

**Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council Meeting**  
**July 9, 2013**  
**Dominican College**  
**Orangeburg, New York**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

Lt Governor Duffy welcomed the public to the Council meeting and provided a presentation on the Start Up NY initiative.

***Start Up NY***

The Lt. Governor noted that Start-Up NY is an initiative that will foster entrepreneurialism and job creation on a large scale by transforming public higher education through tax-free communities across the state, particularly upstate.

Details of the program include:

**Tax-Free:** Participating companies in START-UP NY will not pay any taxes (e.g. business/corporate taxes, sales taxes and property taxes) for 10 years. Employees in participating companies will pay no income taxes for the first five years.

**Business Eligibility:** In order to locate into a START-UP NY tax-free community, a business will need to be aligned with or further the academic mission of the campus, college or university sponsoring the tax-free community. Businesses participating in the program will need to have positive community and economic benefits. Every business must create and maintain net new jobs in order to participate. Businesses must:

- Be a new start-up company;
  - Be a company from out-of-state that is relocating to New York State; or
  - Be the expansion of an existing New York State company - for example, a company creating a new line of business or opening a new advanced manufacturing facility - as long as it can demonstrate that it is creating new jobs and not moving existing jobs.
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- **Bans Competition with Existing Businesses:** Under the START-UP NY program, businesses that would compete with other local businesses outside the tax-free area would be ineligible to participate.
  - **Eligible Colleges and Universities:** SUNY, CUNY and independent colleges and universities will all have the opportunity to develop tax-free communities.
  - **20 Strategic State Properties:** In addition, the 3-member board can also designate up to 20 strategic State assets as tax-free communities. These must be State-owned vacant land,

State-owned vacant facilities or State-owned facilities that are in the process of closing and becoming vacant. Each will be affiliated with a SUNY, CUNY or independent college or university to attract new employers and new jobs and transform the site into a regional economic engine.

- **Robust Protections Against Fraud:** START-UP NY includes strong provisions to protect against fraud. Businesses will have to submit certification to ESD, and falsifying certifications will be a felony. The legislation also includes strict provisions to guard against abuses such as shifting jobs among related entities or "shirtchanging,"
- **Enhances the Excelsior Jobs Program.** In 2011, Governor Cuomo led the charge to reform the Excelsior Jobs program to provide flexibility to enhance the program. This program continues that effort by further enhancing the program to maximize job growth opportunities in the State.
- **Expanding the Mandate Relief Council to include Cost-drivers to Business.** Under the program, the Mandate Relief Council is expanded to become the Mandate Relief and Regulatory Relief Council to allow businesses to request that the Council reviews burdensome regulations on businesses.

More info is available at [www.esd.ny.gov](http://www.esd.ny.gov)

### ***Path Through History Endorsement***

Mark Castiglione and Linda Cooper presented on the Path through History plan which includes the following components and requested the Council's endorsement:

- Better integration with ILNY campaigns, and generalized marketing campaigns.
- Develop a marketing plan;
- Request for qualifications for video company to create b-roll and stock photography
- Develop and host training workshops for hospitality training package development and social media.

The proposed plan was submitted on May 10. Formal endorsement, we allow the committee to move forward with a timeline to advance the plan.

***Chris St. Lawrence and Al Samuels made a motion to approve the Path through History Plan. The motion passed unanimously.***

Dennis Murray noted that Marist College used the historic Hudson valley as a theme to host an international conference. It really does work as an economic development tool. Robin—would like to follow up on African American heritage trail study that is in Westchester County and include it in plan.

### ***Opportunity Agenda Update***

Jonathan Drapkin described the initiative and the RFEI process. He noted that the committee hopes to make selection by the end of the week in order to begin process of generating applications for the CFA.

### ***Innovation Hot Spots***

Ron Hicks discussed the Innovation Hot Spot initiative. He noted that the Region will be competing for 5 incubators in 2013 and 5 in 2014.

### ***Infrastructure Work Group***

Jim Taylor provided an update on the Infrastructure Committee. He noted that the Committee is focused on expanding sustainable building standards. The Committee is interested in hearing from infrastructure project applicants (via email) planning on filing this year.

### ***Marketing Committee***

Mary Rodrigues announced that the Byne Group from Rockland County has been selected as the Regional Council's marketing firm.

### ***Call for Priority Projects/CFA Application Timelines***

Aimee Vargas provided an overview of the status of 2011 and 2012 applications.

### **Round 3 CFA Deadlines**

- June 17, 2013 at 8am: CFA Available
- August 12, 2013 4pm: Online Applications Due. They *must* be received and submitted by 4pm.

### **CFA Workshops**

July 9—Manhattanville

July 10-- Mt. St. Mary

July 11—SUNY Dutchess

CFA resources--\$756.8 million available with several state agencies included this year.

The Regional Council will be looking for projects that align with the strategic plan as amended by the 2012 progress report.

Aimee announced that the 2013 Call for Priority Projects will be issued this week and available on the Council's website. The call for priority projects will close by July 30. She reminded the public that the call is a two page application to receive endorsement by the Council. It is still necessary for applicants to apply through the CFA for funding.

[www.://regionalcouncils.ny.gov](http://www.://regionalcouncils.ny.gov)

***PUBLIC COMMENT***

- A representative from NY Medical College provided an update on that project.
- Andy Stewart—Orange Town Supervisor thanked the REDC for its help with the data center and efforts on Rockland Physc. Center. He also noted the County is encouraging businesses to apply for CFAs .
- Janet Burnett—Washington Rochambeau Trail NPS—announced that this year we are holding a regatta on Sept. 22 in conjunction with Town of Ossining bicenntenial.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30