

**Skip the commute
'Live where you work' is a worthy initiative**

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There certainly is convenience in living in the same town where you work, and Morristown has joined a state program to help make that happen.

The New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency will offer eligible first-time home buyers low-interest loans if they want to buy a house where they are employed. Income ceilings are \$84,400 for a one- or two-person household and \$97,060 for a household of three people or more.

In trumpeting the program in town hall Wednesday, Mayor Donald Cresitello said, "It's important that we keep Morristown as diverse as it has been."

Morristown is experiencing rapid redevelopment, and the mayor talked of how four of 13 luxurious townhouses in the Epstein's redevelopment project have sold for \$2.4 million. But other projects, most notably the proposed Speedwell Avenue redevelopment plan, are envisioned to offer about 160 affordable homes. Some of these units can be sold through this program.

Morristown's population is 19,000, but officials estimate that 40,000 work in town every day. That's the market the new "Live Where You Work" program seeks to tap.

Marge DellaVecchia, executive director of the housing and finance agency, stressed that loans are only granted to qualified borrowers. She said, "We do not throw away our mortgages here."

To state the obvious, living in the same town where you work reduces travel time and allows one to get to work by biking or walking. It clearly enhances one's quality of life, and we hope the program in Morristown is successful.