



Governmental Purchasing Association of New Jersey, Inc.

Isabel Garcia
President

Debra L. Sopronyi
Executive Director

Mike Rizzo
Vice President

Fall 2026 Mini-Conference
September 17, 2026
7:30am to 3:00pm

Windsor Conference Center/Holiday Inn
399 Monmouth St.
East Windsor, NJ 08520

CEU's have been approved for contact hours in the following:

QPA – 2 Procurement Procedure; 2 Office Admin/General Duties; 1 Green Purchasing
RPPO/RPPS – 3 Public Purchasing; 2 Management/Supervision
Municipal Financial Officer – 1 Budgeting; 4 Office Management & Ancillary
County Finance Officer - 1 Budgeting; 4 Office Management & Ancillary
Public Works Manager – 2 Government; 3 Management
Municipal Clerk – 4 Professional Development; 1 Finance
Tax Collector – 4 General/Secondary; 1 Legislation

7:30am – 8:30am Registration & Visit Exhibitors (Coffee and Continental Breakfast will be available)

8:30am – 8:45am President's Welcome

8:45am – 9:45am **CHAPTER 385 -ADVANCING DIVERSITY & INCLUSION INITIATIVES:
FOSTERING SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY THROUGH
SUPPLIER/PURCHASING DIVERSITY**

Caryn Brahn, Director of Business Development, ACCSES NJ

Supplier diversity and inclusion initiatives can make a significant difference to communities throughout New Jersey. Broad interest in socially responsible purchasing is accelerating rapidly. S-994/Chapter

385 signed into law on January 18th 2022, seeks to further the policy of the State and all political subdivisions to encourage and assist people with severe disabilities to achieve maximum personal independence through productive employment by assuring a continuous market for commodities and services provided by them, thereby enhancing their dignity and capacity for self-support and minimizing their dependence on public assistance and the need for costly institutionalization. Chapter 385 establishes a mechanism through which people with severe disabilities throughout the State of New Jersey are encouraged and enabled to become productively employed through participation in community rehabilitation programs. Chapter 385 unlocks benefits from a driven workforce of people with disabilities who possess the skills you need and fight the highest rates of unemployment nationally.

9:45am – 10:00am

Break & Visit Exhibitors (Coffee Available)

10:00am – 10:50am

UNDERSTANDING CLEAN ENERGY FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Poornima Gupta, Research and Project Specialist, Sustainable Jersey

This session will provide a comprehensive understanding of Clean Energy funding opportunities available through New Jersey's Electric and Natural Gas Utilities and the New Jersey Clean Energy Program. Key topics include an overview of available incentive programs and eligibility requirements, funding opportunities from NJ's Utilities and NJ's Clean Energy Program, guidance and template procurement documents for vendor selection in the Direct Install program (LFN 2025-11), best practices for project implementation and management. Sustainable Jersey provides free technical assistance to help local governments implement clean energy projects.

10:50am – 11:45am

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE NJ LAW AGAINST DISCRIMINATION AND THE NJ FAMILY LEAVE ACT

Angela Campos, Community Relations Specialist, NJ Division on Civil Rights

Join us for an informative session hosted by the Community Relations Unit of New Jersey Division on Civil Rights (DCR), where we will delve into the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination (LAD) and highlight the protections of the New Jersey Family Leave Act. This session will offer a comprehensive overview of the LAD uplifting its protected categories, which include actual or perceived race, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability (visible & non-visible), among others. This session will also focus on additional employment protections under the LAD, covering important topics such as the CROWN Act, reasonable accommodations, sexual harassment, protections against retaliation, and the Equal Pay Act.

By the end of the presentation, attendees will have a clearer understanding of state civil rights laws and the protections they offer to everyone. Additionally, participants will learn how to file a complaint using DCR's online complaint portal, NJBIAS if they feel their rights have been violated.

11:45AM – 12:45PM

General Meeting & Lunch (Visit Exhibitors)

12:45pm – 1:45pm

**MEET THE COMPTROLLER & PROCUREMENT SPECIALISTS OF THE
DIVISION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES**

Shirley U. Emehelu, Acting New Jersey State Comptroller

***Jason R. Martucci, Esq., Regulatory Affairs Officer for the Division of
Local Government Services in the New Jersey Department of
Community Affairs***

***Aniyyah Maney, QPA, Procurement Specialist, Department of
Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services***

This session will offer a review of the initiatives and goals of the Office of the Comptroller, and the Division of Local Government Services Procurement Section office.

1:45pm – 2:00pm

Break & Visit Exhibitors (Coffee & Snacks Available)

2:00pm – 3:00pm

EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Matthew U. Watkins, Founder, New Jersey Community Solutions, LLC

Leadership in NJ local government requires awareness of the government environment, carrying yourself with dignity, understanding unique responsibilities, using intuition, and adapting to change. This presentation will focus on the practical application of leadership traits to the administration of local government in New Jersey. This will include how leaders set expectations, motivate staff, respond respectfully to the public, and adjust plans as priorities shift, reinforcing accountability and effective public service.