



5<sup>th</sup> Annual Local Government Innovation Conference

## Summary of Sessions

***Make no small plans, they have no power to stir men's blood;  
make only big plans."***

Daniel Burnham

*We're taking a different tack this year, no keynote or lengthy kick-off. We're jumping right into information sessions that are inspiring and practical, especially geared toward common, big ticket issues and opportunities that we see in working with municipalities of all sizes across the state.*

*Our agenda features the compelling stories and expertise of your peers, innovative solutions to slow decline or address immediate crisis, and technical support and funding sources that others have utilized to successfully modernize operations and save taxpayer dollars.*

*Our goal is to give you ideas that can lead to a better, safer, more prosperous future for your community.*





Department  
of State



Certification  
Maintenance

## All plenary sessions and workshops have been AICP APPROVED!

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**AICP members must be in attendance for the duration of the event in order to receive CM Credit.**



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## Plenary I – Cyberattack: is YOUR municipality next?

Cyberattacks are an evolving danger to organizations, employees, and consumers. They may be used to access or destroy sensitive data or extort money. They can, in effect, destroy businesses and damage people’s financial and personal lives. This is especially alarming in regard to municipal data and operations.

A strong cybersecurity system relies not only on cyber defense technology (multiple layers of protection spread across computers, networks, and programs), but also on people making smart cyber defense choices.

In this session, you’ll hear first hand stories from peers that have survived a cyberattack right here in New York State and about what can be done to defend your operations against cyber threats. We’ll help you recognize and avoid nefarious activity and point you toward available resources to protect your enterprise.

### Moderator –

Mark LaVigne – Deputy Director, New York State Association of Counties

### Panelists -

- 1) Rachel McEnery - Commissioner of Administrative Services, City of Albany
- 2) Dr. Mark Jones - Deputy District Superintendent and Chief Operating Officer, Capital Region BOCES
- 3) David Versocki - Director of Technology, Capital Region BOCES
- 4) Karen Sorady, Acting Chief Information Security Officer, NYS Office of Information Technology Services
- 5) Ben Voce-Gardner - Director of Cybersecurity and Threat Mitigation Policy, New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services.

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## **Plenary II – Fighting Blight: Community Officials Data Exchange**

In 2015, the NYS Department of State funded the Cities of Schenectady, Amsterdam, Gloversville and Troy to develop a shared regional code enforcement information platform, now christened the Community Officials Data Exchange (CODE). This shared resource will help to address growing costs associated with blighted properties, estimated at over \$100,000 per year, per property.

This session will showcase the pilot project that incorporates information from code enforcement, building permits, public assembly, vacant property, demolition, foreclosure management, landlord registration and rental units, into a dynamic shared resource. C.O.D.E recognizes municipal interdependencies in the sharing of this data to facilitate the identification of opportunities to address problems, inform city and private-sector decision-making, and improve service delivery and public safety.

In addition, presenters will discuss ongoing efforts to build the technical and organizational capabilities of partner local governments, a statewide rollout to integrate additional governments, and efforts to restructure code enforcement functions across local governments.

### Moderators –

Ann Thane, Director, Division of Local Government Services – New York Department of State  
Carl Ublacker, Local Government Specialist, Division of Local Government Services – New York Department of State

### Panelists -

- 1) Gary McCarthy - Mayor, City of Schenectady
- 2) John Coluccio - Signal Superintendent, City of Schenectady
- 3) Thomas Groff – Fire Chief, City of Gloversville
- 4) Marcus Allen – Municipality 5 Project Manager, Software Consulting Associates
- 5) Meghan Cook – Program Director, CTG UAlbany

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## Track 1 – DO WHAT WE DID

This is a dynamic time for local government leaders as they work to manage opportunities and expectations presented by new technologies with the demands and challenges of a traditional service delivery structure. These sessions feature local officials who are effectively deploying new methods to balance limited financial, technical and personnel resources and are dramatically changing the ways these municipalities are doing business. We will focus keenly on the specific actions they have taken and funding sources that have empowered these communities to meet the needs of their constituents.

### ***Session 1 – Emergency Services***

Perhaps no other local service has been as impacted by the decline in public funding, community participation and volunteerism than emergency services. This workshop will provide a review of efforts across emergency services functions, including the consolidation of emergency medical services at the county level, restructuring the delivery of fire services within a town, and sharing of police services between local governments.

#### Moderator

Carl Ublacker, Local Government Specialist, Division of Local Government Services – New York Department of State

#### Panelists –

- 1) Rob Wick, PMP - Project Management Specialist, Essex County Office of Community Resources
- 2) Peter Schweigert - Town of Schodack
- 3) Matt Cooper - Town of Schodack
- 4) David Favro - Sherriff, Clinton County

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### ***Session 2 – Water and Wastewater Infrastructure***

Regionalization of water and wastewater resources and the development of efficiencies in their delivery remains a great opportunity for financial return for municipalities. Examples include the consolidation of water and sewer districts, the installation of smart meters and use of other technologies, and regionalization of services to capture economies of scale and avoid duplicative costs. This workshop will discuss existing infrastructure initiatives and other intermunicipal efforts to improve these systems and services provided to rate payers, as well as working with various agencies to target funding over the life of a project.

**Moderator** – John Demarest, Local Government Specialist, Division of Local Government Services – New York Department of State

#### Panelists –

- 1) Dave Church – Commissioner, Orange County Department of Planning
- 2) Anna Reynolds – Director, Essex County Office of Community Resources
- 3) Hannah Jacques - Project Coordinator, Essex County of Community Resources
- 4) Patricia Littlefield – Supervisor - Town of Tupper Lake

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### ***Session 3 – Best of the Rest***

Simple to recognize, yet often hard to aggregate, innovation in local service delivery is happening across other functions of local government. This session will capture a few of these “other” efforts to leverage regional efforts for local government benefit. Projects include deployment of LED lighting and intermunicipal management of light systems, to shared GIS for local asset management and resource deployment, and countywide code enforcement. A theme of these efforts is the use new technology to reduce costs and enhance management.

**Moderator** – Joann Ryan, Local Government Specialist, Division of Local Government Services – New York Department of State

#### Panelists –

- 1) Anna Reynolds – Director, Essex County Office of Community Resources
- 2) Rob Wick, PMP - Project Management Specialist, Essex County Office of Community Resources
- 3) Neil Bettez – Supervisor, Town of New Paltz
- 4) Tim Rogers – Mayor, Village of New Paltz
- 5) Don Roberts – Code Enforcement Officer, Wyoming County
- 6) Alyssa Cutcliffe - Zoning Enforcement Officer, Wyoming County

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## ***Track 2 – USE THIS TOOL***

Successful communities generally have community development officials that are effective in utilizing public resources and other programs to their benefit, while others are overwhelmed with the identification and utilization of resources to support their efforts or do not know about or understand the opportunities available to them. Additionally, community leaders must work to set clear development goals, motivate their residents to support planned actions, and identify every possible resource to implement those actions. In these sessions, attendees will be introduced to a suite of public resources, as well as local strategies to support their municipality's economic development goals.

### ***Session 1 – Utilizing the Geographic Information Gateway***

Did you know you have a powerful planning tool available for FREE from the Department of State? Developed by the Office of Planning and Development, the Geographic Information Gateway (Gateway) is a one-stop, state-of-the-art website providing public access to data, real-time information, interactive tools, and expert knowledge. The interactive map enables users to easily download, visualize, and explore geographic data for responsible land use decisions, resiliency, and economic growth. We will review the Gateway's suite of information and tools and illustrate the program's applicability to New York's for community development.

Moderator - Christopher Eastman – Local Government Specialist, New York Department of State -Division of Local Government Services

#### Panelists –

- 1) Jeff Herter - Office of Planning & Development, New York Department of State
- 2) Jayme Breschard Thomann, AICP – Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council

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***Session 2 – Programs to Support Rural Economic Development and Resiliency – Part 1***

Currently 42 of the 57 New York counties outside of New York City, are part of either the Northern Border Regional Commission or the Appalachian Regional Commission. These are federal-state partnership programs that provide financial resources, technical assistance, and research in support of community development approaches that can alleviate economic distress and position communities for future growth. This session will provide an overview of economic development efforts supported by these programs as well as best practices and strategies communities have used to become more economically resilient.

Moderator – Kyle Wilber, Local Government Specialist, New York Department of State -Division of Local Government Services

Panelists –

- 1) Richard Grogan – Executive Director, Northern Border Regional Commission
- 2) Kostas Skordas – Director, Division of Research & Evaluation - Appalachian Regional Commission
- 3) Joe Short – Vice President, Northern Forest Center

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***Session 3 – Local Strategies for Rural Economic Development and Resiliency – Part 2***

“Build it and they will come” was a great strategy for a fictional baseball field in Iowa but communities should embrace and utilize their own unique strengths for economic sustainability. Building upon Part 1 - Programs to Support Rural Economic Development and Resiliency, this session will review the efforts of local governments to promote, leverage and capitalize on existing but often unrecognized economic and community assets to create economic opportunity.

Moderator: Kyle Wilber, Local Government Specialist, New York Department of State -Division of Local Government Services

Panelists –

- 1) Donna Wotton – Executive Director, Ti-Alliance
- 2) Peg Ellsworth - Executive Director, MARK Project Inc.

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