

## **COVID-19 Municipal Grant Program To Help Towns Approved By County**

Hunterdon County's Freeholder Board, at the October 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, unanimously approved a \$50,000 municipal grant program making funds available to all of the county's twenty-six municipalities to assist with local government COVID-19 emergency response costs.

Freeholder Board Deputy Director Sue Soloway, a former Mayor of Franklin Township, commented, "Our towns are dealing with many elements in protecting the public and their employees from COVID-19, and I know from my time serving in local government on the Franklin Township Committee, any financial support is always most appreciated."

Soloway pointed out, "Face coverings, PPE's, protective shields, extra cleaning of facilities and vehicles, these are all costly items and actions that are needed to protect against the spread of the virus. And none of these costs were envisioned when budgets were put together at the beginning of the year. They can use the help."

Under the approved plan grants would be distributed on a per capita basis for each town up to a \$5000 maximum. All Hunterdon County municipalities would be eligible for at least a \$1000 grant.

Freeholder Zach Rich, a former Mayor of West Amwell, added, "I would like to thank everyone for considering our municipalities. I know I would've appreciated it if I was navigating rough waters and on a shoe string budget. Everything helps."

The County had set aside \$100,000 for COVID-19 response costs in the county budget earlier in the year, to ensure funds were available for emergency response. The Freeholders decided to share half of those funds with local governments who are on the frontlines in dealing with the pandemic.

Municipalities wishing to participate will need to approve a municipal resolution and submit an application to the County's Office of Emergency Management by November 30, 2020.