



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
P.O. Box 600
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0600

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

DIANE GUTIERREZ-SCACCETTI
Commissioner

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

August 14, 2018

The Honorable Gerry P. Little
Freeholder Director, Ocean County
P.O. Box 2191
101 Hooper Avenue
Toms River, New Jersey 08754-2191



Dear Freeholder Director Little:

On behalf of Governor Philip D. Murphy, I am pleased to inform you that the FY 2019 County Aid Program is underway and that Ocean County will receive a New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) County Aid allotment of \$12,677,467 from the New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund. Funding levels are commensurate with FY 2019 appropriations.

NJDOT recently announced a new initiative, "Commitment to Communities," that will enhance our efforts to assist local governments identify more projects and apply for the additional funding made possible through the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) Reauthorization Act of 2016.

As you are aware, funding for grants-in-aid programs to counties and municipalities increased from \$190 million per year to \$430 million under the new legislation.

The Transportation Trust Fund is an essential tool in maintaining and enhancing the County transportation system. These state funds are available for eligible projects identified in the County's Annual Transportation Program (ATP). Projects may be improvements to public roads and bridges under County jurisdiction, or other transportation related work.

All counties will be required to submit their application online prior to February 1, 2019 using the NJDOT's SAGE (System for Administering Grants Electronically). Agreements will be forwarded to the County after review and approval of the applications by the Department. The County will then be required to provide signed and sealed originals of the agreements and the Annual Transportation Program approved by the appropriate governing body.

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In accordance with the new County Aid regulations N.J.A.C. 16:20A-6.4, each County is required to submit to the Department an annual report on the expenditure of local aid funds by December 31, 2018. The county's progress in expending its allotment of local aid will be measured on an annual basis using the information contained in this report. Please submit the required annual report on the attached template.

Also, the "Grant Agreement for State Aid to Counties and municipalities Terms and Conditions" specifically requires interest earned on advanced payments be reported. Currently unexpended County Aid Program funds are to be deposited in a separate interest bearing bank account. The Interest earnings are to be reported annually to the New Jersey Department of Transportation's (NJDOT) Director of Local Aid & Economic Development by December 31st of each year. Interest earnings may be applied to the County Aid Program, as approved by the NJDOT.

Both the Annual Report and Interest Report should be certified by the County's authorized chief financial officer.

Additionally, County Aid regulation N.J.A.C. 16:20A require counties to award construction within three years of notification by the Department of that year's county allotment. Failure to award within three years shall result in the county allotments being immediately rescinded. This announcement letter advises counties to spend all their FY 2016 and prior years' allotments before February 1, 2019 and all their FY 2019 allotments before February 1, 2022.

If you have any questions regarding your County's FY 2019 allotment, please feel free to contact Tom Berryman of the Local Aid District Office in Trenton at 609-530-5271.

My staff and I look forward to working with you to continue improving your County's transportation system.

Sincerely,



Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti
Commissioner

c: County Clerk, County Engineer