

TRANSMITTAL MEMO

To: The Honorable Members of the Board of Legislators

From: Hon. Kenneth W. Jenkins, Westchester County Executive

Date: May 18, 2026

Re: An Act, which adopted, would authorize the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Department of Emergency Services, to enter into a Regional Partnership Agreement with Dutchess County and Putnam County in order to receive funding from the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services under the FY2023 Hazardous Materials Grant Program.

Transmitted herewith for your review and approval is an Act which, if adopted, would authorize the County of Westchester (the “County”), acting by and through its Department of Emergency Services (“Department”), to enter into a Regional Partnership Agreement (“RPA”) with Dutchess County and Putnam County (collectively “Regional Partners”) in order to receive funding from the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (“DHSES”) under the FY2023 Hazardous Materials (“HazMat”) Grant Program. As your Honorable Board is aware, Section 119-o of the New York State General Municipal Law requires your Honorable Board’s approval whenever the County enters into intermunicipal agreements (“IMAs”) with other municipalities which involve shared services or performing services one for the other.

DHSES is awarding One Hundred Twenty-Two Thousand, Five Hundred (\$122,500.00) Dollars to the County and its Regional Partners. A Resolution authorizing the County to enter into this grant agreement has been submitted to the Board of Acquisition and Contract. The HazMat grant funds will be used for HazMat training and exercise, and to purchase equipment and supplies for the County’s HazMat team. In addition, the RPA will promote the development of regional partnerships among the State HazMat community and enhance the standing of the State’s HazMat teams within the Federal Emergency Management Agency typing system.

Funding for this initiative is provided by the federal Department of Homeland Security’s State Homeland Security Program. The term of the RPA will commence upon execution and remain in effect for a period of five (5) years.

Pursuant to the HazMat Grant Program, DHSES will provide funding to the 18 designated Regional HazMat Teams that provide coverage across the State outside of New York City via a non-competitive process. The State has designated the counties of Westchester, Putnam and Dutchess as a Regional Team for the Lower Hudson Valley Region. The County will receive the funds and administer the grant.

It should be noted that this grant opportunity builds on progress made by New York State through the FY2008-FY2022 iterations of the HazMat Grant Program.

For FY2023, the State will provide funds to all 18 regional HazMat Teams that provide coverage across the State outside of New York City via a non-competitive process. The FY2023 HazMat Grant will serve as a resource for regional HazMat Teams to maintain the existing equipment on their WMD Trailer and/or to build new capabilities.

Approval of this legislation will enable the County to strengthen its CBRNE detection, response and decontamination capabilities. Accordingly, I urge passage of the annexed legislation.

**HONORABLE BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
THE COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER, NEW YORK**

Your Committee is in receipt of a communication from the County Executive recommending the approval of an Act which would authorize the County of Westchester (the “County”), acting by and through its Department of Emergency Services (“Department”), to enter into a Regional Partnership Agreement (“RPA”) with Dutchess County and Putnam County (collectively “Regional Partners”) in order to receive funding from the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (“DHSES”) under the FY2023 Hazardous Materials (“HazMat”) Grant Program. As this Honorable Board is aware, Section 119-o of the New York State General Municipal Law requires this Honorable Board’s approval whenever the County enters into intermunicipal agreements (“IMAs”) with other municipalities which involve shared services or performing services one for the other.

Your Committee is advised that DHSES is awarding One Hundred Twenty-Two Thousand, Five Hundred (\$122,500.00) Dollars to the County and its Regional Partners will be used for HazMat training, and to purchase equipment and supplies for the HazMat team. This program will build sustainable Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives (“CBRNE”) detection, response and decontamination capabilities in the region. In addition, the RPA will promote the development of regional partnerships among the State HazMat community and enhance the standing of the State’s HazMat teams within the Federal Emergency Management Agency typing system.

Your Committee is advised that funding for this initiative is provided by the federal Department of Homeland Security’s State Homeland Security Program. The RPA will commence upon execution and remain in effect for a period of five (5) years.

The Department has informed your Committee that pursuant to the HazMat Grant Program, DHSES will provide funding to the 18 designated Regional HazMat Teams that provide coverage across the State outside of New York City via a non-competitive process. The State has designated the counties of Westchester, Putnam and Dutchess as a Regional Team for the Lower Hudson Valley Region. The County will receive the funds and administer the grant.

Your Committee is advised that this grant opportunity builds on progress made by New York State through the FY2008-FY2022 iterations of the HazMat Grant Program.

For FY2023, the State will provide funds to all 18 regional HazMat Teams that provide coverage across the State outside of New York City via a non-competitive process. The FY2023 HazMat Grant will serve as a resource for regional HazMat Teams to maintain the existing equipment on their WMD Trailer and/or to build new capabilities.

The Department of Planning has advised your Committee that based on its review, the authorization of the proposed RPA may be classified as a “Type II” action pursuant the State Environmental Quality Review Act and its implementing regulations, 6 NYCRR Part 617 (“SEQR”). Therefore, no environmental review is required. Your Committee has reviewed the annexed SEQR documentation and concurs with this recommendation.

Your Committee has been advised that a majority of the voting strength of the Board of Legislators is required to adopt the annexed Act. After review and careful consideration, your Committee recommends favorable action upon the proposed legislation.

Dated: _____, 2026
White Plains, New York

COMMITTEE ON

TO: Maria Baratta, Assistant County Attorney
Department of Law

FROM: David S. Kvinge, AICP, RLA, CFM
Assistant Commissioner



DATE: May 6, 2026

SUBJECT: **STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW FOR
REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT FOR
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS GRANT FY2023**

PROJECT/ACTION: Entrance of the County, acting by and through its Department of Emergency Services, into a regional partnership agreement with the counties of Dutchess and Putnam in order to receive grant funding from the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services under the FY2023 Hazardous Materials (HazMat) Grant Program. This funding will be used for HazMat training and exercises and to purchase equipment and supplies for the HazMat teams in order to maintain and/or build chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosives detection, response and decontamination capabilities in the lower Hudson Valley region.

With respect to the State Environmental Quality Review Act and its implementing regulations 6 NYCRR Part 617, the Planning Department recommends that no environmental review is required because the project/action may be classified as a TYPE II action pursuant to section(s):

- **617.5(c)(26):** routine or continuing agency administration and management, not including new programs or major reordering of priorities that may affect the environment;
 - **617.5(c)(31):** purchase or sale of furnishings, equipment or supplies, including surplus government property, other than the following: land, radioactive material, pesticides, herbicides, or other hazardous materials.
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Comments: The County has been partnering with the counties of Putnam and Dutchess for a number of years in order to participate in this grant program.

DSK/cnm

cc: Emily Saltzman, Director of Operations
Paula Friedman, Assistant to the County Executive
Tami Altschiller, Assistant Chief Deputy County Attorney
Susan Spear, Department of Emergency Services
Claudia Maxwell, Principal Environmental Planner

AN ACT authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into a Regional Partnership Agreement with Dutchess County and Putnam County in order to receive funding from the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services under the FY2023 Hazardous Materials Grant Program.

BE IT ENACTED by the County Board of the County of Westchester as follows:

Section 1. The County of Westchester (“County”), acting by and through its Department of Emergency Services, is hereby authorized to enter into a Regional Partnership Agreement (“RPA”) with Dutchess County and Putnam County (collectively “Regional Partners”) in order to receive funding from the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (“DHSES”) under the FY2023 Hazardous Materials Grant Program. DHSES is awarding One Hundred Twenty-Two Thousand, Five Hundred (\$122,500.00) Dollars to the County and its Regional Partners will be used for HazMat training, and to purchase equipment and supplies for the County’s Hazardous Materials team.

§2. The RPA will commence upon execution and remain in effect for a period of five (5) years.

§3. The County Executive or his authorized designee be and hereby is authorized and empowered to execute any and all instruments and to take all action necessary and appropriate to effectuate the purposes hereof.

§4. This Act shall take effect immediately.

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**Regional Partnership Agreement
Between
Westchester County, Putnam County and Dutchess County
For the 2023 HazMat Grant Program**

Parties

The parties to the Regional Partnership Agreement (RPA) are the Counties of Westchester, Putnam and Dutchess.

Purpose

This RPA is intended to build regional WMD Hazardous Material Response and Decontamination Capabilities by:

- Setting forth the responsibilities of the HazMat Grant Program recipients: and
- Ensuring that HazMat Grant Program recipients work together to implement the projects, goals and objectives identified in their jointly-submitted HazMat Grant Program application under the NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) 2023 HazMat Grant Program Request for Application (RFA).

Definitions

The term **Submitting Partner** refers to the direct recipient of the FY2023 HazMat Grant Program award, who shall serve as fiduciary agent for the award. (See below for the specific responsibilities of the Submitting Partner.)

The term **Participating Partner** refers to the other entity or entities that joined with the submitting partner in applying for funding through the FY2023 HazMat Grant Program.

General Responsibilities of the Submitting Partner (SP)

The SP is to act as the principal point of contact with DHSES for application, management, and administration of the FY2023 HazMat Grant Program.

The SP is responsible for submitting all required fiscal reporting documents to DHSES and for maintaining all appropriate records pertaining to this grant program. Specific details related to fiscal reporting and records maintenance are outlined in DHSES's contract with the SP for the FY2023 HazMat Grant Program.

The SP is required to use the funds received through the FY2023 HazMat Grant Program in coordination with the Participating Partners, and in a manner that is consistent with their application.

General Responsibilities of the Participating Partner(s) (PP)

The PP(s) are responsible for coordinating with the SP to implement all projects funded under the FY2023 HazMat Grant Program.

Project-Specific Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the SP and each PP for each of the projects funded under the FY2023 HazMat Grant Program are outlined below:

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Project

1. Equipment specifications and purchase
2. Equipment inventory survey.
3. Training and Exercise Support

Responsibilities of Submitting Partner

1. Draft specifications and purchase HazMat equipment (1) for Westchester County Department of Emergency Services HazMat Response Team, (2) Putnam County Emergency Services HazMat Team and (3) Dutchess County Emergency Response HazMat Division. Know all terms of equipment warranty and maintenance contract.
2. Westchester County Department of Emergency Services to take delivery of equipment, perform repair/maintenance as required under the warranty and maintenance contract and distribute to regional partners having obtained an equipment receipt from partners and established an equipment inventory process to be used by regional partners
3. Continue to train with regional partners; establish a training & exercise schedule; document meetings, training and exercises/drills.
4. The County of Westchester will maintain all right, title and interest to the HazMat equipment.

Responsibilities of each Participating Partner

1. Putnam County Emergency Services HazMat Team and Dutchess County Emergency Response HazMat Division to have input in equipment selection.
2. Putnam County Emergency Services HazMat Team and Dutchess County Emergency Response HazMat Division to take delivery of HazMat equipment and sign a receipt form to document that equipment was received and in good working order. Any malfunction or damage to the equipment will be reported to the Westchester County Department of Emergency Services HazMat Team leader immediately.
3. Putnam County Emergency Services HazMat Team and Dutchess County Emergency Response HazMat Division will assist in the design of training courses and exercises.
4. While Westchester County will properly maintain the field detection units, the individual counties will sustain the Chemical Protective Clothing (CPC) that will be distributed among the three teams.

Insurance and Indemnification

Each Participating Partner agrees to procure and maintain insurance naming the County of Westchester as additional insured, as provided and described in Schedule "A", entitled "Standard Insurance Provisions", which is attached hereto and made a part hereof. In addition to, and not in limitation of the insurance provisions contained in Schedule "A", each Participating Partner agrees:

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(a) that except for the amount, if any, of damage contributed to, caused by, or resulting from the sole negligence of the County of Westchester, the Participating Partners shall indemnify and hold harmless the County of Westchester, its officers, elected officials, employees and agents from and against any and all liability, damage, claims, demands, costs, judgments, fees, attorney's fees or loss arising directly or indirectly out of the possession and/or use, performance or failure to perform hereunder by the Participating Partners or third parties under the direction or control of the Participating Partners; and

(b) to provide defense for and defend, at their sole expense, any and all claims, demands or causes of action directly or indirectly arising out of this Agreement and to bear all other costs and expenses related thereto.

(c) In the event the Participating Partners do not provide the above defense and indemnification to the County, and such refusal or denial to provide the above defense and indemnification is found to be in breach of this provision, then the Participating Partners shall reimburse the County's reasonable attorney's fees incurred in connection with the defense of any action, and in connection with enforcing this provision of the Agreement.

Points of Contact

Submitting Partner: Westchester County Department of Emergency Services _____

Primary Contact: Doug Stiller (914)-231-1689 dksc@westchestercountyny.gov

Secondary Contact: Christopher Johnson (914) 231-1674 caja@westchestercountyny.gov

Participating Partner: Putnam County Bureau of Emergency Services

Primary Contact: James G. Oster (845) 808-4000 James.Oster@putnamcountyny.gov

Secondary Contact: Vincent Fanelli (845) 808-4000 Vincent.Fanelli@putnamcountyny.gov

Participating Partner: Dutchess County

Primary Contact: David J. Alfonso (845) 486-2080 DAlfonso@dutchessny.gov

Secondary Contact: William Beale (845) 486-2080 Wbeale@dutchessny.gov

Effective Date

The RPA shall commence upon execution and shall remain in effect for five (5) years.

Applicable Law

Each party shall comply, at its own expense, with the provisions of all applicable federal, state and local laws, ordinances, directives, rules or regulations, including without limitation, the New York State Labor Law and Worker's Compensation Law and all amendments and additions thereto.

Modification

This RPA may be modified upon the signed consent of all the parties to the agreement.

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement on the day and year first above written.

THE COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

By: _____

PUTNAM COUNTY

By: _____

DUTCHESS COUNTY

By: _____

Approved by the Westchester County Board of Legislators on _____, 2026
by Act No. - _____

Approved:

Assistant County Attorney
The County of Westchester

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

STATE OF NEW YORK)
) ss.:
COUNTY OF DUTCHESS)

On the _____ day of _____ in the year 2026 before me, the undersigned, personally appeared _____, personally known to me or proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the individual(s) whose name(s) is (are) subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he/she/they executed the same in his/her/their capacity(ies) as _____, and that by his/her/their signature(s) on the instrument, the individual(s), or the person upon behalf of which the individual(s) acted, executed the instrument.

Date: _____

Notary Public

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SCHEDULE "A "

STANDARD INSURANCE PROVISIONS
(MUNICIPALITY)

1. Prior to commencing work, and throughout the term of the Agreement, the Municipality shall obtain at its own cost and expense the required insurance as delineated below from insurance companies licensed in the State of New York, carrying a Best's financial rating of A or better. Municipality shall provide evidence of such insurance to the County of Westchester ("County"), either by providing a copy of policies and/or certificates as may be required and approved by the Director of Risk Management of the County ("Director"). The policies or certificates thereof shall provide that ten (10) days prior to cancellation or material change in the policy, notices of same shall be given to the Director either by overnight mail or personal delivery for all of the following stated insurance policies. All notices shall name the Municipality and identify the Agreement.

If at any time any of the policies required herein shall be or become unsatisfactory to the Director, as to form or substance, or if a company issuing any such policy shall be or become unsatisfactory to the Director, the Municipality shall upon notice to that effect from the County, promptly obtain a new policy, and submit the policy or the certificate as requested by the Director to the Office of Risk Management of the County for approval by the Director. Upon failure of the Municipality to furnish, deliver and maintain such insurance, the Agreement, at the election of the County, may be declared suspended, discontinued or terminated.

Failure of the Municipality to take out, maintain, or the taking out or maintenance of any required insurance, shall not relieve the Municipality from any liability under the Agreement, nor shall the insurance requirements be construed to conflict with or otherwise limit the contractual obligations of the Municipality concerning indemnification.

All property losses shall be made payable to the "County of Westchester" and adjusted with the appropriate County personnel.

In the event that claims, for which the County may be liable, in excess of the insured amounts provided herein are filed by reason of Municipality's negligent acts or omissions under the Agreement or by virtue of the provisions of the labor law or other statute or any other reason, the amount of excess of such claims or any portion thereof, may be withheld from payment due or to become due the Municipality until such time as the Municipality shall furnish such additional security covering such claims in form satisfactory to the Director.

In the event of any loss, if the Municipality maintains broader coverage and/or higher limits than the minimums identified herein, the County shall be entitled to the broader coverage and/or higher limits maintained by the Municipality. Any available

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insurance proceeds in excess of the specified minimum limits of insurance and coverage shall be available to the County.

2 The Municipality shall provide proof of the following coverage (if additional coverage is required for a specific agreement, those requirements will be described in the Agreement):

- a) Workers' Compensation and Employer's Liability. Certificate form C-105.2 or State Fund Insurance Company form U-26.3 is required for proof of compliance with the New York State Workers' Compensation Law. State Workers' Compensation Board form DB-120.1 is required for proof of compliance with the New York State Disability Benefits Law. Location of operation shall be "All locations in Westchester County, New York."

Where an applicant claims to not be required to carry either a Workers' Compensation Policy or Disability Benefits Policy, or both, the employer must complete NYS form CE-200, available to download at: <http://www.wcb.ny.gov>.

If the employer is self-insured for Workers' Compensation, he/she should present a certificate from the New York State Worker's Compensation Board evidencing that fact (Either SI-12, Certificate of Workers' Compensation Self-Insurance, or GSI-105.2, Certificate of Participation in Workers' Compensation Group Self-Insurance).

- b) Commercial General Liability Insurance with a combined single limit of \$1,000,000 (c.s.1) per occurrence and a \$2,000,000 aggregate limit naming the "County of Westchester" as an additional insured on a primary and non-contributory basis. This insurance shall include the following coverages:
 - i. Premises - Operations.
 - ii. Broad Form Contractual.
 - iii. Independent Contractor and Sub-Contractor.
 - iv. Products and Completed Operations.
- c) Commercial Umbrella/Excess Insurance: \$2,000,000 each Occurrence and Aggregate naming the "County of Westchester" as additional insured, written on a "follow the form" basis.

NOTE: Additional insured status shall be provided by standard or other endorsement that extends coverage to the County of Westchester for both on-going and completed operations.

- d) Automobile Liability Insurance with a minimum limit of liability per occurrence of \$1,000,000 for bodily injury and a minimum limit of \$100,000 per occurrence for property damage or a combined single limit of \$1,000,000 unless otherwise indicated in the contract specifications. This insurance shall include for bodily injury and property damage the following coverages and name the "County of Westchester" as additional insured:

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- (i) Owned automobiles.
- (ii) Hired automobiles.
- (iii) Non-owned automobiles.

3. All policies of the Municipality shall be endorsed to contain the following clauses:

(a) Insurers shall have no right to recovery or subrogation against the County (including its employees and other agents and agencies), it being the intention of the parties that the insurance policies so effected shall protect both parties and be primary coverage for any and all losses covered by the above-described insurance.

(b) The clause "other insurance provisions" in a policy in which the County is named as an insured, shall not apply to the County.

(c) The insurance companies issuing the policy or policies shall have no recourse against the County (including its agents and agencies as aforesaid) for payment of any premiums or for assessments under any form of policy.

(d) Any and all deductibles in the above described insurance policies shall be assumed by and be for the account of, and at the sole risk of, the Municipality.