

# NJAC COUNTY BIZ

An Educational and Informative Newsletter for Counties and Businesses

New Jersey Association of Counties

ISSUE 146 - DECEMBER 2023

## Why Go Hybrid Cloud?

by Joanne Goodstadt, Marketing Manager for PKA Technologies, Inc.

Most businesses have at least had a conversation about cloud computing. From there, knowing your options is key. A hybrid cloud is a computing environment that combines on-premises infrastructure with public cloud services. This allows your business to take advantage of the best of both worlds: the flexibility and scalability of the public cloud, with the security and control of on-premises infrastructure. So why are businesses adopting this solution and why should you go hybrid cloud?

### Hybrid Cloud Benefits Regardless of Size

There are several reasons why businesses are adopting hybrid cloud. Some of the most common benefits include:

- **Increased agility and innovation:** This solution allows your business to quickly scale resources up or down as needed, which can help you respond to changing market conditions and launch new products and services more quickly.
- **Improved scalability and performance:** A hybrid solution can help you improve the scalability and performance of your applications by moving them to the cloud.
- **Reduced costs:** Hybrid cloud can help any business reduce IT costs by mixing and matching on-premises and cloud resources to meet specific needs.
- **Enhanced security and compliance:** Going hybrid allows your business to create a more secure environment for your data and applications by using a combination of on-premises and cloud resources.
- **Additionally, many hybrid cloud providers offer a variety of security features and compliance certifications.**
- **Better disaster recovery and business continuity:** This solution can help improve disaster recovery and business continuity plans by providing a backup site for data and applications in the cloud.

### The Financial Value of Going Hybrid Cloud

Making the switch can offer significant operational and financial value for businesses of all sizes. According to Gartner, 80% of enterprises will have adopted a hybrid cloud strategy by 2025.

This is because it can help businesses:

- Reduce IT costs by up to 20%
- Improve agility and innovation by up to 30%
- Enhance security and compliance posture by up to 40%

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## Why Go Hybrid Cloud? *(continued)*

### Choosing the Right Solution

When choosing the right solution, it is important to consider your business needs and requirements. Some of the factors to consider include:

- The types of applications and data that will be hosted in the hybrid environment
- The required level of security and compliance
- Available budget
- Scalability and performance requirements

It is also important to evaluate different providers. When evaluating, consider the following factors:

- The range of services offered
- The pricing structure
- The level of support provided
- The security and compliance features offered

### Now You Know. It's Time to Go.

Whether you've already started talking cloud internally or this is the first you've heard of it, we can help. Reach out to PKA today and start the conversation. We're always listening and can help you make the best decision for your business.



## *NJAC Save the Dates!*

**NJAC Year-End Summit**  
**December 15, 2023**  
**Trenton Country Club**

**NJAC Reorganization**  
**January 26, 2024**  
**Trenton, New Jersey**

**NJAC Celebration of County Government**  
**May 1-3, 2024**  
**Atlantic City, NJ**

**NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES***County Government with a Unified Voice!***SUMMIT ON HOMELESSNESS***Trenton Country Club*

December 15, 2023

BUSINESS REGISTRATION &amp; AGENDA

Please join the New Jersey Association of Counties (NJAC) for an important and timely discussion on “Homelessness.”  
*\*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**

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

**HOMELESSNESS IN NEW JERSEY**

10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

*Eric Scott with NJ 101.5 to moderate both panel discussions!*

- Subject matter experts will examine the root causes and inescapable challenges of being homeless in the State of New Jersey along with recommendations on necessary structural reforms to enhance critical services.

**COFFEE BREAK**

11:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

**PREVENTION, RESOURCES, AND SOLUTIONS**

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

- County, state, and other leading authorities will discuss coordinated efforts to provide vital assistance, essential resources and support, and innovative solutions to those in need.

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER AND LUNCHEON**

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

*Nikki Johnson-Alfano, Esq. (Formerly Nikki Johnson-Huston, Esq.) and Ms. Universe 2021-2022*

*Business Registration, Exhibit Registration & Sponsorship Information Can Be Found [Here](#)*

*County Registration Can Be Found [Here](#)*

# FFY23 SLCGP Application Window Is Now Open

by Michael T. Geraghty, State of NJ Chief Information Security Officer, Director, NJCCIC, Acting Deputy Director, Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness

The FFY23 SLCGP application window is now open. The window will be open until December 8, 2023.

## Eligibility

All NJ state and local government entities are eligible to apply for NJ FFY 2023 SLCGP resources.

## Funding

In FFY22, NJ received \$3.4M. In FFY23, we're receiving \$6.8M. Throughout the lifecycle of the SLCGP, 80% of the grant funds are required to be allocated to reduce cybersecurity risks in local governments, with 25% of the funds specifically allocated for cybersecurity risk reduction in rural jurisdictions (populations less than or equal to 50,000).

## SLCGP Projects

To ensure as many New Jersey entities can benefit from the limited SLCGP funds, the software, hardware, and services procured with the grant funds will be passed through to state and local government entities by the NJCCIC. We're continuing to carry over the four first-year projects to this year. These projects address the following: Cybersecurity Governance and Planning, Cyber Resilience Assessments, Enhancing Cybersecurity Resilience through endpoint, application, and identification and authentication technologies, and Workforce Development.

Please visit the [NJ SLCGP webpage](#) for more information regarding the plan, and how to apply.

NJ local government entities that wish to participate in the SLCGP are required to complete and submit a Local Consent Agreement and NJ SLCGP Resource Request Application December 8, 2023. Copies of the NJ SLCGP Request Application and the Local Consent Agreement are included here so that applicants can collect the information they will need to complete the online forms. All submissions are required to be made using the online forms which can be found at: [www.cyber.nj.gov/slcp](http://www.cyber.nj.gov/slcp).

For additional information please contact (609) 963-6900 ext. 6720.





Unit 42 brings together our world-renowned threat researchers with an elite team of security consultants to create an intelligence-driven, response ready organization. - The Unit 42 Threat Intelligence team provides threat research that enables security teams to understand adversary intent and attribution, while enhancing protections offered by our products to stop advanced attacks. As threats escalate, Unit 42 is available to advise customers on the latest risks, assess their readiness, and help them recover when the worst occurs.

Unit 42 Security Consultants serve as a trusted partner with state-of-the-art cyber risk expertise and incident response capabilities, helping customers focus on their business before, during, and after a breach

Unit 42 incident response experts are available 24/7 to help you quickly investigate critical security incidents and eradicate threats, so you can recover and get back to business fast.

### **Unit 42 Retainer Provides Incident Response On Demand**

The speed of your response, as well as the effectiveness of your tools and playbooks, will determine how quickly you can recover. Extend the capabilities of your team by putting the world-class Unit 42 Incident Response and Cyber Risk Management teams on speed dial. The Unit 42 Retainer is custom-built to fit your organization's needs, as you can choose to allocate your retainer credits to any of our offerings, including incident response and proactive cyber risk management services. Learn how to put the world-class Unit 42 Incident Response team on speed dial.

If you would like to have a discussion about Unit 42 or the report please contact [bstagg@paloaltonetworks.com](mailto:bstagg@paloaltonetworks.com) to schedule a meeting.

## ***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](mailto:loren@njac.org)**

# Green Acres Announces Funding Round

by Martha Sullivan Sapp, Director Green Acres Program for NJ Department of Environmental Protection

The Green Acres Program is pleased to announce its 2024 funding round for municipalities, counties, and nonprofit organizations. Applications for land acquisition, park development, stewardship, Jake's Law (Inclusive Playgrounds), and Urban Parks projects will be accepted. **The deadline is February 7, 2024.** Supplemental funding requests for active projects are also due on February 7, 2024.

## New municipal grant opportunity:

Grants for Completely Inclusive Playground grants were made available last year for counties; this year we are expanding the pilot program and invite municipalities to apply. Local governments can apply for 75% matching grants for Completely Inclusive Playgrounds; awards are anticipated to be between \$500,000-\$750,000 for municipalities and \$750,000-\$1,000,000 for counties, depending on demand. The Department of Community Affairs adopted [regulations for Jake's Law](#) that set out the standards for Completely Inclusive Playgrounds.

Public outreach and participation during the planning phase are important application requirements. Projects are more successful when the community is involved!

Mark your calendars for upcoming application information sessions on November 13<sup>th</sup>, December 13<sup>th</sup>, and January 17<sup>th</sup>. Applications and details on how to join the virtual sessions are posted on the Green Acres website at [www.NJGreenAcres.org](http://www.NJGreenAcres.org).

## NJDEP Grants and Loans Needs Survey

Help us help you! Please take our survey to share your environmental needs and challenges as a local government or nonprofit organization. Your responses will help the NJDEP better assist you through grants, loans, and other opportunities.

If you represent or work for a county or municipality, please take [this survey](#).

If you work for a nonprofit organization, please take [this survey](#).





## Save The Dates And Join Us!

by MRA International

**January 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>, 2024, TECHSPO at Harrah's Atlantic City, NJ**

- Booth #'s 420 & 422
- 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 Power Services 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 top-notch personal service. We always lead with our client's 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:

Email: [sales@mrainternational.com](mailto:sales@mrainternational.com)

Phone: (732) 222-0997



## Rutgers—School of Public Affairs & Administration

by Jane Sharp, MPA Director, Certified Public Manager Program for School of Public Affairs & Administration

Rutgers - School of Public Affairs and Administration would like to thank our hosts Monmouth County Administration and Passaic County Sheriff's Office for the upcoming State of New Jersey Certified Public Manager cohort locations.

Monmouth County Fire Academy, Route 33, Freehold on Tuesdays beginning February 8.  
Passaic County Police Academy, 214 Oldham Road, Wayne on Wednesdays beginning March 20.

Other in-person locations for fall 2024 will be announced in the spring.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and acceptance is determined based on class enrollment.

For more information, please visit website at:  
<https://spaa.newark.rutgers.edu/cpm>.

If you have any questions please contact us at:  
[cpmcpaa@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:cpmspaa@newark.rutgers.edu).



**RUTGERS**

UNIVERSITY | NEWARK  
School of Public Affairs  
and Administration

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Founded in 1976, **CGI** is among the largest IT and business consulting services firms in the world. We are insights-driven and outcomes-based to help accelerate returns on your investments. Across 21 industries in 400 locations worldwide, we provide comprehensive, scalable and sustainable IT and business consulting services that are informed globally and delivered locally.

For additional information regarding CGI please contact Mike Reagan, Sr. Vice President at [m.reagan@cgi.com](mailto:m.reagan@cgi.com).



**Rellevate** is a leader and one of the fastest-growing fintech companies in the employer and public sector disbursement industry today.

Rellevate is focused on developing new and flexible technologies that can turbocharge existing legacy systems in how and when recipients get paid.

For additional information regarding Rellevate please contact Donna Moore, Public Sector Consultant-NJ at [dmm317@gmail.com](mailto:dmm317@gmail.com).







*Subject:* Apply by 2/5/24! New Funding Opportunity Seeking SBIRT/P Approaches for Populations That Experience Health Disparities

### **New Funding Opportunity**

Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment or Prevention for alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs use and misuse in adult populations that experience health disparities

**Notice of Funding Opportunity:** [PAR-23-270](#)

**First Receipt Date:** February 5, 2024

Help enhance Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) with referral to preventive intervention approaches for populations that experience health disparities!

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Disease Prevention (ODP) and participating Institutes, Centers, and Offices are inviting applications for research projects that test innovative approaches to implementing Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment or Prevention (SBIRT/P) for alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs (ATOD) use and misuse in adult populations that experience health disparities.

This R01 [funding opportunity](#) will support clinical trial research that develops and prospectively tests implementation strategies that overcome barriers to SBIRT/P in diverse settings. Projects are strongly encouraged to include robust engagement with relevant health care and community partners and examine organizational and system contexts.

**First receipt date is February 5, 2024.**

### **[Read Full Funding Opportunity](#)**

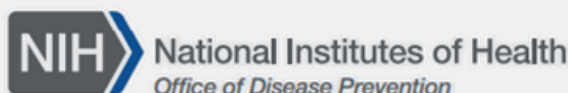
This funding opportunity was developed by the ODP-coordinated [Advancing Prevention Research for Health Equity \(ADVANCE\) initiative](#), an NIH-wide effort to develop and evaluate preventive interventions that address health disparities.



#### **[Post This!](#)**

New funding opportunity from #nihADVANCE will support innovative SBIRT/P approaches for adults that experience health disparities and are at risk for alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs use & misuse. First receipt date 2/5/24: [grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-23-270.html](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-23-270.html)

Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives (DPCPSI)



# FAQ ABOUT THE PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS AFFP/PFAS SETTLEMENT

## URGENT POTENTIAL DEADLINES TO BE PART OF THE SETTLEMENT

Recent settlements with AFFF manufacturers have deadlines set to start 60 days after the Court's approval. Failure to timely file claims could result in delayed or denied compensation.

Michael Stag has been appointed to leadership for the AFFF litigation. Stag Liuzza is currently representing thousands of clients in the litigation and is helping municipalities file the necessary claims to receive compensation to remediate water systems.



### What are PFAS and why is there a proposed national settlement?

Since 2019, a nationwide lawsuit has been ongoing in South Carolina Federal Court concerning PFAS water contamination. PFAS are known as 'forever chemicals' because they resist degradation in the natural environment. One of several defendants agreed to a settlement fund of at least \$10.5 Billion to pay public water systems (PWS) who qualify.

### Who Is Paying the Settlement?

Currently 3M has agreed to contribute at least \$10.5 Billion and up to \$12.5 Billion to the settlement fund to be made available to 'eligible' PWS. The Dupont related companies agreed to contribute an additional \$1.185 billion to fund a water district settlement fund. It is possible more than 20 other chemical companies could add additional amounts into the fund at later dates as the case is continuing against these chemical manufacturers and distributors. The proposed settlement will now be submitted to the court for approval, with payments starting as early as 2024. After the Court approves the settlement, there is a 60-day deadline to submit claims.

### Can Our Water System Qualify for a Settlement Payment?

Public Water Systems servicing at least 3,300 people may qualify. If your system has any detectable level of several PFAS chemicals in it, your system should qualify for a payment.

### Should We Really Test for This Chemical?

Yes. The EPA has proposed an MCL of 4 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFAS in its current PFAS regulation. If this regulation is enforced as anticipated starting in 2024, your PWS will be legally required to test and show less than 4 ppt in your system. Testing ahead of any such regulation makes sense so you can obtain compensation in the settlement to remediate the system if necessary.

### How much may we receive in settlement?

A Court Appointed Settlement Administrator will consider many factors to allocate funds, including:

- Concentration of PFAS
- Adjusted flow rates with averaging for three highest rates in a 10 year period

The goal is to calculate a 'Capital Costs Component' and an 'Operations and Maintenance Costs Component' for each settlement award.

From there, your award may also qualify for a **4x multiplier** if your PFAS test result reaches a certain level. Individual awards could be substantial, totaling millions of dollars for highly contaminated water systems.



## Associate Counsel - Ocean County Board of Social Services

There is an opening for the position listed above within the Ocean County Board of Social Services. Interested individuals who meet the education and experience requirements may submit a letter of interest and resume to Human Resources at [hr@ocbss.ocean.nj.us](mailto:hr@ocbss.ocean.nj.us) or via regular mail to: OCBSS Human Resources, 1027 Hooper Avenue, P.O. Box 547, Toms River, New Jersey 08745-0547.

**Exclude Salary:**

\$105,000.00

**Open To:**

Attorneys admitted to practice in the State of New Jersey who meet the criteria below.

**Education:**

Possession of a Juris Doctor degree from an accredited law school

**Experience:**

Five (5) years of experience handling employer personnel and human resources functions, including hiring, personnel policy development, classification, compensation, Family Leave Laws, and related employment activities. Serves as liaison between agency and the New Jersey Civil Service Commission in personnel matters, including appointments, promotions, transfers, demotions, dismissals, and disciplinary actions. Position requires knowledge of various employment related laws and programs (i.e., NJ Civil Service Regulations, ADA, NJLAD, anti-discrimination, CEPA, FLSA, EAP, etc.). Provides advice and assistance to management on all facets of personnel issues. Excellent analytical, writing and communication skills are essential. Must be able to work independently and within a dynamic team atmosphere.

**Note:**

This is a full time (40 hour) position and as such, punctual and regular in-person attendance is an essential function. This position is also excluded from the Collective Bargaining Agreements between the Ocean County Board of Social Services, the Communications Workers of America - Local 1088, Article I- Recognition, Office and Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU), Local 153, (Supervisors Union and Administrative Clerical, Fiscal and Maintenance Employees Union).

*continued on page 12*



**HELP  
WANTED**

## Employment Opportunities *(continued)*

### Two Attorney Job Postings - Essex County Counsel's Office

Lawyers with at least 2-3 years of experience for the position of Assistant County Counsel in the Essex County Counsel's Office located in the Hall of Records, Newark, New Jersey.

1. Assistant County Counsel position available in the Labor & Employment Section requiring independent representation of the County on Major Disciplinary Actions (terminations/suspensions) of Civil Service Employees, Labor/Employment litigation including LAD complaints, general legal guidance to Department/Division Directors on employment matters and County representation before the Office of Administrative Law on employment matters.

2. Assistant County Counsel position available in the Mental Health & Governmental Affairs Section requiring independent representation of the County regarding County Land Use, Zoning & Planning, Foreclosures, Sheriff's Sale, Election Matters, Collections, County Contracts, Leases and Licenses, representation of the County regarding involuntary Commitment cases, Guardianships and general mental health and governmental affairs matters.

A resume with cover letter should be forwarded to Jerome M. St. John, County Counsel, Office of County Counsel, Hall of Records, Rm. 535, 465 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Newark, New Jersey 07102 **or** email to [jstjohn@counsel.essexcountynj.org](mailto:jstjohn@counsel.essexcountynj.org) with a copy to [kstaub@counsel.essexcountynj.org](mailto:kstaub@counsel.essexcountynj.org)



Season's Greetings



# Nationwide® FastPay makes submitting payroll and census data faster and easier



Introducing **FastPay**, our fully digital payroll submission system.

It's designed to:



Secure participant information



Save time



Improve accuracy



Eliminate manual entry

## FastPay gives you the option to:

- Add or edit **employment dates** to update participant records
- Submit a **debit ACH payment** with just a few steps
- **View and manage** saved payrolls
- Choose from **four submission methods** to fit your needs

### Import payroll tool

- Start with contributions in an exported file from your payroll software
- Create a reusable configuration based on your own file format to import with little to no manual entry

### Copy payroll tool

- Select from previously submitted details to carry over contribution amounts
- Sort participants and edit details for ease of balancing

### Payroll invoice tool

- Begin a payroll with a set pay date based on your payroll calendar
- Generate expected contribution amounts for the current pay date

### Manually key payroll tool

- Create a payroll detail by manually keying participants and contribution amounts

Getting set up with FastPay is fast and easy.

 [NRSCTR@nationwide.com](mailto:NRSCTR@nationwide.com) or  1-877-496-1630, option 3

Nationwide Retirement Solutions and Nationwide Life Insurance Company (collectively "Nationwide") have endorsement relationships with the National Association of Counties (NACo). More information about the endorsement relationships can be found online at [nrsforu.com](http://nrsforu.com).

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NRM-19313AO-NX (09/23)



# National Association of Counties Leadership Development: Learn from the best!

by Luke Afeman, MBA, VP, Enrollment & Managing Director for NACo Leadership Academy, a GovExec Company

We would like to acknowledge and congratulate the August NACo Leadership Academy graduates from New Jersey. They join over 10,000 graduates and current participants from across the country benefitting from the 12-week online program enabling existing and emerging county leaders to achieve their highest potential.

Ashley Fiore, Deputy Surrogate, Ocean County  
 Dana Kelly, Special Deputy Surrogate, Ocean County  
 Darice Toon, Director of Health and Human Services, Hudson County  
 Drita Mancelli, Deputy Clerk 1, Morris County  
 Jane Satterthwaite, Program Specialist 3, Atlantic County  
 Leanna Hernandez, Paralegal Specialist, Morris County  
 Maureen Grieco, Administrative Clerk, Morris County  
 Robert Hoffman, Systems Analyst, Morris County

## Invest in your team with Leadership Training!

Celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the High Performance Leadership Academy with us - each County can enroll 10 leaders for \$15,000 in 2024. Our next cohort starts January 8th.

## [CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE AND ENROLL](#)

*Developed by General Colin Powell, the Professional Development Academy and NACo, the High Performance Leadership Academy is an online 12-week program that helps your workforce develop fundamental, practical leadership skills to deliver results for counties and residents.*

**10 YEARS**  
 MAKING LEADERS BETTER SINCE 2014  
 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY

You are invited to celebrate with us in 2024. It is our High Performance Leadership Academy's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We can think of no better way to celebrate than investing in your workforce. Significant celebration scholarships will be available for existing leaders looking to get better and emerging leaders looking to get ready to navigate change and overcome the challenges of work today.

Email Luke ([lukea@pdaleadership.com](mailto:lukea@pdaleadership.com)) to secure your scholarship, enroll your team, and celebrate with us. Let's make leaders better, together, in 2024 and beyond.



## Webinars

### **Making NACo Cyberattack Simulation: Employee Management**

December 4-8, 2023 ,

#### **[Register](#)**

*Presented by the NACo County Tech Xchange and Professional Development Academy*



In response to the growing threat landscape and complexity of the interdependent and networked business of counties, NACo is partnering with the Professional Development Academy and their community of CISOs, CIOS, risk managers and cyber leaders to launch cyberattack simulation training.

### **Community Engagement, Partnerships, and Education: Fostering Healthy Dialogues and Collaborations with Community Organizations and Neighboring Counties to Advance Housing Affordability**

Dec. 4, 2023 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. EST

#### **[Register](#)**

*If you are having trouble registering for the webinar or need technical assistance in accessing the Zoom platform, please email [nacomeetings@naco.org](mailto:nacomeetings@naco.org).*

Housing is a foundational element to community prosperity, contributing to health, economic mobility, safety, and resilience. Sometimes the conversation around housing can be limited to finances, but engaging with the community to reframe the conversation to one about community property can gather support for housing projects. In this session, three former housing task force members will discuss how counties engage with the community and how counties foster collaborations with organizations and neighboring counties.

### **Increasing SNAP and WIC Enrollment via County-Led Systems Change**

Dec. 5, 2023 2:00 PM Eastern Time

#### **[Register](#)**

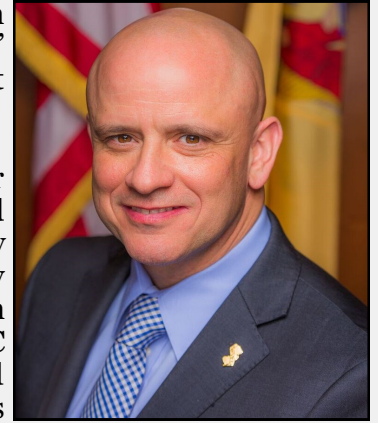
Hear from Coordinating SNAP & Nutrition Supports (CSNS) cohort members on how they are transforming the delivery of human services in their counties and beyond. The CSNS program is a systems change initiative that supports key process changes related to technology, outreach and enrollment assistance, cross-departmental collaboration, and creating more equitable processes and practices embedded in the decision making process and administration of nutrition programs. CSNS is funded by Share Our Strength and administered by the American Public Human Services Association.



## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On November 30<sup>th</sup> NJAC testified before the Assembly Labor Committee in opposition to A-5659 (*Verrelli D-14*), which would increase attorney fees in workers' compensation cases from an amount not to exceed 20% of a judgement to an amount not to exceed 25%.

Given that county governments across the State employ over 30,000 public sector employees and must insure for workers' compensation claims, NJAC is concerned that this legislation would unnecessarily increase workers' compensation awards by at least 25%. Unfortunately, the measure would also nullify the steps county governments as employers have taken to effectively manage workers' compensation claims – ultimately paid for with property taxpayer dollars. With this in mind, NJAC submits that the Office of Legislative Services (OLS) and Executive Branch should have the opportunity to conduct a fiscal estimate on A-5659 to determine its long-term financial ramifications and whether establishing a funding mechanism to address the certain increase in expenditures to local governments would be in order.



**John G. Donnadio, Esq.**

Additionally, NJAC is concerned this legislation would effectively eliminate a judge's discretion to carefully consider the reasonableness of both an attorney's rate of pay and the number of hours the attorney expended on a matter before making awards in workers' compensation cases. Instead, this legislation would appear to summarily grant enhanced judgements to prevailing parties without requiring a comprehensive analysis as required under current law. Moreover, the measure would not appear to serve as an incentive for attorneys to zealously represent injured workers and their families as its stated intent, since the bill would no longer hold lawyers accountable for carefully itemizing the reasonableness of their fees. Despite opposition from the business community and local governments across the State, the Committee favorably reported the bill. The companion version S-4059 (*Lagana D-38*) is currently in the Senate Labor Committee awaiting consideration.

### 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](mailto:loren@njac.org)

[Click here for an application](#)

# EVENTS & HOLIDAYS

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					 <p><b>7:00p.m.</b> Stage Works @ Studio 237 Pompton Lakes Passaic County</p>	<p><b>Fall's Craft &amp; Collectibles Show</b> <b>10:00a.m.-4:00p.m.</b> Convention Hall Cape May Cape May County</p>
<p><b>Pawlday Winter Wonderland-Animal Welfare Association</b> <b>12:00p.m.-4:00p.m.</b> 509 Centennial Blvd. Voorhees Camden County</p>	<p><b>Joshua Bell Leads The NJ Symphony</b> <b>12/3 3:00p.m.</b> NJ PAC Morristown Morris County</p>	 <p><b>12/8 2:00p.m.-5:00p.m.</b> NJ Convention &amp; Expo Center Edison Middlesex County</p>	<p><b>Evergreen Walk &amp; Wreath Craft</b> <b>12/8 1:00p.m.-2:30p.m.</b> Hunterdon County Arboretum Lebanon Hunterdon County</p>		<p><b>Jackie Evancho</b> <b>8:00p.m.-10:30p.m.</b> Levoy Theatre Millville Cumberland County</p>	<p><b>Twas The Night Before Christmas</b> <b>2:00p.m.-4:00p.m.</b> Kelsey Theatre West Windsor Mercer County</p>
<p><b>Merry Movies Holiday Concert!</b> <b>3:00p.m.-4:30p.m.</b> The Lyceum Hall Center for the Arts Burlington Burlington County</p>	<p><b>Navesink Brass Holiday Concert</b> <b>12/9 2:00p.m.-3:00p.m.</b> Ocean County Library Jackson Township Ocean County</p>	<p><b>Winter Wonderland</b> <b>12/9 10:00a.m.-4:00p.m.</b> Conservatory @ the Sussex County Fairgrounds Augusta Sussex County</p>	<p><b>Candlelight: Holiday Special</b> <b>6:00p.m. or 8:30p.m.</b> White Eagle Hall Jersey City Hudson County</p>	<p><b>Ugly Sweater Comedy Night</b> <b>6:00p.m.-10:00p.m.</b> Scotland Run Golf Club Williamstown Gloucester County</p>	<p><b>Holiday Duo! "The Little Town Of Christmas" &amp; Charlie Brown's Christmas</b> <b>12/10 4:00p.m.-5:30p.m.</b> Blue Moon Theatre Woodstown Salem County</p>	<p><b>The Nutcracker Atlantic City Ballet</b> <b>7:00p.m.-11:00p.m.</b> Caesars Atlantic City Atlantic County</p>
<p><b>Monmouth Civic Chorus: Rejoice Greatly</b> <b>4:00p.m.-6:00p.m.</b> Count Basie Center Red Bank Monmouth County</p>	<p><b>Breakfast With Santa</b> <b>12/17 9:00a.m.</b> Liberty Hall Museum Union Union County</p>			<p><b>Wrap and Yap</b> <b>6:00p.m.-7:30p.m.</b> Hackettstown Free Public Library Hackettstown Warren County</p>		<p><b>A Jazz Christmas feat - Rte. 78 Jazz Quartet</b> <b>6:00p.m.-9:00p.m.</b> Flounders Brewing Company Hillsborough Somerset County</p>
			 <p><b>3:00p.m.-4:30:00p.m.</b> Van Saun County Park Paramus Bergen County</p>		<p><b>PAW Patrol Live</b>  <b>10:00a.m.; 2:00p.m.; 6:00p.m.</b> NJ PAC Newark Essex County</p>	
						