



Newsletter

September 2011

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Housing Fact of the Month

Between 2009 and 2010, the median annual income of U.S. households fell 2.3 percent to \$49,445 - the lowest level since 1996, after adjusting for inflation. A recent Census Bureau report also said the number of families living in poverty rose by 2.6 million, to 46.2 million - the largest increase since Census began keeping track 52 years ago. Since December 2007, New Jersey saw a loss of 193,700 private sector jobs during that same time period.

Latest Census Report on Poverty

The U.S. Census has released [new data](#) on poverty, income, and health insurance in America. The results paint a picture one would expect in the current economic environment. According to the Census Bureau, in 2010 median household income declined, the poverty rate increased and the percentage without health insurance coverage was not statistically different from the previous year.

The Center for American

Property Acquisition and Control Strategies Training

The first in the Network's fall training series was held on September 15 at the Network offices. Over 30 individuals participated in the Property Acquisition and Control Strategies training that was led by Alan Mallach of the National Housing Institute and the Brookings Institution and Wayne Meyer of NJ Community.



The course was designed to guide non-profit developers and others through nontraditional

ways they can gain control of properties for reuse under New Jersey law. In addition to an introduction on property acquisition, trainees learned about the foreclosure process, and the opportunities it provides. They also learned about the problem property tools in the Abandoned Property Rehabilitation Act in addition to partnering with local government and with organizations such the Community Asset Preservation Corporation (CAPC) and the National Community Stabilization Trust.

The next training in the series is Property Management for Scattered Site Rental Property on October 17 and October 18.

To learn more or to register, please click [here](#).

2012 Sustainable Design Assessment Team Program

The AIA Center for Communities by Design is has released the Application Packet for the 2012 Sustainable Design Assessment Team program. The Sustainable Design Assessment Team (SDAT) program focuses on the importance of developing sustainable communities through design. The SDAT program brings together multidisciplinary teams of professionals to work with community decision-makers and stakeholders through an intensive planning process. The mission of the SDAT program is to provide technical assistance and process expertise to help communities develop a vision and framework for a sustainable future.

The **final** deadline for submittals is November

Progress compiled a list of noteworthy items in the census report. The Center found that income inequality increased from 2009 to 2010. They also found that more than a third of our population is living on a low income. Click [here](#) to read "Top 10 Striking Findings from the Latest Data on Poverty" from the Center for American Progress.

18, 2011. The SDAT Application Review Panel will complete an *initial* review and acceptance of any applications received prior to October 7, 2011 by the end of October. The Review Panel will complete its final assessment of 2012 applicants in December and will notify all remaining recipient communities shortly thereafter. Click [here](#) for the application and to learn more.

Cities in Action...Prevailing Over Problem Properties

Each month, the Network will highlight a city in New Jersey that is taking steps to revitalize their community by tackling the problem of vacant properties. This month, watch as Valerie Jackson, director of planning and economic development for the City of Orange, describes the measures her city has taken.



Housing Insecurity and Frequent Moves Leave Children Vulnerable to Health Risks

A recent study published by the American Journal of Public Health establishes a positive correlation between housing insecurity and poor health among very young children. The study, which uses overcrowding in homes and multiple moves as indicators of housing insecurity, reveals that children living in households that move frequently are at a greater risk for poor health (18%) than children living in stable households (11%). Furthermore, 22% of caregivers in households reporting multiple moves within a single year also reported developmental risks affecting their children, whereas only 14% of caregivers in stable households reported similar risks.

The study also shows a direct statistical link between housing insecurity and food insecurity, as measured by self-reported child hunger or poor diet. Across the sample of households analyzed, 12% of families living in overcrowded conditions and 16% of families with multiple moves experienced food insecurity as opposed to 9% of families with secure housing. Researchers note that food insecurity increases health risks including anemia, development delays, and elevates the risk of hospitalization.

According to the researchers, multiple moves have a more severe negative impact on children's health than overcrowding, because frequent movers may lack the social ties needed to move in with friends and relatives in a time of crisis and face greater housing uncertainty. In contrast, researchers suggest that overcrowding indicates access to social supports that provide a temporary coping mechanism to prevent homelessness.

The authors suggest that policies and programs designed to alleviate the impact of housing insecurity can have a long term positive impact on the health prospects of young children. In particular, they highlight that families receiving energy or housing subsidies are less likely to move frequently and live in a crowded homes, thus reducing their risks for long term health problems.

The study covered seven states and a sample of about 22,000 caregivers with children younger than three years old who visited Children's HealthWatch sites in central city medical centers between years 1998 and 2007. Since most of the sample is drawn from emergency rooms and hospital-based clinics, the sample does not represent all low income children. The paper, US Housing Insecurity and the Health of Very Young Children, can be found [here](#).

Network Training Schedule

To register for these sessions, please call Chasity Davis at (609) 393-3752, or register online [here](#). (Note: All National Development Council workshops are available on their [website](#).) Please

Property Management for Scattered Site Rental Property, October 17 & 18

This two day course will explore how to manage geographically scattered and small-scale rental properties which pose a unique and difficult challenge in affordable housing ownership. A portfolio of small properties requires the owner to possess or obtain special property management skills. Management will not have the advantages of on-site property management staff, or the economies of scale a multiple-unit building provides. This course is designed to help the participant identify ways of mobilizing and adapting a management operation to effectively monitor the operational performance of a scattered-site real estate portfolio. Through case study analysis and discussion of best practices, participants will learn to identify and examine the different property management options available to best meet their organization's needs. Approaches to keep such housing stock healthy and energy efficient will be addressed. A special module will cover the specifics of managing REO properties. **Brett William, Neighborworks® Training Institute, Fee: \$150 Members/\$200 Non Members.**

Mixed-Use Real Estate Finance, November 1 & 2

Neighborhoods are at their best when "Main Street" pulses with the activities that bring a community alive-residential, retail, entertainment, services, public facilities and common areas. Older Main Streets have special opportunities for adaptive reuse-with buildings that are ideally suited to retrofitting multiple uses in one structure. Cities and towns undergoing redevelopment in their downtowns often view mixed-used development as a way to catalyze Main Street, energizing it with shopping, dining, culture and entertainment. There are several financial tools available for Main Street redevelopment and if brought together in the right way, for the right uses, they can do the job. **The National Development Council, Fee: \$150 Members/\$200 Non Members.**

Financing Your Renewable Energy Project, December 15, Webinar

Congress has provided a number of Federal subsidies in support of our national energy and environmental policies, including the Production Tax Credit, Investment Tax Credit and the 1603 Grant in Lieu of Tax Credits. A number of states have similar incentives. NDC recognized that these can be used as resources for community development as well as for energy and environmental goals. We have developed creative financing for community development projects that incorporate renewable energy facilities, taking full advantage of all available financing tools. This three-hour online session covers: 1) Financing tools, both Federal and state 2) Deal structuring 3) Long-term project benefits of renewable energy. **Erin O'Neill, National Development Council Fee: None.**

State and Federal Policy Watch

Princeton Junction Town Center Moves Forward The West Windsor Township council voted 4 - 1 in favor of a redevelopment ordinance. As a result, the Princeton Junction Town Center will proceed. This project will be one the best opportunities for creating economic development in West Windsor. The development will include a mix of retail and residences right next to the train station including 98 income-based homes. 50 percent of these homes will be for moderate-income families, 40 percent for low income, and 10 percent for very low income. Intercap CEO Steve Goldin, told WWPInfo.com that he plans to go before the Planning Board in 2012 and break ground in 2013

U.S. Senate Subcommittee to Vote on Section 4 Funding

The Senate THUD Subcommittee is scheduled to meet before the end of the month to consider the FY 2012 appropriations bill. Initial reports indicate that the Senate's draft bill will cut federal dollars for community development by ONE-THIRD, reducing the program from nearly \$50 million in FY 2011 to \$33.5 million for FY 2012. This cut is the largest cut in the history of the program. The Network will keep you posted on the results of the vote. Make sure to follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for the most up to date news.

HUD Announces Initiative to Measure the Combined Cost of Housing and Transportation

The Manhattan Strategies Group, LLC and the Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT) have been awarded a \$3.2 million grant to develop a national Housing and Transportation Affordability Index. This new tool is intended to provide a more accurate measure of the cost of living in various communities throughout the country. Learn more [here](#).

Continuing Resolution to keep the government funded through Nov 18

On September 14, House Committee on Appropriations Chair Harold Rogers (R-KY) introduced H.J. Res. 79, the "Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2012," a CR that would keep the government funded through November 18, 2011. Congress has not passed any FY12 appropriations bills, and is not likely to in time for the October 1 beginning of the new federal fiscal year. The CR would allow additional weeks for the Senate to complete its subcommittee bills and for the House and Senate to negotiate final funding levels for all 12 appropriations bills. Congress will have to complete the appropriations work by November 18 or passed an additional CR to

avoid a government shutdown.

HUD Releases Proposed FY 2012 Fair Market Rents

On August 19, 2011, HUD published the Proposed Fair Market Rents for the Housing Choice Voucher Program and Moderate Rehabilitation Single Room Occupancy Program Fiscal Year 2012 in the Federal Register. The purpose of the notice is to provide the preliminary information so that the proposed payment standards can be reviewed prior to taking effect on October 1, 2011. Click [here](#) to learn more. Some notable changes in FMRs include:

- Cape May increased by 13.8%.
- Atlantic, Bergen, Cumberland, Essex, Hudson, Mercer, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Sussex, Union and Warren also had increases.
- Hunterdon, Middlesex, Somerset decreased by 8.6%.
- More modest decreases are projected in Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, and Salem.

Membership Notes

*****SAVE THE DATE*****

Mark your calendars for the Network's upcoming Semi-Annual Board and Membership Meeting, **Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2011 at the Trenton Marriott Downtown from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.** Our theme this year is **LEAD to Succeed (Learn, Educate, Adapt, Diversify)** Further details coming soon.

Member Spotlights

All of our members who collected school supplies for children in need deserve a huge pat on the back. Organizations like **HomeFront** and **Volunteers of America Delaware Valley** helped numerous kids go back to school with backpacks full of materials to get a good start to the school year. The Network also thanks all of our members who helped families affected by Hurricane Irene. Some organizations like **Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton** turned lemons into lemonade by collecting nonperishable items for their food pantry from those who had stocked extra items as a result of the hurricane. Through September 26, ArtSpace from **HomeFront** will have an exhibit at Mercer County's Grounds for Sculpture. The exhibit features facts about homelessness, poverty, hunger and hopelessness through art. Also, on October 15, the Salem Roadhouse Cafe in Union will host a Jazz festival featuring many performers in a continuous four-hour show raising funds for **Monarch Housing** for its work on ending homelessness. Come out to show your support!

If you have a project or accomplishment you would like to share with the Network and you're a member in good standing, please contact Nina Arce at narce@hcdnnj.org to be featured in our next newsletter.

Media Watch & TA Alerts

If you're interested in receiving a listing of daily news articles highlighting members of the Network and issues relating to housing and community development, sign up for our Media Watch. Links to news articles are accompanied by a brief summary so you can determine which articles are of interest to you. If you'd like to be added to the Media Watch distribution list, send an e-mail to Nina Arce at narce@hcdnnj.org with the subject line, "Opt-in to Media Watch."

You can also sign up for electronic TA Alerts which feature funding sources, workshops, and TA updates. If you wish to be added to the TA Alert distribution list, e-mail Nina Arce at narce@hcdnnj.org with the subject line, "Opt-in to TA Alerts."

Housing in the News

Even empty N.J. homes need repair post-Hurricane Irene

(*Star Ledger*, September 1, 2011)

Once a house has gone through foreclosure - and is therefore likely unoccupied - who watches out for it during storms like Hurricane Irene? Even before the properties suffered storm damage, the bank-owned houses already had a negative reputation that they are not properly maintained. Linda Fisher, a law professor at Seton Hall, studies low-income neighborhoods where this "foreclosure contagion" effect is particularly common.

<http://bit.ly/roGlvW>

HUD to Dedicate \$1.63 Billion Towards Preventing Homelessness

(*Mortgage Finance Magazine*, August 31, 2011)

U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Shaun Donovan has announced that HUD will award \$1.63 billion for Fiscal Year 2011 to support nearly 7,000 existing homeless assistance programs currently operating and create additional new homeless assistance programs with the Continuum of Care (CoC) Homeless Assistance Program Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA).

<http://bit.ly/qo3gV8>

Master plans prove to be vital guidance document

(*South Bergenite*, September 1, 2011)

A master plan is basically a blueprint for a town. It sets the goals and details the problems relating to a town's land use and development, including housing needs, economic development, recreation and open space facilities and transportation objectives. A master plan can also provide recommendations to a town's planning board to focus on over the duration of the plan.

<http://bit.ly/q2DR62>

Funding/Award Opportunities

Federal Grants:

[Energy Innovations in Multifamily Housing Funded](#)

Department of Housing and Urban Development

The Energy Innovation Fund: Multifamily Pilot Program provides support for financing demonstrations that propose innovative methods for financing retrofits of multifamily properties, and applied research demonstrations that propose solutions to longstanding barriers to multifamily residential retrofits. Examples of eligible financing demonstrations include secondary financing, energy-related revolving loan programs, and on-bill utility repayment programs. Examples of eligible applied research demonstrations include the provision of more information on and greater owner and/or tenant control over energy use, the conversion of properties from master metered/owner paid utilities to individually metered/tenant paid utilities that result in efficiencies and savings, and creating incentives for parties that promote investment strategies for energy improvements. **Deadline: October 20, 2011.**

[Funds for Supportive Housing Projects](#)

Department of Housing and Urban Development

The Supportive Housing Program provides support for transitional housing, permanent housing, supportive services not in conjunction with supportive housing, safe havens, and innovative supportive housing designed to serve homeless individuals and their families. Permanent housing projects will serve homeless disabled individuals and their families only. Eligible project activities include the following: acquisition, rehabilitation, new construction, leasing, operating costs, supportive services, and homeless management information systems. Selection priority will be given to new housing projects located in 100% rural areas, with potential additional points awarded to those areas qualifying as extremely high need communities. **Deadline: October 28, 2011.**

[H-1B Technical Skills Training Funds for Employers](#)

Department of Labor

The H-1B Technical Skills Training Grants Program provides support for the provision of education, training, and job placement assistance in the occupations and industries for which employers are using H-1B visas to hire foreign workers, and the related activities necessary to support such training. On-the-job training projects serving all participants and those that use other training strategies are eligible for support, including training for occupations in the health care industry and training designed to serve long-term unemployed individuals. **Deadline: November 17, 2011.**

[Emergency Capital Repair Grant Program](#)

Department of Housing and Urban Development

Funds emergency capital repairs for eligible multifamily projects owned by private nonprofit entities that are designated for occupancy by elderly tenants. **Closing date: November 29, 2011.**

[FY 2011 Planning and Local Technical Assistance Programs Opportunity](#)

Department of Commerce

Economic Development Administration Planning Program provides assistance to eligible recipients to create regional economic development plans in order to stimulate and guide the economic development efforts of a community or region. Local Technical Assistance Program helps eligible recipients fill the knowledge and information gaps that may prevent leaders in the public and nonprofit sectors in economically distressed regions from making optimal decisions on local economic development issues. Applications are accepted on a continuing basis.

Foundation Grants:

[Youth Garden Programs Supported](#)

National Gardening Association: Subaru Healthy Sprouts Awards

The National Gardening Association (NGA) is dedicated to promoting home, school, and community gardening as a means to renew and sustain the essential connections between people, plants, and the environment. The NGA Subaru Healthy Sprouts Awards support school and youth garden programs throughout the country that use gardens to teach youth about the environment,

nutrition, and the issue of hunger in the United States. Fifty programs will receive a \$500 gift certificate from the Gardening with Kids catalog as well as lessons and literature from NGA. Applicants must plan to garden in 2012 with at least 15 children between the ages of 3 and 18 years. **Deadline: October 1, 2011.**

Funds for Health Projects in Disaster Regions in the East, Midwest, and South

AmeriCares U.S. Disaster Recovery Initiative

The AmeriCares U.S. Disaster Recovery Initiative is dedicated to supporting nonprofit organizations that are working to aid survivors of Hurricane Irene and other recent storms affecting the East Coast, the Midwest, and the South. This initiative supports nonprofit organizations responding to the recent hurricane, along with organizations continuing to rebuild and aid the recovery in the wake of the tornadoes, Mississippi and Missouri river flooding, and other major emergencies since February 1, 2011. Grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$100,000 will be provided for projects in the health sector, with an emphasis on medical and dental care for the uninsured, mental health and psychosocial support services, as well as preparedness for future disasters.

Grants will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis through October 31, 2011.

Home Depot Community Impact Grants Program

The Home Depot Community Impact Grants Program provides support to nonprofit organizations, public schools, and public service agencies in the U.S. that are using the power of volunteers to improve the physical health of their communities. Proposals for the following community improvement activities will be considered: repairs, refurbishments, and modifications to low-income and/or transitional housing or community facilities (schools, community centers, senior centers, etc.); weatherizing or increasing energy efficiency of low-income and/or transitional housing or community facilities; planting trees or community gardens and/or landscaping community facilities; and development of community parks or green spaces. Grants of up to \$5,000 are made in the form of The Home Depot gift cards for the purchase of tools, materials, or services. **Closing date: October 31, 2011.**

Youth Volunteers Recognized

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards is a nationwide program that honors young people in grades 5-12 who are volunteering in their communities. Youth who have engaged in a volunteer activity that occurred during the 12 months prior to the date of application are eligible to apply. Local Honorees are selected in November and from these winners two State Honorees are chosen in each state and the District of Columbia. State Honorees receive an award of \$1,000 and an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, DC for national recognition events. Out of the State Honorees, ten National Honorees are selected to receive an additional award of \$5,000 as well as a \$5,000 grant for a nonprofit organization of their choice. **Deadline: November 1, 2011.**

Grants Enhance Bank Communities

HSBC Bank USA Corporate Contributions Program

HSBC Bank USA Corporate Contributions Program provides support for nonprofit organizations located in communities served by the bank in California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington State, and Washington, DC. Grants are offered in the areas of youth education and the environment. In the youth education category, grants support programs that educate students aged 3 to 25, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds or from schools in economically deprived areas. The focus of the environment category is on environmental policy development, public awareness-building, education of teachers or other adults, scientific research, and projects to improve the sustainability of ecosystems. **Deadline: November 1, 2011.**

State Farm Companies Grant Program

The State Farm Companies Grants Program strives to meet the needs of communities in the U.S. and Canada by supporting nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and government agencies that address safety, community development, or education. Safety Grants focus on driving safety, home protection, disaster preparedness, and personal financial security. The emphasis of Community Development Grants is on affordable housing, homeownership issues, community revitalization, and economic development. Education grants target public K-12 teacher development, service-learning programs, and systemic educational reform. **Applications are accepted from January 2 through October 31, annually.**

Support for Anti-Poverty Programs

Catholic Campaign for Human Development: Community Development Grants

The mission of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) is to address the root causes of poverty in the United States through the support of community-controlled, self-help organizations and through transformative education. CCHD's Community Development Grants support organizations that bring poor and vulnerable people together to change structures and policies that perpetuate the cycle of poverty. Priority is given to organizations that work with persons directly experiencing economic or social injustice, such as racial discrimination, long-term joblessness, or economic dislocation. Grants range from \$25,000 to \$75,000. The Pre-application Eligibility **Quiz may be submitted between September 1 and November 1, 2011.**

(Organizations are strongly encouraged to submit their quiz prior to the November 1 deadline.)
Online applications for new applicants are due December 31, 2011.

Community Programs in U.S. and Canada Funded

Costco Wholesale Corporate Contributions Program

The Costco Wholesale Corporate Contributions Program supports nonprofit organizations in company operating communities throughout the U.S. and Canada as well as international locations. Grants and product donations are provided to nonprofit organizations and educational institutions that address the areas of children's issues, education, and health and human services. Local organizations should submit requests to the Warehouse Manager at the nearest Costco. Grant or donation requests which impact a broader region should go through the appropriate regional office. Requests may be submitted throughout the year. Visit the company's website to review the donation and grant eligibility guidelines.

Click [here](#) for more funding opportunities.

Events/Workshops

Solutions for Sustainable Communities: 2011 Learning Conference on State and Local Housing Policy, September 26-28 in Washington, DC.

Presented by the National Housing Conference and Center for Housing Policy. This innovative day-long conference will present inter-disciplinary new research and case studies from across the U.S. that will inform both policymakers and practitioners. The program will build on the MacArthur Foundation's five-year, \$25 million dollar How Housing Matters initiative, as well as on the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's strategic initiative exploring housing as a platform for education, health and economic opportunity. Click [here](#) to learn more or to register.

HOPE NOW Alliance and NeighborWorks America® Homeowner Events, September 26 in Whippany, September 27 in Secaucus

The HOPE NOW Alliance and NeighborWorks America® are partnering to bring two free homeowner events to the area. These events are designed to help bring together homeowners in financial distress for a face-to-face meeting with a representative from their mortgage lender and/or local housing counselor. Visit www.hopenow.com to learn more. Volunteers for the event are greatly need. If you have any questions or are interested in volunteering for this Foreclosure Prevention effort, please contact Sheila Squier at sheila.squier@gmail.com.

Introducing GreenTRIP: Building Certification for Truly Transit-Oriented, Green Development, September 28, Webinar

Transportation is increasingly being recognized amongst community development practitioners as a key component of building communities that are socially equitable and environmentally sustainable. Green building certification systems - such as LEED and the Living Building Challenge- are going beyond building performance and increasingly placing more weight on location as a green strategy. Taking this concept a step further, an innovative new certification program "GreenTRIP" was recently launched by Bay Area based group, TransForm, to encourage development of communities that not only consume fewer resources and provide healthier living environments but also reduce traffic and offer residents a new form of affordable, sustainable living. Click [here](#) to learn more or to register.

Redevelopment Planning Law, October 4-5, Trenton

This two-day course on the redevelopment planning process will provide a broader understanding of the crucial issues, steps and challenges associated with the New Jersey's Local Redevelopment and Housing Law (LRHL). The workshop includes an in-depth review of the LRHL, an analysis of the redevelopment planning process designations, discussion on how to engage the community in the redevelopment planning process, review and examination of the redevelopment plan in relations to current legal issues and challenges, review of the mandatory and optional provisions of the redeveloper's agreement, and discussions on some of the recent legal and public policy issues on redevelopment such as eminent domain, environmental liability and relocation. Click [here](#) to learn more or to register.

Funding, Financing and Redeveloping of Brownfields: Finding Resources in These Challenging Economic Times, October 11, Newark

NJIT is hosting a free seminar to address some of the challenges facing brownfield communities. Topics include funding, financing and technical assistance. NJIT is hosting this seminar as part of their work under a US EPA Technical Assistance to Brownfield Communities (TAB) grant. The TAB grantees help communities tackle the challenge of cleaning up and redeveloping brownfield sites by providing geographically-based technical assistance and training to communities and other stakeholders on brownfield issues. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Green Refinance (and Acquisition) Plus Opportunities, October 12, Webinar

HUD and FannieMae recently launched a new Green Refinance Plus product to fund green

improvements in affordable properties. This Live Online Event will discuss the particulars of the product and how to take advantage of this new financing opportunity from Enterprise. Click [here](#) to learn more or to register.

Real Estate Project Feasibility, November 9-10, Trenton

Participate in a comprehensive review of the assessment that take place prior to the acquisition or development of commercial property. Learn how to conduct analysis on various real estate development projects to identify the magnitude of the risk, and based on that assessment, make the decision to move forward or not with the development project. A case study will be used to assess the potential economic viability of a real estate development project. Click [here](#) to register or learn more.

Training Opportunities/Resources

Regional Mortgage Briefs

Regional Mortgage Briefs is an online resource designed to provide up-to-date and accessible analytics on critical mortgage and foreclosure concerns impacting our region. This information will help policymakers and housing professionals make informed decisions and efficiently allocate resources. Click [here](#) to view information for Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Passaic and Union Counties.

Influencing Public Policy in the Digital Age

The Alliance for Justice has just released a new resource for nonprofits addressing online organizing and advocacy, *Influencing Public Policy in the Digital Age: The Law of Online Lobbying and Election-related Activities*. This resource can serve as a guide for the field, communications, and new media staff of nonprofit organizations on how to engage in online advocacy and stay within the law, and answers the kinds of questions nonprofit staff most often face, such as: may organizations treat their Facebook friends as "members"? What should we do if a candidate or supporter posts something political on our Facebook wall? May nonprofits use social media for lobbying? Click [here](#) to access guide.

New Web Resource for Green Affordable Housing Launched

The Green Affordable Housing Coalition, a national action network that fosters collaboration and advocates for the development and preservation of green affordable housing, recently launched its new website. The site will disseminate relevant resources and reports, catalogue upcoming events and help promote the green policy agenda of member organizations. Users can also receive additional information on the national Call to Action to green all affordable housing by 2020, an initiative that has been endorsed by several Coalition members. Read more about the Green Affordable Housing Coalition website [here](#).

New Energy Program Temporary Relief for Utility Expenses (TRUE)

PSE&G customers can receive a one-time TRUE grant of up to \$1,500 (depending on the balance owed) towards their PSE&G bill. The maximum grant is \$750 for electric and \$750 for gas service, depending on your balance owed. Funds will be allocated on a first come, first serve basis.

To be eligible you must:

- Be past due with your electric or gas account; and utility service not disconnected.
- Have paid at least four payments of \$25 in the last six months. Three payments must be made 30 days before application; and
- Not be eligible or received LIHEAP or USF in the last year.

For more information about TRUE Grant assistance, please call toll-free 1-855-465-8783 or (732) 389-2204. You can also visit www.ahanjtrue.org or PSE&G's [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page.

Employment Opportunities

City of Irvington

Irvington Neighborhood Services Director

Directs operations of the department, which include four divisions: Public Works, Vital Statistics-Nursing, Inspections, and Engineering-Building Construction. The department is responsible for code enforcement (property, sanitation, sanitary), building construction, zoning, vital statistics, nursing, and public works (maintenance of shade trees, streets, sewers, parks, public buildings, and the Township motor pool). Experience: Two (2) years of experience managing a municipal department and a Bachelors degree from an accredited college or university. Candidates with a civil or mechanical engineering license and/or certification as an APWA will be given extra consideration. Salary commensurate with experience. Complete a Job Application (www.irvington.net) and mail it to Wayne Bradley, Business Administrator, Township of Irvington, 1 Civic Square, Irvington, NJ 07111.

Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)

Greater Newark LISC Executive Director

Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) seeks an Executive Director for its Greater Newark program. The Executive Director reports to a LISC Program Vice President and Local Advisory Committee (LAC) and provides leadership and direction in developing and implementing the vision, focus, and strategy for the Greater Newark program. The Executive Director has overall responsibility and accountability for the Greater Newark LISC program including direct supervision of a three person staff. LISC offers a competitive salary and excellent benefits. LISC will only accept resumes and cover letters that are submitted electronically to Candace Green at Cgreen@lisc.org. The cover letter should describe what in your background demonstrates the competencies we are seeking and what interests you most about work for LISC. Click here to learn [more](#).

Build with Purpose

Senior Real Estate Project Manager

The Senior Real Estate Project Manager performs a variety of activities to support the organization's mission, mainly managing all phases of the real estate development process for assigned projects from predevelopment to occupancy. Additionally, the Senior Project Manager will be required to provide guidance and support to the organization's Project Managers and Assistant Project Managers. Qualified applicants should send their resumes to jobpostings@bwpurpose.org. Qualified candidates will be contacted for follow-up. Please DO NOT call or directly contact Build with Purpose staff regarding this matter. [Click here](#) to learn more.



Staci Berger
Housing & Community Development Network of NJ

[Forward email](#)



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