

HIGHLIGHTS:

TRANSPARENCY SITE DRAWS 200,000 VISITS AND GROWING STRONG

There has been continual growth in the content and viewership of New Jersey's first comprehensive government transparency center, YourMoney.NJ.Gov (www.YourMoney.NJ.Gov), since it was launched July 2010.

As of September 2011, YourMoney.NJ.Gov has received more than 200,000 visits with 65% coming from outside State government. The site, which also offers a channel for feedback, has already gained more than 200 comments for consideration from members of the public; in addition, the subscription to e-mail alerts has expanded to more than 460 people.

The Transparency Website was a joint development project between the team of experts from the Office of Information Technology in partnership with the technological, financial, and policy experts assigned to the project by the Department of Treasury. Its implementation stemmed from Governor Chris Christie's Executive Order #8, issued on his first day in office. One of the site's notable achievements was, for the first time, aggregating data from independent authorities and commissions and making it available in a readily accessible form.

Since the launch, new data have been released on a regular basis using a rapid application development methodology. YourMoney.NJ.Gov has released:

- *3.1 million property tax records
- *110,281 public employee payroll records
- *Performance budgeting data for 22 agencies.
- *Seven years of state spending and revenue data
- *276,299 pension recipient records
- *Data from 19 independent authorities
- *Purchasing data for 7,994 vendors

Tools such as search, sort, drill-through, and download have been incorporated into its design to help citizens explore and analyze financial data both on the operation of State agencies and departments and also on the full range of State authorities in ways that will provide meaningful insight into the effectiveness of government spending.

Providing meaningful, timely information was central to the design of the site. Mindful of cost-efficiencies, the OIT team leveraged existing technologies in which the State of New Jersey had previously invested in creating the Governor's Transparency Website. These included:

- The New Jersey Enterprise Data Warehouse (NJEDW)
- A rapid development product used to produce the online query and reporting capabilities
- A reporting tool that is used to produce some of the collateral charts and reports
- The Transparency Website is hosted on the State's existing NJ.Gov infrastructure.
- Web developers used existing tools for the development of the Website.
- Geographic Information Systems

The Transparency Website is refreshed monthly, quarterly, or annually, as appropriate. It is also available for the current and previous years. Additionally, several data sets are presented for a seven-year comparison at a summary level. The data presented includes all relevant components of the State's finances that would be useful for taxpayers, interest groups, news organizations, and government executives and administrators.

YourMoney.NJ.Gov, has been recognized as one of the outstanding information technology achievements by a U.S. State in 2011.

From 113 nominations in all categories, the National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO), named YourMoney.NJ.Gov as one of only three finalists in Open Government Initiatives.

"Your Money.NJ.Gov" is one of the key initiatives that is helping us advance reform and ensure that government is more transparent, more efficient, and more responsive to the people of New Jersey," said Governor Chris Christie.