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From: egg@dca.state.nj.us [mailto:egg@dca.state.nj.us]  
Sent: Wednesday, December 23, 2009 10:30 AM  
To: Lashway, Lisa  
Subject: GovConnect Update: December 23, 2009

Dear GovConnect Colleague:

Here's our end of year update! All of us at the Division of Local Government Services wish you and your family a happy and health holiday season. We'll be back in January! Login to GovConnect now at: <http://Portal.NJ.Gov> for more content.

New Items:

1. Purchasing Agent reform legislation approved: Governor Corzine recently enacted P.L. 2009, c.166 (A-1645). The new law amends existing laws relating to Qualified Purchasing Agents and the appointment of purchasing agents by all local units. The law does not take effect until January 1, 2011. This delay provides time for implementation and transition procedures to be developed. A comprehensive Local Finance Notice on the law will be issued soon.
2. The New Jersey State Library has created a web site that assists New Jersey residents and businesses to help them through tough economic times. The site has a wide range of useful links that may be of assistance to local officials that are trying to assist their residents address their concerns.

Local officials should keep the site handy and if appropriate, promote its use in their publications. The site: <http://gethelp.njlibraries.org/> has links and references in the following areas:

- New Jersey Work Tools
- New Jersey Financial Tools
- New Jersey Housing Tools
- New Jersey Health Tools
- New Jersey Parental Tools
- Tools for Seniors

3. 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](http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-tege/p963_1109.pdf).

4. 2010 Protected Tenancy Figures: the latest per capita income and maximum eligibility income figures to be used in considering protected tenancy applications for senior and disabled citizens are now available online at [www.nj.gov/dca/codes/lt/table\\_of\\_contents.shtml/](http://www.nj.gov/dca/codes/lt/table_of_contents.shtml/). Questions

may be sent to the Landlord-Tenant Information Service by e mailto:  
LTInfo@dca.state.nj.us.

5. An application and instructions from the State Library for State Per Capita Library Aid (PCSA) were recently sent to Chief Financial Officers. The application covers the fiscal year from January to December 2009, or July 2008 to June 2009 for those municipalities on the State fiscal year. If you did not receive the information or have questions regarding the application, please call the Library at 609-278-2640 ext. 133 or e-mail [abhatnagar@njstatelib.org](mailto:abhatnagar@njstatelib.org).

#### Conferences:

1. POSTPONED: The NJ State League of Municipalities has postponed its 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 at the Reception Center at PNC Bank Arts Center, Holmdel, NJ, was scheduled for Tuesday, January 19, 2010 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The seminar will be rescheduled for later in the winter. It 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](http://www.njslom.org/cal011910.html).

2. The New Jersey State League of Municipalities is hosting 3 seminars ([www.njslom.org/seminars.html](http://www.njslom.org/seminars.html)) on Budget Updates from 9:30am - 1:30pm.

- Holmdel on March 4, 2010 at the PNC Bank Arts Center
- Cherry Hill on March 11, 2010 at the Cherry Hill Library
- Paramus on March 31, 2010 at Bergen County Community College At this seminar, attendees will:

- Review Local Finance Notices and review recent policies and regulations.
- Get an update on CY 2010 budget issues and any legislation that may affect them.
- Understand the current requirements about, and how the levy cap works.
- Gain knowledge on how to apply for budget cap waivers.
- Review current issues affecting finance officers.

Speakers include: Marc Pfeiffer, Deputy Director DLGS, and Christine Zapicchi, Bureau Chief DLGS CEU's have been approved. Please share this with appropriate staff in your organization.

#### Reminders:

1. 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](http://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](http://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.

2. The Division has released Local Finance Notice 2009-26 ([www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/lfns/09lfns/2009-26.doc](http://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](http://www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/fiscal/budmenu.shtml). Please share this with appropriate staff in your organization.

3. Local Finance Notice 2009-25 ([www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/lfns/09lfns/2009-25.doc](http://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](http://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.

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

5. 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](http://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](http://www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/research/arra/index.shtml).

6. 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](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/>

7. 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 16, 2009. This issue can be viewed online at:  
[www.nj.gov/dep/bulletin/bu2009\\_1216.pdf](http://www.nj.gov/dep/bulletin/bu2009_1216.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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