



NEW YORK STATE COMMISSION ON
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
EFFICIENCY &
COMPETITIVENESS

Projects To Streamline Government Announced

Approximately 150 of the initiatives submitted by local governments have been selected as model projects for the Commission on Local Government Efficiency and Competitiveness. These initiatives will be receiving extraordinary legal, logistical and technical assistance from state agencies. From the outset, the model projects are informing the work of the Commission and providing the first steps to improving the efficiency and competitiveness of New York's local governments.

Local Government Restructuring

Many specific consolidation ideas were forwarded, including many proposals for dramatic restructuring of local government. These included a study of a potential county dissolution, exploration of regional governance models, and an evaluation of overlapping layers of government. Also under consideration are several city-town and village-town consolidation proposals. Several counties are considering broad consolidation of school districts, fire districts and other special purpose districts.

Smart Growth Planning

Model smart growth initiatives have been suggested in seven counties that would result in better planning and management. These include improved and coordinated land use and transportation planning, requirements regarding adequate public facilities to be in place before building permits are issued, and development of ecological plans to promote tourism.

Regional Consolidation of Functions

Several counties are pursuing regional consolidation of particular functions. One group is exploring options for consolidating procurement/purchasing functions; others are exploring shared jail facilities; and another group is exploring multi-county approaches to weights and measures functions. Shared health boards and consolidated fire training centers are also being explored. Additional services proposed for multi-county consolidation include social service districts and tourism.

Municipal Functional Consolidation

Many of the local initiatives focus on particular services that could be more efficiently or effectively provided at a multi-municipal or county level, including:

- highway services
- employee health insurance
- property assessment
- administration
- water/sewer/stormwater systems
- justice courts
- code enforcement
- tax collection
- emergency dispatch
- technology
- policing
- economic development agencies
- investment

List of Initiatives

A complete list of the initiatives in each of the participating counties, as well as a list of initiatives arranged by type, is available on the Commission website at

www.nyslocalgov.org.

We must work together to implement structural reform at every level of government to make it more flexible and adaptive to change.

- Governor Eliot Spitzer - 2007 State of The State Address
