



Tompkins County Council of Governments

Governor Daniel D. Tompkins Building
Ithaca, NY 14850

Meeting: 03/28/24 03:00 PM
Department: Tompkins County Council of Governments

ADOPTED

DOC ID: 12316

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-1

Resolution on County Wide Emergency Response

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Joel Gagnon, Co-Chair, Town of Danby
SECONDER:	Robert Lynch, Member, Town of Enfield
AYES:	Gagnon, Groff, Hardaway, Hart, Lamb, Lynch, Murphy, Olson, Shapiro, Witmer, Woodard

WHEREAS, Tompkins County has initiated conversation with local municipalities about the most equitable way to support the County's pilot Rapid Medical Response Program (RMR), and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County RMR Program will not replace the network of EMS/Ambulance agencies in the region, but will serve to support and enhance the operations of existing first responders in an effort to ensure timely emergency medical response throughout the County, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County RMR Program will benefit both urban, suburban and rural residents by enhancing response times and relieving current strains on existing agencies, especially during periods of high call volume, in similar manner to the way in which the County Sheriff's Department provides support to local law enforcement agencies when needed, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Council of Governments (TCCOG) applauds the Tompkins County Legislature for embracing the concept developed by TCCOG for establishing the RMR program, and

WHEREAS, TCCOG originally envisioned the RMR program as a County-funded program and has consistently advised against developing a municipal cost-sharing funding approach due to the complexity it would unnecessarily introduce, and the certainty that some municipalities would not participate because of fiscal concerns and/or perceived unfairness, and

WHEREAS, insufficient emergency medical first-response is a regional crisis that requires a regional solution provided by the County for its residents to ensure public safety and equity, and

WHEREAS, supporting the Tompkins County RMR Program with revenue raised through the County tax levy is the most straightforward way to distribute costs equitably among our residents, and

WHEREAS, other proposed cost-sharing mechanisms which would require direct contributions from specific municipalities are unnecessarily complex, and may threaten the viability of the program should any municipality decline to participate, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Tompkins County Council of Governments hereby urges the Tompkins County Legislature to abandon any municipal cost-sharing approach for the Tompkins County RMR Program,

RESOLVED, further, That the Tompkins County Council of Governments fully supports the funding of the Tompkins County RMR Program through the County tax levy.