

Governor Phil Murphy

# ICYMI: Murphy Administration Announces More Than \$2.4 Million in Local Government Grant Awards in 2022 for Shared Services Initiatives

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*LEAP Grants Are Designed to Promote and Encourage the Sharing of Services*

**TRENTON** – The Murphy Administration and the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs’ (DCA) Division of Local Government Services (DLGS) today announced the award of 20 Local Efficiency Achievement Program (LEAP) grants to local governmental entities across New Jersey. These grants, totaling \$2.478 million, will help local governments pursue shared services initiatives to reduce taxpayer costs and enhance services. The grant awards will support the County Coordinator Fellowship program underway in several New Jersey counties while encouraging the design and implementation of a variety of shared services activities, including public safety, emergency dispatch, sanitation, public works, transportation, and school feasibility studies.

“The award of LEAP grants this year shows the continued commitment Governor Murphy and I have made to advancing shared services among local governments in New Jersey,” said **Acting Governor Sheila Oliver, who serves as DCA Commissioner**. “Shared services can and do work. We look forward to seeing the progress local governments make with these grants and we hope more communities take advantage of these grants in future funding rounds.”

The LEAP program comprises of three grant opportunities:

- Challenge Grants, which promote innovation and collaboration on more expansive projects that produce shared services of notable significance;
- Implementation Grants, which assist in covering costs associated with the implementation of shared services and school feasibility studies; and
- County Coordinator Fellowship Grants, which support the hiring of a full-time County Shared Service Coordinator to identify and advance potential shared services within a county.

“Helping local governments succeed is at the heart of the Division of Local Government Services’ mission. Without a doubt, this grant program advances our mission by giving local governments financial assistance in both studying and implementing shared services opportunities that reduce property taxes and solidify the services on which people rely,” said **DLGS Director Jacquelyn Suárez**. “LEAP is a worthwhile endeavor that our Division is proud to administer year in and year out.”

**The following local government entities will be awarded 2022 LEAP grants:**

Applicant	Grant Type	Grant Award
Atlantic County	County Coordinator Fellowship	\$50,000
Burlington County	County Coordinator Fellowship	\$50,000
Cumberland County	County Coordinator Fellowship	\$50,000
Hudson County	County Coordinator Fellowship	\$50,000
Somerset County	County Coordinator Fellowship	\$50,000
Union County	County Coordinator Fellowship	\$50,000
Haddonfield Borough	Challenge	\$75,000
Absecon City	Implementation	\$201,364
Atlantic County	Implementation	\$64,078
Belmar Borough	Implementation	\$243,750
Bernardsville Borough	Implementation	\$46,804
Hudson County	Implementation	\$250,000
Longport Borough	Implementation	\$56,250
Mount Olive Township	Implementation	\$112,500
Plumsted Township	Implementation	\$250,000
Robbinsville Township	Implementation	\$250,000
South Orange Village Township	Implementation	\$250,000
Sparta Township	Implementation	\$229,000
Ventnor City (1)	Implementation	\$37,500
Ventnor City (2)	Implementation	\$112,500
<b>Total Amount Awarded</b>		<b>\$2,478,746</b>

To support local governments’ interest in shared services, DLGS established the Local Assistance Bureau (LAB), which provides technical assistance for each step of the shared services process from identification through implementation. The LAB team is comprised of municipal professionals who possess expertise and accumulated knowledge, skill sets and insights to bring an inventive and professional outlook to the field of municipal shared services.

Additionally, in 2018, Governor Murphy appointed Nicolas Platt and Jordan Glatt to serve as Shared Services Czars, who are ready and available to provide guidance and support to local governments considering entrance into a shared service agreement.

"We are very pleased that local leaders are utilizing LEAP grants to examine ways to benefit their constituents, and we stand ready to assist them in this meaningful work," said **New Jersey Shared Services Czars and former Mayors Nicolas Platt and Jordan Glatt**. "Partnering with the Division of Local Government Services, we've made considerable progress in helping communities see the value and benefits of shared service agreements. We appreciate having the LEAP program as a trusted tool we can use as we continue our work."

Local governments interested in learning more about shared services can send an email to [localassistance@dca.nj.gov](mailto:localassistance@dca.nj.gov) (mailto:localassistance@dca.nj.gov) or visit [www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/dlgs/programs/lab.html](http://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/dlgs/programs/lab.html) ([https://urldefense.com/v3/\\_https://t.e2ma.net/click/r2s7lh/7ys5259b/n3qj5x\\_!!J30X0ZmC1oQtbaJI2hwhjQjWF3A5uOjd3dMMKif89IzuwNpiSa0NBa\\_n7e9B3HrdgkTAJdekdnCpr4ajObl2hAtFWWhV\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://t.e2ma.net/click/r2s7lh/7ys5259b/n3qj5x_!!J30X0ZmC1oQtbaJI2hwhjQjWF3A5uOjd3dMMKif89IzuwNpiSa0NBa_n7e9B3HrdgkTAJdekdnCpr4ajObl2hAtFWWhV$)).

The DCA offers a wide range of programs and services, including affordable housing production, fire safety, building safety, community planning and development, local government management and finance, and disaster recovery.

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## Statewide

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