



# FINGER LAKES

## Regional Economic Development Council

### **WORKGROUP: Assignment for 2014**

April 2, 2014

Engagement by the work groups of the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council in 2013 was exemplary. Our region expanded to 16 work groups and task forces, with over 310 volunteer members. Every work group presented twice to the Council, preparing both a Dashboard to measure performance in their industry/sector and their priority project recommendations for CFA funding. The result was a significantly enhanced effort across the region towards the implementation of our Strategic Plan.

Entering the 2014 Round IV our goal is to continue this momentum and expand the effectiveness of each workgroup. We will be creating a 17<sup>th</sup> working group to address the Governor's new Global NY initiative. And we will be improving the tools available for the work groups to conduct their vital role.

#### **The Role of Work Groups**

The work groups are the heart of the Council's work. Work groups are the vehicle to convene volunteer stakeholders with industry expertise to address the needs and issues most critical for enhancing the region's competitiveness. The charge of the work group has three primary components:

1. Identify sector strategies that align with the Council's regional strategies.
2. Develop and prioritize projects to meet the strategic goals.
3. Measure performance within the sector and also among state-funded priority projects.

#### **ASSIGNMENT: Workgroup Dashboard Due on 5/21**

One of the most important ways the work groups can help enhance the region's competitiveness is to help the Council track the progress being made within the region. Each work group should develop and maintain a Dashboard with information such as: mission/vision, existing sector environment, performance measures (especially on job creation), progress on state-funded projects, priority projects for future funding and any other key information that can be tracked on a regular basis to measure performance.

*Each work group is asked to update their Dashboard and present it to the Council at the May 21 meeting.*

#### **NEW: CFA "Letters of Interest" Online Form**

A new tool has been developed to help improve the quality of the CFA applications in our region and also help work groups receive more/earlier information to aid their priority project review. There is a new "Letter of Interest" form on the FLREDC to serve as an optional pre-application for potential CFA projects:

Please spread the word for potential applications to submit a Letter of Interest at the FLREDC website:

<http://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/content/flredc-request-letters-of-interest>