



## Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council

Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council May 26, 2021 Meeting Minutes

For the Meeting on May 26, 2021, 9:00AM – 10:00AM Held Via Zoom

**Council Members Present:** J. McKinney-Cherry, K. Drumm, P. Ellsworth, B. Schindler, M. Field, L. Schumaker, H. McDaniel, M. Opperman, K. Boor, G.Seneck, C.Moss, L. Tinney, M.Laliberte, S. Trichka

**Council Member Alternates:** J. Johnson (for S. VanEtten), W. Mitteer (for K. Connerton), S. Lattin (for Sen. O'Mara) C.Wagner (for J.Garnar)

**State Agency/Local Government/Staff:** R. Sweet (ESD), O.Sanders (ESD), S.Wallmar (ESD), S.Glose (ESD), C. Norton (Chamber), D. Fauci (Binghamton University), D. Lupardo (Assembly Member), K. Smith (DOL), P. Rumsey (Chamber), A. Walsh (ESD), K.Hansen (ESD), A.McCloskey (ESD)

K. Drumm called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

K. Drumm roll called attendees.

**Remarks by the Lt Governor Hochul** – This year is a turning point for everyone. However, I am happy to report that the Southern Tier Region has the highest vaccination percentage rate in the state.

With the pandemic receding, we need to reframe our future vision in response to what we learned from the pandemic, such as the need for better broadband in our rural areas, especially given the increased importance of telehealth. In addition, access to affordable childcare was a challenge prior to the pandemic and has been exacerbated by it. ESD in partnership with the REDC must strive to make improvements in both areas.

However, we cannot address the challenges of broadband and childcare alone. The private sector is critical to this effort. Therefore, when reviewing applications for funding, ask if businesses are addressing these challenges. Also, workforce training remains important. Therefore, how can our regional educational institutions assist in this? Finally, there are new opportunities with changes to laws related to cannabis. We can expect new investment and the creation of jobs in this expanding sector.

K. Drumm called for approval of 9/23/20 minutes. The members voted in favor and the minutes were approved unanimously.

**Round 11 CFA process presentation, Alison Walsh, ESD** – An overview of the CFA Round 11 process was provided. The strategic plans are to be updated; regional councils should assess challenges that impact the region's economic development strategy. Additional development of workgroups, stakeholders and expansion of pipelines are required. There is



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\$750 million available from over 30 programs across 10 state agencies. \$150 million in ESD grant funds will be available on a rolling basis, applicants will be notified of their awards as they are approved. An additional \$525 million in other agency program funds will be awarded in Fall 2021.

**2021 NYS budget presentation, Kevin Hansen, ESD** – An overview of the FY2022 New York State Budget was provided. There are federal grant programs available. First, the U.S. SBA Paycheck protection program is providing \$780 Billion+ to Impacted Small Businesses. Second, U.S. Restaurant Revitalization program – 28.6 Billion is available. Third, U.S. SBA shuttered venue operator grant program is \$16 billion.

Also, there are existing ESD programs available (e.g. Excelsior, START-UP NY), including tax credit programs, loans and grants. There is an \$800 million for a new, one-time COVID 19 Small Business recovery grant program to provided retrospective relief to small businesses. There are grants and tax credit programs to help large musical and theatrical productions. Additionally, there is targeted assistance of \$60 million for restaurants that were in areas deemed in orange and red zones during the pandemic. An enhanced child-care tax credit incentivizes companies to invest in child-care for their employees. Another mandate is to improve broadband access to low-income families there is a \$15 per month affordable monthly service available. More information is available online at: <http://nysbusinessrecovery.ny.gov/>

**Proposed STREDC 2021 Meeting Schedule, Co-Chairs** – attachment with schedule was provided to the council. Wednesday, June 23, 9-10am, Friday, July 16; 9-10am, Monday, Wednesday, September 1, 9-10am, October 18; 9-10am, and the last meeting of the year TBD.

**Old Business, Co-Chairs** – No old business was discussed.

### **Adjournment**

K. Drumm adjourned the meeting at 9:58 a.m.