

NYSAC 2024 Legislative Conference



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INFORM

February 26-28, 2024

Crowne Plaza @ The Desmond
Albany . NY

Hon. Daniel P. McCoy (Albany County)
President





A Different Kind of Career in Government: Undercover for the CIA

Imagine living a lie for 31 years. That's what James Olson and his wife Meredith did while spying for the CIA. Spying for his country was the furthest thing from his mind when Olson, a farm boy from Iowa, received a mysterious phone call that changed his life forever. In his presentation, Olson takes you inside the real world of being a CIA spy. He describes the rigorous training they receive and the difficult dilemmas that they face in the field on a daily basis. Olson explains how the global war on terror affects everyone and that the country needs to know that the United States will be hit again within its borders. The United States needs spies to protect the country and its vital interests. James Olson, former CIA Chief of Counterintelligence, will describe his undercover career in the CIA, including how he was recruited, the training he received, the risks he and his wife faced (she was also a CIA operative), and the effect of this undercover lifestyle on their marriage and children.



James Olson
Former Chief of
Counterintelligence
CIA

**AM Plenary Session, Tuesday, 2/27/24, 9:00am-10:15am,
Fort Orange Ballroom**

Agenda

Monday, February 26th

8:30am-5:30pm Registration

9:30am-11:00am **NYSAC Standing Cmts. (Track I)**

Children with Special Needs

Agriculture, Economic
Development, and Rural Affairs

Medicaid & Human Services

Intergovernmental, Public
Employee Relations & General
Government

Climate Action, Energy, and
Environment

11:30am-1:00pm **NYSAC Standing Cmts. (Track II)**

Taxation & Finance

Native American Affairs &
Gaming

Public Safety

Transportation & Public Works

Public Health & Mental Health

1:00pm-2:00pm **NYSAC Luncheon** *(ticket required)*

1:00pm-5:00pm **Exhibits Open**

2:00pm-3:15pm **Workshop Session I**

2:00pm-3:15pm **NYSAC IT Task Force**

3:45pm-5:00pm **Resolutions Committee Meeting**

3:45pm-5:00pm **Workshop Session II**

6:00pm-8:00pm **Dinner Banquet** *(ticket required)*



Tuesday, February 27th

7:30am-8:45am General Breakfast *(ticket required)*

7:30am-5:00pm **Exhibits Open**

9:00am-10:15am **Opening Plenary Session**

10:45am-Noon **Workshop Session III**

Noon-1:30pm **NYSAC Business Meeting Part I
Legislative Luncheon** *(ticket required)*

2:00pm-3:30pm **Workshop Session IV**

3:45pm-5:00pm **Afternoon Plenary Session**

Wednesday, February 28th

8:00am-9:00am General Breakfast *(ticket required)*

8:00am-9:00am **Joint Intercounty Breakfast**

9:00am-9:30am **NYSAC Business Meeting:
Part II: Resolutions**

10:00am-3:00pm **NYS Emergency Management
Certification Training**



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Medicaid: Where Are We and Where Are We Going?

New York's Medicaid program is the largest in the country by many measures. The program is projected to cost \$102 billion dollars in SFY 2024, with the federal government paying 60 percent of the total costs. The federal share of payments will drop going forward as time limited COVID aid expires leaving the state to fund more of the overall program costs. Current state costs are expected to grow by 17 percent over the next three years according to the Governor's budget officials. Even with this record spending, health care outcomes in New York State in too many areas are below national averages. Hear from experts on the future of this program and whether it can sustain the path it is on. **(Monday, February 26, 2024, 2:00pm-3:15pm)**

Protecting NYS's Environment Through Advocacy

Continuing their commitment to environmental leadership, the Governor and Legislature are poised to champion new legislation and appropriations during the 2024 Legislative Session to combat climate change and protect our environment. Many of their priorities, including extended producer responsibility for packaging and paper and investments in resiliency, are supported by counties. This workshop will highlight legislation that NYSAC is advocating for this year and provide updates on legislative wins from previous sessions. **(Monday, February 26, 2024, 2:00pm-3:15pm)**

Developing a Masterplan for Older New Yorkers

The NYS Association on Aging and the NYS Office of Aging will join NYSAC to present the state's masterplan for addressing the needs of our aging population. New York ranks fourth in the nation in the number of individuals aged sixty and over, at 4.6 million. By 2030, this population is expected to reach 5.3 million. This population brings enormous economic, social, and cultural value to their communities. The state's masterplan on aging ensures that older adults and individuals of all ages can live healthy, fulfilling lives while aging with dignity and independence. This workshop will provide an update on the masterplan, next steps, and how counties can get involved. **(Monday, February 26, 2024, 2:00pm-3:15pm)**

Artificial Intelligence for County Communicators

This workshop will delve into how communications professionals and county officials can harness the power of generative Artificial Intelligence tools to work smarter, rather than harder. Whether you are completely new to A.I. tools, or have already incorporated them into your workflow, this workshop will expand your skills and teach you how to let AI tackle the dreaded "blank page" so that you can focus on the human touch that makes for effective communications. **(Monday, February 26, 2024, 2:00pm-3:15pm)**

Workforce Benefits and Retiree Healthcare Options

This workshop will cover opportunities for counties to leverage employee benefits and lower costs for retiree healthcare. In an era where counties are competing for workers, a strong portfolio of voluntary benefits can help retain and recruit employees. Additionally, more counties are exploring retiree health options that expand coverage and lower

costs. This workshop will explore the most popular voluntary benefits and discuss the increasingly popular and cost-saving Medicare Advantage Plans for retirees sixty-five in self-insured counties. Join us for this panel of experts to learn how your county could leverage these benefits for your employees and retirees. **(Monday, February 26, 2024, 3:45pm-5:00pm)**

County Interoperable Communications & Preparing for Next Gen 9-1-1

Counties are dealing with how to best address expanding their 9-1-1 operations in a way that will support interoperability across local governments and counties. In addition, counties across the state are working to prepare their interoperable and 9-1-1 communications centers for the future "Next Gen 9-1-1" and the ability to receive and deploy voice, audio, and visual communications during emergencies. This workshop will include county representatives discussing their work with NYSTEC on their 9-1-1 projects and interoperability projects and operations. Learn about innovative approaches to exploring interoperability and state funding opportunities to achieve improved public safety communication in your communities. **(Monday, February 26, 2024, 3:45pm-5:00pm)**

Strategic Planning: Approaches for County Officials

In today's fast-paced and constantly evolving world, strategic planning has become more critical than ever for elected officials who need to balance their obligations to their communities with their responsibilities to their constituents. This workshop will discuss recent approaches to strategic planning at the county level, with a focus on connecting policy and accountability. This session will cover how strategic planning can help meet constituent needs and expectations while fulfilling county obligations, the value of developing an actionable roadmap, and offers a novel approach to the planning process. **(Monday, February 26, 2024, 3:45pm-5:00pm)**

Cybersecurity: Developing a County Continuity of Operations

This workshop will delve into the critical realm of continuity planning. In an era where cyber threats are omnipresent, this workshop will emphasize the importance of developing a robust Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) for your county or town. Discover the key components of an effective COOP, learn how selected counties have gone through the COOP process, including conducting risk assessments, and developing communication strategies to remain resilient in the face of potential cyber challenges. Equip yourself with the knowledge to safeguard essential functions, foster collaboration, and fortify your community's cyber defenses. **(Monday, February 26, 2024, 3:45pm-5:00pm)**

State Budget Review & Advocating County Priorities in Albany

This session will provide a review of key elements of the Governor's proposed budget for SFY 2025 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, February 27, 2024, 10:45am-Noon)**

Workshops

Exploring Renewable Energy, Efficiency, and Sustainable Energy Options

As New York, and the rest of the world, marches towards a more carbon-free future, counties and local governments are exploring ways to deploy energy transition initiatives. Community solar, behind the meter solar, hydro, battery storage, efficiency efforts are all on the menu. This energy transition provides challenges and opportunities. It aligns with environmental stewardship but also presents significant financial challenges and leadership opportunities. County officials can play a crucial role in this transition. This workshop we will explore options for local officials to consider as we move through this green energy revolution. **(Tuesday, February 27, 2024, 10:45am-Noon)**

The Ongoing Hiring Crisis

Throughout the county every employment sector is seeing a worker shortage that has negatively impacted needed services and production. Unfortunately, New York County Government has one of the largest workforce losses than any other employment sectors. The New York State Comptroller recently released a report, Local Government Workforce Trends in New York State, which states - "Counties experienced the greatest workforce decline at 17.1 percent, followed by cities and villages (8.7 percent) and towns (7.8 percent)." Considering it is county government that provides essential public health, safety and welfare services, this trend cannot continue. Join our panel of experts that will discuss innovative ways countries are attracting and retaining quality employees as well as learn about changes within the Civil Service system that can help your county secure the candidate you need for the job. **(Tuesday, February 27, 2024, 10:45am-Noon)**

County Airport Expansion and Economic Development

The state's recent investments in county airports are helping to transform these critical economic development assets. This workshop will discuss recent county airport investments and their pivotal role in economic development. This workshop is your gateway to understanding the strategic benefits of our local airports, unlocking opportunities for sustainable growth and increased connectivity. This session will include practical examples of investment and development at airports, explore funding opportunities, and discuss the economic impact of our airports. Join us for this discussion of airport investment's potential to catalyze development, attract investment, and elevate your county's economic landscape. **(Tuesday, February 27, 2024, 10:45am-Noon)**

What's Next? An Update on Legalized Cannabis in New York State

The NYS Office of Cannabis Management is responsible for the implementation of the Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act (MRTA) which legalized adult-use cannabis consumption in New York State. The MRTA sets out one of the nation's most comprehensive legal frameworks for the regulation of the adult-use, medical and hemp industries, with a focus on ensuring the greatest possible participation by communities historically impacted by prohibition. Join us for an update on where cannabis stands and what you can expect to see in 2024. **(Tuesday, February 27, 2024, 2:00pm-3:15pm)**

Agenda is Subject to Change

Building Resilient Communities One House at a Time

New York State, like the rest of the nation, is facing a significant shortage in workforce housing. Affordable, middle-class housing options have rapidly disappeared as the housing market has continued to evolve since the global COVID-19 pandemic. Coupled with rising interest rates, what was once affordable is no longer the case for hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers. To attract the next generation of our workforce, we must have adequate housing stock. Learn how counties are taking this challenge head-on as they work to invest in their communities to provide housing across the spectrum to meet the needs of their local community. *(Tuesday, February 27, 2024, 2:00pm-3:15pm)*

US Supreme Court Decisions Impacting County Government

Rulings made by the United States Supreme Court effect all Americans directly or indirectly every year. As seen by recent rulings, such as one dealing with property tax collection, County Government operations can change overnight. Join our panel of experts that will explain the process of why, when, and how this court determines to hear a matter as well as highlight recent decisions and future anticipated cases that will impact your county. *(Tuesday, February 27, 2024, 2:00pm-3:15pm)*

Understanding HIXNY – Making Health Data Usable to All Health Officials

The Statewide Health Information Network for New York (SHIN-NY, pronounced “SHY-nee”) was formed in 2016 and is overseen by the New York State Department of Health through the New York eHealth Collaborative ([opens in new window](#)) (NYeC). It connects the state's nonprofit regional health information organizations to ensure the secure electronic flow of health information throughout New York. HIXNY complies with all applicable federal and state laws regarding access to data and availability of organizational information, including all SHIN-NY policies and procedures, such as Policy Guidance for 10 NYCRR Part 300. HIXNY is the leading health information exchange (HIE) in New York. Join us for a presentation from HIXNY staff as they present a new platform for healthcare information sharing. This new system will have a transformational impact on your county health departments and the interaction counties have with our non-profit partners and providers. *(Tuesday, February 27, 2024, 2:00pm-3:15pm)*

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. The NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) has worked with the local emergency management community to develop a standardized curriculum for three tiers of training aimed at County Chief Executives (Tier 1), County Emergency Managers (Tier 2), and other local public officials within Counties (Tier 3). 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, February 28, 2024, 10am-3:15pm)*

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**Wednesday, February 28, 2024,
10am-3:15pm**

Sponsored by:



HOW WILL AI CHANGE OUR WORLD?



Presenter:
Jayson Dunn
Executive Government Advisor
Amazon Web Services

PM Plenary Session
Tuesday, 2/27/24, 3:45pm-5:00pm,
Fort Orange Ballroom



NYSAC
— NEW YORK STATE —
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

Registration

COUNTY OFFICIALS: ONLINE REGISTRATION ONLY

REGISTER AT:

www.nysac.org/legislativeconference

Registration Option **A** \$464

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** \$367

Includes participation in all workshops, plenary sessions, exhibit hall and other agenda events.

MONDAY MEALS ONLY: Monday lunch, dinner

Registration Option **C** \$319

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.

Deadlines:

Pre-Registration Deadline: February 15, 2024

*You may register for the conference after the deadline date as a walk-in registrant at the conference registration desk.

Cancellations:

Any registrations cancelled prior to February 15, 2024 will be subject to a 25% administrative fee. Registrations cancelled after February 15, 2024 cannot be refunded. Cancellations must be made via email to jmunigua@nysac.org.

BOOKING YOUR ROOM AT THE CROWNE PLAZA/DESMOND:

It's as easy as...



CALL

518-869-8100 ask for group code **CO4**.



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WEBSITE

Go to nysac.org/legislativeconference, click on "Book Hotel Now" a new page will appear, click book now again.



GO TO
NYSAC
WEBSITE

Visit the NYSAC website at nysac.org/legislativeconference and click on the HOTEL Link to be redirected to the hotel Online Registration Page.

Hotel Information

IMPORTANT HOTEL INFORMATION

- **Hotel reservation must be received by February 9, 2024** after which time the room block will be released and reservations will be accepted based on availability. Please note that the room block **WILL** sell out PRIOR to the cut off date so register early to ensure a room in the hotel.
- **If the hotel is sold out, please refer to our list of alternate hotels closest to the Crowne by visiting our website at www.nysac.org/legislativeconference.**



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ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

515 Broadway, Suite 402
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