

Attachment A

Guidelines for the Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council's Opportunity Agenda

VISION: The Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council (“MHREDC”) will incorporate into its Strategic Plan the goals of moving impoverished individuals throughout the region into jobs and revitalizing distressed communities. In order to accomplish this, the Council seeks to identify an "opportunity area" in which to focus its resources to discover what strategies may work and then export them throughout the region.

STATEMENT OF OPPORTUNITY: Challenges

To date, through a combination of factors, some communities throughout the Hudson Valley have experienced high levels of poverty and unemployment. Communities facing these problems need assistance.

The MHREDC will focus on identifying impediments to job growth in the following areas: (a) job creation, specifically lowering the numbers of unemployed and underemployed; (b) community revitalization (e.g. building demolition, vacant lot cleanup, securing vacant buildings) focused in business districts; (c) movement to work sites either within or without of the target area; and (d) addressing workforce training.

The MHREDC has chosen to base its area of opportunity on a geographical basis, in order to focus attention on a particular municipality with the goal of devising strategies that are exportable throughout the region.

OPPORTUNITY AGENDA STRATEGIES:

The MHREDC is seeking the inclusion of strategies that will: (i) connect, where possible, with funded CFA projects; (ii) support projects, initiatives, and investment that demonstrate reductions in the unemployment rate in the targeted community; (iii) support projects that are connected with workforce training at a governmental, academic, private or not for profit institution; (iv) support projects that can revitalize the targeted communities.

In consultation with the selected “opportunity area,” the implementation plan and performance measures must be defined. The community will need to insure that their strategies focus on the twin goals of moving people from poverty to employment and demonstrated revitalization of the community.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN:

The selected community would have 30 days in which to develop their implementation plan. The plan will assist the Regional Council on its broader goals of helping the region, which is due in November.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

The RFI suggests six performance measures that will be used as a guide for determining whether improvement is being made within the region. Additional metrics may be considered. *See above*, “Characteristics of an Opportunity Area.”