

Maria Vizcarrondo



Maria Vizcarrondo is the President and CEO of the Council of New Jersey Grantmakers since March, 2019. Prior to this, she was Director of Community Development and External Relations at Cabrini University in Philadelphia. She was inaugural Executive Director of the school's Nerney Leadership Institute, launched in 2013.

Ms. Vizcarrondo brings more than 25 years of experience transforming service organizations and has served her communities as both an appointed and elected official.

In 2006, when he was first elected Mayor of Newark Cory Booker tapped Ms. Vizcarrondo to head Newark's Health and Human Service Department, the largest of its kind in New Jersey. One of her first actions in that role was to develop a Children's Bill of Rights

to benchmark improvements in the lives of children and families throughout the city. Her accomplishments included securing state funding to establish Family Success Centers to provide neighborhood-based services, and launching a major citywide campaign to raise the immunization rates of Newark's children.

Prior to her mayoral appointment, Ms. Vizcarrondo served as the first woman president and CEO of United Way of Essex and West Hudson. Her pioneer work in re-engineering the organization's mission into community building was documented in the United Way Transformation Diaries. In the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, Ms. Vizcarrondo led the New Jersey United Ways in a statewide coordination of services for affected families and managed the distribution of corporate funding for these efforts.

She was elected Essex County Surrogate in 1993 and served four years of a five-year term before leaving to join United Way.

Ms. Vizcarrondo has been listed among the "100 Most Influential People in New Jersey" and was a founding member of the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice.