

NJAC COUNTY BIZ

An Educational and Informative Newsletter for Counties and Businesses

New Jersey Association of Counties

SSUE 171 - FEBRUARY 2026

Hudson County Providers Unite To Strengthen The Social Safety Net

by Hudson County Executive Office

Under the leadership of County Executive Craig Guy, Hudson County's social services community is taking proactive steps to protect and strengthen the programs residents depend on, especially at a time when uncertainty around federal policy and funding is reshaping the future of human services nationwide.

On December 9, 2025, the Hudson County Department of Health and Human Services, through its Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC), convened 35 social service providers and system partners for a solutions-driven gathering rooted in County Executive Guy's commitment to collaboration, preparedness, and equity. The convening reflected a shared understanding championed by Hudson County leadership meeting today's challenges requiring coordinated action and a unified vision.



The session opened with a national briefing from Winning Strategies Washington, offering insights into emerging federal policy shifts with potentially significant local impacts. The conversation then turned to the realities on the ground, as a panel of housing, food security, and homeless service providers shared firsthand experiences from the field. Their perspectives underscored a growing urgency demand for services is rising, client needs are becoming more complex, and frontline organizations are under increasing strain yet their dedication to Hudson County residents remains unwavering.

Building on this foundation, participants engaged in facilitated strategy sessions focused on moving from concern to action. Across discussions, one message resonated clearly collaboration is essential. Providers reaffirmed the value of HSAC as a countywide coalition to strengthen coordination, enhance information sharing, pursue joint funding opportunities, and elevate a collective advocacy voice priorities strongly supported by County Executive Guy and Hudson County leadership.

At a time of tightening resources and growing demand, this convocation was more than a meeting, it was a rallying point. Guided by Craig Guy's leadership, Hudson County's human services community is moving forward together, united by shared priorities and a steadfast commitment to ensuring that no resident is left behind.



INSIDE THIS EDITION:

- Pg. 1 Hudson County Providers Unite To Strengthen Social Safety Net
- Pg. 2 Investing In Efficiency
- Pg. 4 The Fleet Turnover Squeeze
- Pg. 5 Smarter, Safer Spaces
- Pg. 7 Supporting Local Government Procurement
- Pg. 9 Move Out of AI PILOT Mode
- Pg. 10 NJAC Virtual Events 2026
- Pg. 11 TESU
- Pg. 12 Reorganization Photos
- Pg. 14 MRA International Event
- Pg. 14 NJAC Meetings & Events 2026
- Pg. 15 Grant Management Training
- Pg. 16 Network Systems Health Check
- Pg. 17 NJEPA
- Pg. 18 Nationwide
- Pg. 19 NACo Webinars & Legislative Conference
- Pg. 20 Message From The Executive Director
- Pg. 21 Events & Holidays

Investing In Efficiency: How New Jersey Counties Are Making Smarter Decisions About Public Facilities

by Pradeep Kapoor, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, President & CEO, DMR Architects

Counties across New Jersey are continuing to balance growth, aging infrastructure, and increasing service demands with the need to control costs and operate more efficiently. This has led counties to take a closer look at how public facilities are planned, designed, and used over time, with an emphasis on making thoughtful investments that extend the life of existing buildings, support operations, and remain flexible as needs change. Several current projects at DMR Architects reflect how counties are applying these principles in practice.



DESIGN AND RENDERING ARE BY AECOM

In Middlesex County, construction is underway on the new 30,000 square foot Student Center at Middlesex College, where DMR is serving as the architect of record under the design architect, AECOM. As part of the County's Community, Innovation, and Opportunity Strategic Investment Plan, the project brings student lounges, study areas, game rooms, and a restaurant operated by the college's Culinary Arts Department into a single, centralized location. The facility also supports the expansion of the college's culinary program with new instructional spaces and includes areas designed for campus events and informal gathering. By consolidating key student services and creating flexible, multi-use

spaces, the Student Center improves functionality, accessibility, and long term efficiency across the campus. Immersive renderings can be found on www.middlesexcountynj.gov/cioplan.

In Hunterdon County, work is moving forward on two important projects. At the Justice Center, DMR designed an interior renovation—now under construction—to add a new courtroom by reconfiguring existing space. This allows the County to expand judicial capacity in a practical, cost-conscious way without the need for a new facility. At the same time, DMR is designing interior renovations to the North Branch Library, which will refresh public spaces and help the library continue to serve as a vital community resource.



maintenance planning.

Somerset County is also advancing long-term planning through multiple consolidation and operational efficiency initiatives. DMR recently completed the design for a 76,800-square-foot multi-use warehouse facility for the Somerset County Improvement Authority. The building is intended to bring several departments including the Board of Elections, Office of Emergency Management, Prosecutor's Office, Communications Center, and general storage together under one roof to streamline operations and reduce future maintenance costs. In addition, DMR is designing a new Street Sweeping Facility, which will support Public Works operations by improving equipment care, storage, and long-term

continued on page 3

Investing In Efficiency: How New Jersey Counties Are Making Smarter Decisions About Public Facilities (continued)

Taken together, these projects show how counties are looking closely at the long-term value of their facilities and making deliberate choices about where and how to invest. Some are focusing on renovations to extend the life of existing buildings, while others are consolidating functions to better support operations. All are working to strengthen public infrastructure in ways that respond to immediate needs while keeping an eye on responsible spending.

As counties continue to refine their capital improvement strategies, the most effective solutions are often those that balance practicality with forward-thinking design. Whether supporting higher education, expanding judicial capacity, consolidating county departments, or modernizing public spaces, well-planned projects become enduring assets that help counties deliver essential services more efficiently and effectively.



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

The Fleet Turnover Squeeze: Preparing For Incoming Vehicles

by Stacee Turner, Marketing Communications Specialist, GovDeals

Across New Jersey, county governments are now in a new phase of fleet replacement. For several years, procurement cycles were disrupted by pandemic-era supply chain delays, extended lead times, and parts shortages. Replacement patrol units, pickups, sedans, and specialty vehicles were ordered, but many have been arriving later than expected. As those new vehicles reach county yards and garages, a quieter challenge is now visible: clearing space for the next generation of fleet inventory.

When Procurement Collides with Space and Lifecycle Decisions

Fleet turnover today is not just financial, it is spatial. County fleet teams are managing older internal-combustion units still on the books, new units arriving from backlogged orders, and pressure to prepare for upcoming hybrid and electric additions. County garages, lots, and satellite yards do not expand when replacement cycles stack, so departments are evaluating which legacy vehicles should remain in service and which should be retired. Sedans, pickups, transit vans, and administrative units at the end of their useful life are increasingly being scheduled for removal. Law enforcement agencies are doing the same with older pursuit vehicles, particularly those with high mileage or rising maintenance costs. Public works departments are making similar evaluations for dump trucks, utility trucks, and seasonal equipment.

Once vehicles are identified for retirement, attention turns to disposition. Historically, counties relied on sealed bids or local auctions that reached small buyer pools. Today, surplus vehicle sales are becoming integrated into fleet planning rather than handled as a final clerical step. Broader buyer access allows counties to recover more value from aging internal-combustion units and free up space for replacements more quickly. Every vehicle that leaves a yard removes storage burden, reduces maintenance exposure, and can generate revenue. While sale outcomes vary by model and condition, volume and velocity are where counties are seeing operational benefits. Light-duty pickups, sedans, and SUVs remain steady performers due to national demand. Transit vans, snow units, and specialty vehicles often draw interest from construction firms, municipalities, and private operators outside the region.

Positioning for the Next Procurement Cycle

This shift aligns with current fleet planning. Counties preparing for hybrid and electric pilot programs need staging areas for chargers and for parking incoming units. Clearing older internal-combustion units, fleets now reduce transition stress later. Even counties not accelerating electrification immediately are finding that disciplined turnover improves asset tracking and ensures replacement dollars are spent on active inventory rather than holding costs. From a policy standpoint, this does not require new legislation, just stronger asset lifecycle management. Counties that treat vehicle disposition as part of the lifecycle are positioned to make more informed replacement decisions during budget cycles and maintain cleaner operational footprints.

As fleet modernization continues into 2026, surplus vehicle sales will remain an important tool for New Jersey counties navigating the turnover squeeze and preparing for the next wave of transportation assets.

For more information on how your county can leverage GovDeals through NJAC, contact Mike Baker at 609-713-7888 or mbaker@govdeals.com.

GovDeals®
A Liquidity Services Marketplace

Smarter, Safer Spaces: How PKA and Vaidio Support The Public Sector

by Nicole Buccola, Marketing Assistant, PKA Technologies, Inc.

Public sector organizations face growing pressure to keep people safe while managing limited resources and aging infrastructure. From government buildings and transportation hubs to schools and public spaces, security teams need tools that are reliable, efficient, and easy to manage. That's where **PKA Technologies** and **Vaidio** come in.

PKA Technologies partners with public sector organizations to design, implement, and support secure IT and physical security solutions. With deep experience in government and education environments, PKA understands the unique challenges public agencies face—tight budgets, compliance requirements, and the need for solutions that work seamlessly with existing systems.

Vaidio is an AI-powered video analytics platform that transforms standard security cameras into proactive safety tools. Instead of relying solely on manual monitoring or reviewing footage after an incident, Vaidio enables real-time insights that help teams respond faster and make better decisions.

What Makes Vaidio Different?

Vaidio uses advanced artificial intelligence to analyze live and recorded video feeds. It can detect and alert on behaviors and situations that matter most to public sector environments, such as:

- Unauthorized access to restricted areas
- Crowding or loitering in public spaces
- Perimeter breaches
- Objects left behind
- Safety and compliance concerns

Because Vaidio works with most existing camera systems, agencies can enhance their security posture without a costly rip-and-replace approach.

The Value of Partnering with PKA

Technology is only effective when it's properly planned, deployed, and supported. PKA acts as a trusted partner throughout the entire process—from initial assessment and solution design to implementation and ongoing support. The goal is not just to install technology, but to ensure it delivers real value to staff and the communities they serve.

By combining PKA's public sector expertise with Vaidio's powerful AI analytics, organizations gain:

- Improved situational awareness
- Faster response to incidents
- Better use of existing infrastructure
- Scalable solutions that grow with future needs

continued on page 8

Smarter, Safer Spaces: How PKA and Vaidio Support The Public Sector *(continued)*

Supporting Safer Communities

At the end of the day, public sector employees are focused on serving people—students, commuters, employees, and residents. PKA and Vaidio help support that mission by providing smarter tools that enhance safety, improve operational efficiency, and deliver peace of mind.

If your agency is exploring ways to modernize security, improve response times, or get more value from existing camera systems, PKA Technologies can help. **Contact PKA today to learn how Vaidio can support your safety and security goals.**



SAVE THE DATE

NJAC Conference
May 6-8, 2026
Caesars
Atlantic City

Details to be Released Soon!

NJSTART: Supporting Local Government Procurement Through Partnership With The New Jersey Division of Purchase And Property

by Tania Dinis, Senior Marketing Communications Manager, SOVRA

Effective procurement is essential to the delivery of public services across New Jersey. Local governments rely on efficient, compliant purchasing processes to manage budgets responsibly, access critical goods and services, and keep their operations running smoothly. NJSTART—New Jersey's eProcurement platform—supports these objectives **in close partnership with the New Jersey Division of Purchase and Property (NJ DPP)** by connecting local buying units to competitively bid State contracts and providing guidance aligned with State procurement policies and best practices.

As the State entity responsible for overseeing New Jersey's centralized procurement program, **NJ DPP established NJSTART and manages State contracts that local governments can leverage for cooperative purchasing.** NJSTART operationalizes this work by making those contracts easily accessible to local agencies and suppliers.

Through NJSTART, counties, municipalities, school districts, and other eligible public entities can access more than 800 State contracts established by NJ DPP across Information Technology, Public Safety, Facilities and Grounds, Vehicles and Equipment, and Professional Services. These contracts reduce administrative burden, streamline procurement timelines, and provide pre-negotiated pricing and terms—allowing local agencies to realize benefits in pricing and product quality.

Mercer County is among the many local governments that have benefited from this coordinated approach to procurement support.

“Bill Hnatiuk and NJSTART have been invaluable partners to Mercer County, providing deep expertise and steady guidance throughout the State procurement process. Their support has expanded opportunities for our regional business community and strengthened our economic development efforts. Mercer County looks forward to continuing to rely on Bill and NJSTART’s team’s expertise well into the future.”
— Anthony P. Carabelli Jr., Director, Mercer County Office of Economic Development

This experience reflects the broader value of NJSTART’s work **in alignment with NJ DPP’s mission:** supporting public agencies while expanding access to State contracting opportunities for New Jersey businesses. By helping local governments leverage NJ DPP contracts and understand cooperative purchasing rules, NJSTART positions local agencies to play a key role in achieving advances in operational efficiency and regional economic development.

The impact of this partnership is also felt through NJSTART’s collaboration with organizations dedicated to small business growth like the New Jersey Small Business Development Center at The College of New Jersey (NJSBDC at TCNJ).

“Bill Hnatiuk and the NJSTART Team have been outstanding partners to the New Jersey Small Business Development Center at The College of New Jersey. His steady expertise has strengthened our long-standing mission of helping small businesses compete and succeed in government contracting.

continued on page 8

NJSTART: Supporting Local Government Procurement Through Partnership With The New Jersey Division of Purchase And Property (continued)

During our recently launched Procurement Academy Training Program (PATH), Bill provided a clear and practical overview of the NJSTART system, guiding participants through vendor registration, eligibility requirements, contract searches, and the key differences between Vendor and Contract Numbers. He also clarified local government purchasing thresholds and the role of Qualified Purchasing Agents, giving our entrepreneurs a stronger understanding of the opportunities in our region.

Bill's consistent support, willingness to join our sessions, and genuine dedication to small businesses reflect a true commitment to public service. NJSTART's partnership has opened new doors for entrepreneurs and expanded the reach of our work."

— *Lilian Mauro, Regional Director, NJSBDC, The College of New Jersey – Serving Mercer & Middlesex Counties*

NJSTART serves as a critical bridge between State procurement, local government needs, and the private sector. By aligning State contracts, local purchasing authority, and supplier education, this partnership strengthens New Jersey's procurement ecosystem and contributes to a more competitive and inclusive economy.

Local governments seeking guidance on leveraging state contracts through NJSTART may contact the NJSTART Team at coop-njstart@mdfcommerce.com or visit <https://njstart.info>.



Your go-to destination for
Statewide Cooperative Purchasing

Why It's Time For Government IT To Move Out Of AI PILOT Mode

by Megan Olson, Director of Marketing, Polimorphic

For the past few years, artificial intelligence in government has lived on the edges. A pilot here. An experiment there. A chatbot answering questions on a single department's webpage.

Many of these efforts work and work well. But most never grow beyond their initial scope, not because the technology fails, but because the way we think about AI has not caught up to how it is actually being used.

That is starting to change.

Across state and local government, AI is shifting from something experimental into something foundational. Less like a new tool and more like infrastructure. For government IT leaders, that shift matters.

Every Technology Shift Starts This Way

If this moment feels familiar, it should. Government IT has been here before.

Servers gave way to virtualization, then to cloud. Paper workflows became digital systems. On-prem email became shared SaaS platforms. Each change began with small deployments, faced skepticism, and eventually became core infrastructure.

AI is following the same pattern, but at a faster pace. What once took decades is now happening in years. Residents expect instant responses. Staff are stretched thin. Departments are discovering that AI can absorb volume in ways traditional systems cannot.

The question is no longer whether AI works. It is whether IT is ready to support it at scale.

The Problem with Pilot-Only AI

Today, most government AI efforts still look like pilots. Tools are disconnected and owned by individual departments. Approvals are one-off. Visibility into data use, risk, and performance is limited. Long-term ownership and funding are often unclear.

This creates fragility. Pilots succeed at hundreds of interactions and fail at thousands. Hard-coded prompts, manual oversight, and brittle integrations do not hold up during emergencies, seasonal spikes, or staffing shortages.

From an IT perspective, this is a familiar anti-pattern. Temporary systems quickly become mission-critical.

What AI as Infrastructure Means

Infrastructure is dependable, shared, and mostly invisible when it works well. Treating AI as infrastructure means designing it to be always on, shared across departments, governed centrally, and built to scale.

This does not require replacing existing systems. AI infrastructure sits between them. It connects authoritative information to delivery channels like websites, voice systems, and internal tools. It routes requests, absorbs volume, and supports staff.

continued on page 10

Why It's Time For Government IT To Move Out Of AI PILOT Mode (continued)

In many governments, this is already happening. AI answers questions after hours, handles surges in requests, helps staff navigate policies, and keeps services accessible when people are unavailable. These are not novelty use cases. They are core service functions.

A New Role for IT Leaders

As AI becomes foundational, IT teams shift from tool approvers to platform stewards. The questions become familiar ones. Can it scale during emergencies? How is data secured and audited? What happens when it fails? Who owns it long-term?

This is not about slowing innovation. It is about making AI reliable, secure, and sustainable.

The Long View

When AI becomes true infrastructure, it fades into the background. Residents get answers. Staff get support. IT runs systems they trust.

AI is no longer a pilot project. It is becoming an essential layer of modern government IT. The opportunity now is to design it intentionally, before short-term decisions become permanent.



NJAC Virtual Events

February 18, 2026

NJAC Virtual Workshop

April 15, 2026

NJAC Virtual Workshop

July 8, 2026

NJAC Virtual Workshop

September 16, 2026

NJAC Virtual Workshop

July 8, 2026

NJAC Virtual Workshop

September 16, 2026

NJAC Virtual Workshop

October 28, 2026

NJAC Virtual Workshop

Study With The Leader In Online Education

Thomas Edison State University

EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS FOR NEW JERSEY PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES

LIVE WEBINAR
Wednesday, February 4, 2026
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Registration: Click [HERE!](#)

(bit.ly/publicsector226)

This informative meeting will cover how to:

- Fund your education
- Find time to finish your degree
- Receive college credit for prior course work and professional experiences

Come with your questions—we will have a live Q&A!

Can't make the webinar? Feel free to [schedule a 15 min. appointment](#) for more information!

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](#)

2026 NJAC REORGANIZATION

2026 NJAC REORGANIZATION

Join MRA International At Our Power Of HP & HPE Event

by Yvonne Ha, Marketing, MRA International

Where: Oyster Point Hotel, Red Bank

When: Thursday, March 5th, 2026

Time: 8:00 am – 3:00 pm



- Join MRA International, HP & HPE for an invaluable one-day seminar focused on innovative solutions for the public sector that will feature HP and HPE's vision for the future of technology. Each year, MRA and partners come together to enlighten attendees on how they can leverage the latest technology solutions, not to keep up with change, but to drive it.

- Visit our website: www.mrainternational.com/events to register

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.

For more information, please contact the MRA Sales Team:

Email: sales@mrainternational.com

Phone: (732) 222-0997



Meetings & Events

March 20, 2026

NJAC Board of Directors Meeting
Virtual

May 6 - 8, 2026

NJAC Annual Conference

*Caesar's Hotel and Resort
Atlantic City, NJ 08401*

June 26, 2026

NJAC Board of Directors Meeting
Virtual

September 18, 2026

NJAC Board of Directors Meeting
*State House Annex Building - Committee Room TBD
125 West State Street, Trenton NJ 08625*

December 18, 2026

NJAC Board of Directors Meeting & Summit

*Trenton Country Club - Oakland Room & Grand Ballroom
201 Sullivan Way, West Trenton NJ 08628*

Grant Management Training In Mahwah, NJ February 5-6, 2026

Bergen County Law & Public Safety Institute and Grant Management USA will present a two-day grant management workshop in Mahwah on February 5-6, 2026. This in-person training is for grant recipient organizations across all disciplines. Attend this class and you'll learn how to administer government grants, stay in compliance with current OMB rules and regulations, and survive an audit.

Beginning and experienced grant managers, grant writers and administrators from city, county and state agencies, healthcare organizations, public safety, colleges and universities, K-12, and nonprofit organizations are encouraged to attend.

Registration is \$625 and includes everything you need:

- Grant Management USA's 500-page grant management workbook and reference guide.
- Two days of expert instruction.
- Lifetime access to our Alumni Resource Center.

For event details visit: <https://grantstraining.com/njo226>

We are offering you a \$30 discount, making your tuition \$595. Please use the discount code "**ASSN**" at the time of registration.

Online registration is necessary. City, county, state agencies have 30 days after the workshop to remit payment.

Contacts:

Tammy Pitts Grant Writing USA
888.435.7281
tammy@grantwritingusa.com

More than 50,000 agencies across North America have turned to Grant Writing USA for grant writing and grant management training.



Network Systems Health Check

by HPE Aruba Networking

Is your county's IT infrastructure running at peak performance? Are you confident in your network's security, reliability, and scalability?

The Network Systems Health Check is a vendor-agnostic, no-cost, 1-hour consultation led by an experienced Aruba Network Systems Engineer. This session is designed to help counties assess the current state of their IT environment—regardless of whether Aruba equipment is in use.

What's Included:

- Review of network architecture and performance
- Evaluation of security posture and vulnerabilities
- Assessment of operational processes and workflows
- Identification of areas for optimization and modernization

Why It Matters:

Many counties reach a point where their IT systems have grown complex, and visibility across the network becomes limited. Performance issues, security concerns, or aging infrastructure may arise—but pinpointing the root cause can be difficult without a comprehensive review.

This health check provides:

- A clear snapshot of your network's current state
- Actionable insights to guide future upgrades or changes
- Confidence in your infrastructure before major investments

Schedule Your Health Check:

Whether you're planning a network refresh, expanding services, or simply want peace of mind, this assessment is a smart first step.

Contact:

Cynthia Xamonthiene

Inside Sales Territory Manager – State/Local Gov & Higher Ed

 (541) 360-6313

 cynthia.x@hpe.com

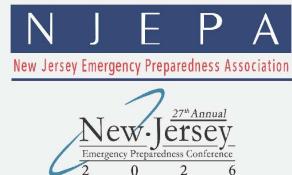


On behalf of the New Jersey Emergency Preparedness Association (NJEPA), nominations for several scholarships and awards are now being accepted in conjunction with the **2026 NJEPA Conference, from April 20–24, 2026 at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, Atlantic City, NJ.**

This includes six (6) \$1,000 student scholarships for individuals pursuing careers in emergency management or related fields, as well as the 2026 Emergency Manager of the Year Award.

All submissions are due by **March 18, 2026**. Additional information, eligibility requirements, and application materials are available at www.njepa.org/awards.

NJEPA AWARD & SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



NJ EMERGENCY MANAGER'S MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Scholarships awarded in honor of **Captain Jonathan C. Young** and **Michael W. Augustyniak**, for graduating high school seniors or current college students pursuing careers in emergency management, or other related fields.

(Scholarships of \$1,000 are Awarded Annually)



KEVIN H. TUNO, EMERGENCY MANAGER OF THE YEAR AWARD

An award named after Emergency Coordinator **Kevin H. Tuno**, who dedicated 33 years to New Jersey's Emergency Management Community, is presented to individuals whose long-term commitment to emergency preparedness has significantly and positively influenced the Emergency Management profession and community in New Jersey.

AWARD SELECTIONS RELY EXCLUSIVELY ON THE NOMINATION INFORMATION AND CRITERIA BELOW:

- Must be clear and descriptive with specific examples; self-nominations are not allowed.
- Nominators will be informed after the selection process is concluded.
- NJEPA will invite nominators, recipients, and guests to the 26th Anniversary Awards and Networking Reception

Please note, past NJEPA scholarship recipients are ineligible to receive another scholarship.*

Submission Deadline: March 18, 2026

Additional information on the Scholarships and Tuno Award, as well as a link to the online application can be found at www.NJEPA.org/awards.



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More than
40 years
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Nearly
3,000
participating
counties and county
jurisdictions

More than
1.5 million
employees and retirees
served over the years



For more information, contact:

Matt Ring, Program Director

609-500-0205; RINGM3@Nationwide.com

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.

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NACo Webinars

NACo Public Health Leadership Academy Application Information Session

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. ET

The National Association of Counties (NACo), in partnership with the de Beaumont Foundation, is launching its inaugural **Public Health Leadership Academy** (PHLA) to strengthen county leadership in advancing public health. This webinar will review the key information applicants should know to apply to the PHLA and provide an opportunity for applicants to ask questions.

To view more details about the Academy and review the application, visit [NACo's Public Health Leadership Initiative webpage](#).

For more information, visit the [event page](#).

Register

NACo Policy Insider Webinar Series: Understanding the Federal Landscape for Counties

Thursday, February 12, 2026

3:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. ET

This series will take place on Zoom Webinar.

Please email nacomeetings@naco.org with any questions regarding registration or login issues.

Last year's *Inside Washington* series is now **NACo Policy Insider**, a bi-weekly webinar offering an overview of the full federal policy landscape impacting counties, as well as deeper dives into specific policy areas, equipping county leaders with insights, context, and strategies to engage effectively on key issues from transportation and infrastructure, to public lands, to health and human services, and more.



Register

NACo Legislative Conference, Washington D.C.

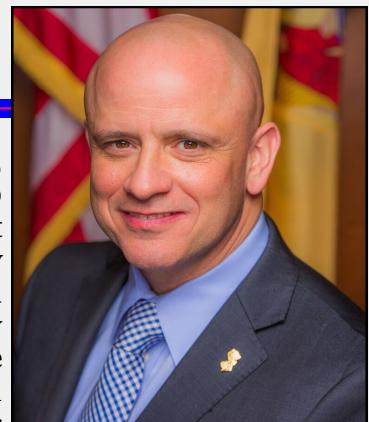
February 21-24, 2026

[REGISTER HERE](#)



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

For nearly two decades, the State of New Jersey has diverted an estimated \$1.75 billion in revenues collected from a monthly telecommunication surcharge of .90 cents imposed on every telephone line in the State. Although the well-meaning intent of the 2004 law that imposed this surcharge was to build a cutting-edge and fully funded 911 system, administrations on both sides of the aisle have instead diverted approximately 90% of these monies to pay for general operating expenses primarily in the Department of Law and Public Safety. As concluded by the "Ending 911 Fee Diversion Now Strike Force (911 Strike Force) established by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in 2021: *"911 fee diversion negatively impacts the ability of the public to access emergency assistance via reliable 911 services and technology; 911 fee diversion negatively impacts public safety, 911 operations, first responders, and the fiscal sustainability of 911 service; 911 fee receipts and expenditures should be distinguishable and auditable to ensure 911 fees are used for eligible activities directly related to the provision of 911 services; 911 systems require significant capital and recurring operational investments to accomplish the mission."*



John G. Donnadio, Esq.

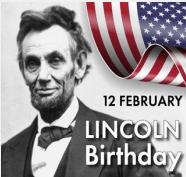
In addition to laying the groundwork for an imminent public safety crisis, the State's continued misallocation of 911 fees has imposed an inequitable system of double taxation on residents already burdened with paying the highest property taxes in the nation with no meaningful relief in sight. For the record, county governments alone spent an estimated \$175.0 million over the last several years on capital improvements for facility upgrades, telephone systems, computer aided dispatch, location mapping technology, voice recording technology, data analytics, and Next Generation 911 upgrades. Counties also spend an estimated \$100.0 million per year on general operating expenses for salaries, staff training, system maintenance, and network security. Although the fiscal budgets from 2023 – 2025 provided \$10.0 million in annual grant funding for county 911 centers to regionalize and upgrade facilities with NextGen 911 Technologies for the first time since 2009, the fiscal year 2026 budget cut that funding by 50% and the State of New Jersey has remained one of the worst offenders of diverting 911 fees in the entire nation. As such, NJAC is urging the Administration to restore this critical funding, and increase the amount to 21.0 million with a \$1.0 million grant being made available for each county to regionalize, upgrade, or maintain its 911 system with a precise, accurate, and reliable communication network.

NJAC CONFERENCE

May 6 - 8, 2026
NJAC's 75th Annual Conference
Caesars in Atlantic City

More Details to Follow!

EVENTS & HOLIDAYS

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	
	1 	2	Mardi Gras 2/6 6:30pm Historic Courthouse Flemington Hunterdon County	3 4 Black History Month Open Mic 2/7 7:00pm-10:00pm Smush Gallery Jersey City Hudson County	5 2/6 Chocolate Walk Farnsworth Avenue Bordentown City Burlington County	6 The Commodores 8:00pm bergenPAC Englewood Bergen County	7 Winter Eagle Festival 8:00am-4:00pm Mauricetown Firehall Mauricetown Cumberland County
8 Black History Month Expo 2/7 1:00pm-6:00pm Jefferson School Auditorium Vauxhall Union County	9	10 Comedy Night 2/13 8:00pm-10:00pm Invertase Brewing Co. Phillipsburg Warren County	11 Norman Brown 2/13 8:00pm Count Basie Center Red Bank Monmouth County	12 	13 Hot Wheels Monster Trucks LIVE “Glow-N-Fire” 7:30pm CURE Arena Trenton Mercer County	14 	
15 Delaware County Kennel Club Dog Show 2/13-2/16 DREAM Park Logan Township Gloucester County	16 	17	18 George Washington’s Birthday Ball 2/21 5:30pm-8:30pm Dey Mansion Wayne Passaic County	19 RENT in Concert Broadway Series 7:30pm The Newton Theatre Newton Sussex County	20 Girls Night The Musical 8:00pm State Theatre New Brunswick Middlesex County	21 NJ Camp Fairs Summer Camp Options 12:00pm-3:00pm Morris Museum Morristown Morris County	
22 Maplewood Chili Cookoff 2:00pm The Woodland Maplewood Essex County	23 30th Annual Fishing Flea Market & Collectible Show 2/22 8:30am-2:30pm Antrim School Point Pleasant Ocean County	24	25	26 Atlantic City Boat Show 12/25 - 3/1 Atlantic City Convention Center Atlantic City Atlantic County	27 Annual State of the County 11:30am-1:00pm Salem Community College’s Davidow Hall Atrium Carneys Point Salem County	28 South Jersey Home Show 2/28 & 3/1 10:00am-8:00pm Flyers Training Facility Voorhees Camden County	