Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey

2025 YEAR in REVIEW

POLICY & ADVOCACY ACHIEVEMENTS

$45M RESTORED

through an advocacy campaign after Gov. Murphy and the Legislature diverted the entire **AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND** *in the FY26 budget*

Founded the **TENANT LEADERS COUNCIL,** *to advance tenant protections and affordable housing,* **AWARDING 11 ORGANIZATIONS UP TO $10,000** *to support tenant organizing, housing justice, and community empowerment.*

STOPPED ANTI-CRIMINALIZATION ORDINANCES *in Piscataway, Paterson, Haddonfield, and Morristown, and* **ELEVATED TENANT VOICES** *to build sustained local advocacy across multiple NJ communities.*

Officially launched the Network's 501C4, **THE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACTION FUND**

SIGNED INTO LAW:

STATEWIDE CODE RED PROTECTIONS
Launches a 5-county, $2.5M, three-year pilot requiring cooling centers in high-need areas and measuring effectiveness.

MANSION TAX
Increases the state's Realty Transfer Fee on properties over $1 million.

MUNICIPAL HOMELESS TRUST FUNDS
Allows towns to create trust funds and housing plans to help address and prevent homelessness.

RENT CAPS ON MODULAR HOMES
Establishes limits on rent increases for certain dwelling sites for modular or industrialized buildings or manufactured homes.

CENTRALIZED AFFORDABLE HOUSING DIRECTORY
Requires the creation of a centralized directory for affordable housing, and housing for senior citizens and veterans.

ENGAGED MEMBERS OF NJ'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION
to oppose cuts to HUD staff, renew 2025 homelessness grants, and create transit oriented housing development legislation.

HILL DAY
Met with **12 CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION MEMBERS** *and staff.*

CONVENINGS & ENGAGEMENT IN THE FIELD

★ 15 ★
NETWORK MEMBERS & STAFF *selected to serve on* **GOVERNOR-ELECT SHERRILL'S TRANSITION TEAMS**

Graduated 2nd cohort of **JUMPSTARTNJ** *which included* **47 PARTICIPANTS** *representing* **36 ORGANIZATIONS.** *Launched 3rd cohort, with an emphasis on faith-based developers, under the rebranded,* **BUILDNJ.**

Released a **PUBLIC OPINION POLL** *with The Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling that found that* **63% OF NEW JERSEYANS** *felt the realty transfer fee should be used for its original intended purpose, the development and rehabilitation of affordable homes.*

Released the **COMING TOGETHER TO HOUSE NJ** *35th Anniversary Report, showing NJ CDCs invested $1.1B+, generating* **$2.45B IN TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT.**

LEGISLATIVE DAY: *over 200 people joined us at our annual event,* **PACKING THE HALLS OF THE STATE HOUSE WITH ADVOCATES**

OVER 110 *individuals participated in the* **HEALTHY HOMES & COMMUNITIES SUMMIT**

UNDER ONE ROOF: **SOLD OUT** with over **400 ATTENDEES** for the third year in a row

Sustained Board and Staff **DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION** *initiatives; developed a new hiring process, through the Network staff's DEI committee*

HOSTED

- 7 Member Discussions
- 2 NRTC Task Force Convenings
- 7 Homeless Task Force Calls
- 60 Advocacy Meetings
- 3 Convenings for Community Developers and Financial Sector Partners
- 2 Convenings of Healthcare Providers Around Community Health Needs Assessments

Participated in events with **NJBPU, LEAD FREE NJ,** *and the* **LEAD DISCLOSURE BILL SIGNING**

Presentations by Staff:

- 2 sessions at the Governor's Conference on Housing and Economic Development
- Urban Mayors' Association General Meeting
- Event for The Reinvestment Fund
- Fund for NJ's Crossroads NJ Conversation

Completed a **NEST PROJECT** in Camden and another underway in Trenton

RANKED **#32** *President & CEO on* **INSIDER POLICY TOP 100**

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS *of* **SHELTER FORCE** *President and CEO kicked off the festivities delivering opening remarks*

MEMBER & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Marked the **10TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY** of our **COMMUNITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM**

Scholars served over **3,000 HOURS** supporting Network members and partner organizations.

AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers served over **4,500 HOURS**

SUCCESSFULLY SUED *in federal court to keep the AmeriCorps VISTA program in operation for NJ and our members*

$254K+ DISBURSED *to 8 Local Housing Counseling Agencies* **IN OUR HUD HOUSING COUNSELING INTERMEDIARY.**

2,000 HOUSEHOLDS SERVED with guidance on financing, renting, maintaining, and owning a home

Assisted **1,440+ HOUSEHOLDS** *seeking* **UTILITY ASSISTANCE**

Over **19K** *visited* **HOUSINGHELPNJ.ORG**

Launched **COMMUNICATIONS PEER GROUP** *for Network members with* **17 PARTICIPANTS**

# of inboxes reached **480K**

# of HCDNNJ website hits: **28K**

Appeared in **60 NEWS STORIES**