

Transitional Aid Application for Calendar Year 2015
Division of Local Government Services
Department of Community Affairs

General Instructions: This application must be submitted in its entirety by March 16, 2015 for funding consideration under this program. Information contained in the application is subject to independent verification by the Division. Refer to Local Finance Notice 2015-4 when preparing this application for specific instructions and definitions, and review the Submission Checklist on Page 7.

Name of Municipality: City of Asbury Park		County: Monmouth
Contact Person: Anthony J. Nuccio		Title: Interim City Manager
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I. Aid History

List amount of Transitional Aid received for the last three years, if any:

CY 2014	CY 2013	CY 2012
\$2,300,000	\$3,450,000	\$3,500,000

II. Aid Request for Application Year: (All municipalities currently operating under a Transitional Aid MOU are advised that a decrease from prior year funding is likely.)

Amount of aid requested for the Application Year:	\$1,955,000
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If not seeking a decrease, a letter from the Mayor is required. See Local Finance Notice 2015-4.

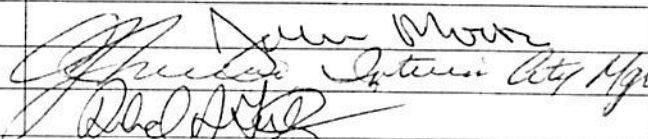
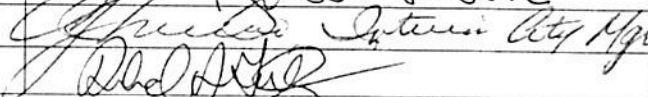

III. Submission Requirements

The following items must be submitted with, or prior to, submission of this application. Indicate date of submission of each.

Item	Date Submitted to DLGS
2014 Annual Financial Statement	03/02/2015
2013 Annual Audit	07/03/2014
2013 Corrective Action Plan	10/01/2014
Application Year Introduced Budget	03/11/2015
Budget Documentation Submitted to Governing Body	03/06/2015

IV. Application Certification

The undersigned herewith certify that they he or she has reviewed this application and, to his or her knowledge, believe the contents to be accurate true and represent it accurately portrays the circumstances regarding the municipality's fiscal practices and need for financial assistance. By submitting the application, the municipality acknowledges that the law provides that the decision of the Director regarding aid awards is final and not subject to appeal.

Official	Signature	Date
Mayor/Chief Executive Officer		3-13-15
Governing Body Presiding Officer		3/13/2015
Chief Financial Officer		

V-A. Explanation of Need for Transitional Aid

Explain the circumstances that require the need for Transitional Aid in narrative form. Include factors that result in a constrained ability to raise sufficient revenues to meet budgetary requirements, and if such revenues were raised, how it would substantially jeopardize the fiscal integrity of the municipality.

As we do with each of our applications, we would like to express our sincere gratification to the State of New Jersey for its continuation of Transitional Aid to the City of Asbury Park. We believe that Asbury Park is more successful today than it has been in decades and today, Asbury Park is a City with a dream, a renewal project that would make her ocean mile the envy and again the "gem of the Jersey Shore". The City is currently experiencing a new renaissance and signs of revitalization as millions of dollars have been invested by the City and private corporations in redevelopment efforts within the City. The blighted downtown and beachfront areas are returning to life as the deteriorated business district is emerging into an art-and-antiques strip and the boardwalk and beach front area are undergoing massive reconstruction. Bars and restaurants are drawing curious out-of-towners and the housing stock has become a delight for architecture buffs, the entire city boasts a rich inventory of Queen Anne Victorian, Gothic, Federal Revival, and modern structures. Students from the nation's leading architectural schools have discovered Asbury Park's value and need for historic preservation and urban revitalization. Although we have strained our resources, obviously, we have prospered for a variety of reasons and transitional aid has been one of the most significant reasons, because of it we have been able to fund services and attract visitors, new residents and businesses that just five years ago would not have come to this city.

Although City revenues, including beach and parking revenues are up noticeably, our property tax collection rate has increased from 99.27% in 2013 to 99.57% in 2014, and we experienced a substantial decrease in crime over the past year; redevelopment projects are rapidly moving forward; and groundwork is in place for the start of new housing initiatives throughout the city during 2015; and finally after 45 years, the city has begun the redevelopment of the west side, the City of Asbury Park is still in need of aid in 2015.

In 2013, the City's tax rate was 5.922 (a year during which a revaluation was conducted). In 2014 (reval. year) the rate was 2.67.

Asbury Park's 2014 annual budget was approximately \$40 million. The amount to be raised by taxes was \$14,791,261. Over the past years Asbury Park has reduced costs, reorganized departments for maximum efficiency, entered into shared service agreements, pursued regionalization of services in Monmouth County, increased fees, established new revenue producing programs, aggressively pursued economic development and reduced staffing levels and totally restructured every department within the city for maximum efficiency; despite these measures, however, at present the City's ratable base is still insufficient to meet the demand for municipal services, and therefore, the City of Asbury Park is still in need of Transitional Aid to balance the 2015 budget. The City's budget as introduced for 2015 has an average home being assessed at \$227,251. The municipal rate (excluding library) would be 1.245 which would equate to \$2,829 in municipal property taxes for the average homeowner. An increase of \$153.00 or 5.7% If we were to lose all Transitional Aid the rate would go to 1.425, taxes would go to \$3,238 an increase of \$562.00 or 21%. The City would not be able to raise taxes to the limit as we only have \$250,000 in the Tax Levy Bank to utilize so the most the City could go up to is 1.265 which would equate to \$2,875 in municipal property taxes for the average homeowner, an increase of \$199.00 or 7.4%. This level of increase would obviously have a negative impact on the

majority of homeowners and businesses within Asbury Park.

In addition, we are still struggling with the impact of Super Storm Sandy which occurred in 2012. The City sustained \$3 million damage to the sewer plant and \$450,000 damage to the pedestrian bridge over Sunset Lake which have not yet to be repaired.

The City currently has an outstanding municipal lien balance of \$276,000. In addition, our residents are in debt to third party lien holders for over \$2 million dollars.

It should also be pointed out that a disproportionate amount of the property within Asbury Park is tax-exempt. In fact, the number of actual tax-exempt properties is much higher than that of neighboring municipalities. The total assessed value of Asbury Park is \$1,224,138,000 of which 45.67 % is tax exempt (\$558,116,900). This significantly reduces the base on which property taxes can be raised and is a permanently built in liability for the City.

All of this having been said, The Mayor and City Council are committed to reducing the City's reliance on municipal aid. In 2014 the governing body adopted a budget which increased local taxes by 4.21%. Retirement Payouts cost the city \$ \$443,716.03 in 2014 and it is estimated that Retirement Payouts will be approximately \$1,088,858.64 in 2015. Although these positions are either not being filled or filled at a lower salary, the cost of the retirement benefits is a current fund expense in 2015. The City continues to pay the deferred pension costs that were incurred in 2010 when the State reduced the City's Extraordinary Aid by \$1,500,000 and required the City to defer \$1.5 million in pension costs to offset this reduction.

Worker's Compensation awards and general liability awards were \$2.4 million in 2014.

Obviously, once the redevelopment projects are all in place, the City anticipates a balance in its revenues and budgetary obligations while maintaining a stable and affordable property tax rate. Over the past few years, the City has had a number of nonrecurring revenues that have been available to that have been available to offset budget expenditures as the City proceeds to implement its redevelopment projects.

The City has also experienced an increase in expenditures due to insurance obligations, labor contract increases, and debt service.

Despite Asbury Park's crime rate significantly dropping through the efforts of community policing, and shared services with the Monmouth County Prosecutor's and Sheriff's Departments, The New Jersey State Police and Federal Marshall Services, the City has a significant need for additional police officers in order to maintain our current status. The New Jersey State Department of Criminal Justice in July 2014 indicated that Asbury Park should have a minimum of 98 police officers. In 2010 the city was able to maintain a staffing level of 95 police officers; however because of attrition we currently have 90 sworn officers. Because of budget restraints vacant positions have gone unfilled. Without these additional police officers our narcotics/gang unit staff has been reduced to just 6 officers.

Conclusion:

Despite these factors, the City continues to seek economic development opportunities in every part of the city as well as working closely with all state and county agencies to maximize technical support

and networking, shared services agreements with other municipalities and the county alike and seeking additional grant opportunities.

The real estate market is improving and investors are coming to Asbury Park; the entire central business district is being reconstructed; the beachfront is thriving; and the west side development will bring apartments and retail space. However, while these projects bode well for the future, they will have minimal impact on revenue for the City's 2015 budget.

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V-B. Demonstration of Revenue Loss/Substantial Cost Increase

Show: (1) specific, extraordinary revenue losses, but not as the aggregate of many revenue line items; and (2) specific, extraordinary increases in appropriations, but not as the aggregate of many appropriation line items. Describe the item on the cell below each entry. If applicable, indicate in the description of the extraordinary increase in expenditure if the increase was the result of a policy

decision made by the municipality (i.e. a back-loaded debt service schedule, deferred payment, costs associated with additional hires, etc.)

Revenue or Appropriation	2014 Value	2015 Value	Amount of Loss/Increase
Description:			
Description:			
Description:			
Description:			
Description:			
Description:			
Description:			
Description:			
Description:			
Description:			

V-C. Actions to Reduce Future Need for Aid

Detail the steps the municipality is taking to reduce the need for aid in the future. Include details about long-term cost cutting and enhanced revenue plans, impact of new development, potential for grants to offset costs, and estimated short and long-term annual savings. Use additional pages if necessary. (Items included in a Transition Plan submitted by a current recipient need not be repeated here.)

Asbury Park's need for transitional aid will be reduced through a combination of strategies that will include long term cost cutting, enhanced revenue plans, future development, potential for grants to offset costs, and long term annual savings as outlined below:

DEVELOPMENT**WATERFRONT REDEVELOPMENT**

Within the past ten years, the City has seen a tremendous amount of investment in the Waterfront Redevelopment Area. Three major residential projects have already been completed and construction on a fourth has been started, boardwalk pavilions have been renovated, the historic Convention Hall and Paramount Theatre has been subject of restoration, and the majority of the boardwalk has been reconstructed.

While activity continues along the boardwalk, residential development is once again taking place on those blocks west of the beach and boardwalk following a slow down during the recession. Completed in 2013 is the VIVE townhouse project, consisting of 28 attached single family housing units which have all been sold. Also a second townhouse development named South Grand and consisting of 28 additional residential units, has obtained site plan approval in 2014 and construction has started.

To keep redevelopment momentum going, the City has recognized that the Waterfront Redevelopment Plan may benefit from amendments which allow for development to occur on less than a city block-by-block basis as is currently called for, to allow for investment in property by current land owners, and to create additional permitted uses within the Plan to provide greater diversity of uses and thus greater interest from the development community.

Recognizing that the redevelopment of the Waterfront plays a critical role in the City's future, the Mayor and City Council have moved forward by drafting recommended amendments to the Plan for discussion with the waterfront's master developer.

Central Business District Redevelopment

The Central Business District of Asbury Park continues to grow as center for the arts and dining. A variety of recent projects reflect its new attractiveness as a mixed-use center with convenient access to mass transportation and the services that individuals seek today.

The arts community continues to grow, with a base in the Central Business District. Arts

Cap, the City's local arts organization completed its Master Plan in 2011. The Shore Institute of Contemporary Art (SICA) has established its headquarters within the Business District. The Asbury Music Center, a multi-purpose music instructional, rehearsal and recording space is also operating within the district and new theatre is under construction. These present and upcoming businesses and organizations were supported through careful redevelopment planning, and the amending of ordinances and plans to encourage them to make the Central Business District their home.

Rehabilitation and restoration of the Savoy Theatre in the heart of the Central Business District is scheduled to start in May, 2015. The Savoy Theatre, a 100 year old former Vaudeville venue, that seats 700-750, has been vacant for decades. Such a venue in the Central Business District will attract hundreds, if not thousands of theatre goers. To facilitate the Savoy's rehabilitation, the City Council amended the redevelopment agreement. The building is currently in the application process for designation as a historic landmark.

The City has also enacted a street performers ordinance which will allow for public artists to perform in city right-of-ways including sidewalk areas. This ordinance is seen as a way to encourage the performing arts within the city. Recognizing that public art can provide an enhancement to the community and the quality of neighborhoods within the City, the Mayor and Council have established a "Public Art Committee".

Washington Avenue Redevelopment

The City entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Asbury Park Housing Authority which allowed the Authority to commence with the drafting of a Washington Avenue Redevelopment Plan. The plan is for an acre of the City which although designated as a redevelopment area, a redevelopment plan was never adopted. The drafting of a Washington Avenue Redevelopment Plan was also an objective contained within the City Master Plan.

The Washington Avenue Redevelopment Area consists of approximately 8.80 acres and is located in the southwestern section of Asbury park. The neighborhood originally developed primarily as a single-family detached residential corridor. It gradually deteriorated and depreciated as a result of economic downturns. A steady period of disinvestment, declining incomes, exodus of homeowners and conversions of housing from single-family to multi-family changed the character of the neighborhood.

To begin the planning process, a neighborhood assessment and visioning process was conducted. The result of the planning process is a redevelopment plan which accurately reflects the needs and concerns of the residents and stakeholders. Furthermore, the City of Asbury Park Housing Authority has been named the Redevelopment Entity for the Washington Avenue Redevelopment Area.

Springwood Avenue Redevelopment

The City drafted the first ever redevelopment plan created exclusively by in-house staff for the Springwood Avenue Redevelopment Area. An aggressive public outreach and

participation was conducted to gain community input on plan goals and content. Springwood Avenue redevelopment is moving forward. The recently completed Springwood Center project is a 27,534 square foot, three story, mixed use building. The land was once owned by the City and undeveloped, but now includes commercial/retail space (including a police substation) on the ground level, The Asbury Park Senior Center on the second floor, and eight (8) affordable, residential rental units on the third floor level. The "all-in" cost to complete this project was approximately \$6.9 million. Interfaith Neighbors, a local not for profit developer, was responsible for securing financing to undertake and complete the project. The project has helped fulfill many community needs including the provision of affordable housing, the reestablishment of a permanent home for the City's Senior Citizen's Center, and the creation of new commercial space (the first in 45 years since the riots of 1970) along the historic Springwood Avenue Corridor. This facility represents a commitment to revitalize the City's southwest quadrant.

The City has also taken control of a number of vacant parcels within the Springwood Avenue Redevelopment Area. Once owned by either the Housing Authority or a private developer. The City has selected two entities as the redevelopers of this land. First, is the Michael's Development Company. Michaels is proposing a total of approximately 100 residential units and 10,000 square feet of commercial space. The second redeveloper, Interfaith Neighbors, is proposing 26 new townhouse units, and a 38,000 square foot commercial building containing theatre space, restaurant space, and a restaurant.

The Springwood Park Plan

One major goal of the Springwood Avenue Redevelopment Plan is the creation of a new public park. Pursuant to the plan, the park would provide opportunities for active and passive recreation as well as a public gathering space. Also pursuant to the Springwood Avenue Redevelopment Plan, the park would become a central square in the community and contain a variety of amenities to support various activities.

The Springwood Advisory Committee, a committee formed to both draft the Redevelopment Plan and guide the ongoing redevelopment process, discussed park amenities and reviewed and commented on a number of conceptual park designs... Their input and recommendations have been utilized to create the final concept design for the park. The Springwood Redevelopment Plan called for this public participation stating that the final [park design will include amenities based on community needs and interests and will be determined as part of a public process. Further opportunity for public comment has taken place at the Planning Board level, at meetings of the Environmental Shade Tree Commission, as well as during a public hearing for grant funds which will be sought for the park.

The park will contain the amenities recommended by the Springwood Avenue Advisory Committee. The main entrance to the [park would bring one to a mall with a performance stage as the focal point at the far end. This mall could be utilized for a variety of activities such as farmers markets, theatrical performances and other events. Spaces for public art are included as well. The park would be encircled by a walking/jogging path. A great lawn area for active recreation is included. Also included is a children's playground, decorative fountain, courtyard area with tables and space for an information kiosk, which can be used

as a tool storage location, or small police substation.

The City has been awarded three separate grants from the Monmouth County Open Space Grant Program for the acquisition of land and to construct the park.

In addition, The Springwood Avenue Redevelopment Area has been designated as a Brownfield development area. This designation provides the City with funding for investigations into any potential site contamination and environmental cleanup that may be required. Since environmental costs can add significantly to a development budget, it provides the City with another incentive to show potential developers.

Funds obtained through the Hazardous Discharge Site Remediation Fund (HDSRF) have been utilized for environmental studies and cleanup. HDSRF funds were also utilized for park properties referenced above.

INCREASED REVENUE & SHARED SERVICES

The City of Asbury Park acknowledges that it needs to implement strategies to end the cycle of crisis budgeting that has existed for years. The City's goal is to develop a strategy that provides for the delivery of needed services; to plan and fund expected eventual cost increases in a responsible manner and to manage the growth of the City's recurring revenues while reducing its past reliance on non-recurring revenue and State Transitional Aid. These strategies have included but are not limited to the following:

- Entering into additional shared services agreements;
- Reducing staff when and wherever possible as well as the reorganization of each department to maximize employee potential and efficiency;
- Expanding economic development opportunities;
- Expanding the City's network of support to provide additional resources at no additional cost to taxpayers;
- The Police Department, in an attempt to supplement full time sworn officers has successfully used both Class I and Class II Special Officers. Also to reduce costs and to maximize productivity, part time clerical staff has been hired to allow reassignment of two sworn officers who are currently assigned to the record and evidence rooms.
- Social Services have reduced program development aids employed at the senior center from full time down to part time in an attempt to reduce costs. This will not only represent a cost savings in salary but in health care costs as well.
- Strengthening management practices to reduce costs and increase productivity;

- Creating an abandoned property and vacant property ordinances;
- Recruiting the services of a professional grant writer to aggressively seek out and apply for grant opportunities;
- Increasing fees for services (including Code, Recreation, Fire Safety inspections, beach and parking fees);
- Increase parking revenue by metering the municipal parking lot and state parking garage (with approval of state) and increasing the cost of resident annual parking permits;
- The City will also look to implement energy efficient systems throughout public buildings.
- Mercantile fees will be restructured and expanded.
- Expanding existing services to generate revenue (ex: metered parking will be implemented in the municipal parking lot as well as the parking garage located in the Central Business District);
- The City is planning accept credit cards for all City fees and promote a business friendly environment. This initiative will also increase the collection of municipal court revenue.
- The police department continues to successfully utilize Class I and Class II Special Officers to supplement full time sworn officers. Class I Officers enforce parking violations and service the meters. These hourly employees work at a rate of \$11.28 per hour and the total number of officers will need to increase to properly protect and service the parking authority. Parking revenues have doubled in the past two years and the minimal increase in expenditures is prudent and necessary to grow with this major revenue source.
- Collective Bargaining agreements have been ratified with four of the City's six collective bargaining Units. The Fire Department has agreed to increase the steps the number of steps between entry level firefighter and most senior firefighter salaries from seven steps to nine steps. In addition, The Collective Bargaining Unit agreed to reduce the starting salary for new firefighters from \$39,278 to \$30,450, a reduction of \$8,828. The contract was also settled under the following percentage increases: 2013 -0%, 2014-1.5%, 2015-1.5%, 2016-2% and 2017-3%. This is an average increase of 1.6% over the five year term.

The Police, like the firefighters, have agreed to an increase in steps from entry level officers to most senior level officers from seven steps to eleven. In addition the Police bargaining unit has agreed to the elimination of an "academy step" and new officers will no longer receive a pay increase at the conclusion of their academy training after six months. They have also agreed to reduce their number of sick days

by one. The Police Supervisors unit has also agreed to reduce their sick time by one day. These contracts were settled under the following percentage increases: 2013 - 0%, 2014-2%, 2015-2%, 2016-3% and 2017-3%. This is an average increase of 2% over the five year term.

The Collective Bargaining Unit representing the library workers has agreed to a reduction of five sick days (from 20 down to 15) and maximum vacation leave was reduced from 28 days a year down to 20 days per year. This contract was settled under the following percentage increases: 2013 -0%, 2014-1.5%, 2015-1.5%, 2016-2% and 2017-3%. This is an average increase of 1.6% over the five year term.

Although not yet ratified, the Bargaining Union representing the Department Heads and Professional Employees have agreed to a two day reduction in sick days for current employees and a five day reduction for new employees who began employment after January 1, 2014. This contract was settled under the following percentage increases: 2013 -0%, 2014-1.5%, 2015-1.5%, 2016-2% and 2017-3%. This is an average increase of 1.6% over the five year term.

All future contracts will be negotiated with the objective of reducing long term costs, including lowering starting salaries, increasing steps, increase the hours worked by reducing vacation, sick time and other personal time off, eliminating longevity and eliminating the accrual of sick and compensatory time.

Comparison of revenue between 2013 to 2014:

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>%</u>
• Beach Revenue	\$1,141,143	1,445,292	+ 26.65%
• Parking Revenue	\$1,981,754	2,462,290	+ 24.25%
• Accelerated Tax Sale	\$1,035,879	2,627,022	+ 153.60%
• Uniform Construction Fees	\$ 394,274	395,018	+ .18%
• Code Inspections	\$ 149,995	183,015	+ 22.01%
• Fire Inspections	\$ 53,874	55,939	+ 3.83%
• Ambulance Billing	\$ 523,192	517,612	- 1.06%
• Special Events	\$ 22,225	32,180	+ 44.79%
◦ Recreation	\$ 27,298	56,499	+ 106.97%

- Mercantile License \$ 55,222 76,996 + 39.43%
- Surplus Anticipation \$1,389.602 1,601,000 + 15.22%

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V-D. Discussion of Health Benefits

Skip this section if using SHBP. If not using SHBP, explain why the health benefit plan being used is cheaper, or what reasons exist for failing to move to SHBP. Additionally, list all brokers (primary broker, all co-brokers, and sub-brokers) together with their compensation for the current and prior two fiscal years. Compensation must be disclosed in this section whether provided directly by the municipality or as a commission from the insurance provider. It is the municipality's right, and obligation, to determine whether the broker is compensated with commission in order to fully complete this section. If commissions are being earned, provide both how the commission is calculated (percentage of premium or self-insurance) and the actual \$ value of the commission received in each year.

The City is enrolled in the SHBP

VI. Historical Fiscal Statistics

Item	2013	2014	Introduced Application Year
1. Property Tax/Budget Information			
Municipal tax rate	\$3.183	\$1.249	\$1.2456
Municipal Purposes tax levy	\$14,078,088	\$14,791,261	\$15,236,482
Municipal Open Space tax levy	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total general appropriations	\$41,732,556	\$40,569,789	\$41,790,982
2. Cash Status Information			
% Of current taxes collected	98.91%	99.57%	%
% Used in computation of reserve	99.25%	98.92%	98.92%
Reserve for uncollected taxes	\$187,718	\$277,193	\$
Total year end cash surplus	\$546,719	\$2,229,312	
Total non-cash surplus	\$1,648,009	\$1,277,258	
Year end deferred charges	\$539,054	\$369,528	
3. Assessment Data			
Assessed value (as of 7/1)	\$415,952,515	\$1,184,771,700	\$1,224,138,000
Average Residential Assessment	\$83,884	\$214,282	\$
Number of tax appeals granted			
Amount budgeted for tax appeals	\$0	\$0	\$0
Refunding bonds for tax appeals	\$0	\$0	\$0
4. Full time Staffing Levels			
Uniformed Police - Staff Number	89	89	90
Total S&W Expenditures	\$8,361,350	\$8,695,704	\$9,275,104
Uniformed Fire - Staff Number	48	48	48
Total S&W Expenditures	\$4,352,527	\$4,567,483	\$4,760,000
All Other Employees - Staff Number	81	81	81
Total S&W Expenditures	\$4,563,921	\$4,444,110	\$4,757,646
5. Impact of Proposed Tax Levy			
			Amount
Current Year Taxable Value			1,224,138,000
Introduced Tax Levy			15,236,482
Proposed Municipal Tax Rate	1.245	Average Res. Value (#4 above)	227,251
Current Year Taxes on Average Residential Value (#4 above)			\$2,829
Prior Year Taxes on Average Residential Value			\$2,676
Proposed Increase in average residential taxes			\$153

VII. Application Year Budget Information

A. Year of latest revaluation/reassessment

2014

B. Proposed Budget – Appropriation Cap Information

- | Item | | Yes | No |
|---|-------------|-----|----|
| 1. Was an appropriation cap index rate ordinance adopted last year?
If YES: % that was used | 3.5% | X | |
| 2. Amount of appropriation cap bank available going into this year | \$2,117,358 | | |
| 3. Is the Application Year budget at (appropriation) cap?
If NO, amount of remaining balance | \$1,879,304 | | X |
| 4. Does the Application Year anticipate use of a waiver to exceed the appropriation cap?
If YES, amount: | \$ | | X |

		Yes	No
	X		
3.5%			
\$2,117,358			
			X
\$1,879,304			
			X
\$			

C. List the five largest item appropriation increases:

Appropriation	Prior Year Actual	Application Year Proposed	\$ Amount of Increase
Police S&W	\$8,695,704	\$9,275,104	\$579,400
Employee Group Insurance	\$4,683,635	\$5,250,000	\$566,365
Engineering O/E	\$10,559	\$250,000	\$239,441
Fire S/W	\$4,567,483	\$4,760,000	\$192,517
Capital Improvement Fund	\$50,000	\$150,000	\$100,000

D. List all new property tax funded full-time positions planned in the Application Year:

Department/Agency	Position	Number	Dollar Amount
Police	Police Officers (Grant Expiring, Proportionate Share of Grant Costs)	4/10	\$311,536

E. Display projected tax levies, local revenues (not grants), anticipated (gradually reduced) Transitional Aid, total salary and wages, and total other expenses projected for the three post-application years:

	Tax Levy	Local Revenues	Transitional Aid	Total S&W	Total OE
First year	\$15,541,212	\$9,300,000	\$1,450,000	\$19,168,605	\$20,615,451
Second year	\$15,852,036	\$9,850,000	\$700,000	\$19,551,977	\$20,342,903
Third year	\$16,169,077	\$10,550,000	0	\$19,943,017	\$20,268,904

VIII. Financial Practices

A. Expenditure controls and practices:

Question	Yes	No
1. Is an encumbrance system used for the current fund?	X	
2. Is an encumbrance system used for other funds?	X	
3. Is a general ledger maintained for the current fund?	X	
4. Is a general ledger maintained for other funds?	X	
5. Are financial activities largely automated?	X	
6. Does the municipality operate the general public assistance program?		X
7. Are expenditures controlled centrally (Yes) or de-centrally by dept. (No)?	X	
8. At any point during the year are expenditures routinely frozen?	X	
9. Has the municipality adopted a cash management plan?	X	
10. Have all negative findings in the prior year's audit report been corrected?	X	
If not, be prepared to discuss why not in your application meeting.		

B. Risk Management: Indicate ("x") how each type of risk is insured.

Coverage	JIF/HIF	Self	Commercial
General liability	X		
Vehicle/Fleet liability	X		
Workers Compensation	X		
Property Coverage	X		
Public Official Liability	X		
Employment Practices Liability	X		
Environmental	X		
Health	SHBP		
	X		

C. 1) Salary and Employee Contract Information (when more than one bargaining unit for each category, use average):

Question	Police	Fire	Other Contract	Non-Contract
Year of last salary increase	2014	2014	2012	n/a
Average percentage increase	2.5%	1.6%	1.5%	%
Last contract settlement date				
Contract expiration date	12/31/2017	12/31/2017	12/31/2012	

2) Explain, if any, actions that have been taken or are under consideration for the Application Year:

Action	Police	Fire	Other Contract	Non-Contract
Furloughs (describe below)				
Wage Freezes (describe below)				
Layoffs (describe below)				

Application Year: CY 2015	Municipality: Asbury Park	County: Monmouth
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D. Tax Enforcement Practices:

Question	Yes	No
1. Did the municipality complete its accelerated tax sale by December 31, if included in 2014 budget? If not, please include a letter from the tax collector explaining why he/she failed to complete the sale in a timely manner and what the impacts were on cash flow and lost investment earnings.	X	
2. When was the last foreclosure action taken or tax assignment sale held: Date:	Six + yrs ago	
3. On what dates were tax delinquency notices sent out in 2014: Date:	Quarterly	
4. Date of last tax sale: Date:	12/18/2012	

E. Specialized Service Delivery:

If the answer to either question is "Yes," provide (as an appendix) a cost justification of maintaining the service without changes.

Service	Yes	No
Sworn police or firefighters are used to handle emergency service call-taking and dispatch (in lieu of civilians)		X
The municipality provides rear-yard solid waste collection through the budget		X

F. Other Financial Practices

1. Amount of interest on investment earned in:

2013	\$14,864	2014	\$10,590	Anticipated Application Year:	\$0
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2. List the instruments in which idle funds are invested:

Various Sweep Accounts	

3. What was the average return on investments during SF2014?

	.15%
4. Left Blank Intentionally	
5. The name and firm of the municipality's auditor?	
David A. Kaplan, Wiss & Co.	
6. When was the last time the municipality changed auditors?	
2007	

G. Status of Collective Negotiation (Labor) Agreements: List each labor agreement by employee group, contract expiration date, and the status of negotiations of expired contracts.

Employee Group	Expiration Date	Status of Negotiations of Expired Agreement
Fire	12/31/17	
Police	12/31/17	
Non-Supervisors (B&W)	12/31/12	Currently in Negotiations
Supervisors (AFSCME)	12/31/12	Negotiations completed – will be approved by

Application Year: CY 2015	Municipality: Asbury Park	County: Monmouth
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		City Council , March 23, 2015 will expire 12/31/17
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**IX-A. List actions that limited Salary and Wage costs: i.e., layoffs, furloughs, freezes, contract concessions, etc.
(See item C-3 in Local Finance Notice for details)**

S&W Line Item	Prior Year Actual	Application Year Proposed	Explanation of Change
See section V-C Cost Cutting			

IX-B. List actions that limited or reduced Other Expense costs: i.e., reductions, changes, or elimination of services, procurement efficiencies or restraint. Include changes in spending policies that reduce non-essential spending.

Line Item	Prior Year Actual	Application Year Proposed	Explanation of Change
			As indicated in last year's application, The City will attempt to solicit on-line bidding. Often bids are solicited to a small grouping. Better pricing can be realized as the City expands its data base of providers.

Application Year: SFY 2015	Municipality: City of Asbury Park	County: Monmouth
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IX-C. Evaluate existing local revenues, as to whether or not the rates or collections can be increased or imposed, and if so, how changes will be implemented.

Local Revenues and services provided through the General/Current Fund	Check if services is provided	Are fees charged to cover the costs of the program?	If fees do not cover costs, what is the amount of subsidy?	If there is a subsidy, explain why fees cannot be increased to reduce or eliminate subsidy.
Recreation programs	X	Yes		
Sewer Fees	X	Yes		
Water Fees		N/A		
Swimming Pool		N/A		
Uniform Construction Code	X	Yes		
Uniform Fire Code	X	Yes		
Land Use Fees		N/A		
Parking Fees	X	Yes		
Beach Fees	X	Yes		
Special Event Fees	X	Yes		
Mercantile Fees	X	Yes		

X. Service Delivery

List all services that the municipality contracts to another organization: i.e., shared services with another government agency, including formal and informal shared services, memberships in cooperative purchasing program, private (commercial), or non-profit organization.

Service	Name of Contracted Entity	Estimated Amount of Contract	Year Last Negotiated (as applicable)
911 Dispatch Services	Monmouth County Sheriff's Department	\$400,000	
Vehicle Repairs	Monmouth County		
Gasoline	Monmouth County Coop		
Road Salt	Monmouth County Coop		
Asbury Park Fire Department	Provides and bills for EMS services		
Asbury Park Fire Department	Provides mutual aid services for neighboring communities with its Rapid Response Intervention Team		
Asbury Park Fire Department	Currently exploring the possibility of providing services to neighboring municipalities. The City continues to push more efficient fire and EMS service delivery via shared service endeavors.		
Department of Public Works	Sharing of Beach Cleaning equipment and street cleaning equipment with neighboring communities.		
Department of Public Works	Sharing of our Licensed electrician with neighboring communities		
Asbury Park Social Services	Our social services department has provided training to Jersey Shore University Medical Center Staff (on Homelessness).		
Asbury Park Social Services	Our social services staff has provided training, assistance and interventions to neighboring towns regarding mental health diversion in their municipal courts.		

Asbury Park Social Services	Assists Monmouth County Interventions as part of the County Emergency Management System and Emergency Response Team.		
Asbury Park Social Services	The City's new state of the art senior center provides social and recreational activities; transportation; nutrition program through a partnership with Interfaith Neighbors and an array of other supportive services and programs to the senior citizen residents of Asbury Park		
Department of Public Works	Shared service agreement with Monmouth County Road Department for paving.		
Department of Public Works	Shared Service agreement – we provide services to several neighboring communities for jet-vac cleaning and video-taping of sewer mains.		
Department of Public Works	Vehicle repairs by neighboring community		
Department of Public Works	Passaic Valley coop for disposal of sewer plant sludge		

Section XI – Impact of Limited or No Aid Award

Describe in complete detail the impact if aid is not granted for the current fiscal year; **this priority setting requires that the municipality will maintain a minimum level of essential services.** List the appropriate category of impact if the aid is not received. Rank each item from both lists as to the order in which elimination will take place. If across the board cuts will be made, indicate under service. **For rank order purposes, consider the two sections as one list. The cuts outlined here are one that the municipality is committing to make if they do not receive aid.**

Rank Order	Department	# of Layoffs	Effective Date	2013 Full Time Staffing	2014 Full Time Staffing	\$ Amount to be Saved
	Various Departments					
	Police					
	Fire					

If services will be reduced, describe the service, impact and cost savings associated with it.

Rank Order	Service	Cost Savings	Impact on Services
1	Various Other Departments		The City would be inattentive and business unfriendly and would negative impact health and welfare of the community
2	Police		With the highest crime index in the County this would be imprudent. Years of economic gain would be lost. Threat to the general safety and welfare of the residents of the City of Asbury Park.
3	Fire		As the only paid Fire Department in the county, the Fire department provides significant mutual aid to various counties

Application Year: SFY 2015

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County: Monmouth

				throughout Monmouth County. Significant threat to the safety and the welfare of not only residents of Monmouth County but to the County of Monmouth as well.

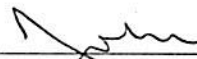
XII. Agreement to Improve Financial Position of Municipality

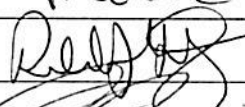
If aid is granted, the municipality will be required to submit to certain reporting conditions and oversight as authorized by law and a new Memorandum of Understanding will need to be signed. Please mark each box below indicating that the applicant understands, and agrees to comply with these broad reporting and oversight provisions.


	Yes	No
1. Allow the Director of Local Government Services to assign management, financial, and operational specialists to assess your municipal operations.	X	
2. Implement actions directed by the Director to address the findings of Division staff.	X	
3. Enter into a new Memorandum of Understanding and comply with all its provisions, without exception.	X	

XIII. Certification of Past Compliance for Municipalities Currently Operating Under a Transitional Aid MOU:

The undersigned certify that the municipality is in substantial compliance with the conditions and requirements of the 2014 MOU and is moving in good faith to correct those area of noncompliance that have been identified, including, but not limited to, the following: establishment of a pay to play ordinance; termination of longevity pay for officers and employees not contractually entitled to longevity pay; termination of health benefits for part time officers and employees; receipt of signed approval forms as required prior to hiring personnel and contracting with professional service vendors.

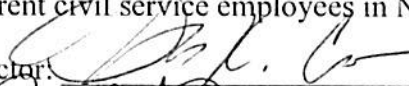
Mayor:  Date: 3-13-15

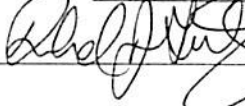
Chief Financial Officer:  Date: 3/13/15

Chief Administrative Officer:  Date: 3/13/15

XIV. CAMPS Certification (County and Municipal Personnel System - Civil Service municipalities only)


For Civil Service municipalities, the undersigned, being knowledgeable thereof, hereby certify that the municipality has placed the names of all current civil service employees in NJ "CAMPS".

Human Resources or Personnel Director:  Date: 3/13/15

Chief Financial Officer:  Date: 3/13/15

XV. CERTIFICATION OF APPLICATION FOR TRANSITIONAL AID

The undersigned acknowledges the foregoing requirements with which the municipality must comply in order to receive aid as outlined above. In addition, included with this application is a copy (printed or electronic) of the budget documentation that supports the budget calculation that was provided to the governing body.

Mayor:  Date: 3-13-15

Chief Financial Officer:  Date: 3/13/15

Chief Administrative Officer:  Date: 3/15/15