



# CNJG

COUNCIL OF NEW JERSEY GRANTMAKERS  
*Harnessing Philanthropy's Potential*

## 2015 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Council of New Jersey Grantmakers (CNJG) is a nonprofit membership organization dedicated to serving the state's philanthropic community. Among CNJG's more than 130 members are independent, family, community and corporate foundations, corporate giving programs, government grantmakers, and federated funds. The Council's mission is to strengthen and promote effective philanthropy throughout the State of New Jersey. To assist grantmakers in their work, CNJG programs and services provide members with valuable resources, networking opportunities, educational programs, collaborative opportunities and links to a national network of organized philanthropy. We support our members by strengthening their capacity to address New Jersey and society's most difficult problems. We also access the resources of the philanthropic community – funding, expertise, leverage - to provide leadership on statewide issues.



## >> HIGHLIGHTS of Programs, Member Benefits and Services

Throughout the year, CNJG programs bring together all types and sizes of grantmakers with leaders from government, business, academia, and New Jersey's nonprofit community. From January to December, the Council offered more than 80 roundtable and panel discussions, workshops, teleconferences and webinars, events, and gatherings providing grantmakers the opportunity to gain knowledge and share ideas on best and emerging practices in philanthropy and areas of funding interest. (See selected highlights on following pages.)

## SIGNATURE EVENTS

On May 19<sup>th</sup>, the Council welcomed over 200 members and leaders from throughout New Jersey's social sector to the **2015 Conference for the Social Sector - Lifting All Boats: Leadership, Capacity, Impact**. The day got off to a rousing start – hearing from 5 compelling speakers – offering *Five Ideas to IGNITE the Social Sector* centered on the themes of leadership, building capacity, and achieving impact and change. The luncheon plenary kicked off with remarks from Tim Delaney, President of the National Council of Nonprofits, who briefed us on the many diverse threats to philanthropy and the charitable sector popping up throughout so many states across the country, including New Jersey. A morning and afternoon of breakout sessions from *Key Traits of Phenomenal Executive Directors to Demystifying Advocacy* and *Collaboration Café* ensured a full range of timely and critical topics for the sector. The Council thanks our generous sponsors: PSEG, JPMorgan Chase & Co., Horizon Foundation for New Jersey, Subaru of America, Verizon, and Glenmede for supporting this extraordinary gathering.

October 20<sup>th</sup> heard from Ronan Ryan, IEX Chief Strategy Officer, at a special luncheon for foundations and endowed nonprofits. **Leveling the Playing Field: IEX's Quest to Create Fairer Markets for Investor Trading – A 2016 Investment Forum Advance Event** presented the compelling story of IEX, the investors' exchange committed to removing the impediments to a free and open trading market. How IEX came to be was chronicled in the 2014 book "Flash Boys: A Wall Street Revolt." Ryan's telling of this incredible journey was met with true curiosity and great enthusiasm by those in attendance.

This luncheon session is a program of CNJG's biennial **Investment Forum for Foundations and Endowments**, scheduled for October of 2016. The event, spearheaded by the CNJG Finance and Investment Affinity Group, provides executive leadership, CFOs, trustees, and finance and investment committee representatives with rare access to leading investment advisors and valuable insight on topics ranging from evaluating investment advisors; asset allocation strategy; alternative investments; active vs. passive investing; good governance; determining nonprofit spending policy; and more.

The Council of New Jersey Grantmakers welcomed 130 Council members and special guests to the **2015 CNJG Annual Meeting & Holiday Luncheon** on Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at the Heldrich Hotel in New Brunswick. The gathering provided an opportunity for grantmakers to connect and network with their colleagues, and hear from a national leader in the philanthropic sector. The business portion of the Annual Meeting included the election of four new and re-election of two existing trustees to the CNJG board. Rhonda Crichlow/Novartis, Jeremy Grunin/Jay and Linda Grunin Foundation, Bill Engel/The Hyde and Watson Foundation, and Jeff Vega/Princeton Area Community Foundation were approved by the membership to serve their first 3-year term, while Bill Leavens/The Leavens Foundation and Jonathan Pearson/Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey their second. Following the business meeting and election of new 2016 trustees, our keynote featured Bill Somerville, founder of the Philanthropic Ventures Foundation. Mr. Somerville shared how small investments really can accomplish "big things" - inspiring grantmakers with his grantmaking stories of impact. The Council thanks our generous sponsors: Novartis, The Prudential Foundation, Novo Nordisk, The Provident Bank Foundation and New Jersey Health Initiatives of Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

## FUNDERS BRIEFINGS

The Council provides a number of funder briefings throughout the year to expand grantmakers' knowledge and strengthen their efforts to address a range of issues and challenges.

The webinar briefing **Sandy Recovery Gap Funding Housing Initiative** kicked off the Council's programming year in January. Leaders from the Hurricane Sandy New Jersey Relief Fund (HSNJRF) and New Jersey Community Capital (NJCC) shared how funders can significantly leverage their grantmaking and help impacted families. Chief among this discussion was the NJCC's Gap Funding Initiative launched in 2013 with funding from HSNJRF. Understood to be a long-term effort, grantmakers in partnership with the nonprofit sector continue to invest in the recovery and resilience of our communities in the ongoing aftermath of Superstorm Sandy.

New Jersey is a state strengthened by our rich immigration and cultural heritage. **Welcome to NJ: Immigrants, Philanthropy and Our Shared Prosperity** provided a timely and critical briefing for funders in June. Grantmakers came together to learn about emerging trends for immigrants in our state, understand how funders can support immigrant integration efforts, as well as discuss various strategies and opportunities grantmakers should consider for effective grantmaking in this issue area. Among the speakers' messages to grantmakers was that the immigration policy landscape is dynamic and can be challenging, especially for funders who are new to this arena. However, given the multiple entry points available to grantmakers - from health to social well-being to economic success – the philanthropic sector has an important role to play in this critical and often confusing space.

Atlantic City has faced a number of challenges over the years, however the collapse of a record number of casinos in Atlantic City on top of the Sandy recovery have put the region and the residents in a perfect storm. The **Funders Briefing on Atlantic City** in February highlighted several coordinated initiatives underway to support the high number of newly unemployed Atlantic City residents. Many of these individuals and families have never faced the need for social services and therefore do not know what supports are available nor how to navigate available systems. Speakers made clear that Atlantic City and its residents are in the midst of an "economic" disaster in addition to still recovering from 2012's natural disaster.

## AFFINITY AND INTEREST GROUPS

The Council manages and facilitates 15 interest and affinity groups on behalf of our members. The affinity group format provides a forum for funders to discuss emerging trends, key issues, and best practices. Additionally, these groups encourage peer-to-peer learning, as well as candid and open exchanges of information and ideas that inform funders' work. Related listserves facilitate ongoing e-discussions allowing funders to collectively discuss grantmaking issues, problem-solve on a continuing basis, and alert members about critical and/or time-sensitive issues. CNJG members chair and take the leading role in convening the groups.

Discussion topics have been as varied as the groups themselves. Highlights from the year include:

The **Finance and Investment Affinity Group** kicked off the year with guest speaker Kurt Reiman, former Head of Thematic Research at UBS Wealth Management. Reiman shared his *2015 Outlook: 5 Things to Know and 5 Things to Do*, along with a trans-continental global trip around the world. Grantmakers were particularly interested in the global outlook discussion.

The **Culture Funders Affinity Group** met in April to share and discuss two outstanding projects currently underway in Ocean and Monmouth Counties. The Jay and Linda Grunin Foundation is spearheading an initiative to make Toms River a leading cultural destination in New Jersey. Working with local government, as well as local arts and community organizations to develop strategic investments and partnerships, their combined efforts have included a community mural project, Engage Toms River YouTube Challenge, and a number of arts education initiatives.

The **Environmental Grantmakers Affinity Group** met in February to learn more about *Urban Water Infrastructure*. Funders heard from New Jersey Future, Neighborhood Initiatives at Cooper's Ferry Partnership, and NY/NJ Baykeeper. The presenters shared their knowledge and expertise, focusing on the specific approaches each of their organizations are taking to address New Jersey's deteriorating urban water infrastructure and opportunities that funders can consider to leverage their grantmaking.

Straddling both the work of a specific affinity group and building relationships with policymakers, the **Trenton and Mercer County Funders Affinity Group** hosted a series of conference calls with Francis Blanco, Chief of Staff for Trenton Mayor Jackson. Funders learned about current activities and initiatives in Trenton, and opportunities to leverage their grantmaking. For instance, the June call included a conversation with Police Director Ernest Parrey who outlined public safety efforts and their impact on lowering crime and violence, as well as special initiatives that the city is planning to move forward.

Again, sharing agendas – Camden funders and Newark funders met with the state appointed superintendents for their respective cities. In partnership with the **Funders for New Jersey Education Affinity Group**, the **Camden Funders Affinity Group** met with Superintendent Paymond Rouhanifard in March. Mr. Rouhanifard provided a number of data points and resources that proved extremely useful in helping funders understand the complexity of issues at hand. These discussions help funders consider where they can potentially leverage their grantmaking and expertise. The **Education Subcommittee of Newark Funders** met with newly appointed Superintendent Chris Cerf in August, where he shared priorities for the upcoming school year and how funders can continue to collaborate with the district.

Looking forward, the Council is pleased to announce the creation of its newest affinity group beginning in 2016, the **Corporate Philanthropy Network**. This group will focus on discussions and issues primarily aimed at corporate funders.

## 2015 AFFINITY/INTEREST GROUP CHAIRS

### Camden Funders

Amanda Bauman, Campbell Soup Foundation  
Sidney Hargro, Community Foundation of South Jersey

### College Access and Success Working Group [Subgroup of Newark Funders]

Dale Anglin, Victoria Foundation

### Culture Funders

Nicholas Paleologos, New Jersey State Council on the Arts

### Early Learners Group [Subgroup of Newark Funders]

Curt Fields, Turrell Fund

### Education Subcommittee of Newark Funders

Dale Anglin, Victoria Foundation  
Sarah Keh, The Prudential Foundation

### Emerging Leaders in Philanthropy

Erik Estrada, New Jersey Health Initiatives (RWJF)  
Lauren Meehan, Victoria Foundation

### Environmental Grantmakers

Lucy Vandenberg, The Fund for New Jersey  
Margret Waldo, Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation

### Finance and Investment

Bill Gibson, The Leavens Foundation

### Funders for New Jersey Education

Wendy Liscow, Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation  
Barbara Reisman, Schumann Fund for New Jersey

### Health and Aging Funders

Renie Carniol, The Grotta Fund for Senior Care  
Grace Egan, New Jersey Foundation for Aging

### Newark Funders

Etta Denk, Bank of America  
Barbara Reisman, Schumann Fund for New Jersey

### Ocean and Monmouth County Funders

Kathy Durante, OceanFirst Foundation

### Paterson Funders

Chris Daggett, Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation  
Barbara Lawrence, The Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation

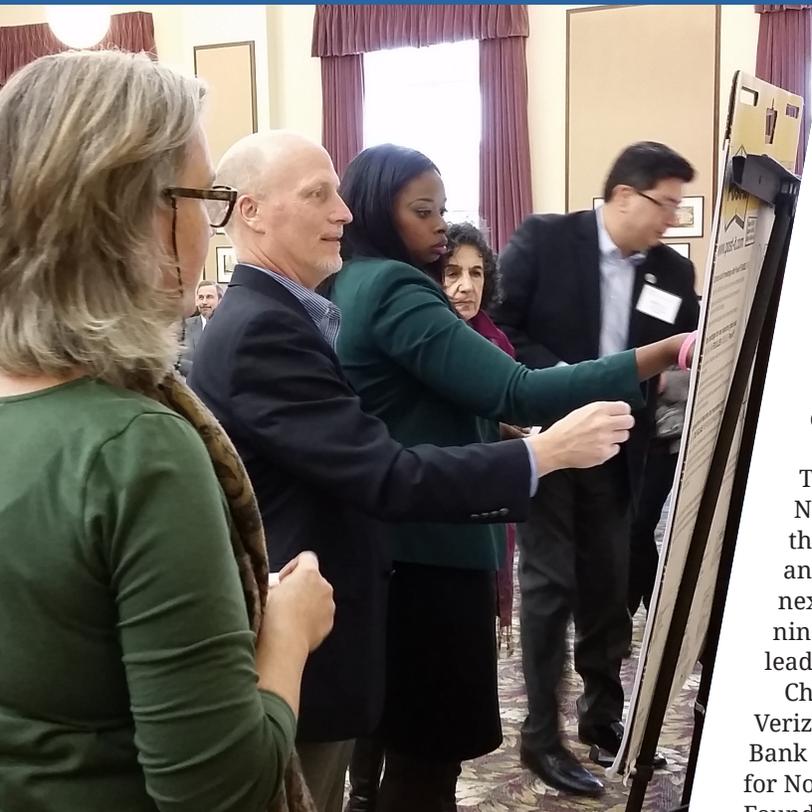
### Strong & Thriving Communities

Craig Drinkard, Victoria Foundation  
Lois Greco, Wells Fargo Regional Foundation

### Trenton and Mercer County Funders

Rita Nini, Educational Testing Systems  
Jeff Vega, Princeton Area Community Foundation





## SKILL BUILDING

The most significant and comprehensive professional development programming in 2015 was the Council's seminar series for corporate grantmakers: **Maximizing Corporate Community Investments**. Understanding that corporate grantmakers have different stakeholders, juggle a number of priorities beyond giving, and often have CSR initiatives that permeate various departments and job functions, the Council was pleased to once again present this in-depth, nine-course curriculum specifically designed for corporate giving and employee engagement professionals. The full course took place over three days for 3 consecutive months.

Three new modules were added this year – Trends in CSR, Nonprofits 201, and Employee Volunteerism to more fully address the vital skills needed to build a strategic corporate giving program and the advanced skills necessary to take an existing program to the next level. We also improved the curriculum by having each of the nine modules led by an accomplished and proven New Jersey sector leader and actual practitioner. The Council is grateful to the faculty:

Chris Magyarits, Wakefern Food Corp.; Douglas Schoenberger, Verizon New Jersey; Ed Wallace, Suez North America; Etta Denk, Bank of America; Matthew Barnes, ASG Advisors; Linda Czipo, Center for Non-Profits; Marion O'Neill, PSEG; Kathy Durante, OceanFirst Foundation; and René Deida, Prudential. The Council thanks Wakefern Food Corporation for sponsoring the series.

The Health and Aging Affinity Group planned and designed July's **Improving Grantmaking with Data** to explore best practices and various methods that can streamline the grant application and grant reporting process for both funders and nonprofits. Front and center in this work is having an industry accepted nomenclature, which the Foundation Center has been pursuing since 2012. Representatives from the Foundation Center's Grants Information Management team discussed the taxonomy project and how funders can begin utilizing the standards. The Genuardi Family Foundation and North Penn Community Health Foundation also shared their review and analysis of commonalities in the grant management process among Philadelphia funders to further help grantmakers think about how data can improve the grantmaking process.

## PROGRAMS WITH PARTNERS

The docket of programming for Council members in partnership with the **Forum of Regional Associations of Grantmakers** (Forum) grew substantially this year.

Working in concert with the **Forum** and **Idealware**, the Council provided a two-part online webinar to help grantmakers understand how technology supports and enhances the programs, outreach, and infrastructure of the typical nonprofit and the priority order that most organizations should embrace when focusing on capacity-building. The October course work presented *Nonprofit Technology Concepts and Essentials* and *How to Evaluate the Technology Portion of a Proposal*. And because grantmakers may need to revisit these concepts during proposal reviews, all participants received course presentation decks, handouts and a recording of each session.

This year the **PolicyWorks** framework expanded significantly by partnering with the **National Council of Nonprofits** to offer joint programming for regional associations and state nonprofit associations from coast to coast.

## The Forum of Regional Associations of Grantmakers

*The Forum is a philanthropic network comprised of 33 regional associations of grantmakers, including the Council of New Jersey Grantmakers, with more than 5,500 participating organizations, making it the largest network in American philanthropy.*

*With deep regional roots and a broad nationwide reach, the Forum Network facilitates effective philanthropy that strengthens communities and improves lives throughout the United States.*

*The Forum fills an important role in the philanthropic sector by improving the effectiveness of foundations and expanding their capacity to advance the common good. The Forum provides a number of tools and resources to support the work of regional associations.*

As part of this programming, CNJG offered a number of webinars, including *Covering Nonprofit Costs – Update on Government Action and the Role of Philanthropy* in September. The webinar discussed the current implementation status of the Office of Management and Budget Uniform Guidance and shared how various regional associations and state associations of nonprofits are working to educate members and policymakers on the general issue of indirect costs. Another program offered was a November webinar which outlined the *Stand for Your Mission* campaign, designed to raise awareness among nonprofit board members that advocating for your nonprofit's mission is an important and expected role for every board member. Finally, December's *Looking into the Crystal Ball – What's Ahead for State and Federal Policy Action in 2016* prepared us for the new year.

A long-time partner, the **National Center for Family Philanthropy** offers CNJG members Family Philanthropy Monthly Teleconferences and Webinars exclusively designed with the family foundation in mind. Topics ranged from January's *Trends in Family Philanthropy: Examining the Present; Preparing for the Future* to *The Critical Role of the Board Chair in Family Philanthropy* in April and *Honoring Family Legacy* in July.

Building on our partnership with the **Center for Non-Profits**, the Council was pleased to host a webinar about the impact of government policies on the nonprofit sector presented by Linda Czipo, Executive Director in January. *What Every New Jersey Grantmaker Should Know About How Government Contracting Impacts Grantees* highlighted findings from the Urban Institute's most recent Nonprofit-Government Contracts and Grants Survey. Grantmakers were able to explore the many implications for program and service delivery, and the challenges that nonprofits continue to face when contracting with government. The webinar also provided insights into how the philanthropic community can better work with nonprofits that contract with government. The Council values the partnership we have developed with the Center for Non-Profits over the last few years. The Center provides special funder briefings for CNJG members as well as serving as an important resource on a number of policy issues.

## RESEARCH AND RESOURCES FOR MEMBERS

The Council crafted a special report for members, the **2014 New Jersey Foundation Benefits & Salary Summary Report** distributed in early February. This valuable benchmarking resource, developed and compiled for members of the Council of New Jersey Grantmakers exclusively, presents comprehensive benefits data specific to New Jersey's grantmaking community, alongside data from the Council on Foundations' annual salary survey. The report includes benefits data for the 2014 calendar year and covers employment, leave benefits, insurance benefits, retirement, retiree benefits, other benefits, and the cost of benefits; and includes grantmaker salary tables for New Jersey, the tri-state area, and national data. The report serves to assist CNJG members when planning budgets and determining salaries. The Council thanks CNJG members that participated in the extensive benefits survey, as well as the Council on Foundations and the Forum of Regional Association of Grantmakers.

This year the Council was able to build on its extensive Hurricane Sandy work by producing written summaries of the twenty-five different funder briefing calls convened in the months after the storm. Grantmakers heard from nearly 70 guest speakers including policymakers, disaster relief and recovery experts, and statewide and national foundation leaders that have experienced similar catastrophes. The briefings provided an opportunity to connect directly with local leaders and state officials addressing the many needs of our communities. Recordings of each call have been available on the CNJG website for some time, however, this year the Council made these calls available in another format – **Sandy Funder Briefing Written Summaries**. All call and webinar summaries, including Series 1 Briefings from November 5, 2012 to March 25, 2013, and Series 2 Briefings - September 9, 2013 to November 4, 2013, offer readers the ability to access this information even more efficiently. The Council thanks the PSEG Foundation for supporting the creation of these written summaries.

The Council continued increasing member resources and services available via the CNJG website throughout 2015. The **online Member Directory** was launched in March replacing the print directory. CNJG members are able to search for fellow member organizations and contacts by name, area of interest, funding area and more. Members must be logged into the website to search for individuals and see their contact information. CNJG's **Research Search webpage** features resources, documents, research, and tools from thirty-three regional associations, their 5,500+ grantmaking foundation members and colleague philanthropic partners. Members can search the digital resource library in several different ways including resource type, funding area, topic or audience. The Council continually updates and populates the digital library to ensure CNJG members have access to resources, tools, research, etc. to fully inform their work.



# >> LEADERSHIP AND POLICY

## NEWARK PHILANTHROPIC LIAISON

Cooperative work in 2014 formed a foundation for opportunities to solidify partnerships between the philanthropic sector and Mayor Ras Baraka's administration throughout 2015.

One of the biggest success stories of the year was the dramatic increase in the number of teenagers employed in the **Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program**. The increase came after the Mayor issued a call for support of the expansion. The Liaison coordinated fundraising with leadership from the Chief Policy Advisor and the Newark Community Economic Development Corporation. By the beginning of the summer, some \$1.9M was raised from six diverse private sources: Foundation for Newark's Future, Cities for Financial Empowerment/Citi Foundation, PSEG, Bank of America, TD, and Wells Fargo. The number of workers rose from 1,500 to over 2,600 youth. The growth was prompted by a partnership between the Mayor's office, funders - many of whom are CNJG members - New Jersey Institute of Technology, and the Newark City of Learning Collaborative (NCLC). One thousand of the teens also enjoyed learning opportunities for coding, urban landscaping, and an NCLC Summer Learning Institute on the campus of Essex County College. Other good news emerged from a grantmaker-funded **Newark Public Safety Retreat**, held in October 2014 with city department heads, public safety officials as well as public and private leaders. The two-day retreat led to grantmaker investments in neighborhood-based Newark Community Street Teams and the creation of the Safer Newark Council, which launched in May 2015.

The focus on public safety as a public health issue was shared with the broader public at a second retreat to coalesce multiple public safety partners working in the city. The September **Summit II – Redefining Public Safety** launched a national public safety campaign that invests in healing individuals and communities as the center of violence reduction strategies. The grantmaking community has long recognized that violence can be justly viewed through the lens of public health.

The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation worked with the Liaison office and Newark Chief Policy Advisor Tai Cooper to hold a **2-day learning exchange in Detroit, MI** for Mayor Baraka and key cabinet members. The exchange included staffers involved in economic development, the arts, education, place-based community efforts, and policy-making. Attendees met with Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan, visited redeveloped areas, and discussed similar policy and structural issues. While in Detroit, the Newark contingent also met with Kresge, Kellogg and Skillman foundations as well as Bank of America representatives. The trip was underwritten by the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, with additional support from the Victoria Foundation, The Prudential Foundation, and the Living Cities' Strong, Healthy Communities Initiative.

The Liaison's 2015 work has largely been defined by Mayor Baraka's five identified pillars: public safety, education, Centers of Hope, My Brother's Keeper Newark, and Summer Youth Employment Program / Postsecondary Access. Among the myriad of issues impacting Newark, Mayor Baraka cited these five initiatives that can both benefit immensely from philanthropic engagement and provide real impact for the city. At last count in 2015, \$3 million in private support is helping seed strategies that show promise for Newark residents.

The Newark Philanthropic Liaison is supported by Bank of America, Foundation for Newark's Future, Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, The MCJ Amelior Foundation, The Nicholson Foundation, Panasonic Corporation of North America, The Prudential Foundation, Schumann Fund for New Jersey, Turrell Fund, Victoria Foundation, and PSEG Foundation providing in-kind support and meeting space.

## ENGAGING WITH LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL LEADERSHIP – POLICYMAKERS AND ELECTED OFFICIALS

This year, over 190 foundation trustees and staff from across the country participated in the annual **Foundations on the Hill (FOTH)** visit in March to inform and educate Congress about philanthropy, create visibility for foundations on Capitol Hill and advocate on issues affecting foundations and philanthropy. CNJG delegates included Bill Engel/The Hyde and Watson Foundation; Sam Crane/Essex Equity Management; Chris Daggett/Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation; Etta Denk/Bank of America; Tara Cunningham and Jeremy Grunin/Jay and Linda Grunin Foundation; Marco Navarro/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation; Marion O'Neill/PSEG Foundation; Doug Schoenberger/Verizon New Jersey; and Ed Wallace/Suez North America (formerly United Water). Attending CNJG staff included Nina Stack, President; Theresa Jacks, Deputy Director; and Public Policy Fellow Stephanie Holcomb. The Council met with all twelve Congressional offices and our two Senate offices. Council representatives met directly with newly elected Congresswoman Watson Coleman and Congressman Lance. Delegates were also able to meet briefly with freshman Congressman MacArthur.

As a result of many years participating with FOTH, the Council has been able to develop meaningful relationships with our elected officials and key staffers, thus helping to ensure that our Washington legislators understand the critical role the philanthropic sector plays in our communities. Policy and government relations work continues to grow among CNJG's members and within the scope of activity here at the Council.

The Council was honored to be invited to meet with White House officials regarding a number of initiatives related to immigration including the President's "Stand Stronger" Citizenship Awareness Campaign. Theresa Jacks was among the 18 regional association leaders that journeyed to Washington in August to attend the **White House Briefing on Immigration**. The meeting was coordinated by Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees. Regional association (RA) leaders heard from a number of White House officials including the Director of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service, Special Assistant to the President for Immigration Policy, and the Director of the White House Office of Public Engagement. Collectively regional associations represent over 5,000 grantmakers and participating organizations nationally. The briefing presented an opportunity to learn how RAs might engage in current initiatives related to immigration and citizenship. Sixteen regional associations attended the meeting.



The Council and the Center for Non-Profits provided a **Continuing Legal Education briefing for the Office of Legislative Services** (OLS) on October 23rd. The presentation, entitled *Non-Profit Startup and Compliance Issues: A Legal Review* was led by attorneys Bill Engel, co-chair of the CNJG Leadership and Policy Committee, and Fran McElhill, exempt organization expert who works closely with the Center. The Office of Legislative Services provides a continuing legal education program for state Senators, members of the Assembly, partisan staff, and OLS staff. This is the 2nd briefing the Council and Center have jointly presented to OLS Attendees – 50 + of them – including partisan staff, OLS staff and Assemblymen Diegnan and Coughlin. The briefing was well received and presented a valuable opportunity to connect with policymakers, and reinforce that both the philanthropic and nonprofit sectors are a resource for their work especially as they consider issues and policy impacting communities throughout the state.

**Conversations with the Cabinet** continues to be a stalwart program of the Council, charged with connecting CNJG members with the Governor's administration. Meeting with various Commissioners to learn about their department's priority areas and sharing the work of New Jersey's philanthropic sector has been a win-win since the "Conversations" were first launched in 2006. Council members met with Commissioner Charles Richman of the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) in November on a number of issues, including affordable housing programs aimed at people with special needs, how DCA works closely with other departments, and ongoing recovery efforts even three years after Sandy. Funders also shared their current programs and initiatives, as well as best practices and insights that can help inform the public sector's strategies for addressing challenging issues.

## LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

The Council commissioned the John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy of Thomas Edison State University to provide an analysis of major plans that have been put forth by diverse stakeholder groups working to advance the city of Trenton. Using the Trenton 250 plan as the overarching framework, the Watson team identified areas of alignment between the Greater Trenton Initiative, Creative Trenton, the Capital City Partnership and the Trenton Health Team's plans. On November 30th, the Council convened the Trenton/Mercer County Funders Affinity Group to review the **Trenton Civic Planning Analysis**, and discuss the recommendations and findings. These initial discussions will help grantmakers determine strategies and opportunities that might be ripe for collaboration and/or funding in the future. The Council and the Trenton/Mercer County Funders Affinity Group expects to build on these discussions throughout 2016.

The Forum's **2015 PolicyWorks Summer Institute**, which in the past had been for staff and volunteer members of regional associations, this year was exclusively aimed at RA staff and included leadership from the National Council of Nonprofits and their membership of state nonprofit associations. Nina Stack, Theresa Jacks and Jeremy Johnson, Newark Philanthropic Liaison, attended along with staff and leadership from twenty regional associations. Among the many sessions, Jeremy Johnson, along with his counterpart, the Michigan Philanthropic Liaison, and others, presented *What Government Doesn't Get About Philanthropy and Vice Versa*. This session discussed challenges when working with government and how the liaisons have managed these challenges. Theresa Jacks joined Linda Czipo/Center for Non-Profits on the panel to explore *The Power of State Partnerships* – sharing the collaborative work of CNJG and the Center. The closing session heard from David Wilkinson, Director of the White House Office of Social Innovation and Civic Participation. He discussed new ways philanthropy and the private sector are partnering through Social Impact Bonds.

# >> CAPACITY AND OPERATIONS

Operationally, the Council hit some new highs this year. With the effective work of Craig Weinrich, Director of Member Services and Alisha Patman, Member Services Associate, the Council has welcomed 25 new members in the past two years, surpassing the 2014 goal of “20 by the end of 2015.”

For the first time, the Council engaged a part-time Public Policy Fellow through the first half of 2015. Stephanie Holcomb, Master’s candidate at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University served as the Council’s first-ever fellow. Holcomb assisted with all activities related to the Foundations on the Hill visit; developed a long-term blueprint to advance CNJG efforts to connect affinity groups with state Senators and Assembly; and created a database that will assist these future efforts. The Council thanks the F.M. Kirby Foundation and Essex Equity Management for providing support to engage the part-time temporary Policy Fellow.

Craig Weinrich completed a year in Lead New Jersey (LNJ) graduating in December. LNJ draws together highly successful professional men and women to achieve a greater good in their professions and for New Jersey’s communities. The year-long program combines experiential learning activities with a broad docket of speakers and experts. Fellows of LNJ learn about the many issues facing the state, and actively pursue projects to make New Jersey a better place to live, work and play. A number of CNJG members were among Craig’s classmates. The Council congratulates Craig on this impressive achievement.

## 2015 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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**Alisha Patman, Member Services Associate**  
**Craig Weinrich, Director of Member Services**  
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**Ruby Annette Evans, Liaison Administrative Assistant**  
**Abby O’Neill, Investment Forum**  
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CNJG became a unified project under the Community Foundation of New Jersey in 1990 and was soon established as an independent 501(c)(3) organization. Member dues and leadership grants from CNJG members support the Council’s operations.

CNJG gratefully acknowledges in-kind support from Thomas Edison State University.

The Council of New Jersey Grantmakers:

Learn... Leverage... Partner... Improve Outcomes for the People and Communities You Care About