

## **New York State Shared Services Initiative Matching Funds Grant Application/Process**

Guidelines for the match application are not available as of April 2018 and there is not yet an anticipated date for their release. The Department of State will develop an application, approved by the State Budget Director, for counties to apply for State funds to match net savings achieved on each new Shared Services Plan action or proposal that is implemented in accordance with the provisions and timelines in the Shared Services Law (matching funds). The application will be made available on the Department of State website and the DOS will send out a notice to all subscribers to its Shared Services website notifying them of the availability of the application. The application will detail required elements necessary to apply for the matching funds. As part of the application for this funding the local governments that are participating in the Shared Services Plan shall propose the allocation of such state matching funds among the parties to the Plan. The law does not contain any restrictions on how matching funds may be used. However, the law directs that “each county and all of the local governments within the county that are part of any action to be implemented as part of the approved plan must collectively apply for the matching funding and agree on the distribution and use of any matching funding in order to qualify for matching funding.” The Plan must demonstrate with the best available information that the Plan will lead to a reduction in property taxes or a reduction in the growth of property taxes in order to be eligible for matching funds.

To qualify for a one-time match, a shared service proposal must include the participation of two or more entities that are a core Panel member (county, cities, towns, villages) or eligible to be an optional Panel member (school district, BOCES, fire district, or special improvement district) regardless of whether the optional member has been invited by the CEO to be a Panel member. Entities that are not core or optional members may participate in the shared service proposal, but any savings that accrue to such entity are not eligible for a state match. Savings that are realized by core or optional Panel members as a result of the new shared service activity may be eligible for a match. In order for such a shared service proposal to qualify for matching funds the proposal must be included within a shared services plan submitted by the CEO of their county and approved by the Shared Services Panel.

For each county, new shared services actions not included in a previously approved and submitted plan, may be eligible for funding to match savings from such action, subject to available appropriation. Savings that are actually and demonstrably realized by the participating local governments are eligible for matching funding. For actions that are part of an approved plan transmitted to the secretary of state, savings achieved from January 1 through December 31 from new actions implemented on or after January 1 through December 31 of the year immediately following an approved and transmitted plan may be eligible for matching funding. Only net savings between local governments for each action would be eligible for matching funding. Savings from internal efficiencies or any other action taken by a local government without the participation of another local government are not eligible for matching funding. Each county and all of the local governments within the county that are part of any action to be implemented as part of an approved plan must collectively apply for the matching funding and agree on the distribution and use of any matching funding in order to qualify for matching funding.

***For more information regarding Orange County’s Shared Services Plan please visit:***

***<https://www.orangecountygov.com/1448/Shared-Services> or contact Nicole Andersen, OC Director of Grants (845) 291-2795 [nandersen@orangecountygov.com](mailto:nandersen@orangecountygov.com) or David Church, OC Commissioner of Planning (845) 615-3840.***