



# 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

# 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  | <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-4:00pm   | Buses Depart for Centennial Event at the Capitol.                                                                                                                                    |
| 4:00pm - 6:00pm | NYSAC Centennial Exhibit & Reception Honoring Counties at the Capitol ( <i>Invite Only from Governor Hochul, County Elected Officials &amp; Admin. Due to Capacity Limitations</i> ) |

## 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

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## Deadlines:

### Pre-Registration Deadline: February 13, 2025

\*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 [jmunguia@nysac.org](mailto:jmunguia@nysac.org)\*\***

# INFORMATION

NYSAC 2025 Centennial Legislative Conference

February 24-26, 2025

Crowne Plaza/Desmond, Albany

## HOTEL

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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:**  
**(CURRENTLY SOLD OUT)**



Book a room at an **alternate hotel**, close to the conference hotel.  
[Click Here for Alternate Hotel Information and Links](#)

## 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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### **SUNY Funding and Its Importance to 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 SUNY campuses of all sizes, which are key employers, economic drivers, and quality-of-life assets that attract residents and businesses. However, ongoing challenges related to demographics, availability of external funding, and the need (in some cases not addressing the need) to manage academic offerings, workforce levels, and student services, are threatening all institutions' ability to deliver quality educational programs. Join us to hear from stakeholders about the challenges posed by the decisions of the past and the potential far-reaching implications for local communities. *(Monday, February 24, 2025, 2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.)*

### **Unlocking Savings: Innovative Strategies for PreK Special Education (4410)**

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 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.)*

### **Implementing An Employer Sponsored Health Center: A Case Study**

In 2014, the City of Rockford opened its own primary care health center to provide better care and outcomes for its more than 1000 employees and covered family members. Since launching this health center, they have met the goal of supporting the health of their employees and families, and they have achieved over \$50 million in claims savings, redirecting costs



## WORKSHOP TOPICS

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from emergency rooms and urgent care and achieving downstream savings from improved member health. Please join former mayor Larry Morrissey as he shares insight on the policy, process, and politics that led the City of Rockford's own health center. He will cover the dynamics of navigating internal labor issues, external hospital systems, and the complexities and conflicts of health insurance. He will also share some of his family's personal health challenges that inspired him to look for a better way. (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.)

## WORKSHOP TOPICS



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

### **PLENARY:**

#### **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. (Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.)

#### **Power and Partnership: What Local Leaders Must Know About Local Health**

**Departments** From managing disease outbreaks to preventing childhood lead exposure, Local Health Departments (LHDs) play a crucial role in protecting people in communities across New York State. LHDs work with other community partners to address how where we live, work, and play affects our individual and community health outcomes. This workshop explores the vital work of local health officials and the emerging threats they face, from the rise in vector-borne diseases to emerging drinking water contaminants. Join us to learn how county leaders can empower their health departments to meet today's challenges head-on. (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. At-





## WORKSHOP TOPICS

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tendees 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.)*

**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.)*

## WORKSHOP TOPICS



### **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.)

## **INTER-COUNTY:**

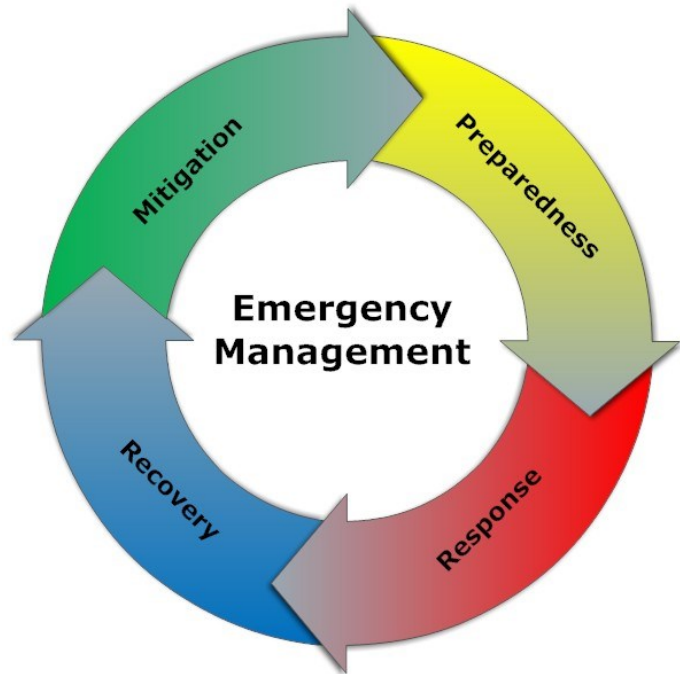
### **Leveraging Public Lands: Building Stronger Communities Through Parks and Trails**

Parks & Trails New York has been the state's leading advocate for parks and trails since 1985, helping communities leverage these vital economic drivers that generate a remarkable 10-to-1 return on investment. Join us to learn about technical assistance programs, funding opportunities, and strategic partnerships available to help counties develop and enhance their trail networks, improve quality of life, and boost local economies. This informative session will highlight successful initiatives like the Canal Clean Sweep Program and provide practical guidance for counties looking to expand their outdoor recreation infrastructure. (Wednesday, February 26, 2025, 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.)



# 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 26, 2025**  
**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 14, 2025 for this in-person training event. This is a free event.**