



## **Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund**

is endorsed by ...

County Clerks Association

Association of Towns

Town Clerks Association

Association of Local Government  
Records Officers

State Historical Records Advisory Board

Local Government Records Advisory  
Council

Archives Partnership Trust Board

... and many others

**Continue the Fund.** The Fund has proven its enormous value to New York's communities and citizens. Information technology is transforming the records of government. Rapid economic and social change is challenging our ability to identify and preserve historical evidence. In the face of these extraordinary and continuing changes, the Fund is needed more than ever. Its value is widely recognized and emulated. What began as a unique experiment in New York is now copied by a dozen other states, with more expected. Waiting until 2000 will jeopardize Fund programs because the expiration ("sunset") will occur part way through the state fiscal year. Going to the brink will cause key staff to leave for jobs elsewhere and disrupt services.

Concerned New Yorkers are asking the Board of Regents, the Commissioner of Education, the Legislature, and the Governor to make the Fund permanent.

### **What we need:**

**Make the Fund a permanent  
program of aid to localities by  
passing Senate bill #5023 and  
Assembly bill #7563.**

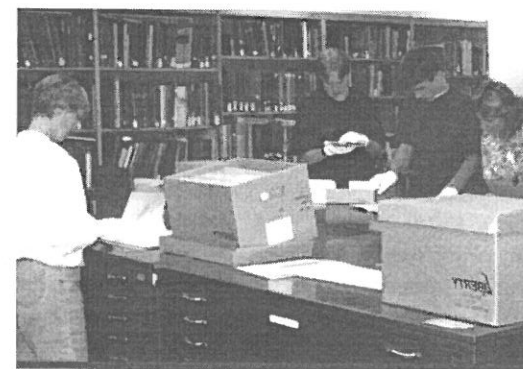


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Office of Cultural Education  
Albany, New York 12230  
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## **Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund**



*Improving today's public services*



*Building a future for our past*

**New York State Archives  
and Records Administration**



**A 1989 law created the Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund.** It was reauthorized in 1995, until December 31, 2000. The Fund sets aside a small portion of county filing fees to manage local government records and preserve local archives. Annual revenues of about \$12 million are used as follows:

**Local Records Program** - \$11.2 million helps 4400 local governments manage their records and information to ensure that essential evidence is preserved and accessible. Each year, SARA staff from Albany and nine regional offices visit an average of 1500 offices, respond to 20,000 phone calls for advice and assistance, offer over 100 training courses, and award 400 local government grants totaling \$8.5 million.

**Documentary Heritage Program** - \$500,000 complements the local government program by assisting 2500 community archives programs to collect, preserve, and make accessible a complete and inclusive record of New York history. Regional archivists located at library resource centers provide advice, training and regional coordination. Each year, about 20 community archives receive grants totaling \$100,000.

**Archives Partnership Trust** - \$300,000 supports Trust operating expenses. The Trust, a public benefit agency, is raising a \$10 million endowment for the State Archives and receives private funding to increase uses of archives.

**Fund programs are a sound investment in good government, and support programs that yield well-educated students and an informed public.**

These programs:

- Preserve essential documentary evidence in current and historical records.
- Improve public services provided by government and cultural institutions.
- Broaden awareness that archives touch every community and every individual.
- Enliven and improve education.

<b>The Fund makes a difference.</b>	
<u>1989</u>	<u>1999</u>
3 county government archives	➔ 29 county government archives
5 town government archives	➔ 200 town government archives
10% of pre-1900 records microfilmed	➔ 50% of pre-1900 records microfilmed
12 local governments systematically inventoried modern records	➔ 1,000 local governments systematically inventoried modern records
1 county used digital imaging for Internet access to land records	➔ 15 counties use digital imaging for Internet access to land records
No county court records purged	➔ 40 counties purged court records
Few local governments had a "records manager"	➔ All governments have a "records manager"
No data on the status of community archives programs in New York	➔ A directory and survey of New York's 2,500 community archives program
Several dozen educators trained to use documentary history resources	➔ More than 1,000 educators trained to use documentary history resources