



Legislative Conference

Feb. 24-26
Crowne Plaza Albany





Monday, February 24th

7:30am-5:30pm	Registration
9:30am-11:00am	NYSAC Standing Cmt. Mtgs. (Track I) Children with Special Needs Medicaid & Human Services Transportation & Public Works Climate Action, Environment & Energy Native American Affairs
11:30am-1:00pm	NYSAC Standing Cmt. Mtgs. (Track II) Agriculture, Economic Development & Rural Affairs Taxation & Finance Public Health/Mental Health Public Safety Intergovernmental Relations, Personnel & General Government
11:30am-1:00pm	NYSAC IT Task Force Meeting
1:00pm-2:00pm	NYSAC Luncheon
1:00pm-5:00pm	Exhibits Open
2:00pm-3:15pm	Workshop Session I
3:15pm-5:00pm	Resolutions Committee Meeting
3:15pm-3:45 pm	Break in Exhibit Hall
3:45pm-5:00pm	Workshop Session II
6:00pm-8:30pm	NYSAC Dinner Event

Tuesday, February 25th

7:30am-5:00pm	Registration
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Agenda



Tuesday, February 25th *(continued)*

7:30am-5:00pm	Exhibits Open
7:30am-8:45am	General Breakfast
7:30am-8:45am	NYS Association of Chairs of County Legislative Boards Breakfast Meeting
9:00am-10:15am	AM Plenary Session
10:15am-10:45am	Break in Exhibit Hall
10:45am-Noon	Workshop Session III
Noon-1:30pm	NYSAC Business Meeting Part I: Luncheon
1:30pm-2:00pm	Time to Visit Exhibit Hall
1:30pm-3:30pm	NYS County Administrators Association Meeting
2:00pm-3:15pm	Workshop Session IV
3:15pm-3:45pm	Break in Exhibit Hall
3:45pm-4:00pm	Buses Depart for Centennial Event at the Capitol.
4:00pm - 6:00pm	NYSAC Centennial Exhibit & Reception Honoring Counties at the Capitol

Wednesday, February 26th

8:00am-9:00am	General Breakfast
8:00am-9:00am	Joint Intercounty Breakfast
9:00am-9:30am	NYSAC Business Meeting: Part II Resolutions

**Agenda Subject to Change*

Agenda

Conference Registration



COUNTY OFFICIALS ONLINE REGISTRATION:

<https://1.cventevents.com/NYSACLC25>

Registration Option A \$ 477

Includes participation in all workshops, plenary sessions, exhibit hall and other agenda events.
ALL MEALS: Monday lunch, dinner; Tuesday breakfast, lunch; Wednesday breakfast

Registration Option B \$ 362

Includes participation in all workshops, plenary sessions, exhibit hall and other agenda events.
MONDAY MEALS ONLY: Monday lunch, dinner

Registration Option C \$ 331

Includes participation in all workshops, plenary sessions, exhibit hall and other agenda events.
TUESDAY MEALS ONLY: Tuesday breakfast, lunch

Registration Option D \$ 250

Includes participation in all workshops, plenary sessions, exhibit hall and other agenda events.
NO MEALS

Deadlines:

Pre-Registration Deadline: February 1 ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

* You may register for the conference after the deadline date as a walk-in registrant at the conference registration desk. Walk-in registrations will be charged a \$ 35 surcharge fee.

Cancellations:

The deadline to cancel registration with meals is February 7 . To cancel, please log into Cvent and select the " Cancel Registration" button. After this date, we will not accept any meal changes or registrations. All cancellations must be completed through Cvent by the deadline; no cancellations will be processed after this date. Anyone who was not able to register by the deadline may register at the event, with a \$ 35 surcharge applied to the registration fee.

*****Non-County Officials please contact jmungaia@nysac.org*****

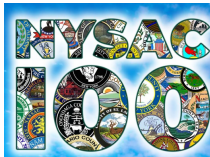
INFORMATION

NYSAC 2025 Centennial Legislative Conference

February 24-26, 2025 Crowne Plaza/Desmond. Albany

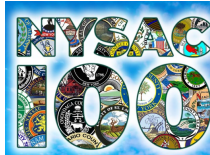
HOTEL

The NYSAC Legislative Conference attracts over 700 attendees each February, requiring us to offer both a host hotel for booking and a list of nearby hotels for convenience. Regardless of where you stay, meal options and conference registration are separate from your hotel stay and must be purchased through the online registration process. The host hotel, Crowne Plaza Albany/ Desmond, will sell out quickly, as it only accommodates a portion of our attendees. If you choose to stay at an alternate hotel, please note that room rates may vary and could be lower than the host hotel's rate. Parking is free at the Crowne Plaza, and other high-quality hotels are located within a quarter-mile of the Desmond. Any changes to your hotel reservation must be made directly with the hotel; NYSAC is not responsible for hotel booking or cancellation policies. If you want to receive tax exemption, please note that you must provide proper paperwork with your hotel facility. A credit card is required for booking.



Book a room at the **Crowne Plaza Albany Desmond:**

[Click Here to Book at the Crowne Plaza Desmond](#)



Book a room at an **alternate hotel**, close to the conference hotel.

[Click Here for Alternate Hotel Information and Links](#)

ADDITIONAL INFO

- If staying at an alternate hotel, don't forget to ask if they offer a government rate.
- Remember to provide your tax exempt forms in advance to your hotel provider.
- To cancel your conference registration, please visit our registration portal.
- To cancel or change your room reservation, please contact your hotel directly.
- **NYSAC Code of Conduct:**
NYSAC is committed to fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment for all participants at our conferences and events. Participants include NYSAC members, NYSAC employees, vendors, attendees, invited guests, and speakers. Harassment of any kind, including verbal and/ or physical will not be tolerated. Participants experiencing harassment should immediately report the incident to the venue staff and a NYSAC employee as soon as possible. NYSAC will review all complaints thoroughly and take appropriate action, which may include removal from current or future conferences or events.



Who's the Boss? SUNY Funding and Its Impact on Counties

Counties play a vital role in higher education across the state, supporting community colleges, contributing to student tuition, and hosting SUNY 4-year schools. Local governments also rely on smaller SUNY campuses, which are key employers, economic drivers, and quality-of-life assets that attract residents and businesses. However, for decades, the SUNY system has not provided significant funding increases to most 4-year campuses, even in times of discretionary aid. This lack of financial support has strained smaller campuses, threatening their ability to deliver quality educational programs. Join us to hear from stakeholders about the challenges posed by the current funding situation and its far-reaching implications for local communities. (Monday, February 24, 2025, 2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.)

Tourism as Economic Driver: How New York's Visitor Economy Fuels Growth

When managed strategically, tourism can be a powerful engine for sustainable economic growth. The visitor economy creates jobs, supports small businesses, revitalizes communities, boosts local and state tax revenues, and enhances the standard of living and pride in New York State's communities. In fact, the true beneficiaries of tourism are often the residents themselves. This session will explore the many untold ways tourism benefits our state, local communities, and residents. Panelists will share success stories from across the state, demonstrating how tourism drives smart growth, encourages residents to stay, attracts new employers, and invests in making our counties vibrant places to live, work, and visit. (Monday, February 24, 2025, 2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.)

Collaborating for Success: County-School District Partnerships in Pre-K Special Education Transportation

Join us for an insightful discussion on how counties have successfully partnered with school districts to improve transportation for Pre-K special education students. This session will highlight how these collaborations save money, enhance services, and boost transportation efficiency, ensuring that 3-5-year-old students get to school safely and on time. County officials will share valuable insights on the lasting benefits these partnerships provide to taxpayers, parents, and, most importantly, our youngest learners. (Monday, February 24, 2025, 2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.)

Shaping the Future of Solid Waste Management in NYS: Challenges and Solutions Solid waste management in New York State is facing a critical turning point, with growing concerns over landfill capacity, PFAS contamination, and leachate management. This workshop will explore the implications of these challenges and examine the support local governments



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need from state lawmakers and regulators to implement sustainable waste management solutions for the future. (Monday, February 24, 2025, 2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.)

Energy Transition: Navigating New York's Path Forward

As New York progresses toward a cleaner energy future, communities face a range of opportunities, challenges, and uncertainties. This workshop will provide an update on the state's energy initiatives, highlight key issues counties must address, and explore actionable strategies for supporting a smooth and equitable energy transition. (Monday, February 24, 2025, 3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.)

Effective Strategies for Hiring and Retention in County Government

Municipal government services and the challenges they face continue to grow, while the pool of potential public servants continues to shrink. Across New York, county governments are increasingly struggling to recruit and retain skilled employees who can provide essential services. Join our panel of experts as they explore innovative strategies counties are using to attract and retain top talent. Additionally, learn about recent changes to the Civil Service system that can help your county secure the right candidates for key positions. This workshop will also cover the latest trends in collective bargaining agreements, offering valuable insights into the pay and benefits counties are providing to their current staff. (Monday, February 24, 2025, 3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.)

Innovative County Solutions for Addressing Childcare Deserts

Counties across New York State, regardless of size, population, or geography, are facing challenges in providing sufficient childcare services for residents and workers. This session will explore how counties are developing creative solutions to address the childcare crisis, from collaborating with private sector partners to establishing county-run facilities. County leaders will share real-world success stories and practical examples of how they are tackling childcare deserts, offering valuable insights for communities seeking to expand access to quality care. (Monday, February 24, 2025, 3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.)

Understanding the Latest in Artificial Intelligence

As the landscape of technology continues to evolve at an unprecedented pace, the role of artificial intelligence (AI) in shaping the future of governance and public administration becomes increasingly significant. This workshop is designed to provide county officials with a comprehensive update on the latest developments in AI, equipping them with the knowledge and

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tools needed to leverage these advancements for the benefit of their communities. (Monday, February 24, 2025, 3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.)

Collaborative Approaches to Rural Suicide Prevention: Addressing Unique Challenges

Suicide rates in New York State's rural counties are double those in urban areas, underscoring the critical need for targeted, collaborative prevention efforts. This session will explore cross-departmental strategies to enhance resource access, foster stronger community partnerships, and address the unique challenges faced by rural populations in combating suicide. (Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)

Fostering a Stronger Local Business Community

Join us for an engaging economic development workshop focused on two programs designed to support businesses in your county: Empire Apex Accelerator and Ignite U. This workshop will focus on strategies for empowering local businesses to foster innovation and navigate government contracting opportunities. Attendees will gain valuable insights into leveraging technology and resources to drive growth in New York State. Learn directly from NYSTEC specialists about the latest developments in economic initiatives and how to create a sustainable competitive edge for your local businesses. Don't miss this opportunity to connect with leaders in economic development and network with other county leaders dedicated to building strong communities. (Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)

Adapting to the Evolving Social Media Landscape: Strategies for Effective County Communication

Social media platforms, and the audiences they reach, are always in flux. Evolving content trends, ownership upheavals, and even government intervention have altered the social media landscape in recent years. This workshop will offer a window into the current state of social media and help county communicators understand where their audiences are and how to effectively engage with them. (Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)

State Budget Review & Advocacy for County Priorities

This session will provide an overview of the Governor's budget priorities for SFY 2026 and their potential impact on counties. Participants will also gain insights into the Legislature's key priorities, NYSAC's legislative concerns, and the critical role county officials play in influencing the budget debate and shaping outcomes that align with local needs. (Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)



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Supporting Our Veterans: How NY Counties Partner with the State to Deliver Critical Services

Counties, in collaboration with the NYS Department of Veterans' Services (DVS), advocate for New York's veterans and their families, ensuring they receive the benefits they've earned through military service. Veteran Service Officers (VSOs) assist veterans and their families with applications, documentation, and claims for a wide range of federal, state, local, and private benefits—all provided at no cost. This session will explore how connecting veterans to these benefits not only positively impacts your county but also helps New York retain its existing veteran population while attracting new veterans transitioning from military service or relocating from other states. Learn how investing in our veterans strengthens both the community and the local workforce. (Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.)

Navigating Indigent Legal Counsel: Effective Strategies for Counties in a Changing Landscape

Indigent legal counsel is a vital service provided by counties in both criminal and family courts. Recent growth and changes in this area, driven by state-level reforms, have a significant impact on local government operations and expenditures. It is crucial for counties to understand the increasing demand for these services and the fiscal and structural support available from the state to alleviate the financial burden on local taxpayers. Join the panel from the NYS Office of Indigent Legal Services to learn how your county can deliver this essential service in the most effective and efficient way possible. (Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.)

Empowered Leadership: Navigating Challenges and Influencing Change in County Government □ **A Women's Leadership Council Program** □

Join us for an interactive workshop designed for women leaders—both seasoned and emerging—across New York State. This session will provide practical tools and strategies to effectively navigate the unique challenges of county government. Connect with a network of inspiring women, share experiences, and enhance your leadership skills to build influence and drive meaningful change in your community.

(Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.)

Mastering Media Relations: Telling Your County's Story with Impact

In this session, you'll learn essential skills for communicating your county's story through the media. Explore strategies for handling interviews, crafting powerful messages, and confidently responding to tough questions. You'll walk away with practical tools to build strong, positive relationships with reporters, ensuring your county's voice is heard clearly, accurately, and professionally. Whether you're new to media engagement or looking to refine your approach, this workshop will help you navigate the media landscape with confidence and impact. (Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.)