

Between December 2014 and January 2015, New Jersey Communities Forward, supported by the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, hosted two forums to discuss reforming the Criminal Justice System in New Jersey. Participating organizations included the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey; the New Jersey Attorney General's Office; the New Jersey State Conference of the NAACP; the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police; the New Jersey Black Issues Convention (NJBIC), an umbrella organization focusing on issues affecting African-American communities; the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE); the Integrated Justice Alliance (IJA); the Latino Action Network (LAN); the School of Law and Justice – Rutgers Newark; the Urban League of Essex County; and the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice (NJISJ) among others.

The first forum was held in Trenton, and the second was held in Montclair. Attendance for both forums exceeded capacity. Since the initial forums, the Trenton community has met four times and the Montclair community has met twice. The Paterson, Jersey City, Newark, Camden, Atlantic City communities are currently in the planning stages

Some of our key accomplishments are:

- We helped shape the development of the Attorney General's statewide policy on body cams.
- The NAACP is offering training to the chiefs of police on fair and effective law enforcement.
- The NJ State Association of Chiefs of Police is offering training to civil rights leaders from across the state in law enforcement practices.
- We are facilitating local initiatives designed to enhance trust and cooperation between law enforcement officials and the communities they serve.