



Dear Mayor,

The NJCM had a very successful and enjoyable Fall Event this past weekend at The Breakers in Spring Lake. In addition to a delicious clam bake, we had an informative presentation on Wind Energy from representatives in the regulatory and industry realm. For those of who were unable to attend, attached please find the speaker presentations, which also will be posted on NJCM website.

NJ State Health Benefits Plan Rate Hikes

On September 14, the [State Health Benefits Commission](#) voted to dramatically increase rate by 22.8% to the State Health Benefits Plan. The Murphy administration, however, struck a deal with some state unions to limit their increase to only 3 percent, with the state taking on the rest of the financial burden. However, municipal and county governments and employees were left out any such deal. The Administration has reached out to the NJCM and other stakeholders indicating a desire to work with the legislature to find a solution for local governments and workers. Mayor Janice S. Mironov, President of NJCM, has strongly urged mayors to contact the Governor and your legislators seeking resolution of this important issue. To assist, attached is Mayor Mironov letter to the Governor.

ALERT: The NJ Conference of Mayors, in collaboration with the New Jersey League of Municipalities, Urban Mayor's Association and the NJ Association of Counties, is planning a virtual press conference for **WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 12 at 11 a.m.** We will be addressing this important issue and seeking resolution by the Administration and Legislators of this unfair and economically devastating decision by the State Health Benefits Commission decision. Further details and a link to join the event will be sent out next week.

Around the State

Stormwater Infrastructure Seminar

A Lunch and Learn Stormwater Infrastructure and Financing webinar for municipalities is being sponsored by the New Jersey League of Conservation Voters and Waterspirit. This free stormwater funding webinar will be held on October 19 from 12-1 pm. The purpose of [the webinar](#) is to connect local and county officials to funding sources for stormwater and green infrastructure projects. This webinar will discuss grants, loans and financing options to cover the costs of stormwater feasibility studies, climate resiliency programs, green infrastructure projects, and water infrastructure needs. Join Gabe Mahon, Bureau Chief from the Stormwater Permitting Program at the Department of Environmental Protection, and David Zimmer, Executive Director of the Infrastructure Bank to discuss these funding options. To register, click [here](#).

NJ Water Infrastructure Investment Plan Webinar Recording and Video Available

Last week, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Office held a webinar on IIJA Funding & Water Infrastructure. The webinar featured speakers from NJDEP and EPA who provided information on how IIJA funding will flow to municipalities. New Jersey is expected to receive over \$1 billion in funding between 2022 and 2026 to provide attractive financing packages, including grant-like principal forgiveness and low-interest loans for much-needed investments in water infrastructure. You can access a recording of the webinar and a copy of the presentation here: [Webinar Recording](#) | [Slideshow](#)

New Jersey Department of Transportation

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials announced the Top 12 finalists in the 2022 America's Transportation Awards competition, with top scores to projects in California, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, **New Jersey**, New York, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and Washington. The New Jersey project that made the top 12 is the Route 495, Route 1&9/Paterson Plank Road Bridge project. New Jersey DOT worked closely with the public and 16 local, state, and regional agencies, successfully steering the project through 12-stages over four years, to enhance travel and safety for New Jersey. You now can vote to give this project top honors and recognition nationally, by clicking on this link: americastransportationawards.org

NJ Department of Children and Families

In response to a national mental wellness crisis in youth and young adults, the New Jersey Department of Children and Families is working to evolve the existing

School-Based Youth Services (SBYS) infrastructure and programming currently operating in 90 schools throughout the state – roughly 5% of school buildings in New Jersey, serving less than 3% of its students – to launch a statewide, innovative hub-and-spoke model of services and resources intended to support youth wellness and prevent the need for deeper interventions in the mental health system. The new model, the NJ Statewide Student Support Services (NJ4S) Network, would create 15 regional hubs, aligned along court vicinages and Children’s System of Care service areas, to support statewide delivery of prevention services in schools, as well as other locations in the community including but not limited to libraries, community centers, faith-based-organizations, and family success centers. NJ DCF has prepared a concept paper outlining the need for, and process of, evolving SBYS to the NJ4S model. The department is seeking public input and feedback on the concept. See paper [here](#), send comments and questions to NJ4SFeedback@dcf.nj.gov by **October 14, 2022**. The department will review collected feedback and consider the public’s suggestions in the rollout of the NJ4S network.

Sincerely,



Mayor Janice S. Mironov
President, NJ Conference of Mayors



Kerry Kirk Pflugh
Executive Director, NJ Conference of Mayors