



Local Government Consolidation

Government Consolidation

defined as the merger, absorption, or shared governance of public entities or public services

Why Consolidate?

- Fiscal pressures & cost containment
- Administrative duplication
- Workforce capacity constraints
- Service quality and consistency
- Compliance and technology demands

8,923

units of local government in Illinois

- most in the nation
- 3,000+ more than the next highest state

When It Works

- Targets specific functions rather than whole governments
- Focuses on standardized or capital intensive services
- Includes clear governance or accountability structures
- Defines cost allocation upfront

Key Risks

- High upfront transition/implementation costs
- Workforce integration challenges
- Service disruption risks
- Equity/representation concerns
- Legal/procedural complexity

Bottom Line

Consolidation is one tool among many for improving government performance. It's effectiveness depends on context, design, and implementation—not scale alone.

Scan here to read more

<https://civicfed.org/local-government-consolidation>

