



# Centennial Fall Seminar



**September 8 -10, 2025 | Niagara Falls Convention Center | Niagara County**

Hon. Benjamin Boykin II | President | Westchester County



# Agenda

## Monday, September 8th

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

## Tuesday, September 9th

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|---------------|--------------|
| 7:30am-5:00pm | Registration |
|---------------|--------------|



## Tuesday, September 9th *(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>Afternoon Plenary Session</b>
6:00pm - 9:00pm	Niagara County Special Host Event

## Wednesday, September 10th

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/NYSACFall25>

**New Policy:** Meal Tickets **MUST** be purchased in advance and will **not** be sold during the event due to facility meal guarantee requirements.

### Registration Option A \$499

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 \$395

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

### Registration Option C \$362

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: August 22, 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 August 22, 2025. To cancel, please log into Cvent and select the "Cancel Registration" button. After this date, we will not accept any meal changes or registrations. Cancellations made before this date will be subject to a 25% administrative fee. Registrations cancelled after this date will still be due and are not refundable and are non-transferable. Attendees may register after the deadline at the event only, and will incur a \$35 surcharge applied to the registration fee.

**\*\*County Officials please contact [cyoung@nysac.org](mailto:cyoung@nysac.org) | Non-County Officials please contact [jmungaia@nysac.org](mailto:jmungaia@nysac.org)\*\***

# INFORMATION

NYSAC 2025 Centennial Fall Seminar September 8-10, 2025 Niagara Falls Convention Center, Niagara County

## HOTELS

The NYSAC Fall Seminar draws over 700 attendees each September, requiring the use of multiple hotels to accommodate overnight stays. Please note that conference registration and meals are not included with your hotel reservation and must be purchased separately through NYSAC's online registration process. The Fall Seminar will be utilizing two hotels for our guests which are listed below. When the first hotel fully sells out, we will begin booking into the second hotel. Both hotels are owned by the same company, are of equal quality, and are in walking distance to the Convention Center where the Seminar will be held. All hotel reservation changes or cancellations must be made directly with the hotel. NYSAC is not responsible for hotel booking arrangements or cancellation policies. To receive tax exemption, you must submit the appropriate tax-exempt documentation directly to your hotel at the time of booking. A credit card is required to secure your reservation.



### **FIRST HOTEL: Sheraton Niagara Falls**

300 3rd St, Niagara Falls, NY 14303

*(This hotel will be filled first)*

Both hotels are in walking distance from the Niagara Convention Center.



### **SECOND HOTEL: Wyndham Garden at Niagara Falls**

443 Main St, Niagara Falls, NY 14301

*(This hotel will be filled second)*

HOTEL ONLINE LINK FOR BOOKING EITHER HOTEL:

<https://book.passkey.com/go/NYSASSOCIATIONOFCOUNTIES>

## ADDITIONAL INFO

- Remember to provide your tax exempt forms in advance to your hotel provider.
- Credit card info must be provided at the time of hotel reservation booking. The hotel does not accept checks or vouchers.
- 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

## WORKSHOP TOPICS



### **The HEART of Effective Communication for Leadership**

Navigating difficult conversations and maintaining professional communication can be one of the most challenging aspects of county leadership. This workshop introduces the HEART model—a simple, five-step process to help organize your thoughts and tackle tough conversations. Participants will learn practical communication strategies to lead with confidence and foster positive working relationships throughout their organizations.

[\(September 8, 2:00pm-3:15pm\)](#)

### **State Policy, Local Impact: Navigating Environmental Policy Changes**

New York State's push toward climate and conservation goals is creating new responsibilities—and challenges—for counties. This workshop will examine two environmental policy areas: the growing solar panel waste stream and the expanded regulatory reach of state wetlands protections. Learn how Niagara County passed a first-of-its-kind local law to address the growing waste stream from solar installations and hear how DEC's updated wetlands regulations are affecting planning and permitting across the state. This session will explore how counties are navigating these emerging challenges and leading with innovative responses.

[\(September 8, 2:00pm-3:15pm\)](#)

### **Federal Policy on the Move: What Counties Need to Know Now**

Major federal reforms are underway, and counties cannot afford to be caught off guard. Join national experts from the National Association of Counties (NACo), along with state and county leaders, for a high-level roundtable on the most pressing federal policy issues impacting New York counties. From funding changes to regulatory shifts, this interactive session will offer timely insights, analysis, and opportunities for audience discussion on how to prepare for what is ahead.

[\(September 8, 2:00pm-3:15pm\)](#)

### **Innovative Procurement Strategies Local Leaders Should Know**

New procurement tools and partnerships are empowering counties to enhance efficiency, transparency, and cost-effectiveness. This workshop is designed to provide the latest insights and practical approaches to helpful public procurement practices that are streamlining purchasing processes, strengthening accountability, and fostering collaboration across counties. Attendees will hear from NYSAC partners working to help counties save time and money, while meeting all state procurement requirements.

[\(September 8, 2:00pm-3:15pm\)](#)



## WORKSHOP TOPICS

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### **FOIL and Open Meetings Law: Navigating Transparency in the Digital Age**

Government transparency is essential—but compliance with the Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) and the Open Meetings Law is becoming more complex, especially in an era shaped by artificial intelligence and automated data requests. This session will address recent changes, persistent challenges, and evolving best practices for managing requests efficiently and lawfully. A panel of legal and municipal experts will share strategies for upholding open government principles while avoiding unnecessary burdens on county resources. Learn when and how you can legally narrow or deny excessive or inappropriate requests. ([September 8, 3:45pm-5:00pm](#))

### **Building Tomorrow's Workforce:**

#### **SUNY's Solutions for County Workforce Challenges**

As both county governments and local businesses grapple with workforce shortages in essential services and high-demand fields, SUNY is creating pathways to connect students and adult learners with employment opportunities. This workshop explores key initiatives to build sustainable talent pipelines for both public and private sector needs. A key focus will be the new SUNY Reconnect program, which will offer free community college for adults ages 25-55 in fields including healthcare, cybersecurity, renewable energy, and advanced manufacturing beginning in Fall 2025. ([September 8, 3:45pm-5:00pm](#))

### **Beyond Shelter: County Solutions to Homelessness**

Homelessness has become a more prominent issue for counties and the reasons for it vary regionally. Historically, a county's primary role in homelessness has been related to emergency shelter for families and individuals with a goal of attaining stability and permanent housing. As the scope of homelessness has risen the county role has extended beyond basic shelter. Hear from counties that are pursuing different models for addressing homelessness including building affordable housing, expanding shelter capacity, and leveraging private and not-for-profit partnerships. ([September 8, 3:45pm-5:00pm](#))

### **Foundations of County Government in New York State**

This session offers a comprehensive overview of the historical, legal, and structural foundations of county government in New York State. Participants will gain insight into the different forms and organizational models of county governments, the scope of their authority and responsibilities under state law, and their intergovernmental relationships—with the state, municipalities, and regional entities. Whether you are new to county government or looking for a refresher, this session will ground you in the essential principles shaping local governance today. ([September 8, 3:45pm-5:00pm](#))

# AM **Plenary** Session

Tuesday, September 9th, 9:00am - 10:15am



WE WILL NEVER FORGET  
**PATRIOT DAY**

**9/11**



**Dr. Gregory Huie**  
9/11 Survivor, Physician  
Speaker

## **Just an American:** **Finding Strength and Resilience Post 9/11**

Dr. Gregory Huie is a September 11th survivor whose compelling story and powerful message have inspired audiences across the nation. As a firsthand witness to one of the most defining moments in American history, Dr. Huie brings a unique perspective on resilience, healing, and the enduring human spirit. His journey from surviving the attacks to becoming a voice for remembrance and hope is both moving and motivational. We are honored to welcome Dr. Huie as he shares his experiences and reflections, reminding us of the strength that can arise from tragedy.



## WORKSHOP TOPICS



### **The Power of Active Listening: A Key to Meaningful Communication**

Truly hearing others—making them feel seen, understood, and valued—is more difficult than it seems. Too often, we unintentionally shift the focus of conversations onto ourselves, missing crucial opportunities to connect. Many of our poor listening habits are automatic, shaped by deep-rooted behaviors and cultural influences. This interactive session offers evidence-based strategies to help participants become more intentional, empathetic listeners. By embracing these best practices, you will strengthen your communication, build deeper relationships, boost collaboration, and enhance productivity in both personal and professional settings.

*(September 8, 3:45pm-5:00pm)*

### **County Airports as Engines of Regional Economic Growth**

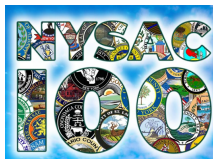
County-owned and operated airports are more than just transportation hubs—they are powerful tools for economic development and regional connectivity. This workshop will explore the strategic value of local airports and how they can drive sustainable growth. Through real-world case studies, participants will learn about successful airport investment and development projects, available funding sources, and how to measure the broader economic impacts. Discover how your county can unlock new opportunities through its aviation assets. *(September 9, 10:45am-12:00pm)*

### **Effective County Administration: Governance, Roles, and Best Practices**

Effective administration is the foundation of a well-functioning, responsive, and resilient county government. This workshop delves into the key principles and practices that drive excellence in county management. Attendees will gain actionable insights on fostering proper governance, building strong board-staff relations, and clearly identifying roles and responsibilities within the organization. Whether you are an elected official, a county administrator/manager, or a government professional, this workshop will equip you with the tools and strategies to navigate complex challenges, align organizational goals, and lead with integrity and purpose. Join us to strengthen your understanding of the fundamental principles that make counties thrive. *(September 9, 10:45am-12:00pm)*

### **The Economics of Prevention: Rural Public Health's Value Proposition**

Rural local health departments play a vital yet often underrecognized role in fostering community well-being and economic resilience. This session will explore the essential public health functions these departments perform—from safeguarding food safety and controlling infectious disease outbreaks to reducing environmental health risks from lead exposure—and highlight how these foundational services not only protect public health but also drive local economic growth, sustainability, and



## WORKSHOP TOPICS

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workforce stability. Attendees will gain strategies for framing public health initiatives in economic terms and effectively communicating their return on investment to stakeholders, policymakers, and community leaders. [\(September 9, 10:45am-12:00pm\)](#)

### **Building Your County Brand: Tools for Helping Communities Understand What Counties Do**

County governments are often the backbone of essential services—yet many residents remain unaware of what counties actually do. This workshop explores how elected and appointed officials can strengthen public understanding and trust through strategic branding and compelling storytelling.

[\(September 9, 10:45am-12:00pm\)](#)

### **Implementing New York's Short-Term Rental Law at the County Level**

Join us for an in-depth workshop exploring the implementation of New York State's newly enacted short-term rental legislation. This session will break down the key components of the new law, including registration requirements, platform responsibilities, and enforcement mechanisms. We will examine the law's objectives—such as preserving housing affordability and enhancing neighborhood stability—while addressing the practical implications and challenges facing counties. County officials, including staff implementing the new law will provide attendees with examples of how their counties are tackling this new opportunity. [\(September 9, 10:45am-12:00pm\)](#)

### **Robert's Rules in Action: Running Fair, Focused, and Respectful Public Meetings**

Effective public meetings require structure, fairness, and civility—qualities that Robert's Rules of Order helps establish. This session will provide a practical guide to using parliamentary procedure to manage public discussions, maintain order, and ensure every voice is heard. You'll learn how to use these rules to communicate your goals clearly, stay on track, and build consensus among both elected officials and the public. Whether you're new to Robert's Rules or looking to sharpen your skills, this workshop will help you create more productive and balanced meetings.

[\(September 9, 2:00pm-3:15pm\)](#)

### **Breaking Down Silos: County Innovation Through Cross-Department Collaboration**

Counties are increasingly confronting challenges—like behavioral health, housing, and immigration—that cut across departmental lines. This panel will bring together NYSAC committee chairs and co-chairs to discuss the value of cross-systems collaboration. Participants will share insights on how departments can work together to improve outcomes, streamline services, and develop practical strategies for more coordinated solutions to complex community needs. [\(September 9, 2:00pm-3:15pm\)](#)

## WORKSHOP TOPICS



### **Ready for Anything: Strengthening County Preparedness for Natural Disasters**

New York counties are experiencing an increase in natural disasters—from extreme storms and floods to wildfires and heat waves—driven by a changing climate. With growing uncertainty around federal disaster aid, local governments must take proactive steps to build resilience. This session will explore how counties can strengthen preparedness through comprehensive planning, interagency coordination, and smart resource allocation. Learn how to align local emergency plans with state and federal systems to better protect your communities before, during, and after disasters. [\(September 9, 2:00pm-3:15pm\)](#)

### **Medicaid: How Did We Get Here and Why It is Important to Counties**

Medicaid has become the largest expenditure in the New York State budget. It is also a huge cost and administrative function in county budgets. The program is a core part of health care delivery across the state with 45 percent of the population receiving their health coverage from Medicaid or the Affordable Care Act. This session will shed light on why counties are between a rock and a hard place as Congress seeks to reform the cost structure of Medicaid. [\(September 9, 2:00pm-3:15pm\)](#)

### **The Challenges of Transmission Interconnections in NYS**

This workshop will delve into the complex challenges associated with transmission interconnections in New York State. Key issues include regulatory hurdles, the integration of renewable energy sources, the aging infrastructure, and a lack of enough electricity. Participants will explore innovative solutions and strategies to support economic development and enhance grid reliability and efficiency in the era of energy transition. [\(September 9, 2:00pm-3:15pm\)](#)

### **Spies, Espionage, and Cyber Threat Actors: How Counties Can Protect Themselves**

County leaders are increasingly becoming targets of foreign malign influence campaigns and cyber-attacks from nation state actors. With regulations tightening at the federal level, threat actors are now seeking access to local government leaders and their communities. Recognizing the tradecraft behind foreign malign operations directed at local governments and understanding the role cyber threat actors play in gaining access to government networks and sensitive information is critical for all county leaders. This presentation from the NYS Division of Homeland Security of Emergency Services Office of Counter Terrorism will provide critical information on the tactics and techniques used by foreign adversaries; lessons learned from espionage cases influence operations, and cyber breaches directed at local governments; and what you can do to protect yourself. [\(PM PLENARY, September 9, 2025, 3:45pm-5:00pm\)](#)



PM Plenary Session:

## Spies, Espionage, and Cyber Threat Actors: How Counties Can Protect Themselves



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