

# Atlantic County awarded Post-Sandy Planning Assistance Grant

Written by Staff Reports Friday, August 29, 2014 09:56 am [www.shorenewstoday.com](http://www.shorenewstoday.com)

TRENTON – New Jersey Department of Community Affairs Commissioner Richard E. Constable, III has announced the award of a \$30,000 Post-Sandy Planning Assistance Grant to Atlantic County to develop a long-range plan to enhance resiliency in the event of future severe weather events.

Atlantic County can use the grant to hire licensed professional planners to evaluate the impacts of hurricane Sandy and identify long-term strategies for resiliency and flood protection. The report will focus on planning goals, strategies, and priorities that lead to actions that are most urgently needed for public safety and economic recovery.

“This grant will enable Atlantic County, which is one of the counties hardest hit by Superstorm Sandy, to develop a Strategic Recovery Planning Report that will serve as the county’s primary guide for planning activities it takes moving forward to recover from Sandy and to reduce its vulnerability to future disasters,” Constable said.

The grants are funded through Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery monies provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The \$5 million initially allocated to the program is currently available Atlantic, Bergen, Cape May, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean and Union counties and all of the municipalities within those counties that have experienced a ratable loss of at least 1 percent or \$1 million due to the storm.

The program provides funding in two phases. The first phase is producing the report. To date, the DCA has awarded 44 grants to assist local governments in completing this planning report. When their planning reports are done, local governments are then eligible to apply for Phase 2 Post-Sandy Planning Assistance Grants, which assist them with implementing the planning priorities identified in their report. DCA has so far awarded 15 Phase 2 grants to local governments.