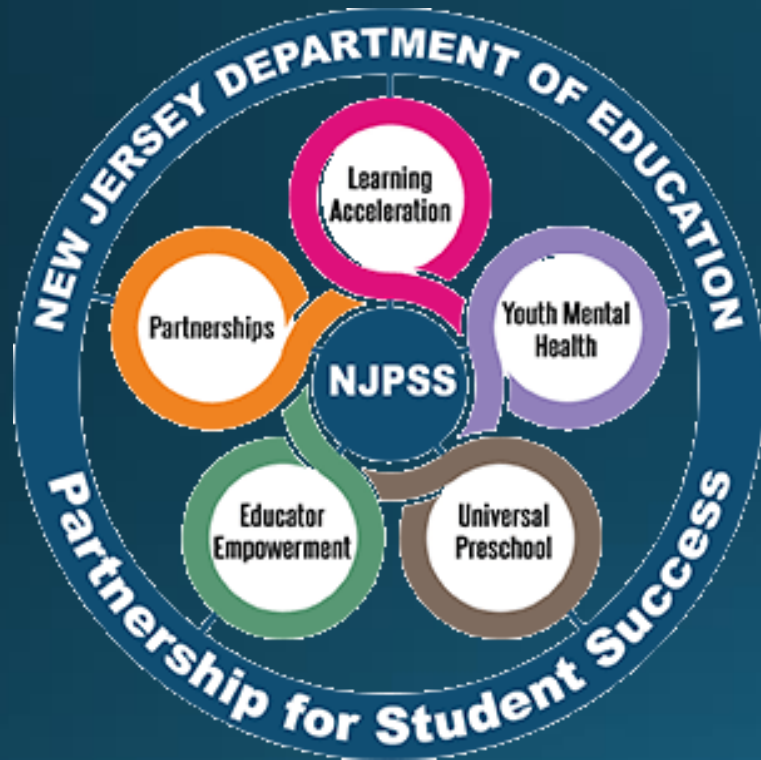
We work closely with NJ VOAD; and are designated by NJOEM as the lead for spontaneous volunteers and team member for donations management.



# New Initiatives



# NJ Partnership for Student Success



NJ Partnership for Student Success, part of a new national initiative to help young people recover from the pandemic, both regarding academic losses and mental health concerns. The Office will be working with the NJ Department of Education and school districts across the state. Nationally, the goal is to identify and deploy 250,000 skilled volunteers over the next 3 years.

# American Indian Affairs

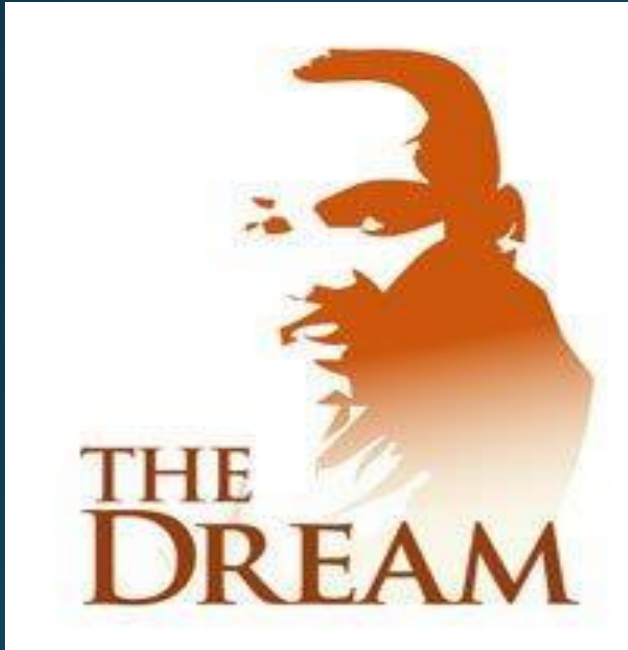
- Supporting NJ's three State-recognized tribes:
  - Ramapough Lenape Indian Nation
  - Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribe
  - Powhatan Renape Tribe
- Seeking assistance as they improve their community centers and grounds, assist with education and address health issues.
- The NJ Commission on American Indian Affairs is working with the NJ Historical Commission and NJ Department of Education to identify and create curricular materials for all student levels.

# Mandela Young African Leaders



- Hosted by Rutgers each summer
- Brings to the US young non-profit and business leaders from every African nation
- Opportunities for mentorship
- Panel discussions on fund-raising and program development; finance; identifying affiliates of US businesses in their nations
- Networking opportunities

# I Have a Dream mini-grants



NJ Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Commission plans to highlight the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the historic speech, delivered by Dr. King at the March on Washington on August 28, 1963.

# AmeriCorps



Providing matching resources (cash or in-kind) and mentoring partnerships to assist these young people during their year of service and with their education and career goals.



# How the Office Can Partner with You:

- Partner with you on volunteer recognition events at your locations. (Could include certificates or videos by State officials.)
- Brainstorm with you about needs and ideas for service for your teams.
- Respond to your interest in serving on State-level boards and commissions.
- Provide Proclamations and recognition items for your service events.
- Connect you with the Governor's annual Volunteer Service Awards.
- Help make connections between community needs and volunteers.

# Contact Information

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