

NEWS:



Edward A. Diana
Orange County Executive

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, March 22, 2013

Orange County Awarded Almost \$6 million from NYS Division of Homeland Security *Funds will be used to improve first responder radio coverage*

(Goshen, N.Y.) – Orange County Executive Edward A. Diana and Emergency Services Commissioner Walter C. Koury today announced that the County has been awarded a \$5,998,000 grant from the New York State Division of Homeland Security, Office of Interoperable and Emergency Communications. This funding is designated from the Round 2 Statewide Interoperable Communications Grant (SICG), of which there is no cost share associated to the County.



“These funds will be used to upgrade Orange County’s communication infrastructure,” said County Executive Diana. “This will improve the County’s public safety capabilities helping us keep residents safer.”

These upgrades will include additional tower sites, a new simulcast microwave system, and connectivity with neighboring counties via the National Emergency Channels. These improvements will enhance emergency communications in Orange County by reducing dead spots, improving paging coverage for Fire and EMS First Responders - increasing portable coverage, and providing multi-county communications capabilities in the event of a large multi-county emergency.

“The \$5.9 million dollars awarded by the state provides us with a tremendous opportunity to work towards improving both intra-county and inter-county communications between emergency responders and our 911 Center for both day-to-day operations, as well as during any large-scale disaster,” said Commissioner Koury.

“The basis for a good communications system is a solid foundation,” said Allen J. Wierzbicki, Deputy Commissioner Orange County Emergency 911. “These infrastructure improvements will provide a reliable and stable foundation in which Orange County can continue to build on. It will also provide for our communications needs well into the future.”

For more information, please contact the Orange County Department of Emergency Services at (845) 615-0565 or at www.orangecountygov.com

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