

**Governor Andrew Cuomo Recommends \$79 Million in Appropriations
To Support Local Government Re-organization and Efficiency Efforts**

In his 2011-2012 Executive Budget, Governor Cuomo has proposed \$35 million for Citizen Empowerment Tax Credits and Re-Organization Empowerment Grants, \$40 million for Local Government Performance Incentive awards and \$4 million for Local Government Efficiency Grants, to assist municipalities continue to implement municipal efficiency efforts. The Local Government Citizens Re-Organization Empowerment Grant Program and Tax Credit will aid local governments moving forward with government re-organization. The Local Government Performance and Efficiency Program will recognize and reward municipalities that have improved government operations to help reduce the local property tax burden. These programs will augment existing activities within the New York State Department of State that provide technical and financial assistance to units of local government for the development of projects that aim to increase community competitiveness through taxpayer savings and improved service delivery efficiency.

Local Government Citizens Re-Organization Empowerment Grant Program

- For the consolidation or dissolution of a Local Government Entity in accordance with Article 17-A of the General Municipal Law.
- The maximum grant award is **\$100,000**:
 - \$50,000 maximum for a study, with \$25,000 in expedited funds for petitioned local governments.
 - \$50,000 maximum for planning or implementation of a municipal re-organization.

Citizen Empowerment Tax Credit

- Additional **annual** aid to local governments, equal to 15% of the combined amount of real property taxes levied by all of the municipalities involved in the consolidation or dissolution, not to exceed **\$1,000,000**
- Consolidation or dissolution must have occurred on or after April 1, 2007.
- At least 70% of such aid shall be used for property tax relief.

Local Government Efficiency Grant Program

- Competitive grants to local governments that demonstrate new opportunities for financial savings and operational efficiencies.
- Shall include an examination of financial savings, return on public investment and management improvements resulting from project implementation.
- The maximum grant is **\$200,000** per municipality; up to a maximum of **\$1,000,000**, with a maximum of \$25,000 per municipality for planning component of project.

Local Government Performance and Efficiency Program

- Recognition for municipalities that have undertaken significant and innovative actions to improve the overall efficiency of governmental operations and have produced quantifiable recurring financial savings reducing the tax burden on residents.
- All municipalities may apply individually or jointly, however if an action was undertaken jointly, municipalities must apply jointly.
- Awards shall only be made to municipalities for actions that were fully implemented after January 1, 2010.
- Awards received pursuant to the program shall be used for general municipal purposes.
- Funding is for a maximum of **\$25 per resident or \$5,000,000**
- Awards will be based on:
 - the amount of current and future savings,
 - the impact of such action upon the municipal property tax levy,
 - the size and complexity of the action, and
 - the ability for the action to be replicated by other municipalities.