



# State of New Jersey

Department of the Treasury

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## **Christie Administration's Tax Assistance Outreach Events Help Hundreds of Sandy Victims Throughout New Jersey**



**More than 160 people seeking help with tax problems and other Sandy-related matters attended the March 18 Tax Assistance Outreach event in Toms River.**

More than 500 people around the state received help in resolving tax problems and other issues at a series of Tax Assistance Outreach events in February and March that were part of Governor Christie's ongoing effort to bring government services directly to those who suffered damage or disruption in their lives due to Superstorm Sandy.

The final event in the series was held last night at the Ocean County Library's branch in Brick. More than 100 people attended, including State Treasurer Andrew Sidamon-Eristoff. "Many of these people felt Sandy's impact in a very personal way and are still coping with the aftermath. It was very satisfying to know that we were able to help them clear up some of their problems and move ahead with their lives," the Treasurer said.

The New Jersey Treasury Department organized the events and arranged for tax experts from its Division of Taxation and the Internal Revenue Service to be on hand along with representatives of the Governor's Office and other state agencies to help people with problems such as property damage, lost financial records and other Sandy-related issues. In all, eleven events were held in Atlantic, Bergen, Hudson, Monmouth, and Ocean counties.

"We scheduled all the events during the height of tax season," the Treasurer said, "because we know this is the time when people need help the most." The towns where the events were held had all either suffered significant damage from Sandy or were adjacent to areas that had.

Manasquan Mayor George Dempsey, who attended the March 12 outreach event in his town, said it was very helpful to residents there. "I have only rave reviews, for a great number that attended were given a great deal of help," said Mayor Dempsey. "The times we were going through on Sandy had many of our taxpayers – as well many from surrounding towns – confused and depressed on what to do. Your group helped to no end."

The first outreach event was held in Fairview in Bergen County on February 16 and was followed by events in Hoboken, Keyport, Little Egg Harbor, Ridgefield, Ventnor, Sea Bright, Bradley Beach and Toms River along with the events in Manasquan and Brick. The events in Toms River and Brick drew the largest crowds.

Along with getting help with tax problems and other Sandy-related issues, many of those who attended the outreach events also took the opportunity to check in with representatives of Treasury's Unclaimed Property Administration unit to see if they had any abandoned property being held in their name by the state. Several came away not only with their tax problems solved but having discovered they owned assets they had forgotten about or never knew they had.