



# Local Government Efficiency Program

The **Local Government Efficiency (LGE)** Program, administered by the New York Department of State, provides technical assistance and competitive grants to local governments for projects that will achieve savings and improve municipal efficiency through shared services, cooperative agreements, consolidations and dissolutions. The Department of State is committed to working with our partner municipalities to control costs while maintaining the quality of local service delivery.

## Program Summary

The New York State Budget provides \$64 million for the following Local Government Reorganization and Efficiency programs:

- \$35 million for Citizen Empowerment Tax Credits and Reorganization Empowerment Grants to aid local governments moving forward with municipal re-organization activities.
- \$4 million for Local Government Efficiency Grants to award local governments that are developing and implementing new opportunities for savings and service delivery efficiencies.
- \$25 million for Municipal Restructuring to fund expenses for the implementation of local government and school district shared services, cooperation agreements, mergers, and other actions reducing property taxes on a permanent basis.

### Local Government Citizens Reorganization Empowerment Grant Program

- For the consolidation or dissolution of a Local Government Entity in accordance with Article 17-A of the General Municipal Law.
- The maximum grant award is \$100,000:
  - o \$50,000 maximum for a study, with \$25,000 in expedited funds for local governments that have been petitioned for government reorganization; and
  - o \$50,000 maximum for planning or implementation of a municipal reorganization.

### Citizen Empowerment Tax Credit

- Provides additional annual aid to reorganized local governments, equal to 15% of the combined amount of real property taxes levied by all of the municipalities involved in the consolidation or dissolution, not to exceed \$1,000,000.
- At least 70% of aid must be used for property tax relief.

### Local Government Efficiency Grant Program

- It is the goal of the LGE program to award up to \$3.6 million for implementation and approximately \$400,000 for implementation planning projects.
  - o Competitive grants to local governments to develop and implement new opportunities for financial savings and operational efficiencies.
  - o Projects shall include an examination of financial savings, return on public investment and management improvements resulting from project implementation.
    - Funding for implementation planning is up to \$12,500 for each local government involved in the project, not to exceed \$100,000.
    - Funding for an implementation project is up to \$200,000 for each local government involved in the project, not to exceed \$1,000,000.

### Municipal Restructuring Fund Program

- DOS has approximately \$25 million to fund transformative projects that yield permanent property tax reductions for New Yorkers. The MRF is designed to allow for review of projects that may range in readiness, from the initial development of an idea to projects ready for full implementation. Sample potential projects could include:
  - o Regionalization of services
  - o Countywide service consolidation
  - o General government restructuring
  - o Department reorganization among multiple local governments
    - Police department consolidation
    - Updating technology among multiple local governments
    - Highway programs that work across municipal boundaries
    - Multi-municipal fire departments
- Projects that demonstrate the broadest impact, either countywide or regionally, are preferred. The number and type of partners will have a direct bearing on the scoring of a proposal, which is evaluated based on the project type, scale, and the potential municipal tax levy impact.

These programs augment existing activities within the New York Department of State that provide technical and financial assistance to local governments for projects that increase community competitiveness through taxpayer savings and improved service delivery efficiency.

# Recent Local Government Efficiency Awards

## **Cayuga County Water and Sewer Authority**

Regional Plan for the Delivery of Water and Sewer to Cayuga County- \$100,000.00

## **Village of Hamburg**

DPW Consolidation Planning - \$37,500.00

## **Town of Catskill**

Functional Consolidation of Code Enforcement Offices - \$12,000.00

## **Albany-Schoharie-Schenectady-Saratoga BOCES**

The Shared Bus Repair Planning Project - \$17,500.00

## **Washington County**

Washington County Shared Regional Highway Operations Centers - \$37,500.00

## **Village of Gouverneur**

Gouverneur Hydroelectric Upgrade and Expansion Feasibility Study - \$25,000.00

## **Town of North Hempstead**

Emergency Data and Phone Installation Planning - \$7,500.00

## **Erie County**

Erie County Household Hazardous Waste Plan - \$24,000.00

## **New Rochelle Fire Department**

Consolidated Fleet Maintenance Planning - \$25,000.00

## **Village of Briarcliff Manor**

Consolidated Water Supply Implementation - \$602,879.00

## **Village of Hamburg**

Water System Consolidation Implementation Project - \$405,500.00

## **City of Cortland**

Joint Cortland, Cortlandville, Homer Water Meter Project - \$400,000.00

## **Town of Macedon**

Macedon Dissolution Implementation - \$191,862.00

## **Town of Portland**

Chautauqua County Regional Water Project - \$270,000.00

## **Town of Eden**

Waterline Improvement Project - \$402,777.00

## **Town of Corinth**

Functional Consolidation of Water System Operation and Maintenance - \$400,000.00

## **City of Poughkeepsie**

Dutchess County Bus Service Expansion - \$315,000.00

## **Albany-Schoharie-Schenectady-Saratoga BOCES**

Capital Region Shared Student Transportation Project - \$182,160.00

## **Village/Town of Mount Kisco**

Water Plant Operation Consolidation - \$144,234.00

## **County of Nassau/Nassau County Police Department**

Nassau County Law Enforcement Records Management System Consolidation - \$399,588.00