

County Gets a Piece of \$999K Small Cities Grants

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SALEM -- Two Cumberland County towns will split \$995,825 in state Small Cities grants to the 3rd legislative district.

State Senator Stephen Sweeney, Assemblyman John Burzichelli and Assemblywoman Celeste Riley announced the grants totaling almost \$1.7 million to municipalities in the district on Thursday.

Lawrence Township will receive \$400,000 for sidewalk safety and accessibility. The project includes curbing, drainage and lighting on Maple Avenue.

Upper Deerfield Township will get \$200,000 to rehabilitate about 16 owner-occupied single-family housing units.

The township will also receive \$395,825 for improvements to Seabrook Water Company facilities. It includes new water mains on Third and Fourth Avenues and six new fire hydrants.

Administered by the state Department of Community Affairs, the Small Cities program targets the needs of low and moderate income residents.

It provides money for economic development, housing rehabilitation, community revitalization and public facilities. Funds may also go to local needs for which no other funding is available.

"The Small Cities grant program is a crucial source of aid for our municipalities," Sweeney said.

"Since its establishment it has provided funding for many worthwhile local projects that simply would not have the ability to progress without this financial assistance."

"Three of the five projects approved within our district will support housing rehabilitation efforts for seniors and the disabled, a part of our population in need of continual care," Burzichelli added.

"By rehabilitation these homes, this program ensures that areas of our communities do not become sources of burdensome blight."

"The purpose of these grants is to protect the overall welfare of our municipalities and support endeavors that keep our communities vibrant and livable," Riley said.

"The awarded grants allow our townships to pursue projects and programs that have long been fought for both on the local and state levels."

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