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Christie Administration Announces Post-Sandy Planning Grant to Atlantic County

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Tags: [Hurricane Sandy](#)

Grant Will Help One of the Counties Hardest Hit by Superstorm Sandy with Long-Term Recovery and Resiliency Planning

Trenton, NJ – In the Christie Administration's ongoing effort to promote sound, sustainable long-term recovery from Superstorm Sandy, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Commissioner Richard E. Constable, III today announced the award of a \$30,000 Post-Sandy Planning Assistance Grant to Atlantic County to develop a long-range plan to enhance resiliency in the event of future severe weather events. Atlantic County can use the grant to hire licensed professional planners to evaluate the impacts of Superstorm Sandy and identify long-term strategies for resiliency and flood protection in the future. The Strategic Recovery Planning Report will focus on planning goals, strategies, and priorities that lead to actions that are most urgently needed for public safety and economic recovery.

"This grant will enable Atlantic County, which is one of the counties hardest hit by Superstorm Sandy, to develop a Strategic Recovery Planning Report that will serve as the County's primary guide for planning activities it takes moving forward to recover from Sandy and to reduce its vulnerability to future disasters," said Commissioner Constable, whose Department is administering many of the Sandy Recovery programs for the state.

The Post-Sandy Planning Assistance Grants are funded through Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery monies provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The \$5 million initially allocated to the program is currently available to each of the nine counties most impacted by Sandy as determined by HUD (Atlantic, Bergen, Cape May, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean and Union) and all of the municipalities within those counties that have experienced a ratable loss of at least 1% or \$1 million due to the storm.

The program provides funding in two phases. The first phase is producing a Strategic Recovery Planning Report as described above. To date, the DCA has awarded 44 Post-Sandy Planning Assistance Grants to assist local governments in completing this planning report. When their planning reports are done, local governments are then eligible to apply for Phase 2 Post-Sandy Planning Assistance Grants, which assist them with implementing the planning priorities identified in their Strategic Recovery Planning Report. For example, Phase 2 planning grants can help local governments fund initiatives to determine infrastructure needs to protect business districts on the waterfront from future storms; design standards to protect and increase resiliency in storm-affected neighborhoods; topographic surveys and preliminary engineering studies to gauge future infrastructure needs; and capital improvement plans that prioritize need based on the safety of residents. The Department has so far awarded Phase 2 Post-Sandy Planning Assistance Grants to 15 local governments.

To date, the DCA has approved \$5 million in Post-Sandy Planning Assistance Grants. Applications for Post-Sandy Planning Assistance Grants are still being accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis by the DCA's Office of Local Planning Services, which is administering the program, until all funds are exhausted.

For more information on Post-Sandy Planning Assistance Grants, go to <http://www.nj.gov/dca/services/lps/pspag.html>.

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Press Contact:
Michael Drewniak
Kevin Roberts
609-777-2600



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Office of the Governor
PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625
609-292-6000