



Masser, Michelle

To: Lashway, Lisa
Subject: RE: GovConnect Update: March 1, 2010

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

From: egg@dca.state.nj.us [mailto:egg@dca.state.nj.us]
Sent: Monday, March 01, 2010 10:14 AM
To: Lashway, Lisa
Subject: GovConnect Update: March 1, 2010

Dear GovConnect Colleague:

There's a lot going on so keep up-to-date with each issue of GovConnect News.

For all the details login to GovConnect now at: <http://Portal.NJ.Gov>.

New Items:

1. Municipal Information Sheets Available Online: The Division of Local Government Services has posted Municipal Information Sheets for 2010. The sheets can be downloaded from: www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/fiscal/2010_data/10mis/menu_mis_2010.shtml.
2. The Division of Taxation is in the process of mailing applications for the 2009 property tax reimbursement (PTR) program to senior citizens and disabled residents who may be eligible. The deadline for filing the applications is June 1, 2010. PUBLIC INQUIRIES should be referred to 800-882-6597 or e-mail nj.taxation@treas.state.nj.us.
3. Local Finance Notice 2010-6, "Review of New Local Financial and General Government Laws - February 2010" covers laws enacted at the end of the last Legislative Session. The Notice (www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/lfns/10lfns/2010-06.doc) discusses a variety of new laws affecting municipal clerks, finance officers, tax collectors, and other officials. Please review it and share it with other officials as appropriate to your organization.
4. Local Finance Notice 2010-5 (www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/lfns/10lfns/2010-05.doc) outlines recent amendments to the Government Unit Deposit Protection Act made at the end of the last legislative session. All local finance personnel should be aware of it. No action is required at this time, and additional information will be forthcoming from the Department of Banking and Insurance.
5. Since the middle of 2009, the State has enacted a number of new laws that have an effect on all contracting units and boards of education covered under the Local Public Contracts Law and the Public School Contracts Law. Local Finance Notice 2010-4 (www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/lfns/10lfns/2010-04.doc) reviews the laws and provides guidance on their implementation. Local officials involved in the procurement process should immediately read the Notice and assess its impact on their organization.
6. Local Finance Notice 2010-3 (www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/lfns/10lfns/2010-03.doc) provides "Guidance on Current Issues in Local Government and Board of Education Procurement." This Notice contains important information for contracting units operating under the Local Public Contracts Law and the Public School Contracts Law. It should be carefully reviewed by all staff involved in local procurement policies.

Conferences:

1. The New Jersey State League of Municipalities is hosting 3 seminars (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 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. PCSA Application Deadline: Applications for State Per Capita Library Aid (PCSA) must be submitted to the New Jersey State Library by March 15, 2010. The application and instructions are available on the NJ State Library website at www.njstatelib.org/LDB/State_Aid/. If you have any questions regarding the application, please call the Library at 609-278-2640 ext. 133 or e-mail abhatnagar@njstatelib.org.

2. CY 2010 Statutory budget deadlines are extended to accommodate the planned March 16, 2010 presentation of the Governor's budget. The changes modify the statutory dates for introduction and adoption and Mayor/Council Faulkner Act budget transmissions. Details of all extensions, including that of cap referendums are in Local Finance Notice 2010-2 (www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/lfns/10lfns/2010-02.doc).

3. On January 18, 2010, P.L. 2009, c. 336 was signed into law. This law extends the expiration date of certain permits under the "Permit Extension Act of 2008," P.L. 2008, c.78, by an additional two and a half years. The law only changes the dates. All of the other terms and conditions of the Permit Extension Act remain as they were. Recently, the DCA Division of Codes and Standards provided guidance (www.nj.gov/dca/codes/misc/pdf/pea_2010_let_guide.pdf) to Construction Officials on the application of the Permit Extension Act. This information may be of value to other officials in your organization so please distribute it as appropriate.

4. 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

5. US Census Preparation: Municipalities across the country are urged by the US Census Bureau to establish a Complete Count Committee to ensure that all residents are counted. Given the importance of census data for state and federal aid, legislative apportionment, and economic analysis, every municipality has a stake in ensuring that all its residents are counted. The Complete Count Committee (CCC) program consists of community and government leaders dedicated to building awareness of the 2010 Census. Complete Count Committee Materials are available from the US Census website at <http://2010.census.gov/partners/national-complete-count-committee/>

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

- 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 February 24, 2010. This issue can be viewed online at:

www.nj.gov/dep/bulletin/bu2010_0224.pdf.

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

PLEASE REMEMBER: If your e-mail address changes please make the change to your GovConnect User Profile. If you change employers please send us the details by replying to this e-mail. Helpdesk 609.943.4724