
HUDSON VALLEY PATTERN FOR PROGRESS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 28, 2011

CONTACT: Chris Ferrero, VP External Affairs
(845) 565-4900
cferrero@pfprogress.org

PATTERN FOR PROGRESS RELEASES STUDY BRIEF ON SHARED SERVICES IN DUTCHESS COUNTY

Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress has released a discussion brief summarizing the government efficiency study initiated by the Dutchess County Supervisors and Mayors Association. "Examining Shared Services Potential in Dutchess County" offers insights from surveys and interviews of chief elected officials from all of the county's 30 municipal governments, rating their interest in 20 categories of shared services ranging from police and highway to tax assessment and cable.

The report sets the stage with data showing a slowdown in county growth. Recently released census figures, which may seem to indicate growth in Dutchess from 2000 to 2010, don't tell the real story, according to Jonathan Drapkin, president and CEO of Pattern. The period of rapid growth in the region ended in 2005, and since then, overall population growth, as well as indicators such as birth rates and residential building permits, have shown marked decline. "This slowdown in growth, coupled with reductions in federal and state revenues, should encourage municipalities to look for opportunities to change the way public services are delivered," Drapkin said.

"While funding for shared and consolidated services has been elusive, the economic pressures on local governments are not elusive at all," said Jon Wagner, Town of LaGrange supervisor and head of the Dutchess Supervisors and Mayors Association. "This study opens the door to many potential collaborations and opportunities to better serve our taxpayers. It's definitely a step in the right direction."

"Pattern's board of directors has focused on shared services and consolidation, when appropriate, as one of the key elements needed to revitalize our communities," said Michael Turturro of Vanacore, DeBenedictus, DiGiovanni & Weddell, who heads Pattern's Task Force on Government Efficiency. "I encourage everyone to read our recently released white paper to learn more about Pattern's commitment."

Both the Dutchess discussion brief, and the white paper, "Government Efficiency in the Hudson Valley: Creating a Positive Approach to Change" – are available online at www.Pattern-for-Progress.org or by calling Pattern at 845-565-4900.

Founded in 1965 by business, academic and civic leaders, and based in Newburgh, NY, Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress is a not-for-profit policy, research, planning, and advocacy organization that promotes regional, balanced and sustainable solutions for issues that enhance the growth and vitality of the Hudson Valley.

#

PDF OF DISCUSSION BRIEF IS ATTACHED