



## Homeland Security and Emergency Services

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### **DIVISION OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES TEAM RECEIVES PUBLIC SERVICE EXCELLENCE AWARD**

*Agency recognized for its work on program to help state and local governments prepare for and respond to emergencies and disasters*

The New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) today announced that a project team within the agency was awarded the Public Service Excellence Award by the State Academy for Public Administration (SAPA) for the second consecutive year. The 2015 prize was awarded to DHSES for its work on the County Emergency Preparedness Assessment (CEPA) program, an initiative that resulted from a challenge by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to create a more systematic way to understand local preparedness and capability gaps. CEPA helps state and local stakeholders assess risk, capabilities, and the potential need for support and resources during emergencies or disasters.

**DHSES Commissioner John P. Melville** said, "It has never been so important to ensure that New Yorkers are ready when disasters strike. CEPA is helping the state to communicate, coordinate, and strengthen relationships with our local partners, and helping to collect valuable information about their needs so that the state is ready to help before emergencies happen. I am proud of our team's commitment to the health, safety, and preparedness of our citizens, and congratulate them on this prestigious award."

DHSES has worked with the [New York State Emergency Management Association](#) and other local stakeholders to develop the CEPA program, which helps the state better understand local preparedness levels and support local disaster preparedness and response efforts. As part of the program, State and local subject-matter experts use a structured process to discuss and analyze local hazard and capability information and potential resource gaps so that leaders can make more informed decisions on how to prepare for and respond to the threats and hazards facing New York State.

The annual Public Service Excellence Award is given to individuals and teams that have made an outstanding public service contribution. This year, two individuals and two teams were recognized. In 2014, DHSES received the award for its work on the New York State Homeland Security Strategy.

#### About DHSES

The [Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services \(DHSES\)](#) and its four offices -- Counter Terrorism, Emergency Management, Fire Prevention and Control, and Interoperable and Emergency Communications -- provide leadership, coordination and support for efforts to

prevent, protect against, prepare for, respond to, and recover from terrorism and other man-made and natural disasters, threats, fires and other emergencies. For more information, visit the [DHSES Facebook page](#), follow [@NYSDHSES on Twitter](#), or visit [dhses.ny.gov](http://dhses.ny.gov).

#### About SAPA

The [State Academy for Public Administration \(SAPA\)](#), established in 1974, is an organization of government professionals and academics that is dedicated to engaging the skills of senior leaders to advance public service in New York State. Its programs include the “Candid Conversations” programs with speakers on a variety of public service-related topics, the Public Service Excellence Awards, and cooperative efforts with partner organizations such as the [American Society for Public Administration](#), the [Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy at the University at Albany](#), and the [State University of New York’s Rockefeller Institute of Government](#).

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