



The Christie Administration Is Enabling Sandy-Impacted Communities To Maintain Vital Services As They Rebuild

New Jersey Governor Chris Christie today toured Toms River to highlight the Disaster Recovery Essential Services Grants that are helping the hardest-hit communities across the state provide critical services as they rebuild from Superstorm Sandy. Funded through New Jersey Disaster Recovery Action Plan approved by the Obama Administration in May, the Essential Services Grants are used to fund police, public works, education and emergency first aid squads. Today's event comes on the heels of New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Commissioner Richard E. Constable, III's visit last week to Sea Bright Borough, another community that is using its Essential Service Grant to help recover from Superstorm Sandy.

Essential Services Grants In Action: Keeping Critical Services Running While The Rebuilding Process Continues

The \$15.5 million Essential Services Grant awarded to Toms River Township is helping the community avoid the layoff of approximately 25 percent of its police force and the entire public works force assigned to residential trash and recycling pick-up. The grant is also preventing cut backs to the volunteer first aid squads and allowing the Township to maintain its building code officials and engineering personnel who are assisting residents in their rehabilitation and rebuilding efforts.

The \$12.5 million Essential Services Grant awarded to the Toms River Board of Education is enabling the school district to continue providing essential education services to students, while limiting the property tax increase to 2 percent on average for taxpayers.

In Sea Bright, the more than \$1 million Essential Services Grant is preventing the layoff or furlough of police officers, supporting the volunteer fire companies, and maintaining its residential garbage pick-up. The funding is also enabling the Borough to hire lifeguards and other public safety personnel to keep its beaches protected and to meet its obligation to the Two Rivers Water Reclamation Authority for processing the Borough's sanitary sewer system and maintaining the pump stations that direct the flow to the processing plant.

Providing Clear Guidance on Eligibility Requirements

To receive grant assistance, local governments must meet a minimum of the following requirements:

- Apply for insurance payments and all available federal assistance programs, including FEMA Public Assistance, FEMA Community Disaster Loan Program, and appropriately utilizing all such assistance to the extent available;
- Demonstrate cost restraints to minimize the need for assistance;
- Agree to allocate Essential Service Grant funds, if provided, only to essential services such as public safety and public works in accordance with CDBG Disaster Recovery requirements;
- Provide updated emergency management plans; and
- Demonstrate a commitment to rebuilding public property; facilitating the reconstruction of ratables in a manner designed to minimize recurring damage; and pursuing efficiencies through shared services or consolidation as deemed appropriate by local officials to address changed populations or service models.

For more information on the Essential Services Grant, visit: www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/dlgs/lfns/13/2013-15.pdf.