



# New Jersey Together 2025 Progress

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## Dear Friends, Partners, and Supporters,

the production of more and higher-quality affordable housing, criminal justice reform, accountability from public officials, and the strengthening of a growing, interconnected network of congregations and civic institutions committed to the common good.

Below are highlights of our work from the past year. We hope you will consider getting involved and making a donation at <https://www.njtogether.org/donate>. *(New recurring donations will be matched through the generous support of our parent network, Metro IAF.)*

Thank you for your partnership.



## 2025 Highlights:

**Statewide Gubernatorial Assembly:** [On April 27, 2025](#), nearly 200 New Jersey Together leaders gathered to call on several top gubernatorial candidates—including now Governor-Elect Sherrill—to commit to building thousands of additional affordable and supportive housing units and taking concrete steps to reduce onerous technical parole violations that heighten the risk of recidivism

## Education:

[Safe Drinking Water Victory in Jersey City](#): After nearly a decade of organizing, leaders from Jersey City Together (JCT) celebrated a major victory: ensuring clean, safe drinking water in all Jersey City Public Schools. A total of 1,169 new fountains have been installed across all 44 schools and early childhood learning centers, guaranteeing that every public school student, teacher, and staff member finally has access to sustainably sourced, safe drinking water.



[JC Board of Education Election Questionnaire](#): Leaders on JCT's Education Team produced a nonpartisan questionnaire to inform voters where school board candidates stand on key issues, including school safety, budget transparency, student supports, and facilities and infrastructure.

## Housing

[Bayfront](#): Jersey City Together leaders celebrated the long-awaited groundbreaking at Bayfront - a milestone decades in the making. After sustained organizing by JCT leaders and our predecessors at the Interfaith Community Organization, the land has now been fully remediated, and construction is beginning on what will ultimately be **2,800 deeply affordable homes**.



## **New Housing in Essex:** NJT

leaders with Essex Together successfully advocated for a key element of the township's new housing plan: rezoning faith-community-owned land in Montclair so that congregations can develop affordable housing on their property. The Montclair campaign — [YIGBY \(Yes in God's Back Yard\)](#) — is part of a broader effort to enable faith communities in every jurisdiction to build affordable housing on their land.



*Essex Together leaders gathering outside the site in Newark*

On December 6, 55 leaders from Essex Together/NJT gathered to advance this work by promoting the development of 42 units of affordable housing for the Returning Citizens Support Group in Newark and then traveled to congregation-owned sites in Montclair to include Co-Home supportive housing at Union Congregational and future affordable housing on St. Mark's UMC.



**Landlord Accountability:** Jersey City Together (JCT) continued its work to hold irresponsible and abusive landlords accountable by partnering with municipal regulators and leveraging media attention to push for meaningful enforcement and reform.

## **Criminal Justice Reform:**

In addition to organizing to end onerous technical parole violations, NJT is supporting legislation aimed at protecting incarcerated women - ensuring adequate family visitation, improved accountability and privacy from male correctional staff, and other long-needed reforms in New Jersey's correctional

system. On December 4th, 76 leaders from Essex Together and NJT joined our member organization, the Returning Citizens Support Group, to promote the passage of this legislation and to help prepare justice-impacted people and their allies to push further for the changes that are needed. The Incarcerated Women's Protection Act will protect against sexual violence and abuse and expand reproductive care and trauma and gender-informed care.

**Deeper and Broader Leadership Development:** We expanded our training efforts, developed new leaders, and identified additional congregations and community organizations with whom to build strong, long-term relationships.

**2026:** Please consider getting involved and supporting New Jersey Together through a donation: <https://www.njtogether.org/donate>.

New recurring donations will be **matched** through generous support from Metro IAF, helping us continue this work in 2026.