

Final – Adopted 06.23.2021

**MHREDC Public Meeting  
Tuesday, May 18, 2021**

**Introductory Information:**

Date and Time Meeting Commenced:

May 18, 2021 – Public Session: 2:03 PM

Location:

Virtual Meeting

Council Members Present: Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul; Thomas Scaglione; Donald Christian; Elizabeth Corio; Jonathan Drapkin; Aleida Frederico; Susan Gerry; Marsha Gordon; Maureen Halahan; Sabrina HoSang Jordan; Kimberlie Jacobs; Joseph Kenner; Harold King; Jacqueline Leventoff; Robin Rosenberg; Al Samuels; Ned Sullivan; James Taylor, Jr.; Kristine Young;

Council Members Substitutes: Ron Hicks (Rep. Molinaro); William Fioravanti (Rep. Neuhaus); Sandra Fusco (Rep. Odell); Jeremy Schulman (Rep. Day); Bridget Gibbons (Rep. Latimer); Mario Caruso (Rep. Spano); Freda Eisenberg (Rep. Doberty);

State Agency/Local Government/ESD Staff: Monique Le Gendre (ESD); Eric Warren (ESD); Linda Malave (ESD); James Kostenblatt (ESD); Kelly Turturro (DEC); Jaime Ethier (DOS); Stephanie Mossey (DEC); Karen Coleman (DOL); Nicole Leblond (Agriculture); Alison Kabir (ESD); Ashley McCloskey (ESD); Alison Walsh (ESD); Matthew Isgro (ESD); Johny Nelson (DOL); George Paschalis (Thruway); Sandra Jobson (DOT); NYS Assemblymember Jonathan Jacobson; NYS Senator Shelley Mayer; Andrew Leibert (Rep. MoA Galef); Jacob Coupart (Rep. MoA Jacobson); Nate Soule (Rep. MoA Lawler); Lisa Urban (Rep. MoA Otis); Gregory Meyer (Rep. MoS Harckham); Lydia Biskup (Rep. MoS Serino).

Time Adjourned: 2:58 PM

**Welcome and Remarks:**

Call to Order:

☒ Preamble requesting disclosure of any conflicts of interest read.

☐ Conflicts noted: (Please List)

\_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Recusals noted: (Please List)

\_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_

☒ No conflicts noted.

☐ The record of recusals was noted and acknowledged at the meeting.

### **Opening Remarks**

Donald Christian introduced Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul to provide welcome and opening remarks

Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul welcomed everyone and expressed her gratitude for being invited to attend the meeting. She stated that the REDCs play a critical role this year as they are positioned to be drivers of the state's economy and are the local voice that will help the State move forward. Lt. Governor Hochul also emphasized that REDCs have the important task of reviewing projects through a critical lens and asking project sponsors how they are on the forefront to solve workforce, clean energy challenges and are aligned with other regional and state priorities that advance the state's recovery. She also spoke about how NYS is primed and ready for businesses to reopen and how workforce development will supercharge the economy post pandemic. She focused on the importance of how businesses should strategize their plans on the future of work and to ask themselves what they are doing for education and childcare as these problems will help to position NY to be in a position of success. She expressed that it was a huge weight to carry but there is no one better to take on the task and that while these are visions of the state, the regional councils are the ones on the frontlines executing these visions.

### **FY 2022 NYS Budget: Business Assistance Highlights – Alison Kabir, VP of Policy & Operations, Empire State Development**

Alison Kabir spoke about the new initiatives New York State is undertaking post pandemic.

Federal Relief for small businesses, restaurants and shuttered venues- The most prominent Federal business assistance program is the SBA's Paycheck Protection Program (PPP).

- 780 Billion+ to impacted U.S. Small Businesses
- \$28.6 billion Restaurant Revitalization Fund
- \$16 billion Shuttered Venue Operators Grant Program

Ms. Kabir recapped some of New York's most significant existing business assistance programs including,

- ***The Excelsior Jobs Program***, a program that offers refundable tax credits to businesses who commit to creating jobs, making capital investments, or investing in R&D;
- ***START-UP NY***, a tax benefit program for start-up companies that co-locate on or near academic campuses; and
- ***Other Loan & Grant programs***, which each have their own requirements but generally fund projects for community revitalization, innovation, export-oriented industry growth, workforce development, or small business assistance.

These programs are in addition to the State's \$750 million annual commitment for REDC projects.

#### **New State Programs - \$800 million for a one-time small business grant program**

In addition to the State's existing programs, the recent State budget also created significant new resources for businesses.

#### **New State Programs - \$148 million to support the arts**

Several other new State programs are intended to help revitalize the performing arts industry and other arts and cultural organizations.

#### **\$60 million for Restaurants**

In addition to small businesses and the arts, the State budget also includes \$60 million in targeted assistance just for restaurants.

#### **Biodefense Commercialization Fund**

On the life sciences front, there is also a new \$40 million "biodefense commercialization fund" that will provide grants to innovative companies and startups in New York State that are focused on commercializing solutions to infectious diseases, and other public health threats.

#### **Child Care**

The State budget directs a significant amount of Federal childcare resources to expand the availability, quality and affordability of child care, and it also enhances the Excelsior Jobs Program and Employer Provided Child Care Credit.

## **Broadband**

To improve equity and access to Broadband infrastructure, the State budget adopts new legislation that requires Internet service providers to offer and advertise an affordable \$15 per month high-speed internet plan to qualifying low-income households.

More information on resources for businesses in recovering from COVID-19 can be found on ESD's website: [www.esd.ny.gov](http://www.esd.ny.gov), and then click on "Business Pandemic Recovery Initiative".

## **Regional Economic Development Council Round XI Overview – Ashley McCloskey, AVP of Regional Economic Development, Empire State Development**

Ms. McCloskey spoke about how over the past ten years, the Regional Economic Development Councils revitalized the state's economy through a bottom-up, community-based and performance-driven approach to economic development and how in the eleventh year, the expertise of the Regional Councils will be an essential component of the post-COVID-19 recovery.

Ms. McCloskey provided an overview of what the Mid-Hudson REDC must do for its 2021 Strategic Plan Update, taking into consideration how the regional vision and goals have been affected by the pandemic. The Strategic Plan Update must include actionable goals, along with a clear vision for the region. This includes 5 parts:

1. Update strategies and actions that advance key regional priorities
2. Update strategies and actions that advance key state priorities.
3. Assessment of new regional challenges and recommendations for how they can be addressed by the council.
4. Examples of public outreach and engagement efforts.
5. Overview of previously funded projects.

Ms. McCloskey also highlighted how councils should include an overview of the workgroups that are engaged in the Councils' activities and the role that they play. Any new workgroups or restructured workgroups should be included here.

## **2021 Available Resources:**

More than \$750 million will once again be available from over 30 programs across 10 state agencies. This year, \$150 million in ESD Grant Funds will be available on a rolling basis – meaning applicants will be able to apply throughout the year, rather than have their applications due by a specific date.

**Statewide Economic Development Priorities:** New York State drives economic growth by making investments that enforce four interconnecting strategies,

- **Placemaking** is the notion that where investment occurs matters. In order to attract a talented workforce, our built environment must emphasize creating accessible job centers, sustainable infrastructure and livable communities.
- **Workforce** is the belief that people drive the economy. Targeted job training and education ensures that jobs in high-paying, in-demand, tradeable sectors are filled in an equitable way.
- **Tradeable Sectors** describes which industries New York State is targeting to increase export-based employment opportunities. They are the industry sectors that are part of a global market like manufacturing, agricultural products, and energy.
- **Innovation** is the strategy of investing in creating synergies between research and commercialization to drive the economy forward.

#### **COVID-19 Impacts on the Region – Johnny Nelson, Labor Market Analyst, NYS Department of Labor (DOL)**

Mr. Nelson spoke on the state of the unemployment rate in the Mid-Hudson region, specifically using March 2021 data. April data will come out on Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup>.

#### **The top three sectors with the largest number of job losses included the following:**

- Educational and Health Care (-16,500) recorded the largest number of job losses between March 2020 and March 2021. Both components of the supersector have recorded their fair share of job losses.
- Leisure and Hospitality (-15,800) recorded the second largest number of job losses over the period. Most of the losses are centered in the accommodation and food services, as the Covid-19 pandemic continued to wreak havoc on the lodging industry.
- Trade, Transportation and Utilities down 8,500, rounded out the group. Most of those losses were centered in the retail trade component. In the Orange-Rockland-Westchester labor market alone, retail trade shed 3,000 jobs.

#### **Sectors least impacted by the Covid-19 crisis in terms of job losses**

- Year-over-year in March 2021, Professional and Business Services only shed 500 jobs over the period.
- The information sector shed 1,400 over the period.

#### **Post-pandemic industries that could generate jobs include:**

- The region's transportation and warehousing industry could become a major job generator. There are several projects that are at various stage of development and when completed, could bring more than 3,000 new jobs to the regional economy.
- Healthcare is another industry that could generate jobs post-pandemic. The Covid-19 crisis has served to highlight the importance of health care workers to the overall economy.

### **Next Steps - Thomas Scaglione, Executive Director, MHREDC and Mid-Hudson Regional Director, ESD**

Mr. Scaglione highlighted the following next steps for Council members:

- Annual report due 6/30/2021
- Review Round XI Materials
- Promote XI Resources
- Stay tuned for meeting and application review schedule

Mr. Scaglione also highlighted the following next steps for members of the public:

- Questions or comments: Email [MidhudsonREDC@esd.ny.gov](mailto:MidhudsonREDC@esd.ny.gov)
- Visit MHREDC Website: [Regionalcouncils.ny.gov/mid-Hudson](https://Regionalcouncils.ny.gov/mid-Hudson)
  - Review the REDC Round XI materials
  - Sign up for an upcoming virtual CFA Info session

### **Questions or Comments:**

**Kim Jacobs, MHREDC Voting Member** inquired about the ESD Capital Grant Funds - if it is an open application window with no deadline, Is everyone in the state competing for those funds? Are applications are going to be processed by as they come in?

Ms. McCloskey replied that the cap for one single region is \$20 million dollars. The ESD Grant Fund program is an Open Enrollment program that will continue to accept applications on an ongoing basis. Project Sponsors should make sure that their project aligns with the strategic plan for the region.

**Ron Hicks, MHREDC Ex-officio Representative** welcomed Tom Scaglione to the MHREDC and added he will be a great asset to the work of the Council.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:58PM