

NJAC COUNTY BIZ

An Educational and Informative Newsletter for Counties and Businesses

New Jersey Association of Counties

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A Renewed Need For COVID Testing

by Kate Brickman, Director of Communications for Vault Health

As we near the two-year anniversary of the first case of COVID in the United States and face an imminent wave of the new Omicron variant, the need for reliable testing infrastructure continues to be paramount.

New Jersey residents can be grateful that Governor Murphy and Health Commissioner Persichili have invested in a program to provide easy and reliable access to free COVID testing, whenever they need it. The new [at-home testing program launched this month](#), providing at-home COVID-19 saliva testing for any person who believes they need to be tested, with or without symptoms, offers tests to residents at no cost. Vault's PCR test is the gold standard in testing, providing the most accurate results to people of all ages. The tests can be used by anyone capable of spitting into a tube and are delivered right to your door, with quick results.



For residents, it means being able to easily show proof of a negative COVID test, whether required for traveling, work, or attending an event. It means being able to test yourself and your family before that holiday gathering and after traveling, before returning to the classroom or workplace, and when you're not sure whether you've come down with a cold, or something more serious. As positivity rises, it's more important than ever to have easy access to reliable testing.

For public health officials, this program also offers access to critical information used to learn more about the spread of the virus and how to stop it.

As Omicron - the latest variation of COVID-19 - spreads across the world, epidemiologists are relying on PCR tests to examine the genetic makeup of the virus and its rate of spread. While antigen or rapid tests offer an immediate positive or negative result (particularly useful for people with symptoms who need an immediate answer), they provide no information to public health about how the multiple variants are spreading across communities. Vault's PCR test makes this genetic analysis possible, which is how the first cases of Omicron were detected in the United States and how public health officials will study this new strain to learn how transmissible it is and how it affects vaccinated and unvaccinated people differently.

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A Renewed Need For COVID Testing *(continued)*

Beyond the new at-home program, available to every New Jersey resident, Vault continues to meet the testing needs of employers, overly strained health care systems, sports teams and many others by providing both rapid tests for the immediate responses needed, as well as the confirmatory PCR testing, for the extra measure of accuracy and continued benefit to public health officials.

Vault can also help members of NJAC by testing unvaccinated employees and collecting vaccination data on your entire workforce, if desired or required.

Vault's new COVID Compliance Solution surveys employees and assesses who is vaccinated and who isn't, and collects the appropriate verification data. For those employees who are not vaccinated, they're automatically enrolled in regular COVID testing, whether done from the comfort of their home or through a work-sponsored testing event.

At Vault Health, we continue to be on the front lines of the pandemic and we're grateful for our many governmental and public health partners who empower us to fight the disease alongside their communities.

To learn more, visit [Vault Health](#)



Thank You New Jersey For A Successful 2021

by Stacey Collier, Marketing Communications Specialist for GovDeals

As we reflect on the previous year, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all our sellers in New Jersey for their business. Your participation in our marketplace allows us all to strive towards a more sustainable future. We at GovDeals are grateful for your continued support!

It has certainly been an exciting year for the state of New Jersey! During 2021, Counties in New Jersey sold more than 1,100 items, accumulating \$11.6 million in surplus revenue for their state. These agencies sold everything from real estate, heavy equipment, cars, trucks, and SUVs, to computers, office equipment and furniture. Our clients in New Jersey never disappoint us with their variety of surplus!

Thank you for doing business with us and contributing towards our mission of reducing waste and creating a more sustainable future for surplus!

If your county is interested in utilizing the GovDeals platform through our partnership with the New Jersey Association of Counties, please contact Mike Baker, Northeast Representative at 609-713-7888 or by email at mbaker@govdeals.com to find out more details.

Or visit GovDeals.com/BecomeaSeller to sign on as a seller.



How Nevada County, CA, Is Using Zencity And Community Feedback Data For Performance Management

by Inbal Naveh Safir, Director of Content Strategy for Zencity

Introduction

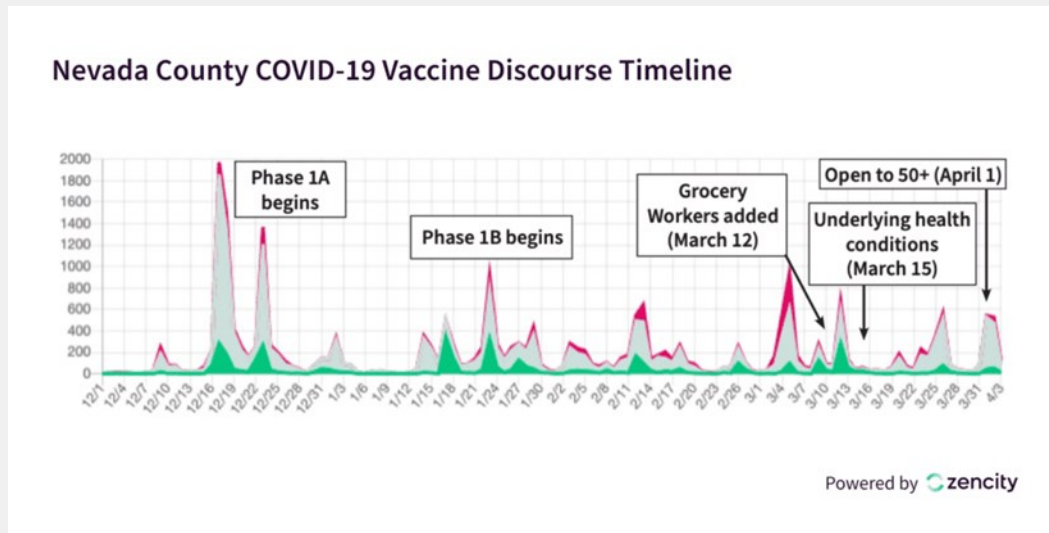
Nevada County's leadership regularly uses Zencity as a performance management tool, continuously [measuring resident satisfaction levels](#) to identify and track community trends and sentiment. As the county navigates major strategic challenges, like Covid vaccine rollouts, performance management based on community feedback data has been a key part of the County's success.

The Challenge

At the start of 2021, Nevada County, CA, like many counties around the nation, launched its Covid-19 vaccine operations. With limited doses for eligible community members and no clear guidelines yet set by the [California Department of Public Health](#), the County had to determine how to prioritize vaccines and resident eligibility. The County decided – uniquely and with no state mandate to back it up – that it would vaccinate educators first, followed by healthcare workers, the elderly, and vulnerable populations. The County wanted to understand how community members felt about its strategic prioritization. Were they aligned? Was the County's approach to vaccinations on the right track?

The Zencity Solution

County management turned to Zencity to answer these questions and determine the best plan of action moving forward by monitoring resident discourse and analyzing sentiment in the County's Covid-19 Vaccine Project dashboard.



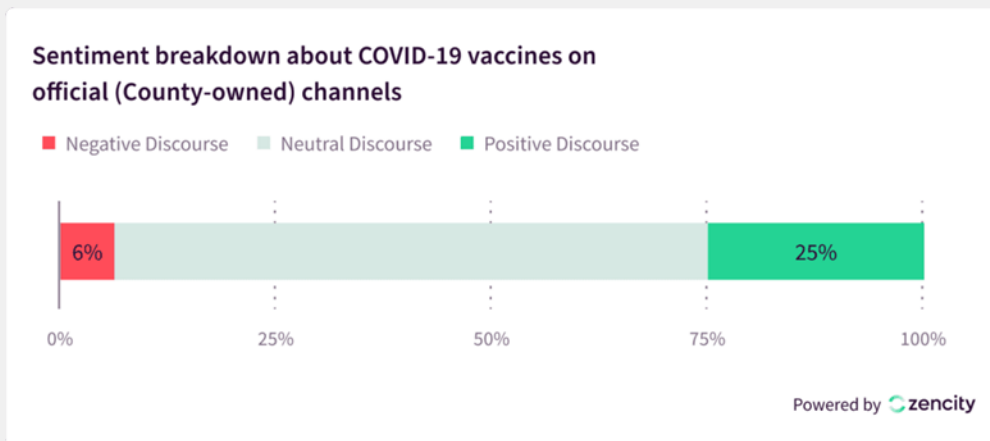
Impact

The Nevada County government's Zencity dashboard showed that the public's reaction to the County's vaccine strategy and prioritization was favorable; from December through April, **positive sentiment from resident's online discourse towards the County's vaccine messaging measured more than 4x higher than negative sentiment**. Shortly after, the State followed with a mandate to allocate a certain number of vaccines to educators which was not only exciting, but further validated the national push for prioritizing vaccines for educators.

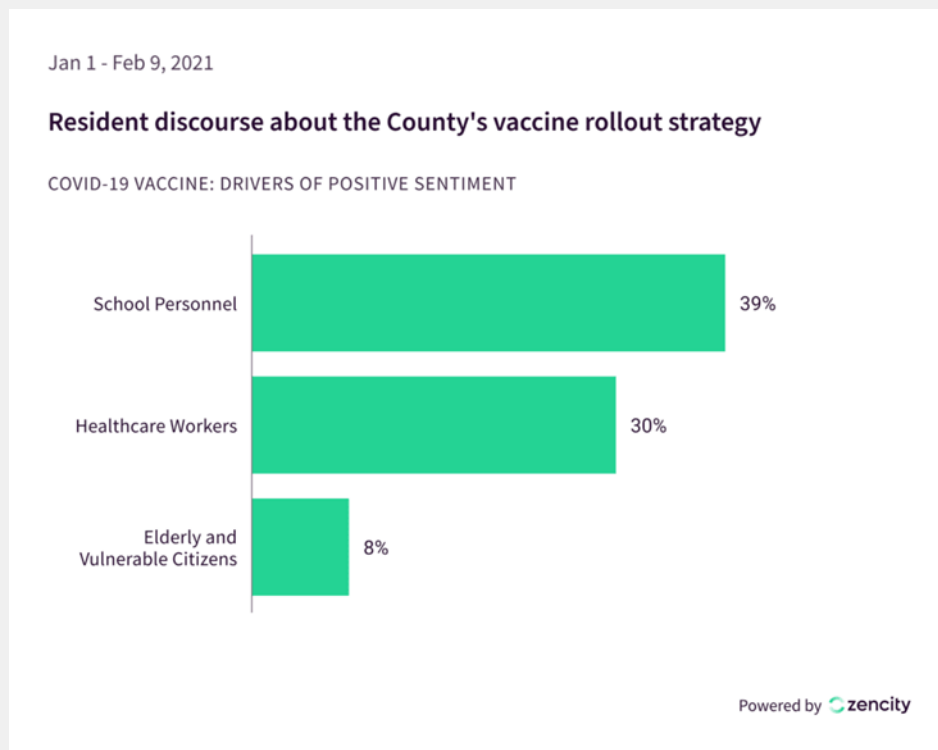
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Community Feedback Data For Performance Management

(continued)



Zensity’s insights drilled down into the data to further validate the County’s approach – showing that the main driver of positive sentiment was specifically the County’s strategic prioritization – not just positive sentiment about vaccines generally.



Ultimately, by using Zensity as a performance management tool and monitoring community feedback, County leadership was able to determine that its **vaccination strategy was unwaveringly well received**. With the data to back this up, County leaders then **confidently approached elected officials and stakeholders to get them on board with its prioritizations of limited vaccines**.

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Community Feedback Data For Performance Management

(continued)

As Nevada County continues to make strategic decisions in vaccinations, in local economic recovery, and more, local leadership will continue using Zencity as an important performance management tool and will continue tracking residents satisfaction and sentiment metrics, and adapt accordingly.

“Zencity has been incredibly helpful this last year through Covid and many other emergency events like wildfires or Public Safety Power Shutoffs. As public servants and public officials, we often hear from a loud minority but Zencity provides us with the ability to better understand the discourse in our community. We use Zencity’s analytics and insights to help us track the performance of our work and are then able to share these data points with our public health department and elected officials to create unified strategies and ensure they understand the resident discourse in their specific communities too.”

Taylor Wolfe, Public Information Officer, Nevada County, CA



Save The Dates and Come Join Us!!

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

MRA International is a leading technology expert and a value-added HP and HPE Partner with over 20 years of experience providing unique IT solutions and turn-key results to the public sector.

As a full-service facility with all the benefits of a local, family-owned company, we consistently provide a top-notch level of personal service. We always lead with our clients’ best interests in mind and accelerate their success by serving as a trusted partner who understands their business goals and stays one step ahead on new technologies to provide buying recommendations and best support their ongoing operations.

With MRA Warranty Services- our expert technicians will repair or replace your computing device. MRA’s expert configuration and deployment services bring you fast, accurate, and globally standardized IT solutions.

For more information, please contact the MRA Sales Team:

sales@mrainternational.com

(732) 222-0997



Hackensack, New Jersey Pursues Digital Transformation

by Evan Achiron, Director of Marketing & Communications for GovPilot



The Seat of Bergen County selects GovPilot as provider of cloud-based government management software to streamline operations and constituent services.

A transition from paper to digital processes is underway in Hackensack, New Jersey where local officials have sought greater efficiency in municipal operations and constituent services. The city recently partnered with [GovPilot](#), a Hoboken, New Jersey based provider of cloud-based government management software.

Hackensack joins Bergen County - New Jersey's most populous county - and nearly 100 other municipalities and counties across the state as a GovPilot customer.

Officials from Hackensack will work with GovPilot to implement a number of digital capabilities and public facing forms that aim to make operations more efficient and services more convenient for constituents. Officials will initially utilize GovPilot for Construction Permitting, Certificate of Continued Occupancy, and Zoning Permitting.

Hackensack will also deploy GovPilot's Report-a-Concern feature which enables residents to report non-emergency concerns such as potholes or general code violations directly via a digital form on the city website, or through an app on their phone, called GovAlert. The app, available to residents on Android and iOS devices is easy to use, and routes citizen concerns directly to the relevant municipal department so that the issue can be resolved quickly.

"We are thrilled to be partnering with GovPilot to make the resources and services here at City Hall more accessible to residents", said Hackensack Mayor John Labrosse. "The pandemic has exacerbated the need for the city government to bring our services to Hackensack residents digitally, and the City Council and I have made this a top priority."

"We look forward to working with GovPilot to transition our operations and processes into a digital environment", said Vincent Caruso, Hackensack's City Manager. "Our departments anticipate seeing significant increases in efficiency which will translate to more convenient services and cost savings for our residents. I encourage residents to download the GovAlert app on their phones and help us improve Hackensack by reporting issues that they come across so we can address them quickly."

Michael Bonner, the founder and CEO of GovPilot said, "We are excited to work with Hackensack on its early stages of digital transformation. Federal funding from the American Rescue Plan Act has spurred local governments to implement digital services and operations. In partnering with local governments across the country we have found that digital processes generate significant increases in efficiency and productivity that have a positive impact on local budgets, services, and constituent experience. We expect to see similar results in Hackensack."

To learn more about how GovPilot can help your county government or the municipalities within it operate more efficiently and provide convenient digital services, [CLICK HERE](#) to schedule a demo today!



Managing Vaccination Tracking In Governments

by Michael Galello, Industry Marketing Manager Public Sector for UKG

For organizations that have to manage and track COVID-19 vaccinations or weekly tests, there's the need to put processes and/or technology in place. Many organizations would benefit from new technology solutions that have been created in response to the pandemic. There are many new offerings from vendors, and [SHRM states](#) that preparation around the topic "...includes implementing the technology needed to track and manage vaccination and testing records."

These new technologies help organizations:

- Monitor and track employee vaccination status and exemptions
- Gain visibility into test results, and health attestations
- Analyze data around the topic to help make business decisions
- Ensure that employees are fully informed and feel confident of their safety at work

Accomplishing this task manually can be a daunting undertaking. To ease the burden on HR around tracking vaccinations, policies, and legislation, organizations need tools that help better manage this changing landscape.

UKG's HR Service Delivery solution can help you manage the process from start to finish in one place, allowing you to protect the well-being of your people and keep your organization operating efficiently.

The solution can help put your policies into practice and help your organization seamlessly manage all these new regulations. Equipping your HR Team would have the tools that they need to be able to manage their employees' needs all in one place is something everybody can smile about.

For more information on how UKG can help your organization manage vaccine tracking, please [reach out](#).



SAVE THE DATES

***NJAC Reorganization Meeting
January 28, 2022
Senate Chambers, NJ State House
Beginning at 11:00 a.m.***

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

Commissioners Join Coalition To Make Polluters Pay For Climate Costs

by Lauren O'Brien, New Jersey Director for Pay Up Climate Polluters

How do we pay for it all? That is often the biggest challenge facing county officials tasked with protecting their constituents and communities from the damaging floods, rising seas, and storms from Sandy to Ida that are becoming worse and more frequent because of climate change.

Reinforcing coastal defenses, elevating roads, upgrading sewer and stormwater systems — all these desperately needed projects come with enormous and sometimes insurmountable price tags, especially for communities that have limited resources and tightening budgets.

But a growing coalition of officials in New Jersey and across the country believes that taxpayers should not be stuck footing the bill for climate change alone. Instead, they argue, the corporate polluters that profit from the fossil fuels that drive climate change should be held accountable to clean up their mess and pay their fair share of the costs.

[Leaders for Climate Accountability \(L4CA.org\)](#), a project of the nonprofit Center for Climate Integrity, now features more than 100 elected officials across the U.S., with 11 in New Jersey, including Essex County Commissioner Brendan Gill, Atlantic County Commissioner Caren Fitzpatrick, and Union County Commissioner Al Mirabella.

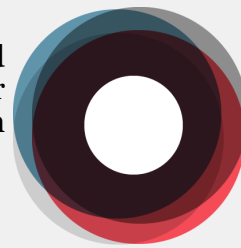
Leaders for Climate Accountability is expanding its membership as a growing number of states and localities are taking or considering legal action to recover the spiraling local costs of climate change from major oil and gas companies that have lied to the public about the dangers of their products and opposed climate action for decades. Widespread evidence, recently highlighted by an ongoing congressional investigation, shows that executives at ExxonMobil and other companies were warned as early as the 1970s that their products could cause “catastrophic” damages, but they instead funded climate denial to protect their profits, leaving residents to pay the price.

Last year, the City of Hoboken, under the leadership of Mayor Ravi Bhalla, a member of Leaders for Climate Accountability, became the first New Jersey municipality to take Exxon and other major fossil fuel companies to court to hold them accountable for causing the crisis — and to make the polluters pay their fair share of the resulting costs.

Atlantic, Hudson, and Union counties; the municipalities of Atlantic City, Asbury Park, Bradley Beach, Maplewood, Red Bank, and Sea Bright, and the New Jersey League of Municipalities, have all passed their own resolutions calling on Governor Murphy and the attorney general to take similar legal action.

Recent presentations at the Association of Counties’ “Summit on Natural Disaster Response and Recovery” in December made clear that the need to make our communities more resilient against climate threats will only become more urgent and expensive. Federal and state officials have estimated that protecting against back bay flooding could cost [\\$16 billion](#). A 2019 Center for Climate Integrity study estimated the state’s bill for seawalls could be as high as [\\$25 billion](#) by 2040.

To learn more about Leaders for Climate Accountability and what county governments can do to make polluters pay their fair share of these costs, visit [L4CA.org](#) or contact Lauren O'Brien at payupnjpolluters@gmail.com.



PAY UP
Climate
Polluters

Division on Women's Address Confidentiality Program: A Vital Resource For Stalking Victims/Survivors

by New Jersey Department of Children and Families, Division on Women

January is Stalking Awareness Month. As you know, abusers use stalking to terrorize, threaten and exercise control over people they know, as well as people they don't know.

Studies have shown:

- **Stalking is common.** About 1 in 6 women and 1 in 17 men have experienced stalking in their lifetimes.
- **There is a large connection between stalking and intimate partner homicide.** 76% of women murdered by an intimate partner were also stalked, and 85% of women who survived murder attempts were stalked.
- **Intimate Partner Stalkers Are More Likely to Reoffend.** Intimate partner stalkers are also more likely to: have criminal records and abuse drugs and/or alcohol; follow through with threats of violence; and assault third parties.

Many victims of stalkers reach out to law enforcement for assistance. And, while criminal charges may be an option, another lesser known, but extremely valuable service available for stalking victims includes the **Address Confidentiality Program (ACP)**. This program was created by law in 1998 and is operated by the Division on Women at the New Jersey Department of Children and Families. In addition to stalking, victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and reproductive health patients and providers are also eligible for this program. ACP works by safeguarding the physical addresses of certain victims of crime and providing them with a substitute address to use when interacting with public and some private agencies. This means participants can use their substitute address on a driver's license, when filing for unemployment, registering to vote, enrolling in schools, obtaining a library card and filing a police report.

After meeting all eligibility requirements, applicants are officially enrolled and provided with an ACP card to use. The law states all public agencies must utilize the substitute address when creating a public record *unless* there is a bona fide statutory purpose for collecting a physical address. In this case, public agencies can only use the address for that one purpose and **must safeguard the address at all times**.

Abusers employ many strategies to locate their victims, but searching public records is one of the most common ones.

How You Can Help:

- If you or your agency come across a stalking victim, among any other legal supports you may provide, please recommend the Address Confidentiality Program. It is a useful tool to help protect anyone who has concerns about being located. They do not need a restraining order to participate.
- If you encounter an ACP participant in the course of your work, you can ask to see their ACP card. Use the substitute address for administrative purposes or on forms accessible to the public.
- If you do require an ACP participant's address, safeguard this address and redact where possible in official documents to protect the individual's confidentiality and safety.
- If you have questions or need more information, please call our ACP staff at 1-877-218-9133 or email DCF.AskACP@dcf.nj.gov.
- To learn more about the programs and services made available through DCF Division on Women visit <https://www.nj.gov/dcf/women/>



What to Know: Sharpening Your Strategy With ARPA Funding Guidelines

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

The [ARPA funding guidelines](#) are coming into focus and we know one thing for sure: The reporting requirements are complex. This points to a need for increased accounting support and accuracy, and the role of better technology for our local governments becomes more critical than ever.

The Basics of ARPA Funding Guidelines on Reporting

As you begin planning fund spending and gathering citizen input, it's just as important to start a reporting process that follows ARPA guidelines and prepares your team for the imminent audits. Here are a few ways to start aligning your team with the ARPA guidelines on reporting.

1. Understand Your Government's Specific ARPA Guidelines

Reporting requirements vary by government population and award size. Here are the four specified reporting levels for various governments.

- Metropolitan cities and counties over 250,000 residents
- Metropolitan cities and counties under 250,000 residents who received more than \$5 million in CLFRF funding
- Metropolitan cities and counties under 250,000 residents who received less than \$5 million in CLFRF funding
- Non-Entitlement Governments

Check out our [10 Tips for Success with ARPA Reporting ebook](#) for additional information on the various levels and to make sure you are aware of your specified requirements.

Add Federal Expenditure Categories to Your Chart of Accounts

Treasury has designed an Expenditure Category (EC) methodology for organizing government efforts as projects. Six major ECs are tied to the allowable uses of Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (CLFRF). Within each category there are one or more detailed ECs. The reporting model requires that each project or service be listed under a single detail EC representing the focus of that activity.

Our [OpenGov Suites](#) make adding these ECs to your chart of accounts simple. Once added, you can:

- Use the porting function to facilitate your EC and non-financial preparations for Treasury portal reporting.
- Create reports which summarize expenditures by project and EC codes.
- Upload end-of-period Open Purchase Order data from your procurement systems and use OpenGov reports to summarize purchase order obligations by project and EC.

Include Cloud-Based Transparency in Your Reporting Plans

Reporting requirements reflect the need for transparency and accountability, while recognizing and minimizing the burden, particularly for smaller local governments.

To provide public transparency on infrastructure projects and show/prove that you are using practices that promote on-time and on-budget delivery, Treasury requires information from recipients on their workforce plans and practices related to water, sewer, and broadband projects undertaken with Fiscal Recovery Funds.

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What to Know *(continued)*

Within the OpenGov Reporting & Transparency Platform, governments can leverage the Stories solution as a centralized, public-facing resource for building simple and easy to understand Recovery Plan as both a website page and PDF document. Stories also allows users the ability to create and publish single reports, including live or fixed schedules, text, pictures, Excel worksheets, and even videos to provide context and improve resident understanding around uses of funds.

[For even more insight, download our free ebook: 10 Tips for Success with ARPA Reporting.](#)

These three pieces are a great way to get started, but there are even more tips to consider on ARPA guidelines. For more insights on the ARPA guidelines for reporting, be sure to download our free ebook: 10 Tips for Success with ARPA Reporting.



NJAC Year End Summit



Applying Advanced Analytics To Public Sector

by Jake Yockel, US Public Sector Account Executive for SAS

In 2020, after decades of decline in crime rates, the U.S. homicide rate experienced the most significant single-year increase in more than a century. More than 50 cities of varying sizes across the U.S. saw an average 35% jump in murder from 2019 to 2020.

Additionally, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics found that overdose deaths increased more than 18% from the 12 months ending in June 2019 to the 12 months ending in May 2020. This reflects the largest number of drug overdose deaths ever recorded over a 12-month period.

As communities across the U.S. face an increase in crime, drug use, mental health issues, and homelessness, citizens are calling for change, and their elected officials are searching for ways to address concerns. What innovative approaches can be used to improve public safety?

Data analytics can help our law enforcement agencies reduce crime, investigate criminal activity and curtail drug rings while helping the people who cycle through our jails, mental health facilities, and homeless shelters. In fact, much of the data needed to promote safety is already collected and stored within the many computer systems that law enforcement agencies use today. Putting that data to work through integration – the act of bringing data from different systems together – and analysis can profoundly impact a community.

When approaching the use of analytics holistically across an organization, the integrated data can address various challenges, and one set of tools can be used for multiple purposes. For example, the same technology that uncovers illicit drug rings can also be used to understand the high utilization of social services. Referred to as a “data analytics platform,” this approach maximizes the use of your data while minimizing the effort and cost of performing analytics.

A comprehensive data analytics solution for law enforcement involves:

- Automated data imports to bring data from multiple data sources together in near-real-time.
- The ability to detect and pull out the people, places, and things from narrative text such as incident reports, calls for service, social media, and SMS/text messages.
- User-defined and predefined geo-spatial search capabilities to search and retrieve data containing geo-coordinates.
- Machine learning algorithms that automatically prepare data for investigational and analytical use, ensuring that people, places, things and events are accurately identified.
- Algorithms that uncover non-obvious and hidden relationships between people, places, things, and events as well as obscure crime patterns across all data sources.
- Relationship charts that are generated automatically by extracting and matching entities that exist across multiple systems.
- The use of statistical, geo-spatial, and temporal attributes to display information in maps, trend lines, network links, and other visualizations to make identifying trends, spikes, outliers, and relationships easy.
- The ability for officers to create and modify surveillance and corresponding alerts as new crime trends and patterns emerge.

Increased crime and social issues do not need to overwhelm our public safety officials. With the use of data analytics, we can help our officers perform their work.

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



Cyber Liability Insurance and Cisco DUO

by Arun Dharan, Territory Account Manager, US Public Sector PA, NJ, DE for Cisco

While the risk of a city employee clicking on a foreign prince's secret gold offer may be past us, modern-day technologies have evolved and expanded in today's remote work and IoT-connected settings. It's hard to wrap our heads around every new risk out there; nowadays a single well-intended click of a GoFraudMe link can download malware that locks and holds your data for ransom. Unless every employee is on-boarded with good Back-up practices, the fee to get a decryption key is high (and probably Bitcoin). The advancing ransomware business is a threat not just for the big guys, but for organizations of every size.

Verizon's most recent Data Breach Incident Report, instances of advanced ransomware have doubled in the past year, alongside major upticks in phishing attacks and social engineering. A new landscape of data and cloud-enabled business has forced us to think differently about what to protect — namely the key personally identifiable information (PII) and personal health information (PHI) that can be accessed through corporate and remote networks.

This era of unpredictability has increasingly resulted in companies looking for ways to protect themselves and their employees in the event of a breach. Don't worry though, there's already an insurance policy for that.

What is Cyber Liability Insurance?

Cyber liability insurance, sometimes known as cyber insurance, is distinct from traditional commercial general liability and property insurance policies. In short, cyber liability insurance acts as a general line of coverage designed to mitigate losses and costs from a variety of cyber incidents, including data breaches, network damage, and the resulting business interruption.

While each provider's policy may differ slightly, cyber liability insurance generally deals with:

- **Loss or destruction of data**
- **Damages to software/hardware**
- **Extortion demands to appease bad actors**
- **Breach incident response and crisis management**
- **Legal claims for defamation, fraud, and privacy violations (third-party coverage)**

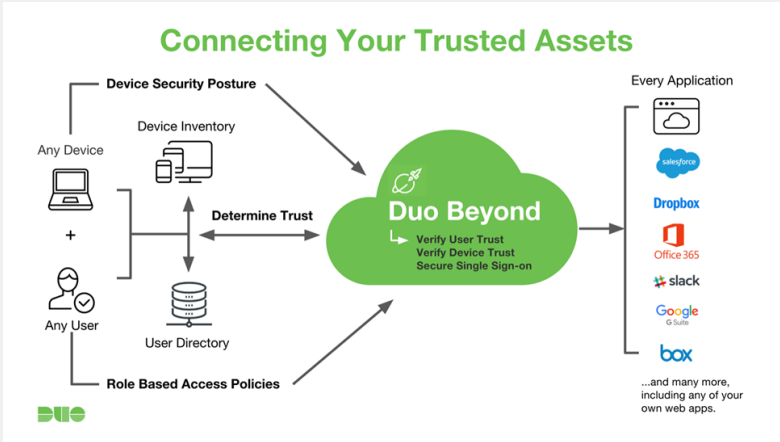
Many variables go into pricing, which ranges from \$500 to over \$50,000 per year. To determine what coverage is necessary, cyber liability insurers calculate cost and risk based on industry, width and depth of data coverage, and, most importantly, what security measures are already in place. Kind of like how your car insurance needs to know your location, make and model, and how many teenagers will be behind the wheel.

How MFA like Cisco DUO Protects Your Company

MFA serves to protect against account compromise in the first place by requiring an additional step of [verification beyond a username and password](#). A second factor is used to confirm identity, ranging from smartphone push notifications to hardware keys and [biometrics](#). Considering [61% of breaches](#) involve credential data, it's a no-brainer for insurance companies to require something as easy and effective as Cisco DUO.

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Cyber Liability Insurance And Cisco DUO *(continued)*



Enterprises and large businesses may seem like the obvious candidate for MFA and cyber liability insurance. However, equally, if not more, at risk are small and medium businesses that may not have the advanced IT infrastructure and teams to deal with potential liabilities. Municipalities and healthcare organizations that need immediate [access to critical information](#) are also frequent targets.

To learn more, visit **Cisco** or contact Arun Dharan, Territory Account Manager, US Public Sector, PA, NJ, DE at, at adharan@cisco.com.



ATTORNEY JOB POSTING ESSEX COUNTY COUNSEL’S OFFICE

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Assistant County Counsel position available in our Labor and Employment Section. The Essex County Counsel’s Office is located in the Hall of Records, Newark, New Jersey. Seeking law school graduate with at least 1-3 years of experience or judicial clerkship. The position requires the independent handling of major disciplinary actions (terminations/suspensions) of civil service employees, interaction with labor unions on general labor issues, including unfair practice charge, handling of labor-employment litigation as well as discrimination complaints on behalf of the County, processing of labor grievances and arbitrations and providing general guidance/advice to Department/Division Directors throughout the County on general employment matters.

A resume with cover letter should be forwarded to Courtney M. Gaccione, County Counsel, Office of County Counsel, Hall of Records, Rm. 535, Newark, New Jersey 07102 or email to cgaccione@counsel.essexcountynj.org.

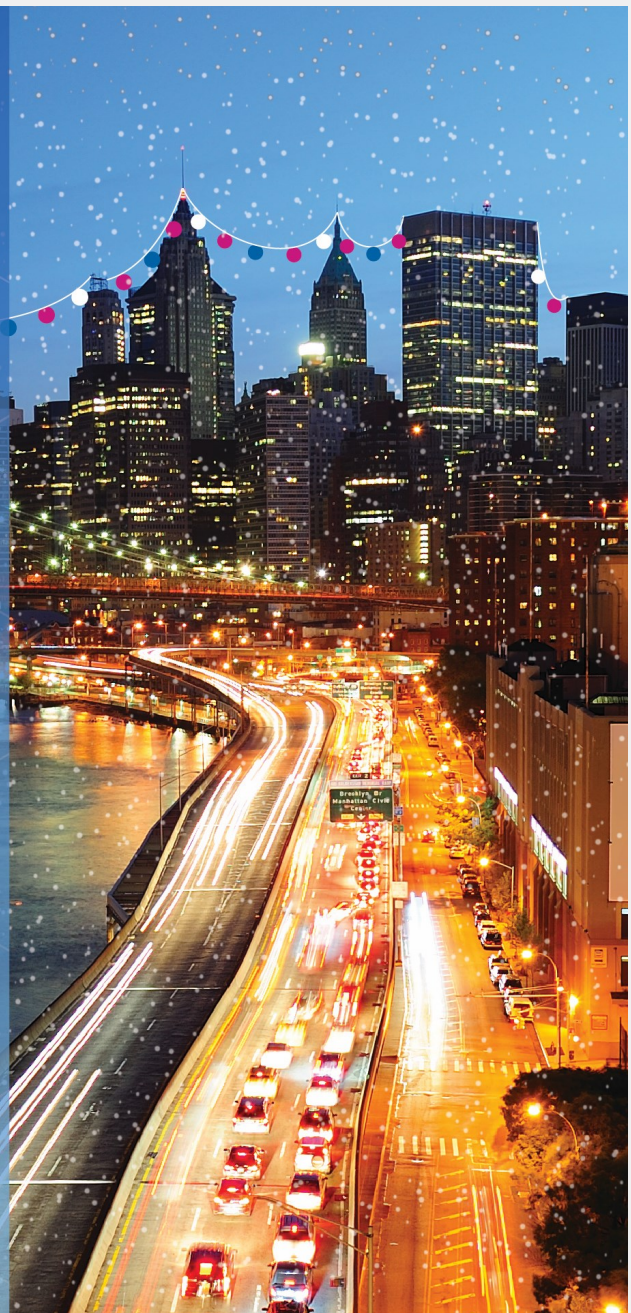


From our family to yours,

Happy Holidays!

Thank you for being a part of our success this year! Our sincere best wishes to you and yours for a new year filled with joy, health, and prosperity.

Warm Wishes,
PKA Technologies



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

SAMHSA Announces Unprecedented \$30 Million Harm Reduction Grant Funding Opportunity To Help Address The Nation's Substance Use And Overdose Epidemic

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is now accepting applications for the first-ever SAMHSA Harm Reduction grant program and expects to issue \$30 million in grant awards. This funding, authorized by the American Rescue Plan, will help increase access to a range of community harm reduction services and support harm reduction service providers as they work to help prevent overdose deaths and reduce health risks often associated with drug use. SAMHSA will accept applications from State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, Tribal organizations, non-profit community-based organizations, And primary and behavioral health organizations.

With overdose deaths exceeding 100,000 over a 12-month period for the first time, this funding opportunity will provide support to those working in their communities to reduce the harms of drug use. Providing funding and support for innovative harm reduction services is in line with the Biden-Harris Administration's ongoing efforts to address the overdose epidemic, and is a key pillar for the first time in the multi-faceted Health and Human Services' [overdose prevention strategy](#) announced in October. This funding allows organizations to expand their community-based overdose prevention programs in a variety of ways, including distributing overdose-reversal medications and fentanyl test strips, providing overdose education and counseling, and managing or expanding syringe services programs, which help control the spread of infectious diseases like HIV and hepatitis C.

"The reality is, evidence-based harm reduction services are out of reach for far too many people," said National Drug Control Policy Director Dr. Rahul Gupta, who also announced a new model law to help states ensure access to safe, effective, and cost-saving syringe services programs. "Building on the Biden-Harris Administration's efforts to expand evidence-based prevention, treatment and recovery support services, this historic funding will help make harm reduction services more accessible, so we can meet people where they are and save lives."

"Too many Americans, more than 100,000 people over the last year, have lost their lives to drug overdose. Our new HHS Overdose Prevention Strategy is clear – harm reduction services are critical to keeping people who use drugs alive and as healthy as possible," said Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra. "Americans deserve health services that address the full range of drug use and addiction issues, and this funding will help provide those services in the neighborhoods in which they live."

"Innovative harm reduction services will help keep Americans alive," said Miriam Delphin-Rittmon, Ph.D., the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use and the leader of SAMHSA. "Thanks to this American Rescue Plan funding, harm reduction service providers in historically under-resourced communities will receive long-awaited support to help stem the disproportionate number of overdose deaths and related health issues facing those communities."

SAMHSA will distribute \$10 million per year over the next three years. Grant recipients must use the funds to support harm reduction services. Harm reduction service providers will be asked to develop or expand evidence-based services that may include, but not be limited to: the provision of sterile syringes, safe sex kits, prevention education about synthetic opioids and other substances, overdose prevention kits including naloxone distribution, peer worker engagement, medical services, case management and referral to treatment. Warm handoffs that facilitate engagement in care and referrals to treatment for individuals seeking these support services are also critical components of this grant program. Harm reduction services will be trauma-informed and guided by harm reduction stakeholder groups and other community members.

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WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER



Zencity believes that local governments are the most important civic institutions of our time. Local leaders are at the forefront of providing the most essential government services - from public health to safety - and are best positioned to improve quality of life.

A cross-channel insights and analytics platform, Zencity takes civic engagement to the next level and ensures that local governments can easily hear from all corners of their community. As the only solution of its kind that combines organic resident input from online channels with feedback from representative and statistically valid community surveys, Zencity transforms broad-reaching resident feedback into actionable data and tailor-made insights with AI. Together with hundreds of Zencities, counties, and state agencies, we're setting a new standard for performance management in local government.

For more information please contact Zencity, at info@zencity.io.



SAMHSA Announces Unprecedented \$30 Million Harm Reduction Grant Funding Opportunity To Help Address The Nation's Substance Use And Overdose Epidemic *(continued)*

For more information about Harm Reduction, [click here](#).

To apply to this grant funding opportunity, [click here](#).

People searching for treatment for substance use disorders can find options by visiting findtreatment.gov or by calling SAMHSA's National Helpline, 1-800-662-HELP (4357).



Nationwide Economics

Weekly Economic Review & Outlook for December 20, 2021

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

Weekly Review

An earlier end to easy monetary policy

The Federal Reserve took a much-anticipated hawkish pivot at the FOMC meeting last week in a clear signal that inflation is becoming more concerning, as it continues to run well above the Fed's 2.0 percent goal. This comes as data on economic activity were mixed, perhaps showing a moderating of activity into year end. Retail sales rose by less than expected while housing starts and building permits surprised to the upside. Regional manufacturing activity along with global slash PMIs showed a moderation of activity and an easing of supply constraints, as evidenced by slower price gains.

The FOMC shows increasing concerns about inflation

At last week's FOMC meeting, the voting members decided to leave short-term interest rates unchanged but sped up the tapering of asset purchases, which should now end by the middle of March 2022 (rather than in May). This move to speed up tapering will provide the FOMC with the optionality to raise short-term interest rates earlier than had been expected, as the Fed would not raise rates while still purchasing longer-term Treasury notes and AAA-rated MBS. In the latest summary of economic projections (SEP) released last week, the committee appears more likely to take advantage of that optionality with median estimates now indicating three 25 basis point hikes in 2022, three more 2023, and two in 2024-bringing the federal funds rate up to around 2.00 percent by the end of 2024, compared with 0.00 percent today (lower bound).

During the press conference following the FOMC meeting, Chair Jerome Powell emphasized that the economic recovery has been strong, the labor market is healing, and inflation has been both well above the target and more persistent than expected. His comments around these topics, along with the concerns he raised about stronger wage gains (shown in faster growth in the employment cost index), have raised speculations that the Fed could raise short-term interest rates before its maximum employment estimate has been met. While there is no clear measure that defines maximum employment, the fact that inflation estimates were raised substantially for 2022 in SEP, and consistent commentary from many Fed speakers expressing concern about persistently high inflation rates, increases the likelihood of earlier rate hikes. Longer-term interest rates typically rise when the Fed tightens (although by less than short-term rates move higher), but with the 10-year Treasury note yield at around 1.40 percent, there are increasing risks that too much Fed tightening in coming years could cause a yield curve inversion (when short-term rates rise above long-term rates). This has been an excellent predictor of economic downturns historically.

Mixed economic data for November

Retail sales rose by less than expected for November, but with upward revisions for October, as shoppers heeded the call to purchase early for the holiday season. Sales at electronics and department stores both declined while sales at gas stations, and for food and sporting goods led the increase. These numbers are usually volatile month-to-month anyway, and with the uncertainty around Covid and supply chains, that volatility is likely to remain high.

Housing starts and building permits were up strongly for November. Housing activity remains an area of the economy that continues to do well despite headwinds from supply chains and lack of inventory. Fundamentals are strong, and with significant excess demand it likely will take a substantial rise in interest rates to slow housing demand substantially.

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Nationwide Economics *(continued)*

Regional Fed manufacturing surveys and global flash PMIs showed some moderation in activity last month. Of note was the easing of some supply chain issues globally which helped to reduce the prices paid metrics. It will still take much more healing to get back to normal, but that now appears to be underway.

The Week Ahead

Existing home sales expected to edge higher

Existing home sales climbed to their highest level since January in October, boosted by strong underlying demand factors (e.g., low unemployment rates, rising incomes, and low mortgage rates). These factors were present for November, as well. In addition, October pending homes sales (which measure contract signings and so lead reported existing sales by one to two months) climbed in October to their highest level since the market was booming at the end of 2020. We project that the annualized pace of existing home sales rose to 6.39 million units for November-the fastest pace since January.

New home sales also expected rise modestly

In addition to the factors noted above helping to boost overall housing demand, new home sales should also benefit from the historically low supply of existing homes for sale-shifting some of the strong demand toward new sales. A rise in the present sales component of the NAHB's housing market index also suggests that sales should increase. But a small drop in the MBA's purchase applications for new homes may offset some of this impact. We project a modest increase in the annualized pace of new home sales for November to 751,000 units, the fastest pace since April.

November's core inflation could be the highest since 1989

Consumer spending likely slowed but remained solid for November. Based on the most recent retail sales report, there was a shift in consumer activity away from goods (where electronics and appliance stores saw sales pull back sharply) to services (where restaurant spending picked up) Other services spending not measured in retail sales should also have increased for the month. We project a rise of 0.7 percent for personal consumption expenditures (PCE), roughly half of October's gain. Personal income also should have increased by around 0.7 percent, keeping the saving rate little changes. Inflation continues to run hot, and we project this translated to a 0.4 percent monthly gain in the core PCE price index, which would bump the 12-month growth rate up to 4.6 percent-the fastest year-over-year growth in this inflation measure since early 1989.

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.](#)

Webinars

Preventing County Financial Fraud

Jan. 6, 2022 , 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Contact Alana Hurley (202) 350-2296 ahurley@naco.org

REGISTRATION

Join Collector of Revenue Kate Becker of Audrain County and Commissioner Greg Puckett of Mercer County for a webinar on detecting and preventing county financial fraud from both the treasurer and elected official's perspectives. Learn how to spot warning signs, educate county employees on how to spot and prevent fraud, exercise sound stewardship of county funds and examine true case studies.



Before and After a Behavioral Health Crisis: Building a Continuum of Care

Jan. 11, 2022 , 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Contact Alana Hurley (202) 350-2296 ahurley@naco.org

REGISTRATION

Counties across the country are building multidisciplinary teams and using key data elements to prevent and better address mental health and substance use disorder crises outside of the criminal legal system. Building an effective care continuum targets the root causes of a behavioral health crisis by investing in comprehensive and accessible prevention, treatment, and real-time intervention. With almost one in four adults in the United States living with a mental health condition, substance use disorder or both, county leaders recognize the urgency to find innovative approaches to balance community behavioral health needs and law enforcement response in a time of crisis. This discussion will provide key resources on the importance of a continuum of care and feature lessons learned from counties working to reduce barriers to behavioral health for its residents.

Jail Medical Contracting: Best Practices for Supporting Stepping Up Goals

Jan. 18, 2022 , 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

REGISTRATION

This an external webinar hosted by The Council of State Governments Justice Center and the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance. For technical assistance, please contact the event organizers.

Across the country, county criminal justice, behavioral health, and social service system leaders are grappling with reducing the number of people with serious mental illness (SMI) in criminal justice systems, including county jails, often by using “front-end” strategies. Counties frequently struggle with using data to gauge the impact of these strategies on reducing the number of people with SMI in jails. One challenge for obtaining baseline data on SMI in jails centers on contracted private medical providers and their role in collecting and sharing data on SMI. This virtual discussion will equip participants with knowledge about the role contracted medical providers have in either screening for SMI, assessing for SMI, or both; collecting and sharing data with jail administration and how contracts can support this process; and best practices for screening, assessment, and collecting and sharing data for contracts with third-party medical providers. Jail administrators, jail data analysts, and staff from jail medical and mental health providers are especially encouraged to attend this webinar.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

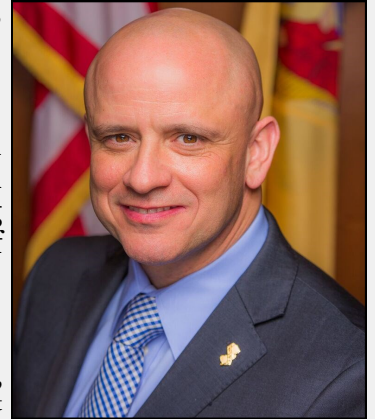
As we begin planning for an exciting 2022, please make sure to mark your calendars for these upcoming dates and events.

NJAC'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE KICK-OFF MEETING 1/21 Virtual

Don't miss the opportunity to serve on NJAC's conference committee as we begin planning for our 71st annual celebration of county government set for May 4th through May 6th at Caesars in Atlantic City. The committee is hosting a virtual kick-off meeting at 11:00 a.m. on *January 21st*, so please let Kim Nolan at knolan@njac.org know if you're interested in helping us prepare for county governments premiere event.

NJAC'S REORGANIZATION MEETING 1/28 In-Person

We look forward to seeing you at the swearing-in of NJAC's 2022 board of directors, executive officers, and Monmouth County Administrator Teri O'Connor as our 81st President at 11:00 a.m. on January 28th in the Senate Chambers of the State House in Trenton. You're also welcome to join us for a terrific lunch at the historic Masonic Temple immediately following the reorganization meeting.



John G. Donnadio, Esq.

NJAC ANNUAL CONFERENCE WORKSHOP PROPOSALS DUE 02/11

We're currently accepting proposals for annual conference workshops. Space is limited, so please submit your proposal no later than *February 12th* to Loren Wizman by email at loren@njac.org. To make sure that our elected officials, administrators, finance officers, purchasing officials, planners, engineers, attorneys, public works employees, accountants, and other county officials actively participate in our conference, the conference committee will give priority consideration to workshops approved for continuing education credits by the appropriate State agencies and the Rutgers University Center for Local Government Services.

1. Workshop sessions should be educational and informative, and 50-60 minutes long.
2. Proposals should include the name, title, and organization of those presenting.
3. Proposals should contain a title and one-page informative summary of the workshop.
4. Proposals should include handouts, power point presentations, and other materials.
5. Proposals should be submitted by *February 12th*.


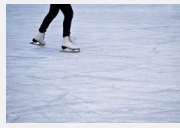





We'll make sure to notify you in writing of the time, location, and other important detail concerning your workshop well in advance of the conference.

CONTINUING EDUCATION SERIES OF VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS 2/23, 4/13, 7/6, 9/14, & 12/9

Please make sure to mark your calendars with the above dates and stay tuned for additional details about our series of free virtual workshops. These educational and informative seminars will include key discussions on important county matters. We plan to secure continuing education credits for all (5) workshops and will provide sponsors with the opportunity to showcase their businesses with additional details to follow shortly.

Thank you as always for your time, consideration, and patience; and, I hope you have a great day.

EVENTS & HOLIDAYS

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						
<p>2</p> <p>Jurassic Quest's Epic Indoor Event</p> <p>9 a.m. - 6 p.m.</p> <p>Visit Here</p> <p>NJ Conv. & Expo Center</p> <p>Edison Middlesex County</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Christmas Light Show & Village</p> <p>5 p.m.</p> <p>Visit Here</p> <p>Skylands Stadium</p> <p>Augusta Sussex County</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Light of Day Winterfest</p> <p>1/7 - 1/17</p> <p>Visit Here</p> <p>Asbury Park, Montclair, & Red Bank</p> <p>Monmouth County</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Newport Skates</p> <p>4 p.m. - 9 p.m.</p>  <p>Jersey City Hudson County</p>	<p>7</p> <p>STOMP</p> <p>8 p.m.</p> <p>Mayo Performing Arts Center</p> <p>Morristown Morris County</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Warren's Annual Winter Festival</p> <p>4 p.m. - 7 p.m.</p> <p>Municipal Baseball Fields</p> <p>Warren Somerset County</p>
<p>9</p> <p>63rd Annual Model Train Show</p> <p>1/8 & 1/9</p> <p>Register Here</p> <p>Garden State Model Railway club</p> <p>North Haledon Passaic County</p>	 <p>1/9</p> <p>1:00 p.m.</p> <p>MetLife Stadium</p> <p>East Rutherford Bergen County</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Burlington County Reg. Chamber of Commerce Luncheon</p> <p>11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.</p> <p>Register Here</p> <p>Double Tree Suites</p> <p>Mt. Laurel Burlington County</p>	 <p>5:30 p.m.</p> <p>CURE Insurance Arena</p> <p>Trenton Mercer County</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Moondance</p> <p>8 p.m.</p> <p>Visit Here</p> <p>The Levoy Theatre</p> <p>Millville Cumberland County</p>	<p>15</p> <p>The Blue Dahlia</p> <p>8 p.m.</p> <p>Visit Here</p> <p>Sitnik Theatre of the Lackland PAC</p> <p>Hackettstown Warren County</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Disney on Ice Presents Let's Celebrate</p> <p>12 p.m.</p> <p>Visit Here</p> <p>Prudential Center</p> <p>Newark Essex County</p>	<p>17</p>  <p>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	 <p>8 p.m.</p> <p>Borgata Event Center</p> <p>Atlantic City Atlantic County</p>	 <p>8 p.m. - 10 p.m.</p> <p>UnionPAC</p> <p>Rahway Union County</p>
<p>23</p> <p>Roller Skating at Convention Hall</p> <p>1 p.m. - 3 p.m.</p>  <p>Cape May Convention Hall</p> <p>Cape May Cape May County</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Polytech Open House</p> <p>10 a.m. - 12 p.m.</p> <p>1/29 FREE</p> <p>Bartles, Central & ESC Campuses</p> <p>Hunterdon County</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Woodedge Hunter/Jumper Horse Show</p> <p>1/28 - 1/30</p> <p>DREAM Park</p> <p>South Logan Township Gloucester County</p>	<p>27</p>  <p>10 a.m. & 12 p.m.</p> <p>Kennedy Center Theatre</p> <p>Toms River Ocean County</p>	<p>28</p> <p>The Definitive Tribute to the Original Allman Brothers Band</p> <p>1/29 8 p.m.</p> <p>Scottish Rite Auditorium</p> <p>Collingswood Camden County</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Movie Nite in the Vines</p> <p>5 p.m. - 7 p.m.</p> <p>RESV. REQ.</p> <p>Auburn Road Vineyard</p> <p>Pilesgrove Salem County</p>
<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>					