

Governor's Center for Local Government Services Public Safety

Providing support to your municipality

July 2026



Our Team



We are part of the Governor's Center for Local Government Services (GCLGS) providing a full range of vital programs, training and services to municipal governments and to provide support at the local level, emergency services are one of them.

Emergency Services in PA

Legislation

Local municipalities are responsible for ensuring emergency services.

Third-Class City Code, Section 2403

69. Emergency Services.--(a) The city shall be responsible for ensuring that fire and emergency medical services are provided within the city

Borough Code, Section 1202

(56)To ensure that fire and emergency medical services are provided within the borough by the means and to the extent determined by the borough

First-Class Township Code Section 1502.52

(a) The township shall be responsible for ensuring that fire and emergency medical services are provided within the township

Second-Class Township Code Section 1553

(a) The township shall be responsible for ensuring that fire and emergency medical services are provided within the township

Local Government in PA

1,644 Rural
Municipalities

2.9 million
Rural Population (22%)



13
million
Total Population



911 Urban
Municipalities
10.1 million
Urban Population (78%)

67
Counties

500
School Districts

64
County Planning
Commissions

1,612
Municipal Planning
Commissions

106
Home Rule
Jurisdictions

PA Municipalities by Type



67

Counties

2,555

Total Municipalities



1

each of

1st Class City
2nd Class City
2nd Class A City
Town

953

Boroughs

53

3rd Class
Cities

93

1st Class
Townships

1,452

2nd Class
Townships

Police Services

Pennsylvania has **more police departments than any other state** in the United States.

We have **18,665 full-time officers** and **1,955 part-time officers** working in police services.



Police Departments in PA

Traditional	881
Consolidated	146
Contractual	225
Rely on State Police.	1,303
TOTAL MUNICIPALITIES . . .	2,555

Fire Services

In the early 1970's there were an estimated **350,000 volunteer firefighters**.

Today, we still rely heavily on volunteer fire services, but now only have an estimated **30,000 volunteer firefighters**.



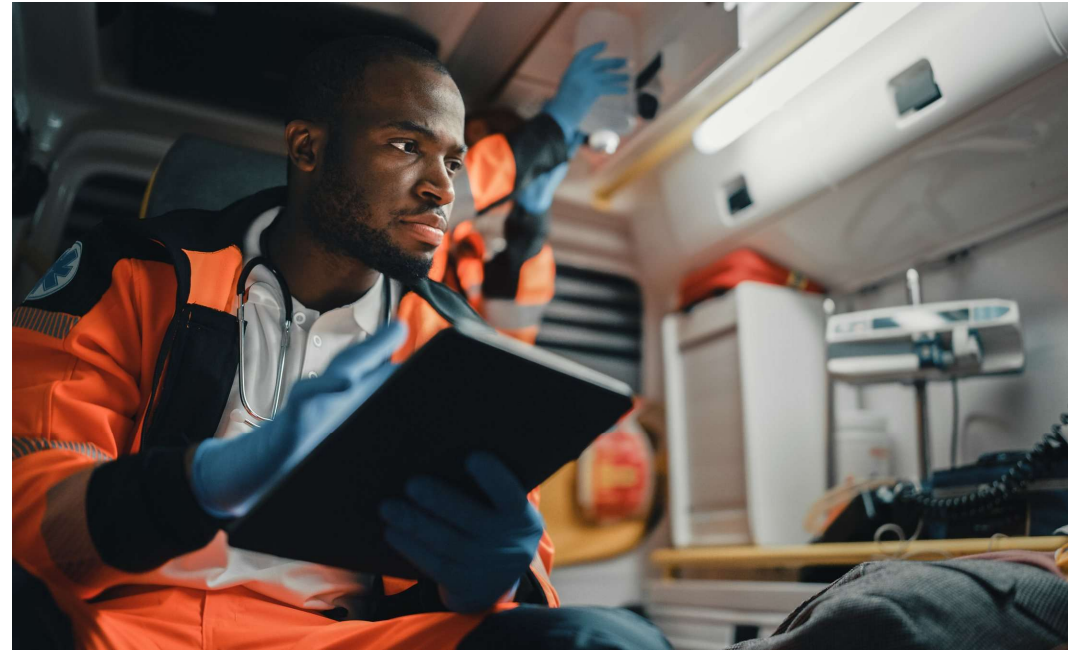
Fire Departments in PA

Paid	32
Paid/Volunteer	120
Volunteer	1,680
TOTAL	1,832

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

EMS responds to **2.5 million service calls every year** — including 14,115 calls initiated by calls to 911.

Sustainability is a concern. In 2021 alone, there were 4,000 EMS professionals that did not renew their certifications.



EMS Departments in PA

EMS Agencies.	1,205
EMS Professionals. ...	46,057

How Can We Help?

Emergency Services Program

Police Services & Regionalization

Our network of peer consultants work with municipalities to regionalize and support police services. **dced.pa.gov/police**

Fire Services & Emergency Medical Services

We help municipalities with technical and financial assistance to support regionalization of fire and emergency services. **dced.pa.gov/fire**

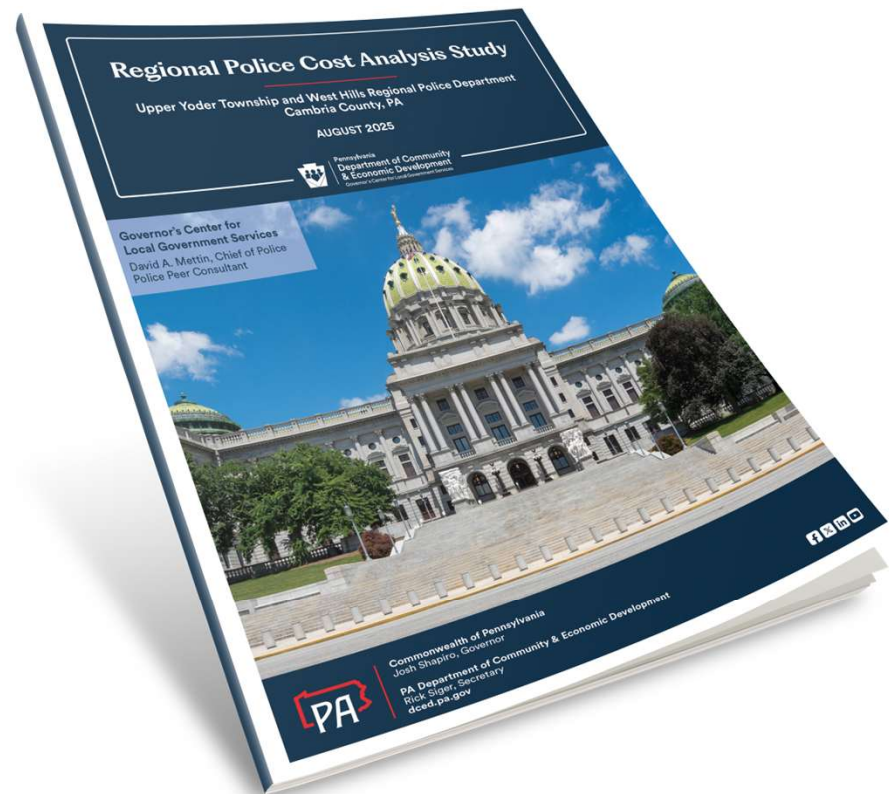


Public Safety Program

Police Services

We offer tailored support, including:

- Advisory Reports
 - Operations
 - Cost / Staffing Analysis
 - Regionalization Studies
 - Technical Support
 - Implementation Support



Public Safety Program

Fire & EMS Services

Workshops and Advisory Reports

- Fire Apparatus and Equipment
- Fire Services Operations/Management
- Merger Feasibility
- Consolidation Feasibility
- Regional Feasibility
- Technical Assistance (facilitation, sample documents, etc.)
- Implementation Support



Peer Assistance Program

The Peer Assistance Program is offered at no-cost to the municipality. This can be in the form of direct technical assistance or an advisory report.

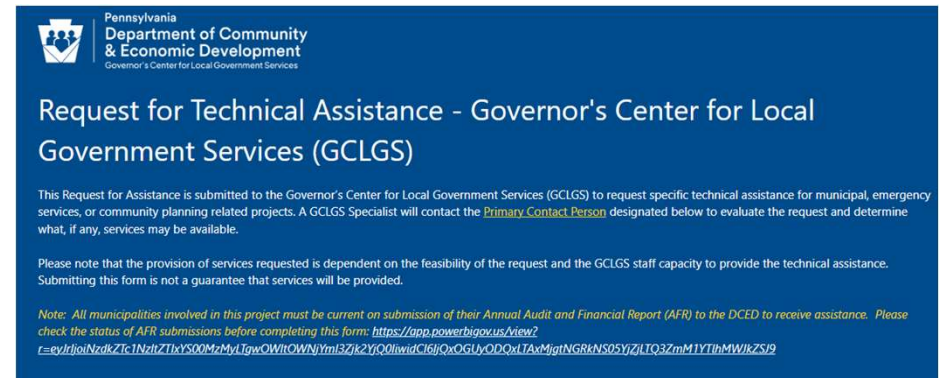
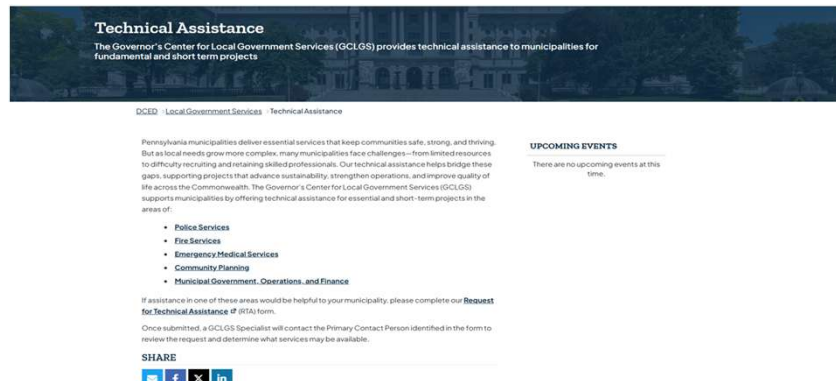
Peer Advisors have extensive experience in the areas of police, fire, emergency medical services, and intergovernmental cooperation.



Requesting Assistance

Interested?

- All interested parties must meet with municipal officials to discuss
 - All municipal participants must be in compliance with the Annual Financial Review AFR, submission.
- Municipal officials request project through DCED's [Request for Technical Assistance Portal](#)



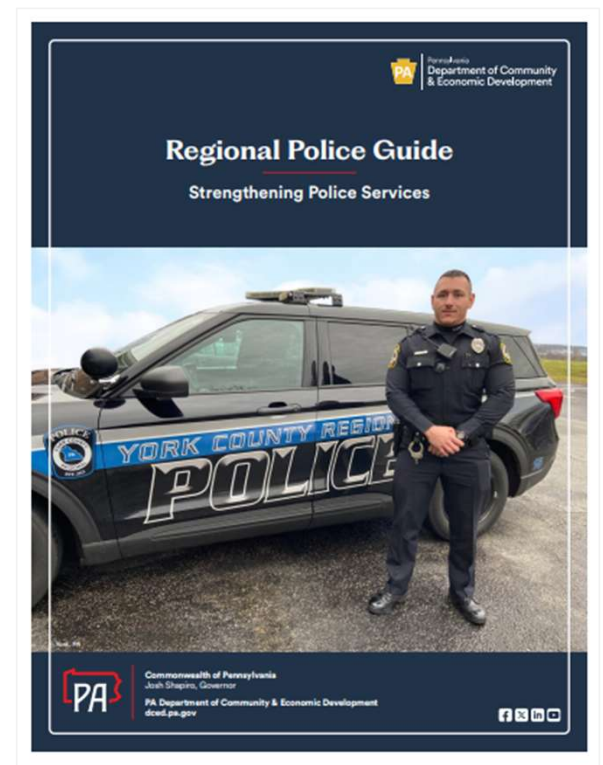
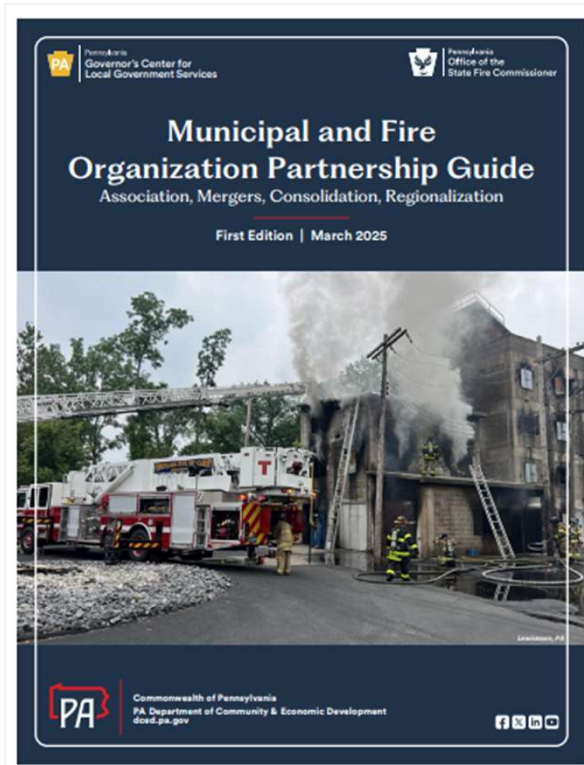
Publications

Publications & Brochures

- [Regional Police Services in Pennsylvania](#)
- [Regional Police Guide | Strengthening Police Services](#)
- [Administering Police Services in Small Communities](#)
- [Regional Fire Factsheet](#)
- [The Municipal and Fire Organization Partnership Guide](#)

Resources

Reference Guides & Handouts





Pennsylvania

Department of Community & Economic Development

Governor's Center for
Local Government Services

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dced.pa.gov

