THE PROBLEM

- **Cyber Attack Pose a Real Threat to NYS Local Governments.** There are 57 counties and 1530 cities, towns, and villages in the State of New York. Every municipality is unique in population, regional location, budget size, access to skilled employees and technology support, and capacity to manage cybersecurity risks. Cybersecurity threats to these governments are not theoretical. Breaches are happening right here in New York. Hackers of all levels of sophistication are trying to access local systems, sending phishing emails to employees, looking for vulnerabilities in systems or local databases connected to the Internet. Almost everything local governments do today relies on an information technology system, housed on premises or in private, public or hybrid cloud infrastructure.

- **No Statewide Leader for Local Government Cybersecurity.** In response to the clear cyber threat to NYS local governments, separate state agencies and nonprofits have conducted assessments and provided support, but there is no central source of information to effectively and efficiently maximize statewide investments and there is no coordination to ensure local governments of all sizes and capabilities receive needed support.

THE PROPOSED SOLUTION

*Create a NYS Local Government Cyber Risk Management (LGCRM) Program Within the Already Established NYS Local Government Services Foundation.* The LGCRM program would be established to ensure that NYS cyber investments are maximized and providing value to all NYS local governments by meeting the following goals.

1. Continue to educate local leaders on cyber awareness and provide access to tools and resources.
2. Collect and summarize previous cyber assessments and audits done on NYS local governments carried out by NYSBOE, NYSOSC, NYSDHSES, the New York Municipal Insurance Reciprocal (NY’s largest shared services program), and others.
3. Prioritize technical, policy, procurement, data, and management cybersecurity challenges and needs.
4. Assist municipalities in securing and implementing critical cyber preparedness training, tools, policies, and exercises designed to prevent and respond to a cyber-attack.
5. Leverage NYMIR’s work in cyber awareness, insurance, education, tools, model policies, templates, and exercises so more localities have the resources necessary to prevent and recover from a cyber-attack.

The LGCRM will be led by the New York State Local Government Services Foundation in partnership with the Center for Technology in Government at the University at Albany, SUNY.

FOUNDATION BACKGROUND

- The Local Government Services Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation comprised of the Association of Towns of the State of New York (AOT), the New York State Conference of Mayors (NYCOM), and the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC). The Foundation has a strong history of intermunicipal collaboration to manage a variety of risks facing local governments, including providing property, casualty, and cyber insurance to over 900 municipalities through NYMIR.

THE REQUEST

- **Fund the NYS Local Government Cyber Risk Management (LGCRM) Program at $750,000 to $1 million.** This would be a share of the proposed $30 million in local government cybersecurity funding in the SFY 2023 State Budget to ensure that NYS local governments of all capabilities and sizes benefit from NYS cyber investment. To enable this program, budget language can include “funding available for non-profit entities that assist all levels of local government risk management (county, city, town, and village) on a statewide basis and have a history in successful intermunicipal cooperation.”