

-----Original Message-----

From: egg@dca.state.nj.us [mailto:egg@dca.state.nj.us]

Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2009 9:21 AM

To: Lashway, Lisa

Subject: GovConnect Update: December 10, 2009

Dear GovConnect Colleague:

Take a few minutes to catch up on and review what's been going on in local government. Login to GovConnect now at: <http://Portal.NJ.Gov>

New Items:

1. IRS Publication 963 Update: The IRS Federal-State Reference Guide, which provides local government employers a comprehensive resource for guidance on Social Security and Medicare coverage and Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) tax withholding issues - has been updated for November 2009. Topics addressed in the publication include determining worker status, public retirement systems, Social Security and Medicare coverage benefits, Section 218 agreements, employment tax laws, and other tax issues. Publication 963 is on the IRS Web site at www.irs.gov/pub/irs-tege/p963_1109.pdf.

2. The Division of Pensions and Benefits has released FY 2010 employer billing information for local employers for PERS and PFRS. The tables are online at www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/2010-employer-billing.htm. The FY 2010 tables do not show FY 2009 information because of the impact of pension deferral. The 2009 billing information is on-line at www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/2009-employer-billing.htm for those who want to contact to view that. The information in the FY 2010 table can be used in the preparation of CY and SFY 2010 budgets.

3. The Division has released Local Finance Notice 2009-26 (www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/lfns/09lfns/2009-26.doc) that describes the Budget Cap COLA for CY 2010 Municipal and County Budgets. In addition, the Division has posted all CY 2010 budget forms online at www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/fiscal/budmenu.shtml. Please share this with appropriate staff in your organization.

4. Local Finance Notice 2009-25 (www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/lfns/09lfns/2009-25.doc) removes the requirement for local authorizes and fire districts to appropriate their annual required contribution for Other Post-Employment Benefits in their budget. Local Finance Notice 2009-13 (www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/lfns/09lfns/2009-13.doc) is revised to remove the requirement. LFN 2009-25 provides additional guidance on how OPEB liabilities are to be displayed on balance sheets and budget disclosures.

5. Governor Corzine signed into law the Citizen Service Act (P.L. 2009, c. 141). This new law requires Municipal Clerks to maintain new records concerning local boards, authorities, and commissions, and provides a formal process for citizens to sign up to volunteer to serve on these bodies. The law changes law concerning oaths of office that apply to municipalities and counties. Local Finance Notice 2009-24

www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/lfns/09lfns/2009-24.doc) should be reviewed immediately and actions taken to implement its provision.

Conferences:

1. The NJ State League of Municipalities is holding a seminar highlighting important new programs designed to create new jobs and economic growth in New Jersey and builds upon the State's existing economic growth strategy. The seminar is at the Reception Center at PNC Bank Arts Center, Holmdel, NJ, on Tuesday, January 19, 2010 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The seminar will cover the New Jersey Economic Development Authority's new Economic Redevelopment & Growth (ERG) grant and Urban Hub programs, the Federal Recovery Zone Bond program supported through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), and how the State's Environmental Infrastructure Trust can help finance economic development activities. Details and registration forms are online at www.njslom.org/cal011910.html.

Reminders:

1. The Federal Trade Commissions has announced that it will further delay the enforcement of its Red Flag Rule until June 1, 2010. Details on the delay can be viewed at www.ftc.gov/opa/2009/10/redflags.shtm. Information regarding their impact on New Jersey local units is found in Local Finance Notice 2009-9R at www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/lfns/09lfns/2009-9.doc.

2. Local Finance Notice 2009-22 (www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/lfns/09lfns/2009-22.doc) has been REISSUED as related to the 2010 Fire District Budget cycle. This version is final and reflects changes regarding filing for Levy Cap Waivers. Budget worksheets have not been changed and can be obtained through links in the Notice or at www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/authreg/authmenu.shtml#firebud.

3. 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.

4. 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/foreclosureprevention_resources.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/>

5. 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 December 2, 2009. This issue can be viewed online at: www.nj.gov/dep/bulletin/bu2009_1202.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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