



COUNCIL OF NEW JERSEY GRANTMAKERS

Harnessing Philanthropy's Potential

2022 Annual Highlights Report

The Council of New Jersey Grantmakers has unveiled our new 2023 – 2025 Strategic Plan with a new vision and mission reflective of philanthropy's role to ask the difficult questions and reimagine our work to better serve our state's communities.

Our mission is very clear: CNJG supports and elevates New Jersey's philanthropic community through shared learning, collaborative and trusting relationships, network building, and leadership. The Council envisions a healthy, thriving, and civically engaged New Jersey where people of all places, racial identities, socio-economic backgrounds, abilities, and identity expressions are valued for their gifts and talents, and we all can reach our full potential and participate generously in the common good. 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.

PROGRAMS

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. In 2022, we offered 2 Signature events, including the virtual Spring Colloquium and the CNJG Annual Meeting & Holiday Gathering. In addition, we provided over 90 programs, including funder briefings, Newark-focused briefings, affinity group meetings, partner programs, and skill-building webinars. We highlight a few.

Signature Event



The **2022 Virtual Spring Colloquium: A Conversation for Social Sector** in May welcomed 140+ New Jersey foundation and nonprofit leaders for an afternoon of valuable discussion, learning, and connection. This year's theme, ***Igniting Equitable Systems Change Together***, builds on our Doing Good Better work – in partnership with the New Jersey Center for Nonprofits.

Moderator Dana Kawaoka-Chen, Co-Director and founding Executive Director of Justice Funders led panelists: Dr. John H. Jackson, President and CEO, Schott Foundation for Public Education, Co-CEO Tulaine Montgomery, New Profit, and John S. Watson, Jr., Co-Executive Director, New Jersey Conservation Foundation, on a thought-provoking conversation exploring systems change, grassroots leadership, and the ongoing need to challenge traditional grantmaking structures and practices.

Following the panel discussion, Jaymie Santiago, President and CEO, New Brunswick Tomorrow, Debra Coyle, Executive Director, New Jersey Work Environment Council, and Christine Newman,

Director of Community Outreach and Volunteer Engagement at AARP New Jersey, each shared examples of systems change work in New Jersey. A common thread running throughout both the panel discussion and the case study presenters was the remarkable power of relationships, engaging local - and often non-traditional leaders, and listening to the community. After virtual small group discussions, we ended the day with a fun-filled NJ trivia session hosted by CNJG Board Chair Jeff Vega and New Jersey Center for Nonprofits' Board Chair Jeremy Grunin.

This conversation was just one of many we hope to have with New Jersey's social sector on how nonprofits and philanthropy can work together to re-imagine current structures and systems to better serve our communities. We're grateful to our sponsors: PSEG – Signature Sponsor, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Campbell Soup Company – Connector Sponsors, and FirstEnergy Foundation and Citi – Contributor Sponsors.

Back in person, the **2022 Annual Meeting & Holiday Luncheon** welcomed over 130 members on December 14 to elect new board members, hear from our keynote speaker, and connect with colleagues after 3 long years of meeting virtually.



The business portion of the Annual Meeting included various reports; the election of new trustees, Marcy Felsenfeld, The Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey, Jeremy Grunin, the Grunin Foundation, and Maria Spina, PSEG Foundation; the formal introduction of the 2023 – 2025 Strategic Plan to the membership; and the announcement from Board Chair Jeff Vega, that Theresa Jacks had been appointed President and CEO after serving in an acting capacity throughout the year. We also said good-bye to Michael Unger, Atlantic Foundation and Diane Hagerman, New Jersey Health Initiatives as they rotated off the board.



Following the business meeting, we heard an inspiring keynote presentation from Bridgit Antoinette Evans, Pop Culture Collaborative, who helped us explore philanthropy's role in narrative change. The accompanying virtual workshop, held on December 16, led by Chantal Forster, Technology Association of Grantmakers, introduced funders to "The Changemaker Experience."

The Council of New Jersey Grantmakers thanks our Annual Meeting sponsors for their generous support: Signature Sponsor – Prudential, Contributing Sponsor – Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and Supporting Sponsors – Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey, the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, and the Devils Youth Foundation.

Funder Education

CNJG was pleased to partner with the Grunin Foundation on the 3-part **2022 Fall Advocacy Webinar Series for Funders** presented by Bolder Advocacy, a program of the Alliance for Justice. Session 1, Advocacy Basics for Funders provided an overview of what constitutes advocacy and public policy work, and the rules for private and public foundations. Session 2, Foundation Trustees and Advocacy, explored how foundation staff can make a successful case for advocacy support to trustees. Session 3, Evaluating and Strengthening Advocacy Capacity from a Funders Perspective, introduced funders to a range of assessment tools. We're grateful to the Grunin Foundation for underwriting this timely workshop to help funders understand how they may engage in advocacy efforts and support nonprofit partners in policy work.

Affinity Groups

The **Newark Education Funders** hosted an in-person Happy Hour in June. This was CNJG's very first in-person meeting since the pandemic, and appropriate health and safety protocols were followed. While a formal agenda was planned, it became clear early on that funders preferred to use the allotted time for connection and networking. Our collective experiences during COVID reinforce in-person gatherings are especially important for the purposes of networking and relationship building.



As the Pascale Sykes Foundation begins their sunsetting process, CNJG has agreed to manage and coordinate the **South Jersey Funders Consortium**. A few years ago, the foundation took the lead in forming the funders group to strengthen connections among South Jersey funders and explore how grantmakers dedicated to the southern part of the state might work together. The group meets periodically throughout the year for networking and conversation. Going forward, the Council will organize future meetings of this growing group to keep funders in south Jersey convening and sharing strategies.

The Council continues in our tradition of providing **partner programs** to members. Of the many partner programs offered this year, some include:

- Monthly family philanthropy series provided by the National Center for Family Philanthropy
- Hosted by the Fund for New Jersey, Imagine More: Racial Justice Begins with Us – 6-part series
- Trust-Based Philanthropy in 4D series
- Designing Justice40 webinar series

MEMBER SERVICES

Foundations of all types and sizes engage in grantmaking efforts with a complexity that calls for ongoing knowledge building, opportunities to collaborate and connect, and input from colleagues. CNJG is the go-to center for information, connection, and leadership among a growing network of grantmakers throughout New Jersey. We welcomed eight new members in 2022: Daichi Sankyo; GreenLight Newark; Lord, Abbett & Company; M. & T. Weiner Foundation; Munich Re US; Salem Health & Wellness Foundation; the D'Archangelo & Dippold Family Fund; and the New Jersey Cultural Trust.

To keep members informed, the Council provides a number of e-newsletters. For 17 years, the monthly **CNJG News** has provided timely information on members, member benefits, job announcements, and more. First launched in 2009, **Family Ties** is specifically for CNJG's family foundation members offering articles, news, and tips for managing the unique needs of family philanthropy. The **Corporate Philanthropy Brief** offers articles, information, news, and resources to help corporate members learn more about an array of CSR topics. CNJG collaborates with a dozen other philanthropy-serving organizations to curate and distribute both Family Ties and the Corporate Philanthropy Brief.

CNJG held four **New Member Orientations** by Zoom this year, enabling new members to easily convene, meet member colleagues, hear about what others are doing, and learn about the Council's work.

LEADERSHIP AND POLICY

CNJG embarked on a **strategic planning** process to revisit and refresh our mission, vision, values, and organizational strategic goals. Led by Board members Maisha Simmons, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and Andy Fraizer, Community Foundation of South Jersey, the Strategic Planning Committee guided progressive development throughout the year. As we consider the challenges of our time and the opportunities that lie ahead, this process helped to crystalize, not only philanthropy's changing role, but also the role of CNJG as a philanthropy-serving organization.



Vision: The Council of New Jersey Grantmakers envisions a healthy, thriving, and civically engaged New Jersey where people of all places, racial identities, socio-economic backgrounds, abilities, and identity expressions are valued for their gifts and talents, and we all can reach our full potential and participate generously in the common good.

Mission: The Council of New Jersey Grantmakers supports and elevates New Jersey's philanthropic community through shared learning, collaborative and trusting relationships, network building, and leadership.

Core Values:

- CNJG values shared power and leadership to advance our mission and vision. We look for opportunities for individual members, member institutions, and allied organizations across the social sector to engage in a common cause of supporting and elevating New Jersey's philanthropic community.
- From expanding access to programs to exploring the inequitable origins of wealth, CNJG values equity as an organizing principle and lens for looking at our structure, business model, programs, and communications.
- CNJG values trusting cross-sector relationships grounded in inclusion that seek out diverse voices, contributions, and participation from across the social sector. We are a network that works to form new alliances and broad coalitions to advance our mission and vision.
- CNJG values learning and dialogue across our community as we explore, engage, and identify new ways of organizing ourselves and redefining philanthropy in broader ways.

Goal 1: Implement an Inclusive and Sustainable Business Model - CNJG will update the organization's operating model in priority focus areas including growing and diversifying a membership structure that reflects an expanded definition of philanthropy and geographic framework aimed toward increasing diversity and inclusion in the membership portfolio.

Goal 2: Embed Our Values and Principles - CNJG will embed an organizational commitment to equity and power-building. We will define philanthropy as a broad and inclusive set of tools to improve civic health in New Jersey communities, and seek community engagement in the discussion and adoption of equity principles.

Goal 3: Amplify Our Collective Voice – CNJG will adopt a social sector-wide policy agenda designed to provide leadership for sector-critical issues and causes, including those that advance equity. Our policy agenda will closely align with the New Jersey Center for Nonprofits' advocacy agenda and highlight approaches such as participatory philanthropy, that embrace power-building.

Goal 4: Leverage Partnerships to Unite the Social Sector - CNJG seeks to build upon a long history of community partnerships by expanding and establishing formal partnerships and collaborations to raise the Council's profile, create more value for member-organizations and the social sector, and catalyze other partnerships in support of all our communities.

Thank you to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Grunin Foundation for providing grant funding to support the strategic planning process. Thank you also to the Strategic Planning Committee for their diligence, insights, and wisdom in shaping the plan.

Doing Good Better: Deepening Philanthropic and Nonprofit Partnerships in NJ – **Doing Good Better** for short – a partnership between CNJG and the New Jersey Center for Nonprofits, is a systems change movement that examines and reimagines how nonprofits and philanthropy can collectively work together for a more equitable and resilient New Jersey. With 50+ advisors across the state, this trailblazing initiative will inform and engage the NJ philanthropic community with trust-based philanthropy principles and other practices to “do good, better in the social sector.”



Throughout the year, the DGB Steering Group met bimonthly to outline strategies to move forward this critical work and identified an overarching goal:

Reimagine relationships among funders, nonprofits, and government to create shared power rooted in collaboration, mutual trust, and respect. With equity as our north star, we seek to shift grantmaking culture, structure, leadership, and practice to reflect these core principles. Accessible, equitable, and mutually accountable relationships are primary and indisputable building blocks for a stronger society and thriving, resilient communities.

To further engage funders and nonprofits and build support for the initiative’s ideals, CNJG and the Center launched aligned DGB websites in October. We distributed a survey in August to primary contacts of CNJG member organizations to understand the landscape of member giving, how members are currently engaged in similar work, and how the events of the last few years have impacted members’ grantmaking. The survey questions align with questions the New Jersey Center for Nonprofits asked in their 2022 Trends and Outlook Survey. The responses from both surveys provides a baseline to assess our success in the DGB work over the next 3 years - moving the needle to address power imbalances between nonprofits and funders and equity issues in our sector.

Through Director of Member Services Craig Weinrich’s connection to the Governor’s Council on Volunteerism & Community Service CNJG was asked to design and present the **luncheon plenary at the NJ VOAD and Governor’s Office on Volunteerism virtual conference** on October 19. The conference provided an excellent opportunity to introduce Doing Good Better to an important audience. CNJG Acting President and CEO Theresa Jacks, and Linda Czipo, President and CEO of the New Jersey Center for Nonprofits opened the session with a brief overview of the DGB ideals. Moderator Lois Greco, Community Foundation of South Jersey, led a conversation with panelists Jackie Edwards, Pascale Sykes Foundation, Samantha Plotino, Provident Bank Foundation, Jorge Cruz, LISC Newark and Mark Valli, NORWESCAP. The discussion amplified our goal to shift the culture of the New Jersey philanthropic and nonprofit ecosystem by encouraging funders, nonprofits, and government to create shared power rooted in collaboration, mutual trust, and respect.

Spread out over 2 weeks in April, **Foundations on the Hill**, took place virtually this year. Presented by United Philanthropy Forum, in partnership with the Council on Foundations and Independent Sector, FOTH provides an opportunity for foundation leaders and philanthropy-serving organizations to meet with their congressional delegation and discuss the work of the philanthropic and nonprofit sectors. While we work to build relationships with Congress year round, FOTH is the one time a year when philanthropy comes together to speak with one, unified voice to our policymakers about the unique and vital role that charitable giving plays in America.

CNJG met with ten of our 12 Congressional offices and both Senate offices. The CNJG delegation included Lucy Vandenberg, The Schumann Fund for New Jersey, Andy Fraizer, Community Foundation of South Jersey, William Engel, Hyde and Watson Foundation, Nelida Valentin, Princeton Area Community Foundation, Jeremy Grunin, Grunin Foundation, and Theresa Jacks, CNJG. Once again Linda Czipo, New Jersey Center for Nonprofits joined our meetings. Her voice helps elevate our discussions about the nonprofit sector and philanthropy's work to support the sector. Because we were virtual, Newark Philanthropic Liaison Kevin Callaghan also participated in meetings with the offices of Representatives Payne and Sires, and Senator Menendez, and shared how this unique public-private partnership benefits the people of Newark.

During our meetings, we shared how NJ foundations and nonprofits are making a real difference every day in the lives of people and communities throughout the state. We encouraged our representatives to support a universal charitable deduction, and introduced them to the Nonprofit Sector Strength and Partnership Act.

The Council joined over 100 nonprofit organizations in our state and signed on to the New Jersey Center for Nonprofits' joint community letter **advocating for a state-level charitable giving incentive** for donations. The letter was emailed to Governor Murphy, Lieutenant Governor Oliver, all 120 members of the State Legislature, and shared broadly with others in government, philanthropy, nonprofits and the media. CNJG will continue to advocate for and lend our voice to this issue as opportunities present.

The **Office of the Newark Philanthropic Liaison** is an innovative collaboration between the city of Newark and CNJG. Now in its 15th year, the Liaison's work continues to build on the many successes of previous years, welcoming national foundations to Newark, and crafting high leverage public-private partnerships. Kevin Callaghan serves as the Newark Philanthropic Liaison. We highlight just some of this work.

- The city's landmark guaranteed income pilot, the Newark Movement for Economic Equity, saw its first full year of implementation, and the NPL joined WBGO's Newark Today and Mayor Baraka's Ras in 60 Podcast to discuss early results, policy implications, and Newark's place at the center of a national policy conversation.
- The Newark Summer Youth Employment Program, the first public-private partnership solidified by the NPL in 2016, raised a record \$2.5 million and employed over 3,300 youth, more than ever before.
- The NPL facilitated over \$1 million in public and private funding for a new state of the art, multi-media Harriet Tubman monument with support from Audible and the Mellon Foundation.

Newark hosted a national site visit of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Board of Trustees. As part of this visit, the Liaison helped organize a Newark Funder Luncheon, complete with a funders discussion moderated by Hans Dekker, President of the Community Foundation of New

Jersey, featuring panelists Craig Drinkard, Executive Officer, Victoria Foundation, Michael Schmidt, CEO, Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey, Sarah S. Keh, Vice President Inclusive Solutions, Prudential Foundation, as well as the NPL. The discussion highlighted how philanthropy is collaborating, coordinating and sharing best practices to address critical needs and promote overall well-being in the Newark communities and neighborhoods.

The Liaison represents one of the nation's first formal partnerships between a city and the philanthropic community, and has become a national model for public-private alliances. The non-partisan Liaison position, based in Newark City Hall, serves as a bridge between Newark funders, the 130+ members of the Council and Newark's administration. The Liaison's overall primary goals are to convene, connect, leverage, and raise resources through partnerships between New Jersey's philanthropic community and the Mayor's Office. The project has leveraged over \$70+ million in public-private support for Newark since its inception in 2007.

The Newark Philanthropic Liaison project is funded by specially designated grants to CNJG. Liaison funders actively participate at an added level of engagement as special advisors, serve on affinity and task groups, and organize and host special programs, convenings and briefings. NPL advisors and funders include Bank of America, Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, Maher Charitable Foundation, The Prudential Foundation, Schumann Fund for New Jersey, Turrell Fund and Victoria Foundation.

OPERATIONS

2022 was a year of staffing transitions. Theresa Jacks was appointed CNJG Acting President and CEO as 2021 closed, with Maria Vizcarrondo's announcement she was stepping down. Office Manager Ilene Cutroneo left CNJG in February. Prior to her departure in May, long time Finance Manager Kari Williams assisted with the transition to Your Part-Time Controller to provide outsourced financial services. Finally, Anna D'Elia, Manager of Programs and Learning accepted a new position with Princeton University. We wish them well.

We also welcomed Dana Schwartz, as our new Office Manager in September. This position ensures the office operates smoothly and efficiently, as well as providing direct support to the entire CNJG team. As the year closed, Jacks was named President and CEO.

CNJG Staff:

Kevin Callaghan, Newark Philanthropic Liaison
Theresa Jacks, President and CEO
Dana Schwartz, Office Manager
Craig Weinrich, Director of Member Services

