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

Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2009 10:33 AM

To: Lashway, Lisa

Subject: GovConnect Update: September 29, 2009

Dear GovConnect Colleague:

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New Items:

1. 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.

2. 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

3. Proposal to Re-adopt N.J.A.C. 17:27 The State Division of Public Contracts and EEO Compliance has released a rule proposing a readoption of their rules regarding affirmative action in public contracts for public entities. The rule proposal contains a substantial number of changes to the existing rules. Public comments can be filed through October 16. The rule proposal can be downloaded from www.state.nj.us/treasury/contract_compliance/pdf/summary.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.

5. The State Department of Labor and Workforce Development has announced that the municipal government threshold for the New Jersey Prevailing Wage Act has increased to \$14,187.00 effective July 1st, 2009. The threshold remains at \$2,000.00 for work awarded by all other agencies, including boards of education, counties, local authorities, and other local government agencies. Laws and regulations about the Prevailing Wage Act are found at

http://lwd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/wagehour/lawregs/prevailing_wage_law.html.

6. 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.

Conferences:

1. A "Conference on New Jersey's Economy: Status of Gloom and Prospects for Bloom" will take place on October 2, 2009 at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers, 33 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ. From 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. some of New Jersey's most respected economists and practitioners will share up-to-date information about jobs, housing and markets, and discuss outlook and projections for future conditions and growth. Sponsored by the New Jersey State League of Municipalities Educational Foundation, breakfast is included for the \$35 fee. Registration information is available at www.njlmef.org/Registration-Form-Conference-100209.pdf.

2. 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 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/call102309_102909.html.

3. The State's Interagency Task Force on the Prevention of Lead Poisoning will be hosting a Conference on October 2, 2009 at the Sheraton Hotel in Edison. The "Lead and Beyond" Conference will feature key note speaker Terry Brennan who will discuss indoor environmental hazards including lead and mold. There will be workshops on the new EPA Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule as well as the Lead Hazard Control Assistance Fund and other state regulations relative to lead-based paint. Advance registration is required by September 16, 2009 and registrations at the door will not be accepted. For further INFORMATION or ASSISTANCE please call (732) 246-2525 ext. 23.

Reminders:

1. Effective September 1, 2009, the NJ Division of Purchase and Property (DPP) promulgated a contract from the National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA) that was awarded to Staples Advantage to be the single source of supply for the State's office suppliers, limited office

equipment and all copy paper. This new contract, term contract number M0052 and State contract number 74337, is also a cooperative contract and may be utilized by all authorized local units. The State's Method of Operation document and other contract information can be found on the Division of Purchase and Property webpage (www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/nea/contracts/m0052.shtml).

2. Rollover from 2009 Model Year to 2010 Model Year: The State Division of Purchase and Property fleet buyers are working to roll-over as many of vehicle contracts as possible to extend the ability of the state and cooperative purchasing partners to buy at existing pricing for longer periods of time. Local officials planning vehicle purchases should regularly review the website list showing the status of all vehicles (updated weekly) at: www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/mnmaster.pdf.

3. The Division of Taxation is pleased to announce that, like DLGS does with other local officials, it is now communicating with Municipal Tax Assessors and County Tax Administrators through the My New Jersey portal. CFO's have been asked to check with their Tax Assessor and ask if they have activated their membership in My New Jersey. If not, they should immediately review their emails for registration information. For assistance, they can contact Division of Taxation staff Dana Max at dana.max@treas.state.nj.us or Nichole Carthan at nichole.carthan@treas.state.nj.us.

4. OPRA Newsletter: The courts have recently rendered decisions that greatly impact the manner in which records custodians must respond to requests for government records under the New Jersey Open Public Records Act. The Government Records Council ("GRC") has included a discussion of these recent decisions in its latest issue of "OPRA Alert" (Volume 2/July 2009) which can be found in the Clerk's Document Library. You can contact the GRC at 609-292-6830 regarding OPRA issues and you can also subscribe to the GRC List-Serve at www.nj.gov/grc/news/news.

5. 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/>

6. 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 September 16,

2009. This issue can be viewed online at:
www.nj.gov/dep/bulletin/bu2009_0916.pdf.

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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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