



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Terrence Murphy

Senator Murphy announces more than \$1.8 million in emergency communications grants for the Hudson Valley

TERRENCE MURPHY March 30, 2017

| ISSUE: **GRANTS, FIRST RESPONDERS, INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS, HOMELAND SECURITY**



ALBANY, NY - Senator Terrence Murphy announced today that Westchester, Putnam and Dutchess counties will receive \$1,842,267 in funds to upgrade critical technology and improve emergency communications systems within the 40th Senate District. Westchester County was awarded \$677,239; Putnam County will receive \$482, 829 and Dutchess County will get \$682,199.

The funding will enable local governments to expand their ability to communicate, exchange valuable data, and streamline information through their systems to enhance collaboration and assist first responders.

"As a former EMT, I know when someone's life is in imminent danger, every second is critical," Senator Murphy said. "Our first responders have the daunting task of protecting our communities. By upgrading local technology and communications we can maximize their preparedness, enhance their efficiency and help them identify quick, innovative solutions that will save more lives."

The State Interoperable Communications Grant, which is administered by the state Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, has awarded more than \$275 million in five rounds to 57 counties and New York City.

In addition, 10 regional partnerships or consortiums have been formed as a result of this grant program. This represents an increase in participation of more than 50 percent since the program was launched in 2010.

New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services Commissioner John P. Melville said, "It is vital to emergency response to continually upgrade and enhance communications systems including 911 technologies. This grant funding allows counties and New York City to continue to make improvements to their emergency communications systems to help protect New Yorkers."

Senator Thomas Croci, Chair of the Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs said, "Our residents count on our first responders having seamless communication during an emergency situation. This funding is essential for counties to improve emergency response and quickly respond to calls for help when minutes count."