



Board of Chosen Freeholders

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Hunterdon Gains Partial Reimbursement For COVID-19 Emergency Costs

Hunterdon County's Freeholder Board, at its August 18th meeting, approved an agreement with the state that provides \$226,177 in federal CARES Act funds that partially reimburses the County for pandemic health and emergency expenditures, as well as potential funding for expanded COVID-19 testing.

Following significant pressure since April from the twelve New Jersey counties, including Hunterdon County, which were left out of the federal CARES Act funding due to having less than 500,000 population, Governor Phil Murphy, on August 20th, announced the distribution of \$37 million in funding those twelve New Jersey counties.

Freeholder Board Deputy Director Sue Soloway stated, "The funding announced by the Governor August 20th comes from the money provided to New Jersey by the federal CARES Act that was signed into law by President Donald Trump in March. The grant helps the County with emergency response costs that are not expected to be reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA)."

Soloway, the Freeholder Board's liaison for the Health Department, added, "The agreement provides the County with two additional sources of funds for expanded COVID-19 testing. Presently the Hunterdon Medical Group (HMG) and Hunterdon County are conducting a joint testing site in Raritan Township. With additional state funding being made available we are looking to expand that vital COVID-19 testing and contact tracing program."

The agreement provides a grant of \$357,500 to continue the county-based COVID-19 test site operations and a further potential grant of an additional \$737,339 to implement a NJDOH approved plan for testing of vulnerable and priority populations.

Soloway said, "These funds are in addition to a partial reimbursement for some of the expenditures that have been made to purchase PPE's, support for the joint testing site at RVCC and with HMG, and significant costs incurred by the county Department of Health, Emergency Management Office, and other county Departments and Divisions for protective equipment for employees and the public."

The Freeholders noted that no funds are being directed by the state to the counties for distribution to businesses to help offset shutdown losses and there was no funding included for distribution to municipalities who have also been hit with major emergency response costs.