

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lawrence Township Secures Additional \$2 Million State Grant for Neighborhood Center Improvements

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP, NJ – Lawrence Township is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a \$2 million State appropriation through the Fiscal Year 2027 New Jersey State Budget to support improvements to the Lawrence Township Neighborhood Center. The funding was secured through the efforts of State Senator Shirley K. Turner (District 15), who championed the request during the State budget process.

This latest award builds upon the \$500,000 federal grant previously secured by Congressman Herb Conaway, bringing the total grant funding committed to the Neighborhood Center to \$2.5 million.

The Neighborhood Center, located at 295 Eggerts Crossing Road, has long served as a gathering place for residents, families, and community organizations. Lawrence Township is currently undertaking a comprehensive effort to restore and modernize the facility so it can once again become a vibrant hub for community programming and services.

"We are extremely grateful to Senator Turner for her unwavering support of Lawrence Township and for recognizing the importance of investing in this community asset," said Mayor Christopher Bobbitt. "This funding represents a significant investment in our residents and will help ensure that the Neighborhood Center can continue serving future generations."

"With Senator Turner's \$2 million appropriation, combined with Congressman Conaway's previously secured \$500,000 federal grant, the Township has now obtained \$2.5 million in outside funding for this project," Nerwinski said. "These grants dramatically reduce the financial burden on Lawrence taxpayers while allowing us to make meaningful improvements to an important community facility."

Earlier this year, the Township completed an extensive public planning process, including the formation of a Neighborhood Center Task Force, multiple public meetings, and the issuance of a *Request for Proposals* seeking a qualified nonprofit organization to lease and operate the facility while expanding community programming. The grant funding will support needed capital improvements to the building while preserving the Township's long-term vision of providing a sustainable community resource.

In her correspondence announcing the appropriation, Senator Turner stated that she sought the funding because of the *"important role the Neighborhood Center has in the community and its potential to once again serve as a welcoming and active resource for Lawrence Township community and residents."* The Township will continue working with its professional consultants, elected officials, community partners, and the selected nonprofit operator as plans move forward for the renovation and reopening of the Neighborhood Center.

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