

WEALTH DISPARITY TASK FORCE



The Wealth Disparity Task Force convened in-person earlier this month, joined by Lieutenant Governor Tahesha Way, to focus on ensuring the longevity of its work and to highlight the progress and initiatives achieved over the course of the Murphy Administration through collaboration with external stakeholders - including the expansion of first-generation down payment assistance, advancing medical debt reform, investing in Freedom Schools, and supporting new offices like the Office of the Food Security Advocate, and the Office of Learning and Academic Recovery. These efforts advance the administration's work to close opportunity gaps, and to do so while running through the tape. To meet this current moment, the Wealth Disparity Task Force recognized that their work and impactful collaboration must continue.



Above - Lt. Governor Sheila Y. Oliver leads the Task Force in 2022; Below - Earlier this month, Cuqui Rivera, Latino Action Network, addresses her fellow Task Force members



THE WEALTH DISPARITY TASK FORCE REPORT IS AVAILABLE IN FRENCH AND SPANISH!



FRENCH/FRANÇAIS



SPANISH/ESPAÑOL



2025 GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The 2025 Governor's Conference on Housing and Economic Development took place in Atlantic City, honoring projects, organizations, and individuals advancing affordable housing, neighborhood revitalization, and equitable growth. Awardees across seven categories — from Adaptive Reuse Transformation to Small Business of Distinction — reflected New Jersey's commitment to inclusive, resilient communities. Commissioner Jacquelyn Suarez, NJ Dept. of Community Affairs, Kia King, DCA Chief of Staff, CEO Tim Sullivan, NJ Economic Development Authority, and Exec. Director Melanie Walter, Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency thanked these external partners for advancing the administration's vision for equitable growth and driving job creation, revitalization to improve the quality of life throughout the state.



GOVERNOR MURPHY ADVANCES ECONOMIC AND ACADEMIC COLLABORATION DURING INDIA MISSION



"We have built a strong foundation of collaboration, and Indian companies have become key contributors to New Jersey's economic growth. We are committed to deepening this partnership and creating even more opportunities for growth together." - Governor Phil Murphy

Governor Phil Murphy returned to India with a delegation of New Jersey leaders from business, industry, government, and higher education to expand on the strong collaborative foundation built between India and the Garden State. This visit deepened partnerships in economy, academia, and innovation. Through a series of meetings, roundtables, and signed memorandums of understanding, the visit successfully secured commitments to create nearly 400 new jobs, potentially adding, over the course of the Murphy Administration, more than 3,000 New Jersey jobs.

FEDERAL UNCERTAINTY THREATENS SNAP FUNDING IN NEW JERSEY

IMPORTANT UPDATE
IF YOU GET SNAP FOOD ASSISTANCE BENEFITS

ACTUALIZACIÓN IMPORTANTE
SI RECIBE BENEFICIOS DE ASISTENCIA ALIMENTARIA DE SNAP



Click the flyer for more information in English and Español.

More than 825,000 New Jersey residents depend on SNAP each month, and nearly 165,000 women and children participate in the WIC program, many of whom also receive SNAP for healthy foods and nutrition support

- State agencies will continue to provide updated information as it becomes available at njsnap.gov for SNAP and nj.gov/health for WIC.
- Click [here](#) for more information about food bank locations or to find a [food pantry or soup kitchen](#) near you, call 211, visit NJ211.org, or text your ZIP code to 898-211.

NEW JERSEY BECOMES A DO YOUR PART STATE

Before his final Pass and Review, Governor Phil Murphy announced New Jersey as a “Do Your Part” State, joining Blue Star Families in their national initiative to strengthen support for military families. This builds on efforts like the Bringing Veterans Home initiative and the effort to create Veterans Service Offices in all 21 counties. Earlier this year, Governor Murphy signed a transformative bill that creates both the Department of Military Affairs and the Department of Veteran’s Affairs, formerly the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. With the legislation taking effect on January 9, 2026, the new departments will dedicate resources to support the well being of our military personnel and veterans.



GRANTS STRENGTHEN REENTRY

The NJ Department of Corrections awarded nearly \$7 million in NJLEAD grants to more than 40 nonprofits, municipalities, and training centers. The funding expands reentry services for individuals leaving incarceration, including housing assistance, job training, case management, and mental health support. Major projects include hiring municipal reentry coordinators and enhancing pre-release vocational programs. These efforts provide returning citizens with tools to successfully reintegrate across New Jersey.

SECOND CHANCES FOR THOSE GRANTED CLEMENCY

Governor Phil Murphy has granted 40 more pardons, bringing the administration’s total to 169 pardons and commutations. These actions clear past convictions and restore opportunities for education, employment, and housing. For many, clemency marks a fresh start, removing barriers that once limited their futures. This initiative reflects New Jersey’s commitment to second chances, ensuring residents who have rebuilt their lives can fully contribute to their families and communities.

EVENTS AND RESOURCES

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH



The Unidad Employee Resource Group celebrated Hispanic and Latino Heritage and Culture with food, music, and trivia!

SCHOOL RESOURCES

K-12 Resource Packet

Resources for families preparing for a successful school year.

College Resource Packet

Guidance from HESAA on colleges and universities in New Jersey

Early Literacy Resources

Videos, tips, and activities supporting children’s reading skills from birth.

OTHER RESOURCES

Be Ready for Any Emergency



Learn simple steps you can take now to protect your family during emergencies.

Free Gambling Help in New Jersey

Confidential, no-cost support to manage debt, recovery, and regain control.



Jayné J. Johnson

Director of the Office of Equity,
Cabinet Secretary

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 Awn Rizvi and Mel Walker for their contributions to this issue!