

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
BROOME COUNTY – VARIOUS FUNCTIONS

Community Profiles

Broome County is situated in the eastern part of the Finger Lakes region of New York State. The county and its principal municipality, the City of Binghamton, are of average size and have slightly higher than average revenues from federal and state aid, a sign of economic distress:

2005	Broome County	NYS County Average¹	City of Binghamton	NYS City Average¹
Population	220,536	192,424	47,380	37,146
Revenue from State and Federal Aid	28.1%	26.1%	27.8%	24.9%

¹ Excludes New York City

Background

Early in 1990, the Broome County Executive, with cooperation from the Chair of the County Legislature, proposed the creation of the Partnership Council to initiate a serious countywide effort to reduce the burden of government through shared services, consolidation of services and governments and other strategies that might be identified. The Council made the following recommendations:

1. A Council of Governments should be formed to forge agreements for the restructuring and consolidation of local government.
2. Municipalities should independently consider government consolidation and determine whether dissolution or merger is a viable option. If full consolidation is not possible, the municipalities should examine the feasibility of service consolidation.
3. The County legislature should consider creating a fund from sales tax revenues for promoting the consolidation of municipal services.
4. A county-wide capital budgeting review process should be created to review capital needs and eliminate duplicate spending.
5. School boards should address consolidation options by considering the merger of school districts and examining the feasibility of centralized services.

Outcome

Broome County did form a Council of Governments as recommended; however, no municipal consolidations have been proposed and nor has a consolidation fund or county-wide budget review been created. Although no school districts have been merged, some administrative services have been centralized.