

**INTEROPERABLE AND EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS GRANT TO AID
COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS**

The Division of Homeland Security and emergency Services (DHSES) has awarded \$102 million in grant funding to 29 counties across the State to help improve first responder communications and to promote a network of regional partnerships that will include State agencies. The awards will help expand radio coverage within and between counties, and improve the connections between their radio systems.

These awards represent the second round of funding to counties through the Statewide Interoperable Communications Grant program, a multi-year competitive grant supported by the State cellular surcharge revenue. The State's 57 counties and the City of New York (which encompasses five additional counties) are eligible to apply to this program.

Counties will use this State assistance to enhance radio coverage and communication interoperability with surrounding jurisdictions. Projects funded involve construction and installation of new equipment at broadcast towers and antenna sites; deploying microwave equipment to provide more reliable transmission between sites and public safety facilities; and implementing gateway technology so that counties can link systems together. These improvements also include the ability to use designated national interoperability channels and other local mutual-aid channels among the various bands of public safety radio spectrum. In addition to investments in equipment, the Grant helps counties to formalize governance rules and operating procedures in a region, and conduct training and exercises for how first responders will communicate among each other when needed.

The counties receiving awards in Round 2 are:

County	Round 2 - Awards
Albany	\$6,000,000.00
Chautauqua	\$6,000,000.00
Chemung	\$6,000,000.00
Clinton	\$2,152,080.00

County	Round 2 - Awards
Cortland	\$6,000,000.00
Delaware	\$3,404,000.00
Erie	\$830,405.00
Essex	\$2,251,758.76
Genesee	\$5,435,095.00
Madison	\$4,194,189.00
Monroe	\$5,468,173.00
Niagara	\$742,164.00
NYC	\$3,543,309.00
Onondaga	\$4,959,000.00
Ontario	\$2,202,885.00
Orange	\$5,998,000.00
Orleans	\$2,000,000.00
Rensselaer	\$5,066,512.08
Rockland	\$5,500,000.00
Schoharie	\$433,500.00
Schuyler	\$4,271,900.00
Steuben	\$3,169,693.00
Suffolk	\$6,000,000.00
Sullivan	\$841,833.00
Tioga	\$2,342,000.00
Tompkins	\$2,854,312.00
Wayne	\$2,036,700.00
Wyoming	\$1,771,236.00
Yates	\$531,255.16
Totals	\$102,000,000

Since the Statewide Interoperable Communications Grant program was established, 49 of the 58 eligible jurisdictions have applied and are actively participating within regional interoperable communications partnerships. With this announcement, a total of 35 counties will now benefit from the grant, with awards totaling \$122 million over the past two years.