

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
COVID-19 COMPLIANCE AND
OVERSIGHT TASKFORCE**

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New COVID-19 Compliance Plan, Released by State's COVID-19 Task Force, Sets Strong Standards for Oversight and Transparency in Use of Federal Recovery Funds

TRENTON – Today, New Jersey's COVID-19 Compliance and Oversight Taskforce released its Compliance Plan – a guide to help agencies and authorities expending federal COVID-19 relief funds navigate state and federal regulations and prevent waste, fraud, and abuse in the use of federal recovery funds.

The Compliance Plan will guide state agencies and authorities in their uses of disaster recovery funds, allowing participating state agencies and authorities to expend funding efficiently while staying accountable to New Jersey residents. It outlines a comprehensive oversight framework to guide the state's recovery and to ensure that the many agencies and authorities that are using recovery funds follow uniform practices that lead to accountability and transparency.

"We have built in accountability at every stage of the process to make sure every federal dollar is accounted for and spent with maximum impact," said **Taskforce Chair and Acting State Comptroller Kevin D. Walsh**. "The Compliance Plan incorporates lessons learned from New Jersey's recovery from Hurricane Sandy and lets agencies and authorities know what to expect when it comes to justifying how they spent federal funds. The Plan includes resources that state employees and contractors should use to report any problems they see."

In the Compliance Plan, participants in the state's recovery program will find guidance on internal controls and best practices for preventing, detecting, and responding to fraud. Real-world examples of audit findings from New Jersey's recovery from Hurricane Sandy are also included throughout the Plan.

The Compliance Plan directs agencies and authorities to encourage competition among bidders in order to maximize the public benefit and guard against favoritism and corruption in public contracting. The plan calls for agencies and authorities to ensure that whistleblowers are protected and to comply with state and federal civil rights laws, which are especially significant in view of the disproportionately greater impact of COVID-19 on communities of color.

Under Executive Order 166, the COVID-19 Compliance and Oversight Taskforce is chaired by Acting State Comptroller Walsh and includes the Treasurer, the Attorney General, and the Governor's Disaster Recovery Office. The Taskforce also includes Accountability Officer representatives from New Jersey Transit, the Department of Education, and the Department of Children and Families.

The full Compliance Plan can be accessed [here](#).