

we grow communities



Triad Associates Newsletter

February 2010

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Mayors Wellness Campaign

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Help your community  
combat obesity - join the  
Mayors Wellness  
Campaign! The intent of the  
campaign is to assist

## Potential Amendments to the Fair Housing Act

The Affordable Housing Professionals of New Jersey (AHPNJ) will be hosting a forum on the future of affordable housing in New Jersey. Jerry Velázquez, Triad President and CEO, will bring his knowledge of and familiarity with COAH and act as moderator at this forum. Jerry will join an expert group of panelists that will offer their unique perspectives on how to produce and maintain New Jersey's affordable housing stock, as well as present suggestions to make the Fair Housing Act more effective and less burdensome. This discussion about the future of affordable housing in New Jersey will be held on Friday, March 5, 2010 at 9:30 AM at the Camden County College, Blackwood Campus. For more information on the forum, go to our [website](#).

## Recent Grant Awards

Triad Associates is happy to announce that we secured **\$2.4 million** in Small Cities grant funds on behalf of our clients to the NJ Department of Community Affairs. The grants will fund various projects, including building rehabilitation, a new sanitary sewer system, the construction of a group home

mayors and local leaders in the implementation of active-living initiatives in their communities. The ultimate goal of the project is to improve health and reduce the health care costs that come with the obesity problem in New Jersey. The Mayors Wellness Campaign's website, located [here](#), contains a host of resources, including a Toolbox with programs that can be directly used in your community. Visit their site today to start the process and become a New Jersey Healthy Town.

### Quick Links

[More About Us](#)

## Subsidizing Redevelopment with the Economic Redevelopment & Growth Grant Program

In 2002, the New Jersey State Legislature enabled local jurisdictions to subsidize development and redevelopment through the use of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) legislation - known in New Jersey as the Revenue Allocation District (RAD) Financing Act.

TIF is generally an appealing instrument that allows municipalities to promote economic development by allocating future tax revenue increases to

facility, improvements to a fire station, facilitation of the use of alternative energy sources, and housing rehabilitation.

## Sustainable Energy Updates & Training

The Sustainable Jersey recently presented interim program updates for 2010 which have increased the flexibility of the program. Now municipalities can be certified with two out of six priority actions, instead of four. Additionally, Sustainable Jersey has lifted its cap so municipalities can get credit for more actions. Since it is easier to score points, the number of points required for the first level of certification (Bronze) has increased. In order for new municipalities to be certified at the Bronze level, municipalities must have 150 points, establish a Green Team and implement 2 out of 6 priority actions. Further, a new level of certification has been added: Sustainable Jersey Silver. To be certified at the Silver level, municipalities must have 350 points, establish a Green Team and implement 3 out of 6 priority actions. Currently, certified communities are at the Bronze level. Certified communities can now apply for Silver certification and un-certified communities can apply for either Bronze or Silver.

Sustainable Jersey's website will also have new features. All certified communities will have a public profile on the website with descriptions of their sustainable efforts so other municipal officials can see the steps they took to become certified. A new search feature has also been added. Browsers can search all participating communities by county, certification status and the specific Sustainable Jersey actions that have been completed or planned by registered or certified municipalities. Be on the lookout for a grants portal (coming soon) which will list key financial incentives and grants to assist your community in implementing specific Sustainable Jersey actions.

Further, Sustainable Jersey has provided learning opportunities regarding the certification process. Upcoming training will focus on "How to Implement" specific actions, Green Team capacity building support and training, and monthly webinars and conference calls. These opportunities can be found [here](#), but stay on the lookout for future times and locations.

Sustainable Jersey hopes to finalize the points, new actions and refined point structure by February 26, 2010. Comments and feedback are encouraged and will be accepted until February 17, 2010. To learn more about Sustainable Jersey and these important program updates visit their [website](#).

## Funding Opportunities

### Hazard Mitigation Grant Funds

Because of the November 2009 Nor'easter, the State of New Jersey received a Presidential Disaster Declaration on December 22, 2009.

finance current improvements within those designated districts. RAD intended to redevelop these districts, particularly those with inadequate infrastructure or adverse economic conditions, by providing the means to finance certain costs of redevelopment so as to open new opportunities for private investment. In turn, this financing mechanism would stimulate varied enterprise and create favorable economic conditions for the enhancement of economic conditions, property values, employment and affordable housing.

*To read the rest of this article go to the NJ League of Municipalities [website](#).*

This has created an opportunity for municipalities with approved mitigation plans to apply for Hazard Mitigation Grant Funds (HMGP). The HMGP provides grants to States and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures after a major disaster declaration. Funds may be used to fund projects that will reduce or eliminate the losses from future disasters. Projects must provide a long-term solution to a problem and a project's potential savings must be more than the cost of implementing the project. Funds may be used to protect either public or private property or to purchase property that has been subjected to, or is in danger of, repetitive damage. Examples of projects include, but are not limited to:

- Acquisition of real property for willing sellers and demolition or relocation of buildings to convert the property to open space use
- Retrofitting structures and facilities to minimize damages from high winds, earthquake, flood, wildfire, or other natural hazards
- Elevation of flood prone structures
- Development and initial implementation of vegetative management programs
- Minor flood control projects that do not duplicate the flood prevention activities of other Federal agencies
- Localized flood control projects that are designed specifically to protect critical facilities
- Post-disaster building code related activities during the reconstruction process

For more information on the HMGP you can contact the State of New Jersey's Hazard Mitigation Officer. Contact information can be found [here](#).

### **Mentoring Grant**

Nonprofit organizations are now eligible to apply for Second Chance Act Mentoring Grants through the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance. Grants will fund programs that facilitate inmates' successful reintegration into society. Proposals must include mentoring and transitional services for offenders and a training component for potential and active mentors. The target population is individuals aged 18 and older convicted as an adult and imprisoned in a state or local prison or jail. Awards of up to \$300,000 will be made for a period of up to 24 months. A match is not required but a 25% in-kind match is strongly encouraged. Applications are due March 18th. For more information click [here](#).

### **Community Conservation Partnerships Program**

The State of Pennsylvania released its grant program requirements and guidance for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2). A wide range of grant and technical assistance programs are offered through the C2P2 program to support local recreation and conservation initiatives. These include projects for:

- Development
- Land Acquisition
- Land and Water Conservation
- Recreational Trails
- Planning
- Technical Assistance

Most grants require a cash match and/or in-kind donation of service. Applications are due electronically by April 21, 2010 at 4:00 pm. For more information click [here](#).