

Erik Estrada Biography

As the Community Manager at the Community Foundation of South Jersey (CFSJ), Erik is responsible for the execution of CFSJ's latest community leadership initiative, Transform South Jersey, which aims to strengthen the social, cultural and economic vibrancy of South Jersey communities by empowering residents to shape the future of their towns based on what matters most to them.

Prior to joining CFSJ, Erik served in variety of roles with multiple national program offices of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF). Most recently, he helped launch Forward Promise, a national program office established to promote the health and well-being of boys and young men of color. Based out of the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Education, Erik developed and implemented the program's grantmaking and technical assistance strategies. Before that, he managed research and evaluation initiatives of RWJF's statewide grantmaking program, New Jersey Health Initiatives (NJHI). In addition to studying the feasibility and impact of NJHI's field building efforts, he worked closely with their youth-focused and capacity building programs as well.

Erik's introduction to philanthropy came by way of National Urban Fellows, a rigorous leadership development and graduate degree program in which he earned a Master of Public Administration from Bernard M. Baruch College in New York, while completing a nine-month fellowship with RWJF. He also holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of California at Berkeley and is now pursuing a Ph.D. in Public Affairs – Community Development at Rutgers University at Camden.