



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

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

Sent: Thursday, July 02, 2009 2:08 PM

To: Lashway, Lisa

Subject: GovConnect Update: July 2, 2009

Dear GovConnect Colleague:

As we embark upon the new state fiscal year please take a few minutes to review recent developments in local government.

Login to GovConnect now at: <http://Portal.NJ.Gov>

New Items:

1. The Division has released the CY 2009 Statements of State Aid for property tax bills. Local Finance Notice 2009-14 (<http://www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/lfns/09lfns/2009-14.doc>) provides the procedures to be followed and the calculation of State aid that went into the statement. Statements must be downloaded from the Division's website at www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/muniaid/aidmenu.shtml.

2. Important budget and State aid information: Division staff is beginning the process of certifying all adopted budgets that have been received to date. State aid payment/recapitulation schedules will be made available in mid-July. The first CMPTRA/ETR payment is scheduled on or about July 31.

3. Local Finance Notice 2009-13, "GASB 45 - Other Post Retirement Benefits Update" is now available at www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/lfns/09lfns/2009-13.doc. This important Notice provides the Division's final guidance on implementing GASB 45 for all local units. It has specific direction and model languages for auditors to use in Notes Disclosure for local units participating in the State Health Benefits Program. It also includes guidance for local authorities and fire districts, and guidance for small local units (less than 100 employees) on actuarial reporting.

Reminders:

1. The State has recently enacted new laws and programs providing local governments with new authority and capability to reduce and improve their energy usage. To support these initiatives, the Division is releasing three new Local Finance Notices providing guidance and formal direction on implementing these new opportunities. Local units should carefully review these Notices at www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/lfns/lfnmenu.shtml and review them with the appropriate advisors or professionals. The Notices include the following:

2009-10 Contracting for Renewable Energy Services

2009-11 Implementing an Energy Savings Improvement Program 2009-12 BPU

Local Government Energy Audit Program

The Division's website has also added a section

(www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/lpcl/#energy) which aggregates a number of links concerning Energy related issues.

2. The Division of Taxation has extended the filing deadlines for 2008 homestead rebate and property tax reimbursement (Senior Freeze) applications from June 21, 2009 to August 17, 2009. Tax Collectors (only) may direct their questions to an EXCLUSIVE phone number 609-633-8433 or EXCLUSIVE mail to nj.propertytaxrelief@treas.state.nj.us.

3. The State Division of Purchase and Property regularly updates a "vehicle cutoff sheet" (www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/mnmaster.pdf) that shows summary information and the last date orders can be placed for each type of vehicle on a State contract. Purchasing agents may want to bookmark the site so they can link to it directly. A list of all vehicles, parts, and services State contracts is at www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/contract_types.shtml#15.

4. The Department of Community Affairs (DCA) invites municipalities with traditional downtowns or commercial corridors to apply to its Main Street New Jersey Program, which provides participating communities with proven technical assistance and training in revitalizing downtown business districts. The 2009 application process will begin with a free application workshop from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on June 30 at Thomas Edison State College in Trenton. Letters of Intent to Apply are due by July 30 and communities must submit their applications by September 9. Register at www.mainstreetnewjersey.com/regform_appwkshp.html or contact Jef Buehler (609) 633-9769.

5. Certification of Imaging Systems: Does your government agency scan public records? Did you know your imaging systems are required to be certified by the State Division of Archives and Records Management? Certification is required in State law that allows the replacement of public records with digital images, so long as the images are produced by a system that has been reviewed by DARM and certified by the State Records Committee. Compliance with certification regulations will help insure that the public records you are imaging today will be accurate and accessible for you and your constituents for the duration of their records retention lifespan. You can start the certification process at www.njarchives.org/links/imgcertification.html

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 June 24, 2009.
This issue can be viewed online at:
www.nj.gov/dep/bulletin/bu2009_0624.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.

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