



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Elijah Reichlin-Melnick

Senators Skoufis and Reichlin-Melnick Applaud \$773K Funding for Improved Emergency Communications

ELIJAH REICHLIN-MELNICK October 1, 2021

Senators James Skoufis (D-Newburgh) and Elijah Reichlin-Melnick (D-Nanuet) touted \$772,788 in state funding awarded to Rockland County for improved operability of emergency communications. The funding will enable local governments to expand communication, exchange valuable data, and streamline information to better equip first responders during emergencies.

"Our increased exposure to major weather events such as Superstorm Ida has a lot of residents wondering what local municipalities can do to stay connected and ahead of the game," said **Senator Skoufis**. "Local governments and their residents shouldn't have to fend for themselves. This critical funding will provide Rockland County with an informational lifeline when it counts, allowing emergency service departments to better collaborate, communicate, and save lives."

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In an emergency situation, residents need to know that local police, fire, EMS, and governments are in direct and constant communication with each other to ensure they are in control of the situation," said **Senator Reichlin-Melnick**. "This three-quarters of a million dollars in funding will ensure that emergency service providers are collaborating efficiently and effectively - because in an emergency situation, seconds count."

The State Interoperable Communications Grant, administered by the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, has awarded \$472 million over nine rounds since December 2011. Eligible counties can use the funding for a variety of functions relating to improved capability, operating procedures, communications systems, and infrastructure.

Senators Skoufis and Reichlin-Melnick remain committed to supplying emergency service providers and local municipalities with the tools they need to keep residents safe and healthy.