



JON S. CORZINE
Governor

State of New Jersey

Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council
100 North Road (Route 513)
Chester, New Jersey 07930-2322
(908) 879-6737
(908) 879-4205 (fax)
www.highlands.state.nj.us



JOHN R. WEINGART
Chairman

EILEEN SWAN
Executive Director

Contact: Craig Garretson, Manager of Communications
(908) 879-6737 ext. 105 or craig.garretson@highlands.state.nj.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 18, 2008

\$7.5 Million More In Grants

Highlands Council announces new funds for Plan Conformance

CHESTER, N.J. – The Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council today approved the creation of a Plan Conformance Grants Program with up to \$7.5 million available to municipalities and counties that have submitted a duly adopted Notice of Intent to conform to the Highlands Regional Master Plan. Under the program, each municipality or county is eligible for up to \$100,000. The money can be used to pay for expenses incurred during the Plan Conformance activities next year.

The Highlands Council also announced today that 62 of the 88 municipalities in the Highlands Region have adopted non-binding resolutions stating their intent to conform to the Highlands Regional Master Plan. Highlands municipalities can have the deadline to submit Fair Share Housing Plans to the Council on Affordable Housing extended from December 31, 2008, to December 8, 2009, if they adopt two resolutions – a Notice of Intent with the Highlands Council and a request for an extension to the Council on Affordable Housing stating the intent to file a Fair Share Housing Plan by December 8, 2009.

A full list and a map of the Highlands Region municipalities that have filed the Notice of Intent can be viewed on the Highlands Council's Web site at:

<http://www.highlands.state.nj.us/njhighlands/implementation/plan/>.

Also today, the Highlands Council awarded up to \$105,000 in Initial Assessment Grants to seven municipalities. Each received up to \$15,000 to cover expenses related to Plan Conformance. Grants were awarded to Franklin Borough, Sussex County; Harmony Township, Warren County; Montville Township, Morris County; Parsippany-Troy Hills, Morris County; Rockaway Township, Morris County; Vernon Township, Sussex County; and Washington Township, Warren County. In addition, a \$5,000 Fair Share Planning Grant was awarded to Belvidere, Warren County, to reimburse expenses related to preparing a Fair Share Housing Plan. For information about Highlands Council grants programs, go to <http://www.highlands.state.nj.us/njhighlands/stake/municipalities.html>.