



# GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EQUITY

*Building the Next New Jersey Now*

Office Newsletter  
May/June 2023

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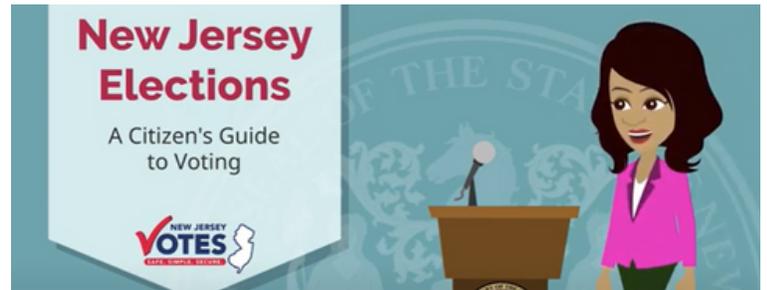
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## ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

**Primary Elections - Vote Today!** Polls are open from 6am to 8pm. Voting in your primary is an essential part of having your voice heard. If you have questions about voting locations, registration, or the elections, you can visit the [New Jersey Voter Information Portal](#).



**Secretary of State Tahesha Way releases educational video series to help voters better understand the election process.**  
[Click to view and share.](#)

**Governor Murphy Announces Intention to Nominate Michael Noriega to the New Jersey Supreme Court.** Noriega's real-world experience as a public defender was touted by Governor Murphy during the mid-May announcement. He is an immigrant rights advocate and would become just the third Hispanic to serve on the New Jersey Supreme Court, and the first since Justice Faustino Fernandez-Vina retired on February 15, 2022.

**Introducing the Transgender Information Hub.** The hub contains information regarding name changes, legal assistance, and mental health support. The site is currently in beta and is a work in progress. To search for information and resources for transgender or non-binary people in New Jersey, please visit the [Transgender Information Hub](#).



**TRANSGENER.NJ.GOV**  
Transgender Information Hub





## MAY & JUNE UPDATES FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EQUITY

**New Funding for the Jersey Shore Boardwalk.** Governor Murphy spread the word about the new \$100 million dollar boardwalk fund as he toured three Asbury Park institutions with Mayor John Moor and State Senator Vin Gopal, which should help ensure that "everyone can experience the magic of a Jersey summer down the shore."

**Clean Communities Grant Program.** The Murphy Administration awards \$24 million in clean communities grants for Local Litter Removal Programs. The annual grant provided to municipal and county governments represents a 2.7 million dollar increase from last year. Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner LaTourette is "proud to continue to support these efforts that make New Jersey a cleaner and greener place to live." [Learn more about how the Murphy Administration is investing in local litter removal programs.](#)

**Governor Murphy Wishes the Gentlemen of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. a Happy Omega Day.** On May 25th, Governor Murphy honored the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, the first international fraternal organization founded at an HBCU, and praised "their decades of scholarship, perseverance, and brotherhood."



## NEWS AND RESOURCES - NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENTS AND AUTHORITIES

**First-in-the-Nation Black and Latino Seed Fund.** The NJ Economic Development Authority Board approved three firms to manage the \$20 million Black and Latino Seed Fund, the only investment fund in the country aimed at increasing capital access for early-stage innovative companies founded by diverse entrepreneurs throughout the State.

**Additional Funding for the Childcare Centers.** Childcare centers receive additional funding to support early childhood projects throughout the state. With this additional funding, the NJ Economic Development Authority will make nearly \$75 million available to childcare centers that serve over 36,000 children and employ over 9,000 employees. This will fund critically important projects at childcare facilities across the state.

**The Department of Human Services has Restarted Eligibility Reviews for NJ Family Care.** This restart may affect eligibility for the program, including possibly disenrolling some individuals who are no longer eligible. If you find that you no longer qualify for NJ Family Care, you may be able to acquire affordable coverage through [Get Covered New Jersey](#). Current NJ FamilyCare members should make it a priority to confirm or update their contact information by calling NJ Family Care at 1-800-701-0710. Updating your information will allow NJ FamilyCare to send renewal packets to you. [Update your information!](#)

**Governor Murphy and Attorney General Platkin Announce 100% Participation by NJ Counties and Municipalities in National Opioid Settlements.** Under the settlements, New Jersey and its eligible counties and municipalities would receive approximately \$508.1 million. The New Jersey Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund Advisory Council are seeking public input on how to use these funds. The Advisory Council will host in-person and virtual listening sessions throughout May and June to gather input. The public will be able to provide three minutes of testimony. [Sign up here.](#)

**The Board of Public Utilities Reminds Families to Call 811 Before You Dig. [Click here to learn more.](#)**





## MAY & JUNE UPDATES FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EQUITY

**ARRIVE Together.** A recent study from the Brookings Center found that the ARRIVE Together pilot program was highly effective at reducing uses of force, arrests, and disparate treatment of residents. The ARRIVE Together program is an initiative that provides greater mental health resources to individuals suffering mental or behavioral health emergencies that come into contact with law enforcement. ARRIVE Together personnel were often able to diffuse situations with crisis intervention techniques and avoid arresting the individual in crisis. New Jersey's approach to policing and mental health with the ARRIVE Together program serves as a model for the country.

**Civil Rights Claim.** Attorney General announces the filing of a civil rights complaint and an application seeking to immediately prohibit implementation of Hanover Township Board of Education's LGBTQ+ parental notification policy that requires school staff to notify parents of the gender identity and sexual orientation of LGBTQ+ students.

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES & INFORMATION

**JOB FAIR!** The Civil Service Commission is hosting a statewide job fair on June 14th from 9 am–1 pm at Mercer County College. Government agencies, colleges, and universities will all be represented at the event. Anyone and everyone are welcome! [View event details here.](#)

**State Job Announcements.** For a comprehensive list of job announcements, testing information, and state job opportunities, [click here.](#)

**Youth Can Get Working Papers Online.** For teenagers seeking employment this summer, the Department of Labor created a new online application for teenagers who need working papers. Schools will no longer be involved, but minors, employers, and caregivers will all play a role. Commissioner Robert Asaro-Angelo talks about the new online portal: "It's quicker, easier, and this new process gives NJDOL a welcome opportunity to reach minors and their caregivers about career and apprenticeship opportunities, and to make minors aware of their work rights when it matters most – when they start their first job." Teens can go to [MyWorkingPapers.nj.gov](http://MyWorkingPapers.nj.gov) to start their working papers. [Learn more about how the Department of Labor is protecting our young workforce.](#)

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

**Residents Without Addresses.** The Department of Community Affairs (DCA) announces a rural and suburban homelessness outreach and engagement pilot program. This pilot program is designed to help rural and suburban communities in the state strengthen their response to people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. \$2 million in grants were awarded to nonprofit organizations across the state to make it easier for people in rural and suburban areas to quickly access prevention services in their county. Lt. Governor and Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Commissioner Sheila Oliver commented, "outreach services are an effective tool in DCA's work to prevent homelessness in all communities around New Jersey."

### REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

**Wealth Disparity Task Force Testimony Submission.** At any time, we encourage the public to submit their personal stories, concerns, and/or recommendations for the Task Force's consideration. To submit written testimony, [click here.](#)

**COVID-19 Resources:** Get Vaccinated! [Find your nearest location here.](#)  
Vaccination hotline: 855-568-0545 (Open 10 am-6 pm, M-F; 10 am-4 pm, Sat)





# MAY & JUNE UPDATES FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EQUITY

## MAY AND JUNE OBSERVANCES

### Governor Murphy's Memorial Day Weekend

Throughout Memorial Day Weekend, Governor Murphy reflected and spent time honoring the brave men and women of our Armed Forces who "gave their full measure on the battlefields, on the seas, and in the air to protect and serve our nation."



The Governor kicked off Memorial Day weekend by speaking with veterans at Charlies of Bay Head and went to Wrightstown to "marvel at the courage of those who gave their lives for our country's most sacred ideals, but also grieve their absence from our lives." He concluded the weekend by paying his respects to our fallen service members.



## Celebrating Asian American Pacific Islander Native Hawaiian Heritage Month



[Click play to learn more.](#)

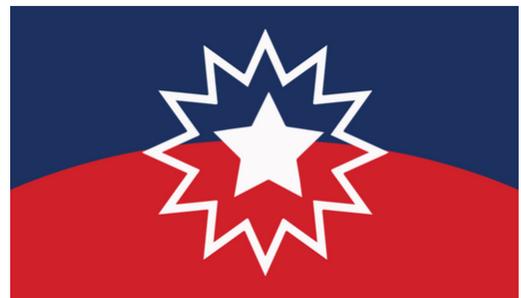
## HAPPY PRIDE MONTH!

Governor Murphy wished New Jersey a Happy Pride Month and underscored his efforts to protect the rights of New Jersey's LGBTQIA+ community.

[Click Here](#) to read what the Murphy Administration has accomplished so far for the LGBTQIA+ community!



**Happy Juneteenth!** The state of New Jersey observes Juneteenth on Friday, June 19th as a state and public holiday. On Juneteenth, we must commit to New Jersey becoming a State of Opportunity for all communities and households.



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 about our work.

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