

NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

NYSAC

SYRACUSE, NY

ONONDAGA COUNTY



2026

Fall Seminar

SEPTEMBER 28-30



NYSAC

2026 Fall Seminar

SEPTEMBER 28-30 | SYRACUSE, NY | ONONDAGA COUNTY

AGENDA

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH

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

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH

7:30am-5:30pm	Registration
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	Break in 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-5:00pm	Workshop Session V
6:00pm - 9:00pm	Onondaga County Special Host Event

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH

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



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WORKSHOP TRACKS & SESSIONS

FUTURE READY COUNTY GOVERNMENT

From Hype to Impact: Implementing AI in County Operations

Monday 9/28/26 | 2:00pm-3:15pm

Artificial intelligence is rapidly changing how governments deliver services, manage information, and support decision-making. Learn practical strategies for evaluating AI tools, managing risks, and identifying opportunities that are being leveraged by counties to improve efficiency and service delivery in county government.

When the Attack Comes: County Cybersecurity Response Simulation

Monday 9/28/26 | 3:45pm-5:00pm

Cyberattacks can disrupt essential county services and put sensitive information at risk. Through an interactive simulation, participants will explore response strategies, communication protocols, and leadership decisions that can help counties prepare for and recover from cybersecurity incidents.

Systems Mind-meld: Improving Services Through Arrest Data

Tuesday, 9/29/26 | 2:00pm- 3:15pm

Counties often collect important data in separate systems that rarely communicate with one another. Learn how Westchester County uses arrest and fingerprint data to connect behavioral health, probation, and criminal justice systems, providing near real-time information that helps coordinate services, identify emerging needs, and improve outcomes for residents involved in the justice system.

HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & PUBLIC SAFETY

"Lives Forward": Peer Employment for People with Lived Justice Experience

Monday 9/28/26 | 2:00pm-3:15pm

New York State has become a leader in incorporating peer services into licensed behavioral health services. Hear from the creator and a Lives Forward graduate on the life-changing experience and employment opportunities that can be made available for incarcerated and justice-involved individuals.

Patchwork to System: Building a Sustainable EMS System

Monday 9/28/26 | 2:00pm-3:15pm

As counties begin developing comprehensive EMS plans, explore how countywide coordination, sustainable funding, and an evolving role for government can help transform fragmented services into a more stable, efficient, and reliable EMS system.

Beyond 730: Exploring Effective Alternatives and Community Solutions

Monday 9/28/26 | 3:45pm-5:00pm

Counties are seeking new approaches to support individuals experiencing behavioral health crises while reducing unnecessary institutionalization. Explore alternatives and legislative strategies aimed at promoting safety, stability, and recovery.

Modern Challenges in Death Investigation: Understanding the Role of County Coroners & Medical Examiners

Tuesday, 9/29/26 | 10:45am-12:00pm

Across New York State, coroner and medical examiner offices form the backbone of medicolegal death investigation. Yet many county officials interact with these offices only indirectly, despite their central role in criminal investigations, jail oversight, public health surveillance, and disaster response. This session will walk attendees through the "ABCs" of both coroners and medical examiners in a straightforward, non technical way.

Building Strong Starts for Families

Tuesday, 9/29/26 | 10:45am-12:00pm

Early investments in children and families can have lasting impacts on community well-being. Learn about programs, partnerships, and policies that support healthy development, strengthen families, and improve outcomes for future generations.



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WORKSHOP TRACKS & SESSIONS

COUNTY FINANCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Balancing Priorities: Real-World County Budget Solutions

Monday 9/28/26 | 2:00pm-3:15pm

County budgets require balancing competing demands, limited resources, and evolving community needs. Join a peer-driven discussion to share challenges, compare approaches, and explore practical solutions for sustainable fiscal management. *Roundtable Discussion*

Federal SNAP Changes: Impacts to County Budgets, Nutrition, & the Local Economy

Tuesday, 9/29/26 | 2:00pm-3:15pm

Changes to federal nutrition assistance programs will affect residents, county operations, and local economies. This session examines recent and ongoing changes to SNAP policy and administration, and the implications for counties across New York State.

Beyond 250: Turning County History Into Economic Opportunity

Tuesday, 9/29/26 | 3:45pm-5:00pm

America 250 is giving counties new opportunities to celebrate their history, showcase local assets, and attract visitors to their communities. Explore how counties have leveraged historic sites, stories, and partnerships to drive tourism and economic activity—and the lessons learned that can help turn the momentum of America 250 into lasting economic growth.

ENERGY, INFRASTRUCTURE & ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Keeping Counties Moving: Prepping for Winter Public Works

Monday 9/28/26 | 2:00pm-3:15pm

Winter weather can test county transportation systems, equipment, and workforce capacity. Hear practical strategies and lessons learned for preparing public works operations to maintain safety, mobility, and service continuity during severe winter conditions.

Addressing Homelessness & Housing Challenges: Local & State Solutions for Complex Needs

Tuesday, 9/29/26 | 10:45am-12:00pm

Housing affordability and homelessness continue to affect communities across New York State. Explore innovative county strategies, cross-sector partnerships, and learn about new state initiatives that can support housing opportunities for vulnerable residents.

Powering the Future: Understanding our Energy Infrastructure

Tuesday, 9/29/26 | 2:00pm-3:15pm

Reliable energy infrastructure is essential to economic growth, public safety, and community resilience. This session will provide an overview of New York's evolving energy landscape, and the key issues counties should understand as they plan for the future.

Navigating Energy Development in Your County

Tuesday, 9/29/26 | 3:45pm-5:00pm

Large-scale energy projects present both opportunities and challenges for local governments. Learn how counties can balance economic development, community concerns, infrastructure needs, environmental goals, and public safety when evaluating energy proposals.



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WORKSHOP TRACKS & SESSIONS

GOVERNANCE, ETHICS & PUBLIC TRUST

Better Meetings, Better Governance: Roberts Rules and Beyond!

Monday, 9/28/26 | 3:45pm -5:00pm

Effective meetings are essential to sound decision-making and public trust. Learn strategies for managing meetings efficiently, navigating parliamentary procedures, and fostering productive discussion among elected officials and stakeholders.

Public Records, Public Trust: What County Leaders Need to Know About FOIL

Tuesday, 9/29/26 | 2:00pm-3:15pm

Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) requests are a critical component of transparent government. This session will review key requirements, common challenges, and best practices for balancing public access with legal obligations and operational realities.

Leading with Integrity: Ethics Challenges and Best Practices

Tuesday, 9/29/26 | 2:00pm -3:15pm

County leaders face complex ethical decisions that can impact public confidence and organizational culture. Examine real-world scenarios and learn practical approaches for promoting accountability, transparency, and ethical leadership.

WORKFORCE & LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE

Creating a Culture Where Employees Thrive

Monday 9/28/26 | 3:45pm-5:00pm

A positive workplace culture supports employee engagement, performance, and retention. Explore practical strategies for building trust, improving morale, and creating an environment where employees can succeed and grow.

The Art of Influence: Presentation Skills for Public Leaders

Monday 9/28/26 | 3:45pm-5:00pm

Whether speaking to residents, colleagues, or policymakers, effective communication is a core leadership skill. Gain techniques for delivering compelling presentations, communicating with confidence, and engaging diverse audiences.

Developing Tomorrow's County Leaders Today

Tuesday, 9/29/26 | 10:45am-12:00pm

Strong leadership pipe-lines are critical for organizational success and continuity. Discover how counties can identify emerging leaders, invest in professional development, and prepare for the next generation of public servants.

Conflict to Collaboration: Communication Skills for County Leaders

Tuesday, 9/29/26 | 10:45am-12:00pm

This session provides practical ways to resolve different types of conflict, make meaning when information is incomplete, and discover how curiosity and deeper thinking can lead to better decision-making. The session will also explore the important distinctions between consensus and collaboration.

Winning the Talent Challenge: Recruiting and Retaining Top Employees

Tuesday, 9/29/26 | 3:45pm-5:00pm

Competition for skilled workers continues to challenge public-sector employers. Learn innovative recruitment strategies, retention practices, and workforce development approaches that can help counties attract and keep talented employees.



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NYSAC STANDING COMMITTEES

Resolutions Standing Committee

Monday 9/28/26 | 3:15pm-5:00pm

Agriculture, Economic Development & Rural Affairs Standing Committee

Monday 9/28/26 | 11:30am-1:00pm

Children with Special Needs Standing Committee

Monday 9/28/26 | 9:30am-11:00 am

Climate Action, Energy & Environment Standing Committee

Monday 9/28/26 | 9:30am-11:00 am

Intergovernmental Relations, General Government & Public Employee Relations Standing Committee

Monday 9/28/26 | 11:30am-1:00pm

Medicaid & Human Services Standing Committee

Monday 9/28/26 | 9:30am-11:00 am

Native American Affairs & Gaming Standing Committee

Monday 9/28/26 | 9:30am-11:00 am

Public Health & Mental Health Standing Committee

Monday 9/28/26 | 11:30am-1:00pm

Public Safety Standing Committee

Monday 9/28/26 | 11:30am-1:00pm

Taxation & Finance Standing Committee

Monday 9/28/26 | 11:30am-1:00pm

Transportation & Public Works Standing Committee

Monday 9/28/26 | 9:30am-11:00 am

IT Task Force

Monday 9/28/26 | 11:30am-1:00pm



Negotiating the Impact of Large-Scale Data Centers

As large-scale data centers continue to reshape communities across New York and beyond, local leaders are increasingly confronting the practical challenges that come with evaluating and negotiating these proposed projects. This plenary session will give county officials a balanced, nonpartisan overview of the issues that commonly arise, including land use, infrastructure demands, energy and water needs, fiscal impacts, and community concerns. The discussion will focus on helping local officials better understand the questions, tradeoffs, and tools involved in managing large-scale data center proposals. Moderated by Onondaga County Executive J. Ryan McMahon, II, the session will feature lessons learned by Hon. Michael Turner of Loudoun County, Virginia, home to the nation's largest concentration of data centers, and Matt Chase, Executive Director of the National Association of Counties, which is tracking county impact across the country.



Hon. Michael Turner

Supervisor
Loudoun County, Virginia



Matt Chase

Executive Director
National Association of
Counties (NACo)



Hon. J. Ryan McMahon, II

County Executive
Onondaga County

September 29, 2026

09:00 AM - 10:15 AM