

NJAC COUNTY BIZ

An Educational and Informative Newsletter for Counties and Businesses

New Jersey Association of Counties

ISSUE 125 - DECEMBER 2021

Managing Flooding With Predictive Analytics

by Jake Yockel, US Public Sector Account Executive for SAS



“Why do we call them 100-year storms when they seem to happen every year?” You may have heard a citizen ask this question.

Storm events are becoming more frequent and severe. As new development occurs upstream or in the vicinity of fragile wetlands, rainwater flows over impervious surfaces, surges into creeks and streams, and overflows onto roads and into buildings.

Everyone is talking about building resiliency, but how do we become more resilient in New Jersey when these storm and flood events are so catastrophic? Our current approach of relying heavily on humans to

identify rising water, redirect vehicles, evacuate people, and issue alerts is insufficient. Often, emergency responders and citizens only know about flooding as water is rising and it is often too late to prevent damage and unsafe conditions. So, it isn't surprising that elected and appointed leaders feel like we are losing a battle against flooding.

What can counties do to better understand the threat of flooding, be prepared, and respond swiftly? The answer lies in using data.

With the advent of weather-resistant sensors, fast communications, and advanced analytics, it is now possible to better anticipate, prepare, and respond to flooding.

By using large volumes of historical data from weather systems and data collected by water level sensors systems, we can quickly understand the current flooding environment and predict future flood events. This is accomplished by accessing and preparing relevant weather, environmental, sensor, and development data for modeling, simulation, and insight generation.

As you look to use technology to address flooding, seek a system that provides:

- Seamless integration between sensors, data storage, and analytics
- The means of ingesting copious amounts of sensor data
- Data management and data quality tools to prepare data critical to generating insights

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Managing Flooding With Predictive Analytics *(continued)*

- Interactive visualizations that highlight current dry and wet conditions as well as potential increase in flooding
- An alerting system that notifies emergency workers and citizens about rising water
- Scenario analysis that enables micro-simulations to be performed to better understand the impact of policy and development decisions on streams and floodplains
- Automatic, large-scale forecasting that enables time series and predictive modeling for the most accurate forecasts, given the uncertainty of weather events
- A solution that can use your institutional knowledge and models, allowing comparison to ensure the most accurate models.

With advanced data analytics, counties will be working smarter to be resilient as sea levels rise and the severity of storms increases.

To learn more, visit **SAS** or contact Jake Yockel, US Public Sector Account Executive, at Jake.Yockel@sas.com.



Don't Abandon Your Abandoned Vehicles

by Stacey Collier, Marketing Communications Specialist for GovDeals

With the lack of supply for new vehicles in the market, it may seem logical to hold on to your used and abandoned vehicles for a little longer. However, holding on to your county's older vehicles, confiscated beaters, and abandoned scrap, lovingly referred to as "that pile of stuff in the back lot" is not doing your agency any favors. We are currently in what can be called a "seller's market" for used vehicles. According to [Business Insider](#), a nine-year-old vehicle will net you 30% more in 2021 over 2020. That means the time to sell is now.

Just a few years ago, a normal car search included looking at several options online then driving to a car lot to physically see the car before making a purchase. Today that process has changed, cutting out the middleman. Now shoppers are not just doing their car research online, but also making their final purchases online more than ever.

Enter online auctions. Online auctions have significantly changed the way vehicles are bought and sold, offering a level of convenience previously impossible for both buyers and sellers. Gone are the days when buyers went out and bid at a specified place, at a specified time. Buyers now have the luxury of bidding on their own time from the comfort of their homes. This means that old truck you thought would ultimately end up as scrap has a better chance of finding a new home than ever before. The buyer could even come from several states away. That's the magic of the Internet.

Online auctions have provided a global platform for older trucks and vehicles to be resold, allowing for you, the fleet owners, to take advantage of the continuous demand.

Many small business owners look to the secondary market to purchase quality vehicles and equipment at reasonable prices. State and local agencies, like your county, can benefit from this demand by selling your surplus vehicles and parts, instead of waiting and letting them depreciate. Utilizing an online platform to sell your abandoned vehicles can help your county maximize the recovery value for your surplus and generate working revenue that can increase your bottom line while freeing up space in your yards.

Since 2008, GovDeals has partnered with the New Jersey Association of Counties to give counties across the state a platform to sell their surplus items. Last month alone, sellers across New Jersey sold nearly 250 vehicles and garnered \$709,801.08 in much needed earnings.

If your county has surplus vehicles, GovDeals' strongly urges you to consider listing those vehicles to sell today! If your county is interested in selling on GovDeals under the New Jersey Association of Counties contract, please visit the GovDeals.com/Becomeaseller page for more information or contact Mike Baker, Business Development Manager – Northeast Region at mbaker@govdeals.com or 609-713-7888.



GovDeals[®]
Online Government Surplus Auctions

LAST CHANCE REGISTRATION

***NJAC Year End Summit
Natural Disaster Response and Recovery
December 10th
Trenton Country Club, Trenton, NJ
Click [HERE](#) for More Information***

Now Is The Perfect Time For A Review Of Best Practices

by William Cherry, Former County Treasurer and Current Director of Public Partnerships for three+one

Dealing with the everyday challenges and anxieties of being a county finance official can be a daunting task. There are dozens of important duties and responsibilities vying for your time and attention.

Your weekly “to-do” list probably includes accounting duties, receipt of all revenues, budgeting, purchasing, internal auditing, accounts payable, managing grant funds, payroll functions, cybersecurity and fraud prevention, future cash forecasting, and monitoring the investments of public funds. The list could go on, but you already know there are a thousand and one things on your plate on any given day.

The fact that you are reading this article in the NJAC County Biz shows that you are always looking for ways to better serve the public. Now is an ideal time to do a review to see how you might work smarter and better on behalf of your county’s taxpayers.

I’ve always felt working in county government and managing public funds were a bit like juggling raw eggs. Things usually work out okay for the juggler when they’re done with practice, experience, and concentration... but not always. As taxpayers rightfully demand accuracy, accountability, and efficiency, that leaves little room for error.

No one serving in public finance wants to be the one who accidentally drops an egg. That’s why we should be continually looking for best practices, innovative new technologies, and time-saving tools that will allow us to better manage our workload.

The end of the year is a great time to review your cash-management practices to see if you could be earning higher revenues on deposits. Evaluating bank fees can often result in lower costs and more advantageous Earnings Credit Ratings. Written investment policies should be updated. It’s also a good fiscal policy to maximize the earnings on your ARP funds during the time those dollars still remain on deposit.

When it comes to innovative tools, **three+one**® employs the very latest financial technology to support all these tasks. Our **cashVest**® analysis helps finance offices determine precisely how much liquidity they have available and provides an accurate forecast of how long those funds should remain on deposit before they would be needed. cashVest then combines this data with information on the best available local and regional interest rates. All this gives you an independent third-party perspective that ensures your municipality’s liquidity is performing at the highest possible level. The impressive results will reassure auditors, county officials, and taxpayers, that their funds are being effectively managed on a consistent and ongoing basis.

Because none of us wants to be the person with egg on our face.

The author served for a total of 38 years in local government at the village, town, and county levels, including 24 years as a County Treasurer/CFO responsible for investing public funds. He can be reached by phone at 585-484-0311, ext. 709 or by email at wec@threeplusone.us

To learn more, visit three+one by clicking [here](#).



Mercer County Presents Findings Of First ‘Return on Environment Study’

by Julie Willmot, Director of Communications for Mercer County

Anecdotally, protected open space provides substantial economic, environmental and health benefits to surrounding communities, but these benefits are often overlooked or undervalued in policy and investment decisions. Armed with the belief that Mercer County’s vast inventory of preserved parks and open space delivers an economic benefit, Mercer County undertook its first “Return on Environment” study, the results of which were announced recently by Mercer County Executive Brian M. Hughes and County Planning Director Leslie Floyd.



Mercer County’s Rosedale Park

A Return on Environment study is an economic analysis of the benefits of land preservation in the areas of Home and Property values, Economic Activity, Environmental Services, and the Direct Use Benefits of health and recreation. Mercer County, with the assistance of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC), undertook the study to glean “a better understanding of how protected open space contributes to Mercer’s economic development and fiscal stability,” Mr. Hughes said, adding that outcomes of the study “should help reverse the misconception that undeveloped land is non-productive and non-revenue producing.”

The study analyzed more than 38,995 total acres of protected open space and approximately 39,600 homes sales in Mercer County from 2000 to 2020 to estimate the effect of protected open space on residential property values and the resulting fiscal impacts. Among the key findings were:

Home and Property values. There is \$791 million in added value of housing stock located within a half-mile of protected open space. The average increase in the value of a home located within a half-mile of open space is \$7,100, leading to \$21.5 million in increased property tax revenue. For example, homes within a half-mile of Mercer Meadows, a 1,600-acre, well-maintained park in the county’s northwest corner, are worth an additional 15.1 percent.



The Rogers House in Mercer County Park

Economic Activity. The study showed that open space and farmland generates jobs, including management, maintenance, production and distribution, and attracts people to spend in the region. The direct spending that goes to labor incomes gets circulated back into the local economy. The study found \$104 million in expenditures; 980 jobs through upkeep, farming and agricultural tourism; and \$40 million in annual salaries.

Environmental Services. Evaluated were the benefits of open space on air pollution removal, water supply protection, water quality, flood mitigation, wildlife habitat conservation, and carbon sequestration and storage. Combined, these benefits create ecosystem functions that would be costly to replicate. The study found the value of \$97.6 million annually from water supply replenishment, water quality improvement, flood mitigation, air pollution removal and carbon storage in trees; and \$102.1 million annually in avoided stormwater system maintenance and pollution removal costs.



Trail Riding at Mercer Meadows

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Mercer County Presents Findings Of First ‘Return On Environment’ Study *(continued)*

Direct Use Benefits. The study found that access to free and low-cost recreational activities not only leads to a healthier community, it also boosts the economy. Mercer County’s open space is responsible for \$47.6 million annually in recreation benefits for residents; \$84.1 million annually in avoided medical costs; and \$65.2 million annually in the avoidance of lost productivity.

“This report quantifies the economic benefits and supports the investments we have made in acquiring and caring for Mercer County open space parcels,” Mr. Hughes said. “Mercer County will continue to strategically acquire key parcels to expand on and improve our existing parks and open spaces, and increase our focus on stewardship – caring for the land to ensure its health and vitality – and continue to provide a range of activities for our residents.” To view the full report and executive summary, go to <https://www.mercercounty.org/departments/planning/return-on-environment>



Save The Dates and Come Join Us!!

December 10th, 2021 at the Trenton Country Club

- NJAC Summit on Natural Disaster Response and Recovery
- Discuss county governments’ role in responding to and recovering from natural disasters in the wake of Hurricane Henri and Tropical Storm Ida.

January 26th-28th, 2022 at Harrah’s Atlantic City

- NJASA - New Jersey Association of School Administrators
- New Jersey's premiere educational technology training and exhibition conference for school leaders

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(732) 222-0997



Workforce Management And ERP

by Michael Galello, Industry Marketing Manager Public Sector for UKG

An enterprise resource planning (ERP) system provides a solid foundation for back-office tasks but falls short when it comes to front-end time and labor. This leaves your employees and managers to fill the gaps with shadow systems, spreadsheets, paper forms, or manual entry. Hello, compliance risks.

The Solution? **Pair your ERP with a workforce management solution.** Together, they help optimize labor costs, avoid grievances, and give taxpayers confidence in spending.

A comprehensive **workforce management solution** encompasses all the activities, tools, and processes needed for scheduling and tracking workers, as well as workforce planning and forecasting. This integrated set of tools helps governments optimize the balance among customer, employee, and organizational needs, and labor law compliance.

An **ERP** is ideal for *back-office* functions, like finance and IT, which don't vary from agency to agency. Its functionality is amplified when integrated with workforce management to address the unique operational needs of different agencies.

With a workforce management system on the front-end of your ERP, agencies and departments are empowered to meet their own complex business needs, creating an enterprise-wide solution that works for everyone and eliminates the need for siloed systems.



Lay the Groundwork for Data-Backed Decisions

Despite increasing functionality in ERPs, a single-vendor solution isn't viable with today's pace of change. Gaining efficiencies and realizing cost savings requires technology that can help you manage your workforce and meet industry-specific needs. Rich workforce insights combine with the data in your ERP to deliver key metrics around operations, allowing you to gain efficiencies, control costs, minimize compliance risk, and maintain accuracy. It's the insight governments need to:

- Save budget dollars
- Reinvest in employees
- Protect and enhance services

Despite increasing functionality in ERPs, a single-vendor solution isn't viable with today's pace of change. Gaining efficiencies and realizing cost savings requires technology that can help you manage your workforce and meet industry-specific needs.

See how [UKG workforce management](#) can support your municipality's transformation initiative.



SAVE THE DATE

*NJAC Celebration of County Government
May 3rd thru 6th
Caesars, Atlantic City, New Jersey*

7 Ideas From Local Government Leaders To Borrow

by Megan Olson, Manager for Content Marketing for OpenGov Inc.

In October, dozens of city and county leaders from across the U.S. shared their best ideas at [OpenGov Transform](#), a virtual conference. Local government leaders came together to discuss strategies for transforming communities through better equitable data use, improved cybersecurity measures, building stronger teams and more.

Through the week of sessions -- spanning budgeting, finance, citizen services, and procurement -- Seven ideas came up repeatedly:

1. Automating current budget processes is a priority.

For more than half of the attendees, automating current budget processes is a primary focus for the next year. Local government agencies are planning their budgets on digital platforms, leading to collaboration across departments, streamlined budgeting process, and fewer internal inefficiencies.

2. Data is being used to advance equity by informing policy and funding initiatives.

When a community's data is properly utilized, funds can be allocated to the programs that make the most impact. Local governments are making data-driven decisions to make improvements through policy and service delivery. Not to mention, governing with data allows leaders to justify the budget for important resource allocation.

3. IT is taking a more strategic role in government.

IT departments across the country are collaborating more with different areas of their agencies. Their initiatives are enabling the digital transformation, facilitating performance measures, improving service levels to meet resident expectations, and bringing people across government together around use cases.

4. Advice from women leading the government transformation.

One of the most inspiring sessions (log in to see all sessions) discussed what's needed to enable the next generation of local government talent. Speakers shared advice on leadership, professional growth, and taking charge of change. The panel included:

- Elizabeth Tanner, Director, Department of Business Regulation, State of RI
- Sharon Stanley, Director, Support Services Agency, City of Cobb County, GA
- Lyn Farrow, Assistant City Manager, City of Annapolis, MD
- Nuria Rivera-Vandermyde, City Manager, City of Boulder, CO

5. Government budgets are being driven by strategy.

Thanks to improvements in [budgeting tools and software built for government](#), budget planning is more strategic than ever. Budget maturity models, equity budgeting and citizen engagement are leading to a more collaborative, outcome-focused budgeting process across the country.

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7 Ideas From Local Government Leaders To Borrow *(continued)*

6. Reporting the use of ARPA funds is an organizational challenge.

As governments across the country are planning how to spend ARPA funds, reporting and transparency is a challenge for many. Agencies are looking for tools and technology to help with this 6-year reporting marathon, such as OpenGov's free eBook on [10 Tips for Success with ARPA Reporting](#).

7. Governments are future-planning for risk events.

Whether it's through people, process, or technology, local governments are planning now to improve organizational resilience around embezzlement, ransomware attacks, break-ins, natural disasters, and other events. They are mitigating risk by upgrading technology, making contingency plans, and training staff to make the best decisions around risk.

Overall, attendees were inspired by the strategic changes being made in local governments. We're thankful to each and every government panelist that shared their insights. If you missed these informative discussions led by and for government leaders, [all OpenGov Transform sessions are available here](#). It's not too late to experience them yourself.



OLHCHH And HHS Free Webinar

The HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes (OLHCHH), in partnership with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) invite YOU to attend a FREE webinar on grant writing. The event will take place on December 10 2021 from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. This will be a virtual event and although the targeted audiences will be the U.S. Virgin Islands, other jurisdictions and states in Region II are also welcome to attend.

Attendees will learn on how to address key federal grant application components and find out how HUD OLHCHH's programs provide for healthier communities and families. A link will be provided to you after registration.

Registration Link Below:

<https://apps.hud.gov/emarc/index.cfm?fuseaction=emar.registerEvent&eventId=4163&update=N>

SHARE THE NEWS!

Let us know what educational or informational articles you would like published in the [NJAC COUNTY BIZ](#)

Contact

Loren Wizman, Director of Business Development
(609) 394-3467 or loren@njac.org

Nationwide Economics

Weekly Economic Review & Outlook for November 22, 2021

by Ben Ayers, Senior Economist of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company and
Daniel Vielhaber, Economist of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company

Weekly Review

Economic data released last week were mostly better than expected as consumers have so far brushed aside higher inflation to continue to spend. Industrial production increased as auto companies ramped up assembly while housing data continue to be held back by supply constraints.

Retail sales bounce on broad-based spending

Retail sales jumped by 1.7 percent while the retail control group (the part that feeds into GDP) was up by 1.6 percent. Spending gains were broadly based with 11 of 13 categories increasing on the month. Several of the categories that led the rise were among those most impacted by supply shortages, including gas stations, motor vehicles and parts, electronics, and building materials.

Importantly, this report shows positives on two fronts; that there is some supply chain healing and that consumers are willing to spend after a lull over the summer month following an uptick in Covid cases. To be sure, Covid is going to remain a factor for some time, likely causing ebbs and flows in spending data, and supply chains won't return to normal immediately. But the signs that there is improvement on both fronts suggest that consumers and businesses are becoming more resilient in the face of these complications.

Even removing the impact of inflation on the reported nominal retail sales, spending still grew by 0.65 percent on a real basis. This is a jump from 0.41 percent for September, showing building momentum into the end of the year. It also shows that demand is picking up rather than consumers simply paying more for the same items being purchased. Retail sales (and consumer spending more broadly) are likely to continue to be solid into the new year as wages rise and more people return to work.

Industrial production hints at easing of semiconductor shortage

Industrial production rose by 1.6 percent for October, bringing the year-over-year growth rate up to 5.1 percent. The improvement was driven by a strong rebound in auto production, up by 11 percent for the month. Mining activity rose to an expansion peak, recovering from the hit from Hurricane Ida and responding to higher energy prices. More manufacturing production will be needed to meet higher energy prices. More manufacturing production will be needed to meet demand and depleted inventories, but this is another positive sign of healing. While inventories have been exceptionally low, business inventories grew by a solid 0.7 percent for October. A key factor in economic growth for 2022 will be the impact that rebuilding inventories will play. For example, despite the sharp slowdown in third-quarter real GDP growth, inventory changes added roughly two percentage points to the overall total. The impact on growth could be sizeable next year if significant progress is made in restoring supply chains.

Housing data pointed jaggedly higher

Homebuilder sentiment rose for a third straight month in November as prospective buyer traffic and new home sales picked up. There are still factors holding back production (labor, building supplies, etc.), but there continues to be plenty of demand despite higher prices. This can be seen in the jump in building permits which were up by 4.0 percent, with single-family permits increasing by 2.7 percent. Housing starts fell, however, declining by 0.7 percent (with single-family starts down by 3.9 percent). Underlying demand remains strong for housing, but continued supply constrains continue to hold the sector back.

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Nationwide Economics *(continued)*

The Week Ahead

Pullback in existing home sales expected

Existing home sales rose for September to their highest level since January, even as homes for sale dropped a tad and remain close to historical lows. While demand factors are still strong (large job gains and low mortgage rates), it will be difficult to keep up September's pace for a second straight month, particularly with September's pending home sales falling. We project a modest drop in the annualized pace of existing home sales to a still-strong 6.12 million units for October.

New home sales likely climbed again

New home sales also jumped for September, posting their largest month-over-month increase since July 2020 when the housing market was still recovering from the Covid shutdown. As with existing homes, demand factors for new homes are strong, and the market for new homes continues to benefit from the very low supply of existing homes for sale (which push some prospective home buyers into the market for new homes). Additionally, the current sales component of the NAHB housing market index and the MBA's builder application survey both climbed for October. We project another increase in the pace of new home sales to 845,000 units for October, which would be the fastest pace since March.

Strong gains expected for personal consumption expenditures and prices

Personal consumption expenditures (PCE) have been strong despite plummeting vehicle sales (rising prices have helped to offset declining unit sales for vehicles). In October, however, vehicle sales climbed and, combined with continued strong demand elsewhere (as seen in retail sales), this should lead to further increases in PCE. Additionally, spending on services has been solid, and there is no reason to expect it to have tailed off. We project growth in PCE of 1.0 percent for October. Inflation continues to run hot, as shown by the jump in the October CPI. We expect the core PCE price index (which removes the volatile food and energy components) rose by 0.4 percent for the month, which would boost the trend 12-month growth rate up to 4.1 percent-the fastest pace since 1990.

For further information please contact Emanuel Mahand, Program Director of DE/NJ/PA, at MAHAND@nationwide.com, or Bina Kumar, Managing Director - East Region, at kumarb1@nationwide.com.



BECOME A MEMBER OF THE NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

Learn about the benefits of being a part of NJAC and how you can join.

Contact Loren Wizman, Business Development Director at
(609) 394-3467

or

loren@njac.org [Click here for an application.](#)

Residents Move Up The Economic Ladder

by Paul Guequierre, Director of Communications for NACo

County governments play an instrumental role in building economic resilience and supporting the economic well-being of residents. That's according to a [new report](#), County Levers to Drive Economic Mobility, released by the National Association of Counties (NACo).

The report details seven key issue areas in which counties are driving economic mobility: housing, education and workforce development, health, community and neighborhood development, justice and public safety, technology and information access, and financial security.

Investing in critical human services programs, passing policy resolutions or ordinances, and forming impactful partnerships are among the levers-or tools-counties are deploying to help residents, particularly the most vulnerable, move up the economic ladder.

"Counties have a vested interest in the economic well-being of our residents," said NACo Executive Director Matthew Chase. "County leaders across the country are pursuing innovative approaches to create economic opportunities and support the upward economic mobility of our residents."

NACo's report focuses on the underlying elements of economic mobility and identifies how county leaders can leverage county policy, planning and service delivery as levers to foster upward mobility for residents.

Examples include:

- **Palm Beach County, Fla.**, the third-largest county in Florida, launched the Securing Our Future Initiative. This collaborative effort aims to reduce poverty in Palm Beach County and create pathways to economic mobility for families with children living below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. The county also created an Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion to ensure that all county programs are equitable.
- **Erie County, Pa.** initiated the *Choose Erie* program, which helps attract and establish private and nonprofit organizations in the community. The initiative leverages many avenues designed to attract business development, including a data dashboard showcasing the county's economic indicators, access to resources and connections to foster development and low-interest financing options.
- **Mobile County, Ala.** Worked with partners to launch *Bank on South Alabama*, a coalition of organizations and local governments. The initiative's activities include outreach to unbanked and underbanked individuals, providing financial education and offering resources to assist individuals in achieving financial stability.

The report finds that neighborhoods with high upward mobility levels possess common characteristics, such as less residential segregation, lower rates of inequality by income and race, lower violent crime rates, better educational opportunities, and access to well-paying jobs.

The report includes research and case studies from a diverse sample of counties in NACo's [Economic Mobility Leadership Network](#): Bernalillo County, N.M.; Coconino County, Ariz.; Erie County, Pa.; Franklin County, Ohio; Fulton County, Ga.; Garrett County, Md.; Hennepin County, Minn.; Howard County, Md.; Loudoun County, Va.; Mercer County, W.Va.; Mobile County, Ala.; Multnomah County, Ore.; Nassau County, N.Y.; Palm Beach County, Fla.; Pinellas County, Fla.; Tarrant County, Texas; and Waukesha County, Wis.

Read the full report [here](#).



Webinars

ARPA Usage Series with Esri and NACo: Transportation and Transit

Dec. 6, 2021 , 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Contact Cara Hackett (202) 661-8835 chackett@naco.org

REGISTRATION

This is an external webinar hosted by Esri. For technical assistance, please contact the webinar coordinator.

Federal relief funding for the COVID-19 pandemic provides governments with an opportunity to invest in their communities and advance the use of technology. This new webinar series from the National Association of Counties (NACo) and Esri will answer questions and provide tips to help align your local priorities with funding opportunities to strengthen your technological investments.

Each webinar will highlight existing federal programs, provide examples of how other jurisdictions are using federal relief funding, and show how your investment in GIS can support your recovery initiatives.

ARPA Usage Series with Esri and NACo: Broadband

Dec. 8, 2021 , 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Contact Cara Hackett (202) 661-8835 chackett@naco.org

REGISTRATION

This is an external webinar hosted by Esri. For technical assistance, please contact the webinar coordinator.

Federal relief funding for the COVID-19 pandemic provides governments with an opportunity to invest in their communities and advance the use of technology. This new webinar series from the National Association of Counties (NACo) and Esri will answer questions and provide tips to help align your local priorities with funding opportunities to strengthen your technological investments.

Each webinar will highlight existing federal programs, provide examples of how other jurisdictions are using federal relief funding, and show how your investment in GIS can support your recovery initiatives.

Virtual Convening: Connecting Vulnerable Households to the Child Tax Credit

Dec. 10, 2021 , 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

REGISTRATION

This is an external webinar hosted by the [Center for Intergovernmental Partnerships at the National Academy of Public Administration](#). For assistance, contact the event coordinators.

The Center for Intergovernmental Partnerships at the National Academy of Public Administration will hold a convening to discuss the Child Tax Credit on Friday, December 10, 2021, at 2:00 pm (ET) in collaboration with the National Association of Counties and the American Public Human Services Association. This discussion will feature representatives from state and local governments as well as nonprofits to discuss our collective progress in connecting vulnerable households with the expanded Child tax Credit. The convening aims to address what is working well, what challenges lie ahead, and what opportunities exist to increase enrollment among parents of the estimated 4 million children eligible for this benefit in 2022.



NJAC SUMMIT ON NATURAL DISASTER RESPONSE & RECOVERY*December 10, 2021*

9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Trenton Country Club, 201 Sullivan Way, Trenton, New Jersey

Thank you for joining NJAC for an important and timely discussion on county governments' role in responding to and recovering from natural disasters in the wake of Hurricane Henri and Tropical Storm Ida. **Registration & Continental Breakfast available between 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.*

NJAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

SUMMIT WELCOME

9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

KEYNOTE OPENING SPEAKER

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

*Shawn M. La Tourette, Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection***RESPONDING TO AND PLANNING FOR NATURAL DISASTERS**

10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Subject matter experts from across the State will examine their efforts in preparing for and responding to natural disasters that have been occurring with greater frequency and impact. *Eric Scott with Townsquare Media to moderate both panels!*

- Shaun Golden, Sheriff, Monmouth County
- Brayden Fahey, OEM Coordinator, Hunterdon County
- Rob Reale, Director of Meteorological Services, Weather Works
- Patrick Cornbill, Federal Coordinating Officer, FEMA Region 2

COFFEE BREAK

11:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

RECOVERING FROM NATURAL DISASTERS

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

County, state, federal, and other leading authorities will discuss key strategies for recovering from natural disasters and mitigating damages caused by future catastrophic events.

- John Pulomena, County Administrator, Middlesex County
- JB Cuartas, Director of Reliability & Security, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
- Rosie Taravella, CEO, American Red Cross New Jersey Region
- Adrian Leary, Assistant Chief of Planning, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers

KEYNOTE CLOSING SPEAKER AND LUNCHEON

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Patrick J. Callahan, Colonel, New Jersey State Police

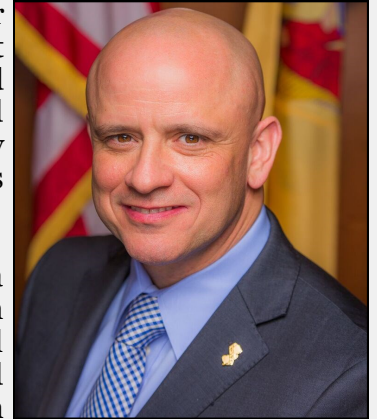
Please visit our website at www.njac.org or call (609) 394-3467 for additional details!

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

9-1-1 FEE DIVERSION

NJAC is pleased to report that Assemblyman William Spearman (*D-5*) and Senator Kristen Corrado (*R-40*) have introduced bi-partisan legislation on our behalf that would permit funds from the "9-1-1 System and Emergency Response Trust Fund Account (Fund)" to be appropriated for the purposes of paying certain costs incurred by counties and municipalities for the provision and maintenance of 9-1-1 emergency services; and, would further require the funds to be distributed on a prioritized basis to county, regionalized, or centralized public safety answering points.

NJAC strongly supports this important and timely initiative as it would provide a realistic funding mechanism intended to restore critical Fund dollars with an incentive for local governing bodies to share valuable resources and services. Special thanks to Assemblyman Spearman and Senator Corrado for their hard work and leadership on championing this long-standing objective of the Association of which we're encouraging all 21 counties to adopt a resolution in support of **A-5962** and **S-4051** accordingly. As a recap, the State of New Jersey has once again earned the unfortunate distinction of being the worst offender of diverting 9-1-1 fees in the entire nation. As has been well documented, the State collects annually from consumers approximately \$122,905,000.00 million in telecommunication surcharges as 9-1-1 System and Emergency Response Fees (Fees) and deposits these monies into the 9-1-1 System and Emergency Trust Fund Account (Fund). In fact, the Garden State has collected approximately \$1.5 billion in Fees since 2006 with only 11% of Fund monies being spent on eligible expenses.



John G. Donnadio, Esq.

Moreover, the State has failed to provide any funding for eligible expenses to local 9-1-1 centers operated by counties and municipalities and is the only state in the nation that doesn't share 9-1-1 monies. Instead, the State has diverted Fund dollars to cover general operating expenses in the Department of Law and Public Safety. As previously reported, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) concluded in its recent "Annual Report on the Collection and Use of 9-1-1 Fees," that New Jersey diverted \$92,083,000.00 of the \$122,905,000.00 it collected in 911 fees. As a direct result of this longstanding misallocation of funds, the FCC adopted rules in 2018 that now prohibit New Jersey, and its counties and municipalities, from applying for millions of dollars in federal grant monies to upgrade 9-1-1 centers with Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1) capabilities. Additionally, the FCC is in the process of establishing the "Ending 9-1-1 Fee Diversion Now Strike Force" (9-1-1 Strike Force), which will focus on ending the diversion of 9-1-1 fees by States like New Jersey, Nevada, New York, Rhode Island, and West Virginia.

For the record, local governments as first responders, handle the vast majority of the State's 911 calls through local public safety answering points (PSAPs) and have come to inequitably rely on the collection of local property taxpayer dollars to improve, operate, and maintain 911 systems. County governments alone spent an estimated \$175.0 million over the last several years on capital improvements for facility upgrades, telephone systems, computer aided dispatch, location mapping technology, voice recording technology, data analytics, and NG911 upgrades. Counties also spend an estimated \$96.0 million per year on general operating expenses for salaries, staff training, system maintenance, network security, and IT consulting services.

REGISTER TODAY

**NJAC Year End Summit
Natural Disaster Response and Recovery
December 10th**

Please Click [HERE](#) for More Details!

EVENTS & HOLIDAYS

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			<p>1 A Very Electric Christmas 7:30 p.m. Visit Here State Theatre <i>New Brunswick Middlesex County</i></p>	<p>2 Clinton Guild Christmas Parade 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. 12/3 FREE Center of Clinton <i>Clinton Hunterdon County</i></p>	<p>3 German Christmas Market of NJ 12 p.m. - 9 p.m. 12/3, 12/4 & 12/5 County Fairgrounds <i>Augusta Sussex County</i></p>	 <p>10 a.m. - 5 p.m. FREE Somers Mansion <i>Somers Point Atlantic County</i></p>
<p>5 Polar Express 2, 4, & 6 p.m. Lehigh Junction <i>Phillipsburg Warren County</i></p>	<p>6 Last Day Of  11/28-12/6</p>	<p>7 Deck the Halls - A Holiday Concert - Oak Singers 3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. 12/11 Salem Community College <i>Carneys Point Salem County</i></p>	<p>8 4-H Holiday Craft Festival 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 12/11 FREE Ted Blum 4-H Center <i>Bridgewater Township Somerset County</i></p>	<p>Wreck The Halls! Flea Market 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. 12/11 & 12/12 CURE Arena Parking Lot #2 <i>Trenton Mercer County</i></p>	<p>10 Magic of Lights 5 p.m. - 11 p.m. PNC Bank Arts Center <i>Holmdel Monmouth County</i></p>	<p>11 Holiday Craft Show 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. 12/10, 12/11 & 12/12 National Guard Armory <i>Morristown Morris County</i></p>
<p>12 Festival of Lights 11 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Reeves-Reed Arboretum <i>Summit Union County</i></p>	<p>13 The NJ Ballet Presents: Nutcraker 6 p.m. 12/12 Levoy Theatre  <i>Millville Cumberland County</i></p>	<p>14 Craft & Antique Show 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 12/11 FREE Rancocas Woods <i>Mount Laurel Burlington County</i></p>	<p>15 Drive Thru Holiday Light Show 5:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Tickets here Diggerland <i>West Berlin Camden County</i></p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 Food & Film 12 p.m. - 3 p.m. Camp Hope <i>Milford Passaic County</i></p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 Holiday in the Park Every Weekend  <i>Jackson Ocean County</i></p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 South Jersey Holiday Lights Show 5 p.m. Opens Tickets here Bridgeport Speedway <i>Swedesboro Gloucester County</i></p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	
<p>26 Bergen County's Winter Wonderland 4 p.m. Last Train Visit Here Van Saun County Park <i>Paramus Bergen County</i></p>	<p>27 Wassail Day & Winter Encampment 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. 12/4 \$3 entry fee Historic Cold Spring Village <i>Cape May Cape May County</i></p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30  1 p.m. - 5 p.m. 12/31 Prudential Center <i>Newark Essex County</i></p>	<p>31 Fireworks Dinner Cruise 10 p.m. - 1 a.m. Spirit of NJ Lincoln Harbor Marina <i>Weehawken Hudson County</i></p>	