

Melissa J. Calhoun
Special Assistant to Deputy Commissioner of EMS-PHEP
Erie County Department of Health



Melissa J. Calhoun is an experienced emergency management and public health professional with over 20 years of service in Erie County government. She currently serves as Special Assistant to the Emergency Medical Services Division with the Erie County Department of Health, where she manages complex public health and EMS grant programs, oversees division budgets, coordinates contracts, and supports strategic operational initiatives.

Throughout her career, Melissa has managed more than \$18 million in Homeland Security funding, led large-scale logistics operations during declared disasters, and played a key role in major emergency responses, including Flight 3407 (2009), WinterStorm Knife (2014), the COVID-19 pandemic and the Jefferson Avenue “Tops Market” shooting (2022). During the height of the pandemic, she created and managed aspects of vaccine distribution and supported countywide testing and logistics operations.

Melissa has extensive experience in incident management, FEMA reimbursement processes, emergency planning, and interagency coordination. She has deployed with the Western New York Incident Management Team for major disasters including Hurricanes Irene and Lee (2011) and Superstorm Sandy (2012).

In addition to her government service, Melissa is deeply involved in volunteer leadership. She serves as Recording Secretary for Blue Star Mothers NY7, Co-Leader of a Girl Scout Troop, and Co-Leader of the County’s Animal Response Team. She is also an AHA BLS Instructor and holds extensive FEMA and emergency management certifications.

Melissa earned her Bachelor of Science in Commerce from Niagara University. She is recognized for her strong organizational leadership, grant management expertise, operational coordination skills, and dedication to public service and community resilience.