

**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS – DIVISION
OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES
2008 SPECIAL MUNICIPAL AID APPLICATION AND INFORMATION FORM
52:27D-118.24 ET SEQ.**

General Instructions: This application must be submitted in its entirety for funding consideration under this program. Information contained in the application is subject to independent verification by DLGS.

Name of Municipality City of Camden County Camden
Mailing Address 520 Market St. Fax 856-757-7315
Camden NJ 08101-5120

Date Completed 4/1/2008 Completed by Patrick J. Keating Title Director of Finance

Contact person to whom questions on this application should be referred:

Name: Patrick J. Keating Title Director of Finance

Direct telephone number 856-757-7174 E-mail pakeatin@ci.camden.nj.us

Section I Aid History

List amount of Discretionary Aid received for the last four years, if any:

2007:	47,130,902	2006:	47,130,902	2005:	35,981,715	2004:	7,105,530
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Aid Request for 2008:

How much aid is being requested for this year:	\$ 61,790,943
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An aid request does not constitute guarantee of receipt of any funds.

Submission Requirements

Without exception, the following items must be on file with the Division prior to submission of this application. Indicate date of submission of each.

2007 Annual Financial Statement 1/17/2008

2006 Annual Audit 3/2007

2006 Audit Corrective Action Plan 6/18/2007

2008 Annual Budget 10/18/2008

IF AID IS GRANTED, ARE YOU WILLING TO ENTER INTO A "MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING" THAT WILL, AMONG OTHER RESTRICTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:

- | | YES | NO |
|--|--------------|-------------|
| a. Allow the Director of Local Government Services to assign Management and Financial Specialists assess your municipal operations | <u> X </u> | <u> </u> |
| b. Require the municipal to take action as recommended by the Director to address the findings of Division staff | <u> X </u> | <u> </u> |
| c. Require the municipality to develop and implement a Fiscal Recovery Plan approved by the Director | <u> X </u> | <u> </u> |

The undersigned herewith certify that they have reviewed this application and, to the best of their ability find its contents to be true and that it accurately portrays the circumstances regarding the municipality's fiscal practices and need for financial assistance and acknowledge the requirements with which the municipality must comply in order to receive aid as outlined above.

Mayor _____ Date _____

Chief Financial Officer _____ Date _____

ATTEST: _____
Municipal Clerk

DATE: _____

Section III - A**Explanation of Need for Special Municipal Aid under 52:27D-118.24 et seq.**

Describe in complete detail the circumstances that require the need for Special Municipal Aid for the current fiscal year. Include a list of all prior year revenues that will not be realized in the 2008 budget. Use additional sheets if necessary.

The City of Camden has a long standing issue of having to maintain levels of services for its population and commercial/ industrial base after having lost the majority of its tax ratable base and a large portion of its former population. These losses are consistent with and endemic to the urban rust belt.

Cogen Host Community Benefit	\$ 341,436.18
NEDMAC Associates	32,853.60
General Capital Interfund Receivable	5,096,294.25
Grant Fund Interfund Receivable	1,911,670.24
P.I.L.O.T. NJ State House	316,000.00
Reciepts from Delinquent Taxes	2,133,979.53

Section III - B

Detail the steps the municipality has taken or plans to take to eliminate the need for aid in this and subsequent years. Include details about cost cutting measures, enhanced revenue plans, staffing, potential for grants to offset costs, etc. and estimated short and long-term savings. Use additional sheets if necessary.

The city has taken steps to investigate the exempt property to add back any property not for exempt purpose on the assessment, the city has also begun the process to undertake the revaluation of the city. The City through the TFLC is administering bulk liens sales, transfer of vacant property to housing development, and ultimately will perform some foreclosure resulting in returning land to tax paying status.

Section III - C

Describe in complete detail the impact if aid is not granted for the current fiscal year. List the appropriate category of impact if the aid is not received. Rank each item from both lists as to the order in which elimination will take place. If across the board cuts will be made, indicate under service. For ranking purposes, consider the two sections as one list.

Rank Order	Department	# of Layoffs	Effective Date	2007 Full Time Staffing	2008 Full Time Staffing	\$ Amount to be saved
	Separate Communication					

If services will be reduced, describe the service, impact and cost savings associated with it.

Rank Order	Service	Cost Savings	Impact on Services
	Separate Communication		

Toward what services did you apply your 2007 Special Municipal Aid?

\$ Amount	Appropriation
\$ 20,630,400	Group Insurance
8,561,750	Debt Service
6,000,000	Garbage and Trash Removal
2,275,000	Utilities
1,550,000	Street Lighting
2,750,000	Worker's Comp
1,000,000	General Liability
3,888,752	Police Salaries and Wages

If any new or expanded programs and additional personnel are planned in the 2008 budget list on chart

Additional 2008 Costs	Description of Service/Program/New Personnel

Historical Fiscal Statistics

	ITEM	Actual 2006	Actual 2007	Introduced 2008 without Aid
1. Property Tax Rates				
	Municipal tax rate	2.552	2.552	2.552
	School tax rate	0.924	0.920	0.920
	County tax rate	1.131	1.090	1.090
	Open Space tax rate	0.031	0.035	0.035
	All other unit tax rates			
	TOTAL (all units) tax rate	4.638	4.597	4.597

2. Property Tax Levies				
	Municipal Purposes	\$20,334,043	\$20,265,381	\$20,263,854
	School purposes (all)	\$7,356,350	\$7,305,715	\$7,700,000
	County	\$9,012,475	\$8,650,887	\$9,900,000
	Open Space	\$247,020	\$272,889	\$included w county
	All Other	\$	\$	\$
	Total tax levy	\$	\$	\$
	Total general appropriations	\$36,929,888	\$36,494,872	\$37,863,854

3. Cash Status Information				
	% Of current taxes collected	86.37%	90.86%	89.85%
	% Used in computation of reserve	86.37%	90.86%	89.85%
	Reserve for uncollected taxes	\$6,820,484	\$4,031,688	\$3,843,405
	Total year end cash surplus	\$-29556911	\$3,615,684	----
	Total non-cash surplus	\$31,559,311	\$2,513,038	----
	Year end deferred charges	\$1,120,992	\$430,127	----

4. Assessment Data				
	Assessed value (as of 7/1)	\$796,889,681	794,027,569	799,672,673
	Average Assessment - single family	\$25,864	26,249	26,669
	Number of tax appeals granted	-0-	-0-	-0-
	Amount budgeted for tax appeals	\$	\$	\$
	Refunding bonds for tax appeals	\$	\$	\$
	Year of latest revaluation/reassessment:	1992	1992	1992

	2006	2007	Intro 2008
5. Staffing Levels			
Uniformed Police - Staff Number	422	404	412
Total \$ S&W Expenditures	\$33,215,739	\$32,658,797	\$34,396,979
Uniformed Fire - Staff Number	226	249	246
Total \$ S&W Expenditures	\$26,694,865	\$20,134,817	\$21,720,647
All Other Employees - Staff Number	629	637	639
Total \$ S&W Expenditures	\$26,694,865	\$26,134,817	\$29,889,960

Section V – Proposed Budget

Cap Information

Item	Yes	No
1. Was a budget cap index rate ordinance adopted in 2008? If yes: % that was used	X	
3.5%		
2. Amount of cap bank available going into current year	\$3,360,274	
3. Is the current year budget at CAP? If NO, amount of remaining balance	X	
\$		
4. Does the 2008 budget anticipate use of a surplus waiver to exceed the cap? If yes, amount:		X
\$		
5. Was a referendum conducted to exceed the cap held?		X

Appropriations

List the five largest items of 2008 appropriation increases

Appropriation	2007 Budgeted	2008 Proposed	\$ Amt of Increase
PFRS	7,034,110	12,332,928	5,298,818
Police S & W	37,232,650	39,716,094	2,483,444
Fire S & W	20,792,876	21,795,252	1,002,444
General Liability	1,000,000	2,000,000	1,000,000
PERS	777,470	1,506,013	735,543
Totals	66,830,106	77,350,287	10,520,181

Section VI

Financial Practices

Expenditure controls and practices

Question	Yes	No
1. Is an encumbrance system used for the current fund?	X	
2. Is an encumbrance system used for other funds?	X	
3. Is a general ledger maintained for the current fund?	X	
4. Is a general ledger maintained for other funds?	X	
5. Are financial activities largely automated?	X	
6. Does the municipality operate the general public assistance program?		X
7. Are expenditures controlled centrally (yes) or de-centrally by department? (no)	X	
8. At any point during the year are expenditures routinely frozen?	X	
9. Has the municipality adopted a cash management plan?	X	
10. Have any negative findings in the prior year's audit report been corrected?	X	

Risk Management

Question	Yes	No
1. Is the municipality a member of a joint insurance fund? If yes, list the risks that are insured by a JIF: (i.e., liability, workers comp, health, etc.)		X
2. Is the municipality self-insured for any risks (not through a JIF)? If yes, list them:	X	
3. Is the municipality commercially insured for major risks? i.e., liability, workers comp, health, etc.) If yes, list them:	X	

Salary and Employee Contract Information: (when more than one bargaining unit for each category, use average)

Question	Police	Fire	Other Contract	Non-Contract
Year of last salary increase	1/1/2008	1/1/2008	1/1/2008	7/1/2004
Average percentage increase	3.32%	3.00%	2.85%	0%
Last contract settlement date	4/7/05	4/7/05	7/7/05	----
Contract expiration date	12/31/08	12/31/08	12/31/08	-----

Tax enforcement practices:

Date of last tax sale: 6/19/07

Does the municipality use the accelerated tax sale program? Yes

When was the last foreclosure action taken or tax assignment sale held: 1/17/07

During 2007, on what dates were tax delinquency notices sent out: 3/07, 5/07, 8/07, 12/07

Other Financial Practices

Amount of interest on investment earned in:

2006	\$827,596	2007	\$398,380	Anticipated in 2008	\$350,000
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List the instruments in which idle funds are invested:

Certificate of deposits
Bank Accounts
NJ Cash Management

What was the average return on investments during 2007? 3 %

When was the last time fee schedules were reviewed and updated? 2007

Service Delivery

List all services and the organization for which the municipality contracts with another government agency. Include all Interlocal Service Agreements, informal shared services, and memberships in cooperative purchasing program. Use additional sheets if necessary.

Ambulance / EMS—UMDNJ

Fire/ EMS Regional Dispatch – Camden County

List the services and the name of the organization which have been contracted or outsourced to private or non-profit organizations

Waste Management – Trash / Recycling

TCM – Street sweeping

United Water Camden – Operating Water / Sewer utility