APPLIED FIELD EXPERIENCE 2020

Completing the Policy Puzzle – How the Legislature and Agencies Act in Pursuit of Policy Goals

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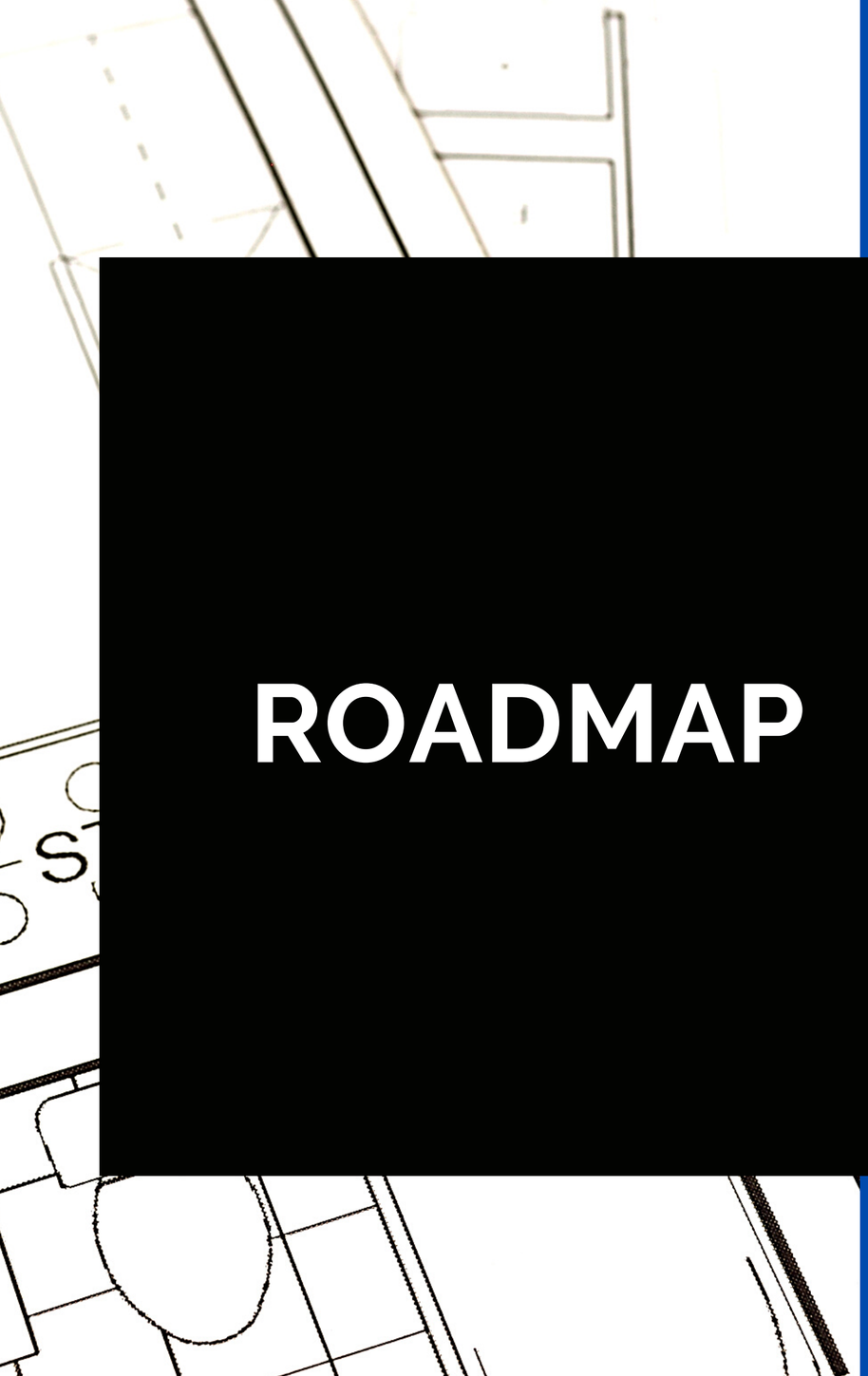
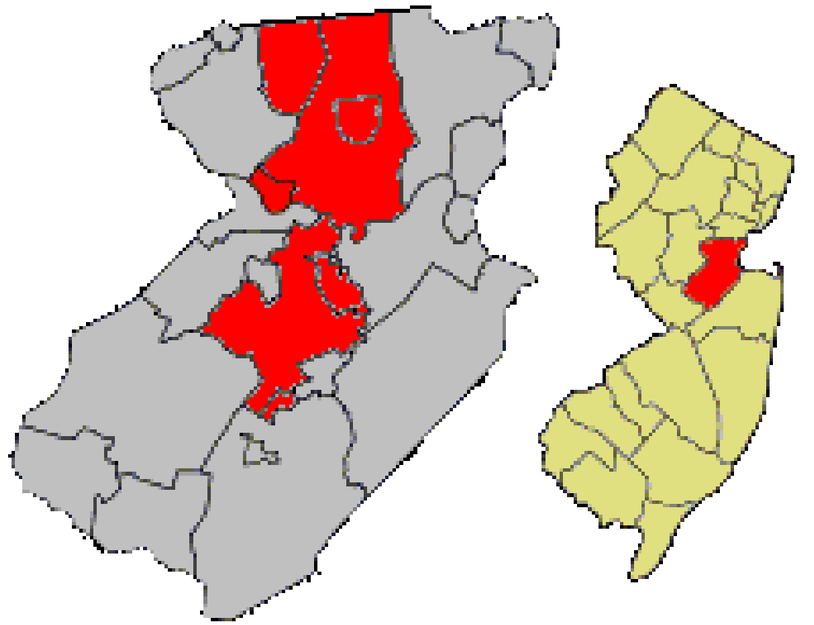


ROADMAP

Background - Office of Asm. Karabinchak
Policy Functions
Specific fieldwork breakdown
Background - NJ Economic Development Authority
Policy Functions
Specific fieldwork breakdown
Coursework Connection
Key Takeaways
Q & As

DISTRICT OFFICE OF ASSEMBLYMAN KARABINCHAK



One of 3 Legislative Offices representing LD-18
Assemblyman is a present incumbent since 2016
Member of four Assemblyman committees, Chairing one and Vice-Chairing another

Policy Functions

1

Research on topics of Interest

2

Seek signs of consensus, inertia or precedent

3

Research summarized (factsheets or memos?)

4

Constituent services, COVID-19 Relief

5

Communications, bill reviews

THE MAKING OF A BILL PROPOSAL

By the milestone

01

RESEARCH

Factsheet on lead content in drinking water state-wide

02

REVIEW

Assessed alongside NJ DEP actions on waterways

03

FRAMING

Creating a bill matches Assemblyman's Committee agenda

04

DUE DILIGENCE

Cost questions
"A version for OLS"
Calling a DEP Senior staffer

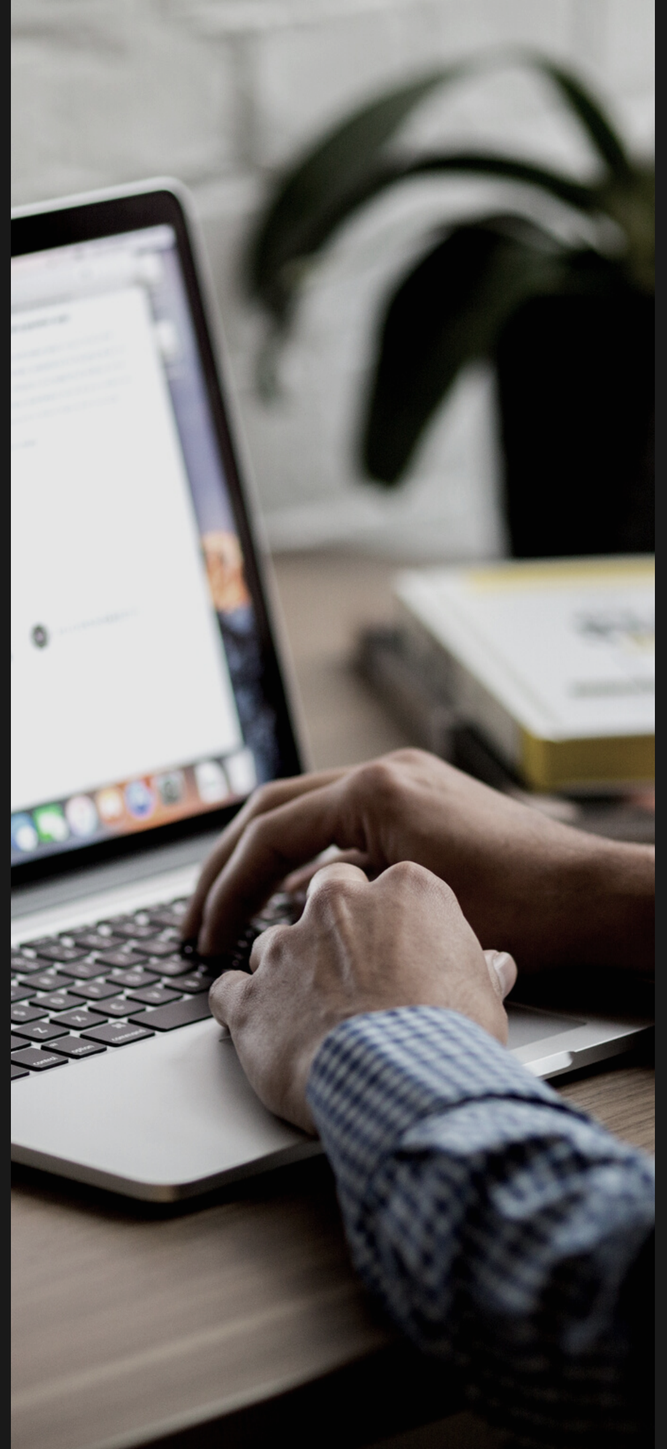
05

CONCLUSION

Submitting to CoS and Legislative Director on May 8th 2020

NJ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Independent government entity founded in 1974
Uses tools like public-private partnerships, incentive programs, incubators and grants to stimulate economic conditions
Presently the assigned state intermediary to disburse CARES Act funding towards affected industries and professionals



Policy Functions

Economic Review

Subject matter experts in every industry field leading caseload

Program Maintenance

10+ tax and credit incentives, due diligence and enforcement

Collaborative Creation

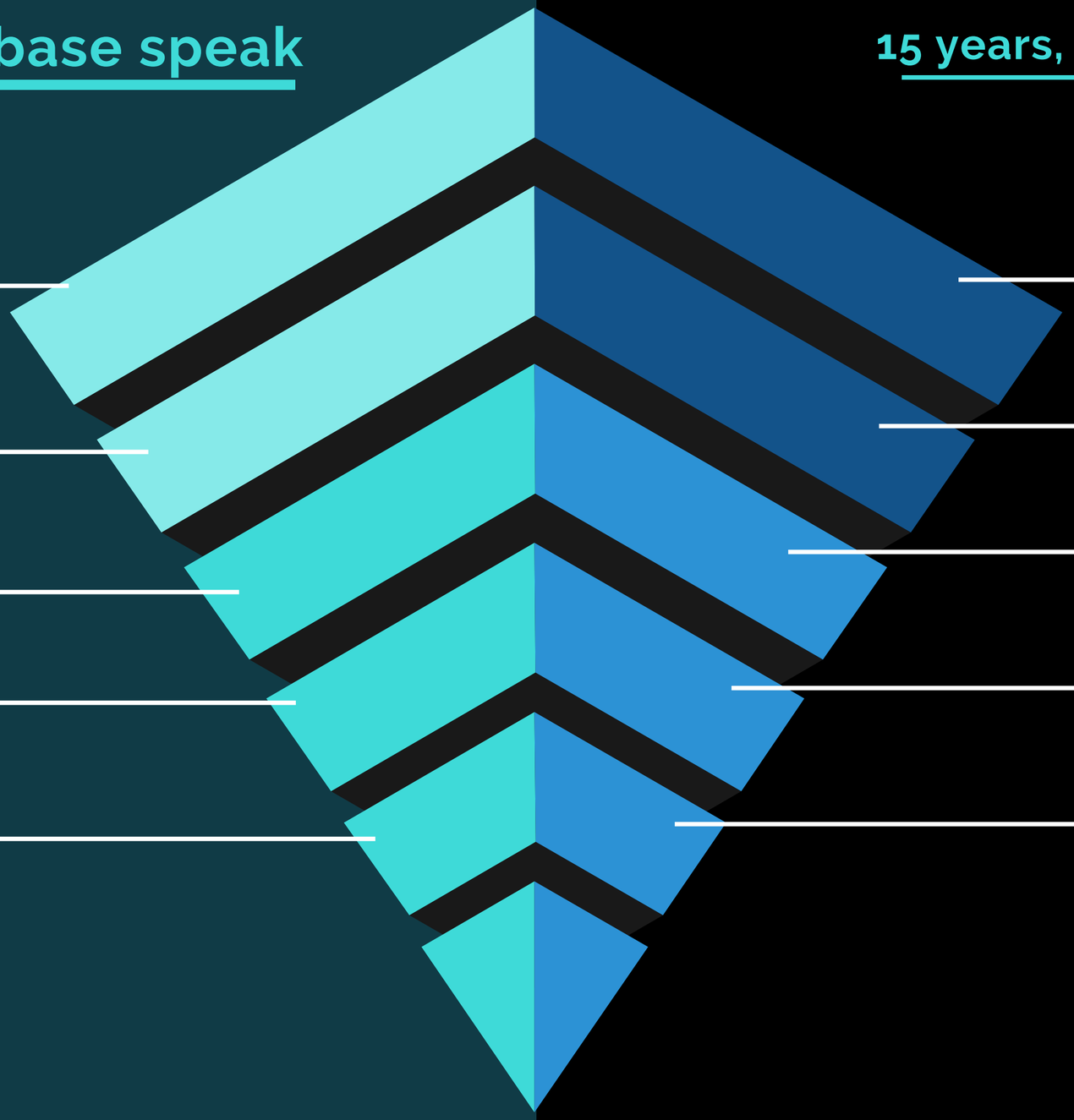
Newer initiatives with both public and private sector collaborators

Forward-facing R&D

Disaster management (Great Recession, Sandy, COVID-19)

Making the database speak

15 years, 180 months, 500 actions



- Framing questions
- Devising Variables
- Data Collection
- Review/Cleaning
- Analysis/Summary

- Board Governance
- Program Management
- MOUs
- Delegated Authority
- Rules

The Coursework Connection

RESEARCH DESIGN

Creating simple, measurable variables
Framing a clear research question

POLICY FORMATION

Ability to decipher legislative language, and present summaries for various audiences

STATE/LOCAL PUBLIC FINANCE

Understanding acronyms, tax credits, and other fiscal terms

ECONOMICS

Understanding EDA rationale behind rollout of grant/incentive programs post-2008 and post-COVID outbreak in NJ

Key Takeaways

TANGIBLE SKILLS

Data analysis
Intermediate Excel
Crisper topical writing
Project management

TRANSFERABLE KNOWLEDGE

Detail-oriented and big-picture mentality

A TOUCH OF PLANNING

Bolstering GIS with Housing Policy class

R-EADING DATA

Learning statistical programming languages

BALANCING ACT

The pursuit of quantitative and qualitative skills

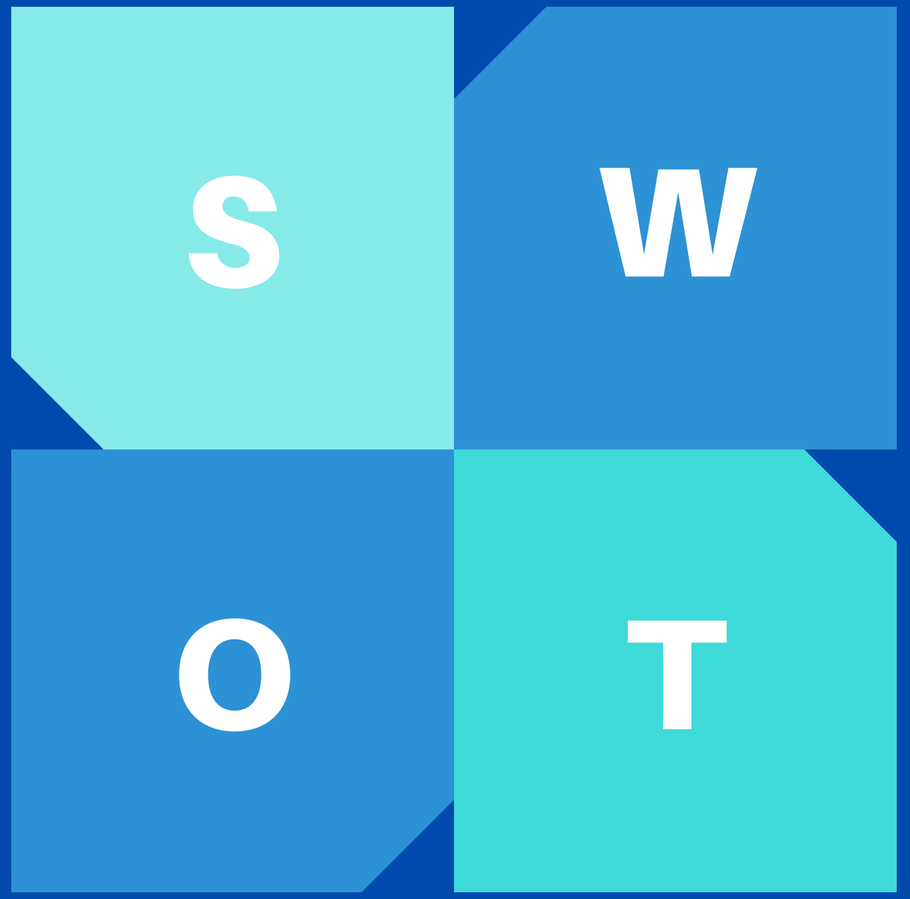
In the time of COVID-19

STRENGTHS

DOs are vital conduits for constituents
State Agencies have perfected disaster management efforts over years of crises

WEAKNESSES

Forward looking laws overlooking worst-hit (nursing homes, POCs, education budget)
Demand for $$> supply of $$



OPPORTUNITIES

Timing ripe for legislators to introduce strong bills
Agency evaluations will improve pilot programs launched in Mar 2020

THREATS

Externalities (lack of vaccine, lethality/speed of virus spread) create a moving goalpost for stakeholders