

# NYSAC 2026 Legislative Conference



COUNTIES LEAD

March 16-18, 2026 . Albany Crowne Plaza Hotel/Desmond . Albany . NY



## Monday, March 16th

- 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, Energy & Environment
  - Native American Affairs & Gaming
- 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, General Government & Public Employee Relations
- 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, March 17th

- 7:30am-5:00pm Registration





## Tuesday, March 17th *(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	<b>AM Plenary Session</b>
10:15am-10:45am	Break in Exhibit Hall
10:45am-Noon	<b>Workshop Session III</b>
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	<b>Workshop Session IV</b>
3:15pm-3:45pm	Break in Exhibit Hall
3:45pm-5:00pm	<b>Workshop Session V</b>

## Wednesday, March 18th

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/event/NYSACLC26/>

Registration Option **A** \$528

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** \$409

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

Registration Option **C** \$374

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

Registration Option **D** \$290

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

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## Deadlines:

### **Pre-Registration Deadline: February 27, 2026**

\*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 27. To cancel, please log into Cvent and select the "Cancel Registration" button. After this date, we will not accept any meal changes or registrations. Registrations cancelled before February 27, 2026 will be subject to a \$25 admin. fee. 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 [jmunguia@nysac.org](mailto:jmunguia@nysac.org)\*\***

# INFORMATION

NYSAC 2026 Legislative Conference

March 16-18, 2026

Crowne Plaza/Desmond. Albany

## HOTEL

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The NYSAC Legislative Conference draws more than 700 attendees each February, which means we provide both a host hotel and a list of nearby lodging options for your convenience. Please note that all meals and conference registration fees are separate from your hotel stay and must be purchased through the online registration system. Our host hotel, the Crowne Plaza Albany/Desmond, will sell out quickly, as it can only accommodate a portion of our attendees. If you choose to stay at an alternate hotel, please be aware that room rates vary and may be lower than the host hotel's rate. Parking at the Crowne Plaza is complimentary, and several high-quality hotels are located within a quarter-mile of the Desmond. All changes to your hotel reservation must be made directly with your selected hotel. NYSAC is not responsible for booking, modifying, or canceling hotel reservations. If you plan to request tax-exempt status, please remember to pro-



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

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



**Crowne Plaza Albany Desmond:**

**CURRENTLY SOLD OUT**

## ADDITIONAL INFO

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- 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 you 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.
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# WORKSHOP TOPICS



*\*\*Subject to Change*

## **When Work Doesn't Pay: Addressing the Benefit Cliff in NYS**

This workshop examines the social services “benefit cliff” and its impact on New York State individuals and families striving for economic stability. Participants will explore how incremental income gains can lead to sudden losses in benefits, creating unintended barriers to self-sufficiency. The session will highlight policy considerations, data insights, and practical strategies counties can use to help residents transition smoothly toward long-term financial independence. [\*\(Monday, March 16, 2026, 2:00pm-3:15pm\)\*](#)

## **Federal Issues Open Forum: A Conversation with the National Association of Counties**

Join representatives from the National Association of Counties (NACo) for an interactive open forum on current federal issues impacting local governments. This session will provide timely updates on federal policy developments, funding priorities, and advocacy efforts affecting counties nationwide. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions, share local perspectives, and engage directly with NACo leaders on emerging challenges and opportunities. [\*\(Monday, March 16, 2026, 2:00pm-3:15pm\)\*](#)

## **Beyond the Code: Building Ethical Awareness and Confidence in County Government**

Ethics training is most effective when it moves beyond compliance and becomes part of everyday county government culture. This workshop presents best practices for ethics training through a clear, step-by-step approach to building awareness and understanding of county codes of ethics, including who they apply to and where to seek guidance. Participants will learn practical strategies for making ethics relatable and accessible, reducing the discomfort often associated with ethical questions and dilemmas. Attendees will leave with actionable tools to foster open dialogue and strengthen ethical confidence across their organizations. [\*\(Monday, March 16, 2026, 2:00pm-3:15pm\)\*](#)

## **Building Effective County Wide EMS Plans: Tools, Challenges, and Best Practices**

As EMS systems continue to evolve, counties are increasingly looking to countywide EMS plans to address service delivery challenges and long term sustainability. This workshop will provide an overview of what goes into a successful countywide EMS plan, including data assessment, stakeholder engagement, and implementation strategies. Attendees will hear how counties can use EMS planning to improve coordination, address coverage gaps, and strengthen system resilience. This session will focus on practical lessons learned and key considerations counties should keep in mind when developing or updating a countywide EMS plan. [\*\(Monday, March 16, 2026, 2:00pm-3:15pm\)\*](#)

## **Evaluating AI with a County Purpose: Through Data, Trust, and Innovation**

Join us for the workshop “Evaluating AI with Purpose: Building County Resilience Through Data, Trust, and Innovation,” inspired by insights from NYSAC’s AI Working Group. This session will explore how counties can thoughtfully assess and implement artificial intelligence solutions that align with local priorities, foster public trust, and drive meaningful innovation. Learn practical strategies for vetting AI solutions and exploring how other counties are leveraging AI to support decision making, improve operations and augment services to residents. [\*\(Monday, March 16, 2026, 2:00pm-3:15pm\)\*](#)

# WORKSHOP TOPICS



*\*\*Subject to Change*

## **Your Leadership Voice: Developing Your Signature Tool Kit**

County leaders are often in the spotlight, addressing constituents at a board meeting, explaining budget decisions, advocating for state policies, or rallying support for regional initiatives. In these high-stakes moments, having your core messages ready isn't just convenient—it's essential. This workshop helps you build your powerful Signature Remarks Toolkit to always have at the ready. It will include crafting your passion statement about why you serve, choosing your key remarks and memorable talking points. [\(Monday, March 16, 2026, 2:00pm-3:15pm\)](#)

## **Keeping the Lights On and Costs Down: Energy Reliability and Affordability in NYS**

This session will examine the current state of energy in New York State from a county perspective. Panelists will discuss key state energy policies and initiatives affecting affordability, grid reliability, and energy infrastructure siting, as well as the practical impacts on local governments and communities. [\(Monday, March 16, 2026, 3:45pm-5:00pm\)](#)

## **Professional Development Series: Avoiding Burnout: Recharging and Restarting**

This highly interactive session strengthens personal resilience, team effectiveness, and organizational health by examining—and reversing—behaviors that drain them. Participants explore how competing priorities often lead to misdirected attention and are given practical tools for more effective task completion. The session also examines reactivity, highlighting how triggers undermine clarity and demonstrates techniques to re-engage the rational mind to preserve energy and focus. Finally, participants assess the strategies they use to manage professional stress, considering when adaptive strengths—such as high standards—can become maladaptive, and how their authentic dispositions intersect with the unique demands of public-sector work cultures. [\(Monday, March 16, 2026, 3:45pm-5:00pm\)](#)

## **Developing Visual Storytelling to Capture and Communicate County Impact to Constituents**

Counties do essential work every day—but that impact isn't always visible to the public. This workshop will explore how counties can use visual storytelling to turn complex programs, services, and data into clear, compelling stories that resonate with constituents, policymakers, and community partners. [\(Monday, March 16, 2026, 3:45pm-5:00pm\)](#)

## **Childcare Access in Action: Expanding Availability to Support Families and the Workforce**

This session explores practical strategies counties can use to expand access to affordable, reliable childcare as a cornerstone of workforce stability. Using Albany and Broome County as case studies, participants will learn about innovative programs that support county workers and their access to affordable childcare that is a win/win for county workers and the county. The discussion will highlight cross-sector partnerships, funding approaches, and policy tools that have proven effective in achieving these outcomes and laying the groundwork for broader applications. [\(Monday, March 16, 2026, 3:45pm-5:00pm\)](#)

## **State Budget Review**

This session will provide a review of key elements of the Governor's proposed budget for SFY 2026 and the potential impact on county governments. Details will also be provided on the Legislature's priorities in budget negotiations, NYSAC's key legislative priorities and how county officials can play a central role in shaping the outcome of this debate. [\(Tuesday,](#)

# WORKSHOP TOPICS



*\*\*Subject to Change*

[March 17, 2026, 10:45am-12:00pm](#)

## **From Crisis to Care: Improving Mental Health Crisis Response**

Counties across New York are working to strengthen behavioral health crisis response systems by improving coordination among local governments, public safety, healthcare, and community providers. These efforts are focused on addressing long-standing gaps such as fragmented services, limited response options, and overreliance on law enforcement and emergency rooms. With the goal of ensuring people in crisis receive timely, appropriate care, counties are using data, cross-sector leadership, and best practices to redesign how crises are identified, responded to, and stabilized. Participants will learn how to build more effective, person-centered crisis response systems that improve outcomes for individuals, first responders, and communities.

[\(Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 10:45am-12:00pm\)](#)

## **Building Leadership Capacity: A WLC Professional Development Session**

This professional development session will focus on strengthening leadership skills, building confidence, and navigating career growth within public service. Participants will engage in a thoughtful discussion about leadership development, professional resilience, and strategies for advancing in complex governmental and policy environments. [\(Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 10:45am-12:00pm\)](#)

## **Navigating Conflict: Promoting Well-Being, Civility and Consensus**

County leaders regularly engage with colleagues, elected officials, and constituents who hold differing, often strongly held, viewpoints. Because such disagreement is integral to public service, leaders who aspire to confidently navigate conflicting opinions and difficult conversations must be equipped with practical and efficient tools. Drawing upon principles of negotiation, neuroscience and mediation, this session demonstrates ways to avoid escalation, minimize conflict, remove impasses and resolve disputes. Additionally, participants will analyze and practice strategies through the lens of realistic county scenarios and plan to apply them in ways that promote individual well-being, collective civility and broader consensus. County Government Institute Core Requirement –4 credits) [\(Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 10:45am-12:00pm\)](#)

## **Mastering Change with Organizational Change Management Strategies (OCM)**

Join us for an engaging workshop on Organizational Change Management (OCM), where you'll discover how OCM empowers organizations to successfully navigate a wide range of changes—from shifts in strategy and technology to cultural transformations and process improvements. Learn how counties can use effective OCM practices to drive measurable successes such as increased adoption rates, improved employee engagement, and sustained performance. In an era of frequent and unpredictable change, leveraging OCM can help build greater resilience and adaptability. [\(Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 10:45am-12:00pm\)](#)

## **The Importance of Public Health Framing and Messaging: Making the Case for Stronger, Safer Communities**

This session will demonstrate how effective public health messaging empowers local elected leaders to protect residents, reduce long-term costs, and show meaningful return on investment. Using real-world examples—including childhood health initiatives, lead poisoning prevention, and tobacco and vape enforcement, will explore how strong framing and commu-

# WORKSHOP TOPICS



*\*\*Subject to Change*

nication support smarter policy decisions and healthier communities. The discussion will also underscore the critical role local leaders in New York State play in the success of local health departments: your partnership, advocacy, and leadership are essential to advancing prevention efforts and ensuring the health and safety of the communities you serve. [\(Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 2:00pm-3:15pm\)](#)

## **Medicaid Updates: Rural Health Transformation Program**

This workshop will provide a first look at a new federal initiative enacted last year under H.R. 1, with a goal of improving health care in rural areas. NYS has secured a \$212 million first year grant that can be utilized in qualifying rural counties and census tracts. New York state officials have determined that 47 of 62 counties qualify as rural, or have census tracts that qualify, for purposes of this program. Speakers from the NYS DOH Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) team will provide details on the program goals and how funds can be allocated to improve rural health care. [\(Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 2:00pm-3:15pm\)](#)

## **Raise the Age and the Evolving Youth Services Landscape: Mental Health and Housing Impacts**

This workshop examines the implementation of New York's Raise the Age law and its significant effects on county youth service systems. Participants will explore how shifting responsibilities have increased demand for mental health services and developmentally appropriate housing for Justice-Involved Youth (JD) and Persons In Need of Supervision (PINS). The session highlights challenges counties face in capacity, funding, and coordination across systems. Attendees will also discuss promising practices and strategies to better meet the complex needs of these youth under Raise the Age. [\(Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 2:00pm-3:15pm\)](#)

## **Controlling Healthcare Costs Without Cutting Benefits: A New Primary Care Model for Public Employers**

Rising healthcare costs threatens the long-term financial stability of public sector employers, with many facing double-digit increases in 2026. County leaders face a pressing challenge: how to rein in costs without cutting benefits or harming workforce morale. Maine-Endwell and Owego Apalachin School Districts in New York's Southern Tier are taking a proactive approach by bringing advanced primary care directly to teachers, staff, and families. This model offers low- or no-cost preventive, relationship-based primary care, behavioral health support, and occupational health services. The result is healthier employees, fewer high-cost claims, reduced emergency and urgent care use, and a more sustainable benefits strategy. Join Superintendents Jason Van Fossen and Corey Green as they discuss why they chose a new approach, how they launched dedicated health centers, early outcomes, and their vision for the future. [\(Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 2:00pm-3:15pm\)](#)

## **Unlocking Economic Development Opportunities in New York's Counties**

This session will examine how New York's counties can leverage existing tools and emerging opportunities to drive local economic development. Panelists will discuss county-led strategies, partnerships, and policy considerations that support local growth, workforce development, and long-term economic resilience. [\(Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 2:00pm-3:15pm\)](#)

## **Update from NYS DEC: PFAS, Landfill Capacity and Other Issues**

This session will provide an overview of key environmental issues affecting New York's counties, including PFAS regulation, landfill capacity constraints, and other emerging policy developments. Panelists will discuss recent actions, anticipated changes, and practical implications for county governments across the state. [\(Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 3:45pm-5:00pm\)](#)

# WORKSHOP TOPICS



*\*\*Subject to Change*

## **730 Mental Restoration: County Roles, Rising Demands, and Fiscal Realities**

This workshop explores New York's CPL §730 mental restoration process, including the services required to restore defendants to competency. Participants will gain an overview of how these services are delivered and the critical role counties play in funding and coordination. The session will examine the growing volume of 730 cases and the operational, workforce, and capacity challenges facing county governments. Attendees will also discuss fiscal impacts, compliance pressures, and strategies counties are using to meet increasing mandates in a strained system.

***(Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 3:45pm-5:00pm)***

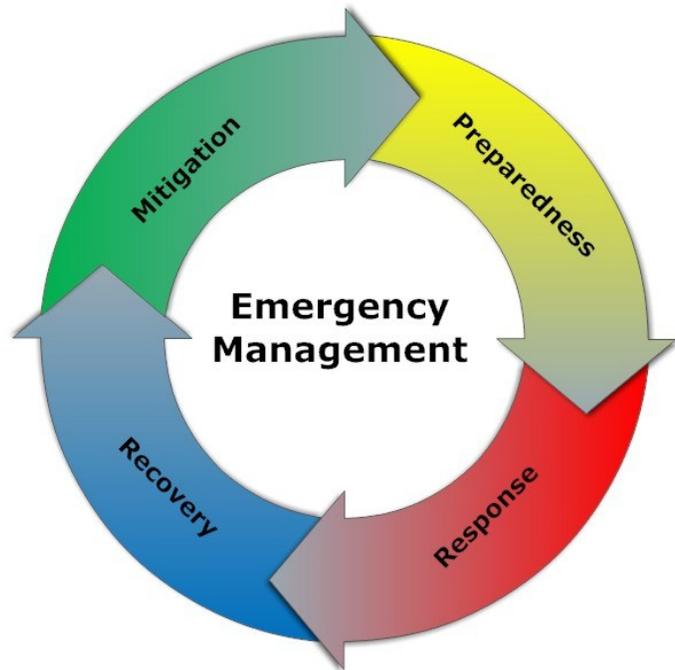
## **Short-Term Rentals in Focus: New York's 2026 Policy Landscape**

This workshop provides an up-to-date look at the evolving short-term rental landscape in New York State as 2026 approaches. Participants will explore recent legislative activity, regulatory trends, and enforcement challenges affecting counties and municipalities. The session will also highlight key considerations for balancing housing availability, tourism, and local control in the year ahead. ***(Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 3:45pm-5:00pm)***



# Emergency Management Tier 1 Training for Chief Electeds & Appointed Officials

The NYS Emergency Management Certification and Training (EMC&T) Program supports the State's strategy of creating unified emergency management training for County Chief Executives and other emergency management stakeholders. County Chief Executives and County Emergency Managers must complete the training (to include annual refresher training) for DHSES grant eligibility purposes. The training covers all facets of emergency management, including disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. It also outlines the legal authorities and responsibilities related to emergency management in NYS. DHSES is partnering with NYSAC to deliver this training.



**Wednesday, March 18, 2026**

**10am-3:15pm**

**Town Hall**

**Crowne Plaza @ The Desmond, Albany NY**

**(Lunch Included)**

**[REGISTER HERE](#)**

The County Chief Executive should participate in this training. If these individuals have already completed the training, the County can send other key executives, deputies or Emergency Management staff members.

**You must pre-register no later than February 27, 2026 for this in-person training event. This is a free event.**