



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EQUITY

OFFICE NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2024

GOVERNOR MURPHY HOSTS A ROUNDTABLE ON PUBLIC CONTRACTING

To Advance Pending Reforms that Expand Access to State Contracting Opportunities for Diverse and Women-Owned Businesses



Governor Murphy, after commissioning a comprehensive statewide disparity—the first since 2005—that examined the use of available businesses in state contracting, he acknowledged the study's finding of stark disparities for diverse and women-owned businesses. The study was necessary so that the State had a legal basis for addressing these gaps. Governor Murphy called on legislators to advance impactful remedies informed by the experiences of historically marginalized businesses.

The roundtable followed a series of meetings over the past months led by the Governor's Office and the Department of Treasury with community partners, faith leaders, labor, and diverse business chambers across the state. A whole-of-government approach is being taken to address the study's findings to include capacity-building measures, outreach and awareness efforts, and statewide people-centered workplace initiatives—recognizing that when the State workforce has a better awareness of their neighbors, the outcomes of State policies and systems are more equitable and responsive. ([read more](#))

EXPANDING ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE QUALITY CHILD CARE



Governor Phil Murphy recently highlighted that since the start of his first term, the Administration has invested over \$1 billion dollars in the child care sector, further positioning New Jersey as the best place to raise a family. Additionally, he announced more than \$17 million in new funding through the New Jersey Economic Development Authority to bolster, strengthen, and expand capacity for child care. ([read more](#))



NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

- HOME APPRAISAL LEGISLATION SIGNED TO ENSURE FAIR APPRAISALS
- 2024 STATE WORKFORCE DIVERSITY SUMMIT
- NEW JERSEY AT THE PARALYMPICS
- HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH IN THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE





NJ GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EQUITY

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LEGISLATION SIGNED TO PROHIBIT DISCRIMINATORY REAL ESTATE APPRAISALS

"WHEN BUYING OR OWNING A HOME IN NEW JERSEY, WE MUST STRIVE TO PROVIDE OUR RESIDENTS WITH FAIR AND EQUAL TREATMENT." "FOR FAR TOO LONG, SYSTEMS WERE IN PLACE THAT WOULD PERPETUATE RACIAL BIAS. WITH THIS BILL, WE WILL ENSURE THAT PERSONAL BIASES DON'T INFLUENCE APPRAISERS." LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR TAHESHA WAY

In early September, Lieutenant Governor Tahesha Way signed legislation, as Acting Governor, explicitly prohibiting discriminatory practices in home appraisals. Updating the Real Estate Appraisal Act, the law also requires real estate appraisers to complete fair housing and appraisal bias training.

The new law builds upon the Home Appraisal Discrimination Initiative launched by the NJ Division of Civil Rights. With the bill signing, home owners have additional avenues to seek remedies when facing appraisal discrimination. ([read more](#))



2024 STATE WORKFORCE DIVERSITY SUMMIT



Chair Allison Chris Meyers and Dr. Charlie Williams of the New Jersey Civil Service Commission (CSC) hosted its 2024 Annual State of New Jersey Workforce Diversity Summit in October. Organized through the collaboration of several State agencies and departments, the summit brought together close to two hundred equity leaders from across State and local government and the private sector to retool and strategize in moving the work of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging forward. Through panels and workshops, leaders addressed emerging issues, the changing legal landscape, and the impact on practitioners.

The Office of Equity is proud to have partnered with the CSC at this convening. Director Jayné Johnson was honored to participate and deliver an opening address acknowledging the long march toward equity throughout the history of our nation and state, along with the work that continues. ([read more](#))

GOVERNOR MURPHY ESTABLISHES AN ECONOMIC COUNCIL

Governor Phil Murphy signed Executive Order No. 369, establishing the Economic Council. This council provides a forum for business leaders and State government to collaborate with one another to solve issues important to the public and private sectors and stimulate statewide economic growth. It also supports the advancement of development projects requiring state, county, and local government approval.





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NURTURE NJ QUARTERLY INTERDEPARTMENTAL MEETING



The Office of Equity joined First Lady Tammy Murphy for the Nurture NJ meeting to discuss the development of the statewide agency equity toolkit, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Equity Impact Dashboard, and the progress of initiatives to close opportunity gaps. The meeting also featured the NJ Department of Correction's HOPE and RECAP family reunification programs and doula training/career services.

AGENCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Governor's Conference on Housing and Economic Development featured workshops and info sessions on affordable housing, and economic development. This event was hosted by NJEDA, NJDCA, and NJHMFA ([read more](#))

- **BPU:** Announcing an income-based Charge Up+ EV incentive ([read more](#))
- **DEP:** NJ is committing \$15 million to fund 48 electric school buses ([read more](#))
- **DHS:** Detention and Deportation Defense Initiative provides free immigration legal services to income eligible New Jersey residents who are at risk of detention or facing deportation and do not have access to legal counsel ([read more](#))
- **DOH:** The department just launched their new social media pages in Spanish: @njdptodesalud
- **DOL:** Announcing \$2.2M in grants to boost access to worker benefits and protections ([read more](#))
- **OAG:** AG Platkin calls for immediate reforms and releases two reports on the NJ State Police ([read more](#))

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

- P.L.2024, c.82: Authorizes taxicabs, limousines, and transportation network companies to provide paratransit services for two-year period.
- P.L.2024, c.74: Concerns law protecting residential tenants from lead-based paint hazards.
- P.L.2024, c.66: Requires DEP, DOH, owners or operators of certain public community water systems, and owners or operators of certain buildings or facilities to take certain actions to prevent and control cases of Legionnaires' disease.
- P.L.2024, c.62: Makes certain changes to calculation of minimum loss ratio requirements for health benefits plans in individual and small employer markets.
- P.L.2024, c.59: Establishes the right of sexual assault victims to notification of certain developments in criminal case.

NEW JERSEY AT THE PARALYMPICS

New Jersey proudly sent the following athletes to the 2024 Paralympics in Paris, two of whom returned with medals! Here are the athletes:



Christie Raleigh Crossley, swimming
Catarina Guimaraes, track and field
Brian Siemann, track and field





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THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE HELD A FESTIVE EVENT TO CELEBRATE HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH



THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE LATINO ERG LED IN OUR CELEBRATION OF HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH WITH MUSIC, FOOD, AND AN AMAZING BACHATA LESSON FROM OUR COLLEAGUE ANDREA GRACIA! THANK YOU TO ORGANIZERS EMY QUISPE, ROB MATOS-MORAN, AND TO ALL OUR PARTICIPANTS FOR MAKING THIS EVENT A SUCCESS!

Holidays and Observances

September

Hispanic Heritage Month
(September 15th to October 15th)
National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

September 2nd - Labor Day
September 11th - Patriot Day
September 21st - International Day of Peace
September 22 - Fall Equinox

October

Italian American Heritage Month
Filipino American Heritage Month
Disability Employment Awareness Month
First Responders Appreciation Month

October 2nd - Rosh Hashanah
October 5th - World Teacher's Day
October 9th - Columbus Day
October 9th - Indigenous Peoples' Day
October 11th - Coming Out Day
October 11th - Yom Kippur
October 17th - Divine 9 Day

November

Native-American Heritage Month

November 1st - Diwali
November 5th - Election Day
November 11th - Veterans Day
November 20th - Transgender Day of Remembrance
November 24th - Native American Heritage Day
November 28th - Thanksgiving



Jayné J. Johnson,
Director of the
Office of Equity

Thank you for connecting with the NJ Office of Equity! We appreciate your interest in learning more about our work.

If you are not receiving this email directly from us and would like to subscribe to our mailing list, please click here.

Many thanks to Christofer Robles, Awn Rizvi, and Mel Walker for their contributions to this issue!

