



[www.njbia.org/recovery](http://www.njbia.org/recovery)

January 6, 2022

Dear Governor Murphy,

As leaders of the Garden State's major business associations, the New Jersey Business Coalition once again thanks you for your administration's past use of federal funds to assist the business community and workers throughout the state. With another year of disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic having come to a close, and another year of uncertainty upon us, we write to request that the additional federal funds at your disposal be immediately put into the community to help support the industries which continue to be most significantly impacted.

Despite funds already being allocated and programs set up, unfortunately, employers statewide continue to struggle with hiring challenges, COVID-19 related work absences, revenue decline, and countless other issues stemming from the pandemic. While the federal dollars made available to the Garden State through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) have been appropriated to alleviate several of these concerns, the pace at which these funds have been moved into the hands of employers has lagged and must be hastened.

For example, in July, you signed the Child Care Revitalization Fund into law to support the state's licensed childcare providers as they continue to serve state residents amidst incredible obstacles, and in October, you announced that \$700 million in federal funds would go toward- child care. These funds would not only support these employers and their workforce but working mothers and families who rely on these services. As you are aware, the disruption- to childcare availability is one of the reasons women dropped out of the labor force in record numbers last year. In order to quell some of the challenges facing this industry, as well as a workforce that relies on childcare access, these allocated funds must reach providers now.

Of course, this urgency is not limited to the childcare sector. Appropriations for vital industries remain unspent across the state. We recognize that this level of federal support is unprecedented, and that ensuring it is utilized correctly is important. However, we request that further actions be taken to speed the delivery of ARPA and other funds to their targeted recipients.

Additionally, with hundreds of thousands of New Jersey residents still out of work, and roughly as many jobs remaining unfilled, the Return and Earn program will be vital to regrowing our state's workforce. With several recent surveys showing unemployed Americans' interest in back-to-work bonuses, we are thankful that this program is meeting workers where they are and aiding businesses who are otherwise struggling to bring employees back off the sidelines. However, with only \$500,000 spent out of a \$10 million appropriation, these funds must flow more rapidly if our state is going to keep pace with the rest

of the nation's economic recovery. The members of the New Jersey Business Coalition are prepared to act as a resource for the state to help disseminate any information regarding allocations and how to access funding to our members to expedite this process.

New Jersey's businesses remain at a critical juncture in our attempt to survive and recover from the COVID-19 crisis. To ensure that our recovery is at pace with the rest of the nation, it is important that allocations reach the business community as soon as possible. Your administration has placed a well-deserved focus on appropriating funds for sectors most in need of assistance. We ask you now to further help our state's business community by releasing these funds as intended as expeditiously as possible.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey, Inc.

American Camp Association NY/NJ

American Institute of Architects

American Physical Therapy Association of New Jersey

Bernards Township Regional Chamber of Commerce

Big I New Jersey

Burlington County Regional Chamber of Commerce

Cape May County Chamber of Commerce

Capital Region Minority Chamber of Commerce

Chamber of Commerce of Greater Philadelphia

Chamber of Commerce Southern New Jersey

Chemistry Council of New Jersey

Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey

CrossState Credit Union Association

Downtown New Jersey

Early Childhood Education Advocates

Eastern Monmouth Area Chamber of Commerce

Employers Association of New Jersey

Fuel Merchants Associates of NJ

Garden State Initiative

Garden State Pharmacy Owners, Inc

Gloucester County Chamber of Commerce

Greater Atlantic City Chamber of Commerce

Greater NJ Motorcoach Association

Greater Toms River Chamber of Commerce

Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce

HealthCare Institute of New Jersey

Hoboken Chamber of Commerce

Home Health Services Association of New Jersey

Hudson County Chamber of Commerce

Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce

Jersey Shore Partnership

Mahwah Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Marine Trades Association of New Jersey  
Middlesex County Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Meadowlands Chamber  
Monmouth Ocean Development Council  
Morris County Chamber of Commerce  
NAIOP-NJ  
National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)  
Newark Regional Business Partnership  
New Jersey Asphalt Pavement Association  
New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies  
New Jersey Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons  
New Jersey Bankers Association  
New Jersey Builders Association  
New Jersey Business & Industry Association  
New Jersey Campground Owners and Outdoor Lodging Association  
New Jersey Camps Government Affairs Project  
New Jersey Civil Justice Institute  
New Jersey Coalition of Automotive Retailers  
New Jersey Concrete and Aggregate Association  
New Jersey Dental Association  
New Jersey Fitness Alliance  
New Jersey Food Council  
New Jersey Gasoline-Convenience-Automotive Association  
New Jersey Hotel and Lodging Industry Association  
New Jersey Independent Electrical Contractors Association  
New Jersey Liquor Store Alliance  
New Jersey Manufacturing Extension Program, Inc.  
New Jersey Motor Truck Association  
New Jersey Pharmacists Association  
New Jersey Podiatric Medical Society  
New Jersey Restaurant & Hospitality Association  
New Jersey Retail Merchants Association  
New Jersey Salon and Spa Coalition  
New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants  
NJ Small Business Coalition  
New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce  
New Jersey State Funeral Directors Association  
New Jersey State Veterans Chamber of Commerce  
New Jersey Tourism Industry Association  
New Jersey Warehousemen & Movers Association  
Newark Regional Business Partnership  
North Jersey Jewish Business Alliance  
New York Shipping Association, Inc.

Ocean City Chamber of Commerce  
Princeton Mercer Regional Chamber  
Professional Insurance Agents of NJ (PIANJ)  
Salem County Chamber of Commerce  
Somerset County Business Partnership  
Southern NJ Development Council  
Southern Ocean County Chamber of Commerce  
Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of NJ  
Sussex County Chamber of Commerce  
The American Planning Association - NJ Chapter  
The Leadership Council of the National Association of Professional Employer Organizations (NAPEO)  
The United Boatmen of N.J.  
Union Township Chamber of Commerce  
Washington Borough BID

CC: Senate President Sweeney  
Assembly Speaker Coughlin  
Senator Tom Kean Jr.  
Assemblyman Jon Bramnick