



## COUNTY OF DUTCHESS

Marcus J. Molinaro  
*County Executive*

December 6, 2022

Secretary Robert J. Rodriguez  
NYS Department of State  
One Commerce Plaza  
Albany, NY 12231-0001

Dear Secretary Rodriguez:

Dutchess County Government has long been a leader in shared service and consolidation efforts, having reduced the size of county government over several years and cutting the county property tax levy each year for the last nine years. Key in those efforts has been the Municipal Innovation Grant Program - specifically designed to incentivize municipalities to share services, evaluate consolidation opportunities, establish a regional delivery of services, and implement other efficiencies. Since 2013, County Executive Marcus Molinaro and the Dutchess County Legislature have allocated millions in grants through the Municipal Innovation Grant Program, funding more than 162 projects.

In 2017, the State mandated County governments participation in its' County-Wide Shared Services Initiative (CWSSI). The CWSSI procedures were labor intensive and included planning panel meetings, document preparation, reviews, and presentations. The County carefully followed all procedures, and we were told by state officials, on multiple occasions throughout the process, that by formalizing both our current and planned shared services programs through a contract process, we would receive state funding reimbursement for the savings match. The County spent considerable time and effort to meet the State's requirements and carefully submitted through the mandated filing method. Since submission, the State has denied 88% of claims for savings match, despite assurances of funding.

Although the County believes this program was implemented with good intentions by Legislators, based on the amount of work and time required by the County, and in considering the number of submissions denied by the State, it is not in the best interest of Dutchess County to continue with this process. Therefore, the County will not be submitting a plan in 2022. The County will, however, continue our ongoing efforts to share services with municipalities and reduce overall tax burden as we have in the past nine consecutive years.

Sincerely,

Marcus J. Molinaro  
Dutchess County Executive