



News from Livingston County, N.Y.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Livingston County Supports Veteran Initiative Proposals in Governor's State of the State Address

GENESEO, N.Y., Jan. 11, 2022 – Livingston County is in support of veteran-focused initiatives as currently proposed in New York State Governor Kathy Hochul's 2022 [State of the State](#) address.

These include expanding the Joseph P. Dwyer Peer-to-Peer Veterans' Support Program statewide, supporting the military-to-civilian transition pathway, and extending and enhancing tax credits for hiring veterans. The proposed expansion of these veteran programs in New York State is a direct result of the advocacy of organizations like the New York State Association of Counties and programs such as Operation Green Light, said Livingston County Veteran Services Director Jason Skinner.

"Currently, only about one-third of our state has funding for Dwyer programs for veterans," said Skinner. "Expanding this program will bring life-saving peer-to-peer support resources directly to our veteran population here in Livingston County."

Skinner hopes to see the Joseph P. Dwyer Peer-to-Peer Veterans' Support Program's expansion remain autonomous when the Governor submits her Executive Budget Proposal in late January. When it was created in 2012, the program was designed to be customizable to meet the needs of each unique population. The counties should remain able to create and administer their own programs locally, said Skinner.

"We feel that future actions on the part of the state should not negatively impact those current Dwyer programs or strain their capacity in any way," continued Skinner. "We are anticipating more information in the coming weeks leading up to the Executive Budget proposal. The distribution plan on funds to counties is still being negotiated by me, state leadership and others. We know that this is a process and are excited at the possibilities of expanding equity in services to veterans statewide."

About Livingston County:

Founded in 1821, Livingston County, N.Y., is comprised of more than 61,000 residents in 17 towns located across 640 square miles of the Finger Lakes region.

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