

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY  
TOWN OF RHINEBECK – VARIOUS FUNCTIONS**

Community Profiles

The Town of Rhinebeck, Village of Rhinebeck, and Rhinebeck Central School District are located in northern Dutchess County in the Hudson Valley/Down State region of New York State. The Town differs from the Village and School District in that the Town obtains a greater share of its revenues from state and federal aid than average, whereas the Village and School District obtain significantly less relative aid. This suggests a level of fiscal distress in the Town that is not present in the Village and School District.

<b>2005</b>	<b>Town of Rhinebeck</b>	<b>NYS Town Average</b>	<b>Village of Rhinebeck</b>	<b>NYS Village Average</b>	<b>Rhinebeck School District</b>	<b>NYS SD Average</b>
<b>Population</b>	7,762	9,326	3,077	3,385	1,245	2,545
<b>Revenue from State and Federal Aid</b>	19.8%	14.2%	6.5%	10.1%	15.0%	39.8%

Background

The Town and Village formed an ad hoc cooperation committee in 1991 to study all opportunities for shared services that might make delivery of services more efficient and economical to taxpayers and residents. The committee spent nine months exploring options and produced a report late in 1991 that might have served as a foundation for continuing talks. When the report became public, Village officials rejected the findings primarily because it perceived no fiscal benefit to the Village, halting further efforts. In 2006, the Town, Village, and School District of Rhinebeck engaged in conversations and meetings to revive their prospects for cooperation. The three jurisdictions formed a conference committee and held a conference on cooperation with residents in November 2006. In addition, the Town and School District developed and adopted an agreement on sharing facilities. The school district and the town also signed an IMA to permit shared-use of facilities rather than billing each other for each usage.

Funding

The municipalities submitted an SMSI grant application requesting assistance for a \$150,000 feasibility study to further assess the proposed cost-saving actions emerging from the November, 2006 conference. However, the grant application was not approved in the 2006 – 2007 round of funding.

Outcome

Discussions among the municipalities are ongoing.