

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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ANDREW M. CUOMO
GOVERNOR
ROSSANA ROSADO
SECRETARY OF STATE

Mr. Tim O'Hearn
County Administrator
County of Schuyler
105 Ninth St., Unit 37
Watkins Glen, NY 14891

April 14, 2017

Dear County Administrator O'Hearn:

The 2017-18 Enacted State Budget includes a new initiative designed to generate property tax savings by facilitating operational collaboration between local governments. The Countywide Shared Services Initiative (Initiative) establishes a Shared Services Panel (Panel) in each county, chaired by the Chief Executive Officer of the County. The Panels will work to help develop, and ultimately approve, Countywide Shared Service Property Tax Savings Plans (Plans), structured around actions to share services; eliminate duplicate services; reduce back-office administrative overhead; and find new opportunities for inter-governmental coordination.

Plans that create actual and demonstrable savings across at least one or more jurisdictions may be eligible for a one-time match of the net savings resulting from the actions.

I share Governor Cuomo's belief that this program will further accelerate our joint quest to reduce property taxes for New Yorkers. The Initiative serves as a logical complement to the existing local government efficiency programs with which you are familiar, and it is designed to help you finalize or deepen the shared services opportunities many of you have already started exploring.

The Department of State (DOS) will provide you with technical assistance and guidance. Beginning Monday, April 17, 2017, please visit www.dos.ny.gov to find information about the program, which will include technical guidance and answers to many questions. This information will be updated regularly as we work with you to implement the Initiative. An option will be available for you to subscribe for regular email updates, which I strongly encourage. Additionally, you may submit questions via email to countywidesharedservices@dos.ny.gov. Depending on the nature of inquiry, DOS will either email direct responses, or provide responses as updates to the website.

DOS is also working to schedule regional informational workshops within the coming weeks. DOS will present the Initiative, provide technical guidance and answer your questions at these workshops. Please visit www.dos.ny.gov for scheduling updates.

I am excited by the opportunity to partner with each of you to find additional pathways leading to government efficiency and reduced property taxes.

Sincerely,



Rossana Rosado
Secretary of State