

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE**  
**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**  
**TOWN OF LANCASTER – VARIOUS FUNCTIONS**

Community Profiles

The Town of Lancaster and the Villages of Lancaster and Depew are located in Erie County in the Western region of New York State. The Town and Villages are larger than average and obtain lower than average revenues from federal and state aid, signaling a less economically distressed condition than their peers.

<b>2005</b>	<b>Town of Lancaster</b>	<b>NYS Town Average</b>	<b>Village of Lancaster</b>	<b>Village of Depew</b>	<b>NYS Village Average</b>
<b>Population</b>	39,019	9,326	11,188	16,629	3,385
<b>Revenue from State and Federal Aid</b>	6.5%	14.2%	4.4%	6.7%	10.1%

Background

The three municipalities have a long history of working together to address a variety of issues across a range of public services. This case study outlines the range of municipal cooperative arrangements between these governments from approximately the mid-1990's to the present in the following functional areas:

- **General Government Services:** Including a joint archival facility for storing and retrieving municipal records, merger of building inspections' offices, merger of assessing services, a cooperative agreement to provide assessing services, and sharing of dog control services.
- **Parks and Recreation:** Summer youth recreation program involving a lease to use a portion of municipally-owned property for the purpose of operating an organized playground and recreation program each summer season.
- **Public Safety:** Consolidation of police departments, involving a one-time payment to compensate one municipality for the costs associated with the transfer of its police functions to the other municipality, and referral agreement between Youth Court Programs.
- **Infrastructure:** Streetscape revitalization project including contribution of replacement bridge infrastructure and improvements to town hall.

Outcome

The consolidation of the two police departments was expected to save taxpayers between \$730,000 and \$750,000 annually, based upon a reduction in personnel. No formal assessment mechanism was established at the time of the proposed consolidation Agreement to review the outcomes of the merger and/or measure results against the expectations.