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From: egg@dca.state.nj.us [mailto:egg@dca.state.nj.us]
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2009 9:58 AM
To: Lashway, Lisa
Subject: GovConnect Update: October 13, 2009

Dear GovConnect Colleague:

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New Items:

1. Payment for Calendar Year 2009 Extraordinary Aid Awards were deposited on October 1, 2009 to award recipients. The Deadline for State Fiscal Year 2010 Extraordinary Aid Applications has been extended to October 13, 2009.
2. All local units that are receiving federal funds through the American Recovery and Revitalization Act (ARRA) have new and different responsibilities to meet ongoing audit responsibilities under the program rules. Local Finance Notice 2009-19 (www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/lfns/09lfns/2009-19.doc) provides important information and references about grant recipient responsibilities to implement internal controls at the start of their grant programs and are subject to federal or state agency audits during the performance of the grant. A web page with links to federal agency guidance has been posted at www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/research/arra/index.shtml.
3. As a result of Governor Corzine's recent approval of Executive Order #151 the Division of Public Contracts and EEO Compliance has updated its guidance on Training Allocation funds. Although local governments still are not impacted, the notice is an update to the one that was issued in July. The Notice is online at [www.state.nj.us/treasury/contract compliance/pdf/tfan pa fy2010.pdf](http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/contract%20compliance/pdf/tfan_pa_fy2010.pdf)
4. Local Finance Notice 2009-20 (www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/lfns/09lfns/2009-20.doc) provides updated information to County governments and municipalities that receive direct Homeland Security grants for dealing with procurement issues when spending under federal homeland security grants. It updates procurement procedures that can be used in lieu of public bidding only for purchases under these programs. County CFO's should review these procedures with their purchasing agent and homeland security coordinators as they move forward to acquire goods and services to fulfill their grants.

Conferences:

1. The New Jersey State League of Municipalities is making ethics training available on two dates and locations. "Ethics - Back To Basics" will be held on Friday October 23, 2009 at the Bethlehem Community Center in Asbury, NJ (Hunterdon County) and Thursday October 29, 2009 at Mercer County College in West Windsor, NJ. This program is appropriate for all municipal officials and employees, experienced, or new. Director Susan Jacobucci, Esq, of the DCA, Division of Local Government Services will review the municipal ethical culture, concentrating on conflicts of interest and understanding and dealing with gifts. CEU's have been approved. Details and registration information are available online at www.njslom.com/cal102309_102909.html.

2. The New Jersey State League of Municipalities will be holding its 94th Annual Conference at the Atlantic City Convention Center on November 17 - 20, 2009. "Teamwork: A Bridge to Brighter Horizons" will offer great opportunities to attend many diverse seminars, visit convention floor exhibits and casually meet with officials at a general consulting table session. For complete conference information please visit the League website at www.njslom.org/94thconf/index.html.

Reminders:

1. In light of the recent bankruptcy and apparent theft of public funds by the payroll servicing company Ameripay, the Division has prepared Local Finance Notice 2009-18 (www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/lfns/09lfns/2009-18.doc) that covers the risks and internal controls that all local units should address when dealing with any third party payment organization. It includes a reminder about rules and a guide issued by the Division several years ago on this issue which should be reviewed by all local units using third party organizations for financial transactions.

2. The following information concerns actions local officials can take to help homeowners that are facing foreclosure or other housing related problems facing residents:

- Foreclosure Fast Facts: A 2-page listing of assistance, numbers to call, and general assistance, including counseling agencies experienced in foreclosure: <http://www.nj.gov/dca/hmfa/foreclosurepreventionresources.pdf>

- The Mayor's Combat Kit: Materials and sources of information on buying a home, mortgage assistance and foreclosure, designed especially for Mayors: <http://www.state.nj.us/dobi/njhope/mayorkit.html>

- The NJ HOPE (Home Ownership Preservation Effort) website provides information about resources that are available for homeowners who are delinquent in their mortgage payments, need counseling or have questions: <http://www.state.nj.us/dobi/njhope/>

3. The DEP Bulletin contains a list of construction permit applications recently filed or acted upon by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. The latest issue was released October 7, 2009. This issue can be viewed online at: www.nj.gov/dep/bulletin/bu2009_1007.pdf.

THIS E-MAIL HAS BEEN SENT TO THE FOLLOWING OFFICIALS: MUNICIPAL CLERK, Chief Financial Officer, Tax Collector / County Clerk to Board of Freeholders, Chief Financial Officer / Authority Officials / Fire District Officials / Procurement Officials.

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