

Regional Economic Development Council Initiatives

Overview

In 2011 Governor Cuomo launched ten statewide Regional Economic Development Councils (REDCs) to develop bottom up strategies to bolster economic growth throughout the state and within each geographic region. Lieutenant Governor Robert Duffy is the Chair of the Regional Economic Development Councils. Each Council has two co-chairs, one from the business community and one from a Higher Education institution.

The ten Regional Economic Development Councils and their Co-Chairs are:

<p>Capital Region Co-Chairs: James J. Barba, <i>President & CEO, Albany Medical Center</i> Dr. Robert J. Jones, <i>President, University at Albany</i></p>	<p>Mohawk Valley Co-Chairs: Dr. Robert Geer, <i>Acting President, SUNY Institute of Technology</i> Lawrence T. Gilroy III, <i>President, Gilroy, Kernan & Gilroy, Inc.</i></p>
<p>Central Region Co-Chairs: Nancy Cantor, <i>Chancellor of Syracuse University</i> Rob M. Simpson, <i>President of CenterState CEO</i></p>	<p>New York City Co-Chairs: Matthew Goldstein, <i>Chancellor, City University of New York</i></p>
<p>Finger Lakes Co-Chairs: Joel Seligman, <i>President of University of Rochester</i> Danny Wegman, <i>CEO of Wegmans Food Markets</i></p>	<p>North Country Co-Chairs: Anthony "Tony" G. Collins, Ph.D., <i>President, Clarkson University</i> Garry Douglas, <i>President, North Country Chamber of Commerce</i></p>
<p>Long Island Co-Chairs: Stuart Rabinowitz, <i>President of Hofstra University</i> Kevin Law, <i>President of Long Island Association</i></p>	<p>Southern Tier Co-Chairs: Harvey Stenger, <i>President, Binghamton University</i> Tom Tranter, <i>President & CEO of Corning Enterprises</i></p>
<p>Mid-Hudson Co-Chairs: Dennis Murray, <i>President of Marist College</i> Leonard S. Schleifer, MD, Ph.D., <i>President & CEO, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc.</i></p>	<p>Western Region Co-Chairs: Satish K. Tripathi, <i>President of University at Buffalo</i> Howard A. Zemsky, <i>Managing Partner at Larkin Development Group</i></p>

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After the initial launch of the REDC, each Council was tasked with developing a five year strategic plan that articulates economic development priorities for the region. The REDCs engage in a competitive process for awards of funding for those priority projects. So far, there have been three rounds of REDC Awards in 2011, 2012 and 2013. The awards are based on the feasibility of the priority project and how well the project advances the statewide and regional economic development strategies. In Round III of the REDC initiative, a total of \$715.9 million was awarded to fund REDC priority projects. Governor Cuomo has asked the Legislature to support a fourth round of competitive awards in 2014.

As part of Round III, each region was required to develop an Opportunity Agenda to supplement their strategic plans. The Opportunity Agenda uses the lessons learned and collaborations from the REDC strategies to help poor communities overcome the challenges that prevent them from fully participating in the state's economic revitalization. Below is a synopsis of Round III awards including each REDC's Opportunity Agenda.

More information on the Regional Economic Council Initiatives, Priority Projects, Awards and Membership can be found at: <http://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/>.

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Capital Region Economic Development Council

The Capital Region Economic Development Council (CREDC) is comprised of Albany, Schenectady, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Warren, Washington, Columbia and Greene Counties. The priority industry sectors in the Capital Region are Technology, Agriculture, Education, and Energy.

The CREDC was a Top Performer Awardee in Round III, receiving \$82.8 million in funding for priority projects. The Capital Region REDC's efforts over the past two years have helped advance the region as a global leader in nanotechnology research and development, while also improving the quality of life for residents through downtown and waterfront revitalization projects. The Council's focus in 2013 included investing in and expanding the local supply-chain to the semi-conductor industry, technology training to generate employment opportunities, and a continued investment in important redevelopment projects.

Some **Highlights** of projects awarded Round III funding include:

- **\$5,000,000** to the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering (CNSE) to support continued growth. CNSE will establish a Digital Data Open-Innovation Training Center (DO-IT Center) for workforce training; a Small Minority & Women Owned Business Enterprises (SMWBE) business center for software development; a data operations center; and a smart city operations training and development lab.
- **\$5,000,000** to redevelop the former ALCO site in downtown Schenectady into an economically vibrant, mixed-use waterfront community that is expected to support significant job creation and will attract and retain young professionals and families to the region.
- **\$2,500,000** to support the revitalization of Park South in the City of Albany. The project includes construction of a mixed use and medical offices building, housing units, and a parking garage in collaboration with Albany Medical Center.
- **\$1,000,000** for mixed use redevelopment in downtown Troy that includes renovation of a 35-unit building, the construction of a modern walkway on the Hudson River, rehab parking and infrastructure.
- **\$100,000** to the Warren, Washington and Albany Counties' Chapter of NYSARC Inc., (a nonprofit serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities), to fit up a distribution center and to provide training of staff and consumers at two locations in Warren County and Albany County.

Opportunity Agenda:

The Capital Region REDC Opportunity Agenda for 2013 focused on the City of Albany. The City will build upon its existing comprehensive plan and active neighborhood plans, implement the tactical strategies from the upcoming Downtown revitalization plan and utilize strong partnerships to put forth a clear and achievable path.

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The Council received 12 consolidated funding applications for consideration as Opportunity Agenda projects. The Council unanimously supported the Trinity Alliance of the Capital Region's Capital South Campus Center (CSCC) Culinary Arts Kitchen and Advanced Technology Training and Information Network (ATTAIN) Lab as its Opportunity Agenda project. Specifically, Trinity Alliance and Schenectady County Community College are seeking capital funding to build, fit-up, furnish and run a new culinary arts training kitchen/classroom, to be located at the Capital South Campus Center in the heart of Albany's South End neighborhood. The CSCC is currently under construction with a \$5 million dollar grant received from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The CSCC grew out of a grassroots community effort to lower barriers to workforce training, higher education, and social services for the thousands of underserved, economically challenged citizens in urban Albany's South End, Arbor Hill, and West Hill communities.

This project addresses three of the eight goals of the Capital Region Economic Development Council and engages the CNSE as a key partner. The Capital South Campus center links the Opportunity Agenda to the Innovation Hot Spot and the State University of New York (SUNY), making a direct link to the Cradle to Career Initiative of SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher. Trinity, CNSE, and SUNY have each independently worked to empower urban, underserved communities to engage in the growing 21st century innovation economy.

More information on the Capital Region REDC Initiatives, Priority Projects, Awards and Membership can be found at: <http://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/content/capital-region>.

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Central Region Economic Development Council

The Central New York Economic Development Council (CNY-REDC) is comprised of Cayuga, Cortland, Oswego, Onondaga, and Madison Counties. The major industries in the Central Region are Clean Energy and Environmental Systems, Health, Biomedical Services and Biosciences, Financial Services, Agribusiness and Food Processing, Advanced Manufacturing, and Tourism.

The Central New York REDC was a Regional Council Awardee receiving \$66.9 million in funding for priority projects. The Central New York REDC has maintained a focus on projects that will improve the quality of life for residents and grow key industries. The Council's priority projects for this year continue that focus, including sustained investment in the revitalization of downtown Syracuse and Main Streets throughout the region, boosting tourism, and improving wellness in the region by investing in the healthcare industry.

Some **Highlights** of projects awarded Round III funding include:

- **\$2,800,000** in grants to convert the long vacant NYNEX building into a mixed use facility that will include apartments, office space, and retail.
- **\$1,300,000** to continue development of the Syracuse Inner Harbor, including relocating the historic freight house and removing three abandoned storage buildings, and constructing a 170,000 square foot mixed-use commercial/residential building.
- **\$750,000** to continue infrastructure investments at the Central New York Raceway, including environmental studies, wetland mitigation, and access to I-81 in support of a major tourism destination complex for motorsports and other events.
- **\$500,000** to purchase and renovate the currently vacant Harriet Tubman Residential Center in Auburn to create an integrated healthcare, sports and wellness campus. This state-of-the-art, world-class medical, health and wellness and research facility will serve as the anchor to the integrated campus, and there will also be an indoor recreational, athletic and rehabilitation facility, several outdoor multipurpose sports fields, nature trails and picnic areas.

Opportunity Agenda:

The CNY Opportunity Agenda advances the CNY-REDC's strategies to support the workforce of tomorrow by providing traditionally impoverished populations the opportunity to share in the region's increasing prosperity, linking low-income residents to career opportunities, aligning the needs of employers with the talents of individuals, helping newly employed residents improve their financial capacity, and cultivating entrepreneurship within distressed communities.

The CNY Opportunity Agenda is currently in Phase II of development. The goals for Phase II include:

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- Implement workforce programs within targeted Syracuse neighborhoods; rigorously evaluate outcomes related to recruitment, graduation, job placement, and retention.
- Continue to research new industries for expanding the workforce model, with a particular focus on logistics, financial services, advanced manufacturing, agribusiness, and hospitality.
- Develop resources required to implement asset development strategies, and prepare to launch three to four high-impact programs within Syracuse inner city neighborhoods in the latter half of 2014.
- Pilot and evaluate existing Entrepreneurship programs within the CNY Innovation Hot Spot network. Develop the resources necessary to expand these programs—particularly the resources necessary for lending and locating businesses in transitional communities.
- Continue to engage regional stakeholders towards a plan to replicate Opportunity Agenda strategies beyond Syracuse.

More information on the Central New York REDC Initiatives, Priority Projects, Awards and Membership can be found at: <http://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/content/central-new-york>.

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Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council

The Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council (FLREDC) is comprised of Genesee, Livingston, Orleans, Wyoming, Monroe, Ontario, Yates, Wayne, and Seneca Counties. The priority industry sectors of the Finger Lakes REDC are Higher Education, Healthcare, Optics, Photonics and Imaging, Life Sciences, Green Technology, Advanced Manufacturing, Professional Services, Agriculture and Food Processing.

The Finger Lakes REDC was a Regional Council Awardee receiving \$59.8 million in funding for priority projects. Priority projects include continuing to invest in Eastman Business Park, redeveloping a major waterfront location in the heart of the Finger Lakes, and expanding the vibrant Rochester Public Market.

Some **Highlights** of projects awarded Round III funding include:

- **\$1,500,000** to the Canandaigua Lakefront Redevelopment Project to transform a blighted, brownfield site into a vibrant mixed-use neighborhood that will promote sustainable development and state smart growth strategies.
- **\$1,000,000** to Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) to establish the Center for Urban Entrepreneurship (CUE) in a historic downtown Rochester facility. CUE will build wealth within the urban community as a hub for entrepreneurial programs and research, as well as provide educational components to support the entrepreneurship program and academic spaces for RIT programs.
- **\$1,000,000** to Hobart & William Smith Colleges to assist in the construction of a new Performing Arts Center to accommodate the academic and co-curricular needs of the Colleges.
- **\$100,000** to Monroe County Community College to establish a certification program that will provide advanced training for precision manufacturing companies in Monroe County. The project responds to the advanced manufacturing industry's immediate need for skilled workers, with low-income displaced workers and military veterans in the nine-county region being eligible to apply for the program.

Opportunity Agenda:

The Finger Lakes REDC has selected a single high poverty area within the City of Rochester for its Opportunity Agenda proposal. The El Camino neighborhood consists of approximately 35 blocks within northeast Rochester with a population of 5,652. A distressed community in need of transformation, El Camino faces a number of challenges: chronic urban poverty; a transitory population subjected to substandard housing; a significant and impactful lack of educational attainment; and high unemployment.

The central Opportunity Agenda program is Monroe Community College's Accelerated Precision Tooling Certificate Program. Based on a successful public-private partnership between Monroe

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Community College (MCC) and the Rochester Technology and Manufacturing Association (RTMA), this innovative certificate program links workforce training to high demand occupations within the growing advanced manufacturing cluster. Participants complete a full certificate program within six months – as opposed to one year – and are offered employment placement assistance through RTMA. Significantly, the certificate provides graduates with credits equivalent to one half of an associate’s degree, building a clear pathway not just to a job but to a college degree. The accelerated timeline of this training program and the direct placement assistance will translate opportunity into real employment for program participants in less than a year.

More information on the Finger Lakes REDC Initiatives, Priority Projects, Awards and Membership can be found at: <http://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/content/finger-lakes>.

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Long Island Regional Economic Development Council

The Long Island Regional Economic Development Council (LIREDC) is comprised of Nassau and Suffolk Counties. The priority industry sectors of the Long Island REDC are Biotech, Energy, Manufacturing and IT.

The Long Island REDC was a Top Performer Awardee in Round III receiving \$83 million in funding for priority projects. The Long Island REDC worked through difficult times this year as the focus for Long Islanders was recovering from the devastation of Superstorm Sandy. The work of the Council has helped the regional economy, local businesses and residents get back on their feet. Being a leader in the economy of the future was the top focus with innovative projects that will expand research and development facilities and capabilities, and investing in high-performance equipment so that the region's leading employers in the science industries can access the latest technologies.

Some **Highlights** of projects awarded Round III funding include:

- **\$2,000,000** to Stony Brook University to build a new Innovation and Discovery Facility designed to enhance the business recruitment power of START-UP NY and stimulate a public-private partnership for building construction.
- **\$2,000,000** to Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (CSHL) to renovate a facility and establish a Therapeutics Discovery Center, which will greatly accelerate translational research efforts at CSHL aimed at developing new therapeutics and diagnostics for cancer and neurological disorders.
- **\$2,000,000** to support high performance computing investments at Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) as well as Hofstra University. Hofstra will create a Robotics Laboratory in the School of Engineering to support expanded enrollment, workforce demand, and burgeoning technologies including artificial intelligence, robotics and 3-D and 4-D printing. BNL will acquire new high performance computing equipment for the benefit of scientific and industrial users across the region and state.
- **\$1,340,000** for infrastructure improvements at Enterprise Park in Calverton. The upgrade of the Calverton sewage treatment plant from secondary to tertiary treatment will provide both economic development and environmental benefits to this regionally significant project site with immediate potential for job creation benefits.
- **\$1,000,000** for continued infrastructure improvements at Wyandanch Rising, which is a comprehensive, community-based revitalization initiative transforming the most economically distressed community on Long Island into a model for community and economic revival; social and environmental justice; planning and design; and public-private collaboration.

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Opportunity Agenda:

The Long Island Regional Economic Development Council selected Wyandanch as the region's 2013 Opportunity Area because it is uniquely positioned as an area of high social need with significant and growing community capacity. According to the American Community Survey, over 10 percent of the community's working-age civilian labor force is unemployed, and the youth unemployment rate is more than twice as high. The Council has added a number of Wyandanch-specific Opportunity Agenda strategies with related implementation actions. These include:

- Renewed emphasis on improving local information flow and program publicity;
- Creating soft skills training programs for youth and unemployed workers;
- Deepening police-community partnerships; and,
- Turning foreclosed properties into community assets. Assets in the community include a new Head Start facility recently constructed in the community and the LIRR station at the core of the Wyandanch Rising area that will soon be renovated and relocated.

More information on the Long Island REDC Initiatives, Priority Projects, Awards and Membership can be found at: <http://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/content/long-island>.

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Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council

The Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council (MHREDC) is comprised of Sullivan, Ulster, Dutchess, Westchester, Putnam, Orange, and Rockland Counties. The priority industry sectors of the Mid-Hudson REDC are Financial and Professional Service firms; a diverse Manufacturing sector; wholesale Distribution centers; Food and Beverage producers; Health Care; Tourism; and Agriculture Biotechnology and Pharmaceutical firms.

The Mid-Hudson REDC was a Regional Council Awardee in Round III receiving \$59.6 million in funding for priority projects. The Mid-Hudson REDC is reenergizing its commitment to investing in technology, tourism, infrastructure revitalization and waterfront development. The priority project focus in 2013 for the Council included job-creating projects in renewable energy and advanced manufacturing, projects to improve healthcare and wellness in the region, and boosting tourism by taking advantage of its proximity to major markets.

Some **Highlights** of projects awarded Round III funding include:

- **\$1,500,000** for the Kingston Connectivity Project to create a more livable, vibrant community with the implementation of a rail trail network that will be designed and constructed to provide safe, universally accessible alternatives for bicyclists, pedestrians and other non-motorized means. The project will reduce fossil fuel emissions, encourage physical activity, and reduce traffic congestion.
- **\$1,000,000** to construct a new biomass plant in Orange County. The project includes building a large-scale waste-to-energy facility that will generate clean energy, using a renewable and unlimited feedstock, with minimal emissions. The facility will generate 24 Mw (21Mw net) of clean electric power.
- **\$1,000,000** to establish a national center for additive manufacturing (3-D printing) at SUNY New Paltz. SUNY New Paltz has built a strong foundation for serving as the future hub for this visionary and remarkably promising technology, and this support will help provide the University with state-of-the-art 3D printing equipment and the physical plant necessary to fully implement its vision.
- **\$500,000** to support infrastructure improvements at Castagna Commerce Park – a planned mixed use multi-phased development that will consist of 167,000 square feet of medical office and office space, 200,000 square feet of retail space, and 400 units of senior housing and assisted living facilities.
- **\$1,000,000** to fund a multimodal transportation center in the City of White Plains. The White Plains Multimodal Transportation Center Redevelopment Project will provide an enhanced multi-modal transportation center that serves all modes of travel and maximizes the economic development potential of the area. The project will also create a welcoming new place that will transform the station area and provide an attractive and functional gateway that contributes to a vibrant downtown core.

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Opportunity Agenda:

The Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council is incorporating into its five-year plan twin goals: (1) moving impoverished individuals throughout the region into jobs that can sustain them and their families; and (2) revitalizing distressed communities. Following a recommendation from a committee of the Council, the Council selected two Opportunity Areas as pilot communities: an 80 block area in the City of Peekskill and the Village of Brewster in Putnam County.

- The Westchester Community College Foundation, the Village of Brewster, and the City of Peekskill have agreed to collaborate as the Mid-Hudson Regional Council's designated Opportunity Areas in providing workforce development trainings to the affected communities at local business incubators to be set up in each community. They have agreed to work with the Westchester Community Foundation to develop a curriculum for the training program and implement it in both communities.
- The City of Peekskill Fleischmann's Pier reconstruction design project will include engineering studies to determine the low tide draft depths around the existing pier, soil bearing testing and evaluation for pile design, and an above water structural condition study of the existing Fleischmann's Pier infrastructure.
- The Peekskill Multi-Use Waterfront Trail is a 2,000 linear foot, ten foot wide multi-use paved waterfront trail.
- The City of Peekskill Louisa Street and Lower South Street Pump Stations will modernize the sanitary sewer lift stations located on Louisa Street at the intersection of Lower South Street and the Charles Point Stations A and B, located on John Walsh Boulevard. The pump stations require complete replacement in order to meet the current loads placed on the system.
- The City of Peekskill & Village of Brewster MHREDC Opportunity Area Former White Plains Linen Feasibility Study in Peekskill This is a joint application to prepare Strategic Plans/Feasibility Studies to re-purpose obsolete buildings in Peekskill's Opportunity Area and to define a path forward for redevelopment.

More information on the Mid-Hudson REDC Initiatives, Priority Projects, Awards and Membership can be found at: <http://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/content/mid-hudson>.

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Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council

The Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council (MVREDC) is comprised of Oneida, Otsego, Herkimer, Fulton, Montgomery and Schoharie Counties. The Mohawk Valley-REDC's priority industries are retail, arts, entertainment & tourism, finance & insurance, transportation & warehousing, construction, advanced manufacturing, wholesale trade, agriculture & food manufacturing, computer design & scientific research, and computer & electrical manufacturing.

The Mohawk Valley REDC was a Top Performer Awardee receiving \$82.4 million in funding for priority projects. The Mohawk Valley REDC's goals focus on creating pathways to innovation, reviving existing infrastructure and forging new partnerships. This year, the Mohawk Valley endorsed priority projects that fulfill those visions, including Quad-C, continued investment in the Marcy Nanocenter and projects to strengthen the region's Manufacturing, Healthcare, Agriculture and other important industry sectors.

Some **Highlights** of projects awarded Round III funding include:

- **\$5,000,000** for the City of Utica's Harbor Point project, a new mixed use development proposed along the Mohawk River. The Utica Harbor is envisioned to both celebrate its past but also drive a new economic engine accommodating private investments, including commercial, retail, and mixed uses, food/restaurant establishments, and entertainment venues.
- **\$3,250,000** to continue development of the Marcy Nanocenter project by supporting required improvements to the project site, including clearing, grubbing, grading and earthwork activities, wetland mitigation, storm drainage, interior access roads, and site development activities to support construction at Marcy Nanocenter for 300/450 mm scale semiconductor manufacturing plants.
- **\$3,100,000** to establish the Center for 21st Century Workforce Education & Innovation (C-21), a new workforce development and training center at the SUNYIT campus located within Quad-C at SUNYIT. C-21 will establish an integrated high-tech learning facility for workforce training/retraining targeting careers in advanced nanoelectronics packaging and assembly; construction trades for nanoelectronics/nanofabrication; and maintenance for high-tech manufacturing.
- **\$2,345,000** to the Mohawk Valley Community Investment Fund – a regional grant and revolving loan fund to support community revitalization as well as business retention and expansion projects throughout the six-county region.
- **\$180,000** to create an agricultural products hub at the Corbin Hill rural farm. The Corbin Hill Food Project will build a permanent facility for the aggregation of locally grown produce to serve the growing needs of the customers of this innovative community supported agriculture program.

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Opportunity Agenda:

The Mohawk Valley Opportunity Agenda will continue to leverage the regional collaboration standard based on a shared set of specific goals. The Agenda will draw from the wealth of information and research generated by New York State and by the region's public agencies, foundations, civic institutions, think tanks and community-based organizations.

The Mohawk Valley's proposed Opportunity Agenda will focus on supporting improved outcomes for the Mohawk Valley's residents along the entire education pipeline, including: increasing high school and college graduation rates for low-income, minority and first-generation college students; and promoting the career advancement and economic security of low-income individuals and families.

- STEM Scholars will provide 75 young people of Utica – the most diverse and highest-poverty community in the Mohawk Valley Region – with a high-quality summer program to give them project-based, hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) experiences with cutting edge technology at Utica College.

More information on the Mohawk Valley REDC Initiatives, Priority Projects, Awards and Membership can be found at: <http://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/content/mohawk-valley>.

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New York City Regional Economic Development Council

The New York City Regional Economic Development Council (NYC-REDC) is comprised of the Bronx, Kings, New York, Queens and Richmond Counties. New York City is the business and financial capital of America. It is the nation's preeminent global center of commerce, culture and innovation and the Number One tourist destination. It is also the economic engine of New York State, with employers throughout the five boroughs generating half of the state's economic output and almost half of all state tax revenues.

In Round III of funding New York City was a Regional Council Awardee receiving \$57.4 million. In 2013, the focus of the Council's priority projects included growing high-tech jobs and start-up activity, investing in large-scale redevelopment projects, strengthening its tourism industry, expanding housing opportunities, and improving the quality of life for New Yorkers.

Some **Highlights** of projects awarded Round III funding include:

- **\$3,500,000** to support infrastructure improvements near the St. George's Ferry Terminal to encourage new mixed use development. The project will consist of the construction of a multi-purpose retail outlet center, hotel, restaurants, event space, parking, and state-of-the-art outdoor features – e.g. green roofs, waterfront plazas and esplanade.
- **\$1,500,000** for construction improvements at Lighthouse Point. The project will consist of the construction of waterfront esplanade including retail shops, restaurants, a hotel, and nearly 100 residential units housed in historic buildings along a waterfront esplanade.
- **\$500,000** to the New York Botanical Gardens for program expansion and improved accessibility for visitors and residents of surrounding communities. The East Gate Visitor Accessibility and Green Zone Project will directly expand the Garden's ability to serve audiences and provide programming throughout the year, in addition to improving access to and from surrounding communities and to visitors from all parts of the city via two MTA subway lines and bus lines.
- **\$225,000** to the Alliance for Coney Island, for improvements to the tourism initiative "The One and Only Coney." The campaign aims to draw tourists by marketing and expanding seasonal events and programs that will reintroduce Coney Island as America's Playground, furthering the appeal of Coney Island as a tourism destination.
- **\$250,000** to establish the Queens Tech Incubator at the Schutzman Center for Entrepreneurship at Queens College. The Queens Tech will be an anchor for tech innovation, job creation, community building, and economic development. The incubator will provide workspace for tech entrepreneurs and startups, offer education and events to build the tech workforce, and support emerging companies through business services.

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Opportunity Agenda:

The NYC REDC has adopted an Opportunity Agenda that focuses on creating opportunities for upward mobility for the nearly 21% of the region's population living below the federal poverty level. The NYC REDC has chosen to focus on serving specific geographic communities or populations within New York City that exhibit high unemployment rates and high rates of poverty, specifically unemployment rates at least 1.5 times the citywide average. Under the Opportunity Agenda, the NYC REDC will:

- Direct funds to the CUNY Research Foundation for development of a program to support the accelerated rollout of the Pathways in Technology 9-14 early college, school-to-career model, in partnership with the city and state Departments of Education and private sector employers.
- Join with the New York City Workforce Funders Group, a consortium of foundations that support workforce development by enhancing the effectiveness of the City's public and nonprofit workforce development programs, to inventory existing programs that are funded to support the training and placement in jobs of low-income populations and to coordinate efforts to identify those training programs that are performing well and those whose results indicate they are not responsive to current industry needs.
- In tandem with ESD, determine what the sponsors of current and pipeline projects are doing to train, employ and provide career ladder options for low-income people and residents of economically distressed communities.

More information on the New York City REDC Initiatives, Priority Projects, Awards and Membership can be found at: <http://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/content/new-york-city>.

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North Country Regional Economic Development Council

The North Country Regional Economic Development Council (NC-REDC) is comprised of Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton, Essex, and Hamilton counties. The priority industry sectors of the NC-REDC are Tourism, Clean Energy, Manufacturing, and Agriculture.

In Round III of REDC competitions the North Country was a Top Performer Awardee receiving \$81.3 million in funding. The North Country REDC is moving full-speed ahead with transformative projects. In 2013, their strategies reflected the region's diversity with priorities including helping farmers and small business owners improve productivity, addressing the need for more hotel rooms in the region to take better advantage of the tourism economy, and growing jobs and investing in high-tech industries.

Some **Highlights** of projects awarded Round III funding include:

- **\$6,000,000** for infrastructure improvements to components of broadband to expand high speed, affordable service across the North Country region.
- **\$5,000,000** to revitalize the Hotel Saranac, creating a full-service hotel to spur year-round tourism.
- **\$2,100,000** to continue the redevelopment of the former Mercy Hospital in downtown Watertown and transform the site into a mixed use development with commercial, business and residential uses.
- **\$2,000,000** to construct a new resort and waterfront restaurant at the former Lake Flower Hotel, and leverage private investment to diversify the region's tourism/recreation based communities.
- **\$250,000** to support Phase 2 of the Wild Walk at the Wild Center located in Tupper Lake, which includes the construction of activities and permanent outdoor exhibits.

Opportunity Agenda:

The North Country REDC developed a Pilot Opportunity Agenda to solicit projects for Round III. The Council also established an Opportunity Agenda work group to develop a plan to augment the Council's 2011 Regional Economic Development Strategy. Based upon the Pilot Program, the Council recommended the following for Priority Project funding:

- The Adirondack Teleworks project will link employers with newly trained workers, through training delivered over a high speed telecommunications network in one of the most remote communities in the State (the Indian Lake area).
- The Jefferson – Lewis Machinist Training Program will utilize workforce development programs to address the skill gap between available jobs and the skills of the unemployed population. The project is vitally important to manufacturing businesses in Jefferson and Lewis Counties.

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More information on the North Country REDC Initiatives, Priority Projects, Awards and Membership can be found at: <http://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/content/north-country>.

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Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council

The Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council (STREDC) is made up of Chemung, Schuylers, Steuben, Broome, Tioga, Tompkins, Chenango and Delaware Counties. The major industry clusters in the Southern Tier REDC are Energy, Clean and Green Energy, Transportation, Agriculture and Healthcare.

In Round III of REDC funding the Southern Tier was a Top Performer Awardee with \$81.9 million. The Southern Tier REDC plan was considered one of the best in the state last year. The Southern Tier REDC is building on its success with its endorsed priority projects, including expanding health care programs, growing job training resources, and supporting projects to boost tourism in the region.

Some **Highlights** of projects awarded Round III funding, include

- **\$3,500,000** to the Community Revitalization Fund to provide gap financing to encourage private investments in downtowns and Main Streets, and development of the region's neighborhoods and rural population centers.
- **\$2,250,000** to Elmira College to create a Health Care Training Center, including renovations to Cowles Hall to house the Nursing, Speech and Hearing programs and to provide space for new healthcare programs. The project will result in job creation and allow for increased nursing enrollment.
- **\$1,500,000** to the Corning Museum of Glass to expand operations and enhance visitor experience. The New Entrance will be an indoor/outdoor reception area designed to welcome and serve the needs of visitors, including new amenities, restrooms, and entrances to the new glassblowing facility.
- **\$1,300,000** to the Town of Margaretville for assistance in the construction of a new hotel at the site of the already existing Margaretville Motel as part of the Margaretville Lodging, LLC Business Expansion Plan.
- **\$850,000** to Delaware County to reinvest in the long dormant manufacturing facility. The Delaware County IDA will undertake a project to acquire and renovate the former Wissahickon water bottling facility for the purpose of developing a shovel-ready, turn-key light manufacturing facility in order to attract new private sector investment and job creation.

Opportunity Agenda:

The Regional Council will take the following actions to implement the Opportunity Agenda strategies:

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- Promote the Southern Tier Region's Rural Initiative Fund as an opportunity for agricultural business owners to expand their businesses and seek out impoverished persons as potential employees.
- Promote the Southern Tier Region's Community Revitalization Fund as an opportunity to renovate buildings that can support business development opportunities in those communities with the highest concentrations of poverty.
- Encourage and support Community Development and Main Street funding applications intended to revitalize downtowns and neighborhoods, particularly those in the areas representing high concentrations of poverty.
- Engage in one-on-one meetings with organizations in the region that have the capacity to implement employment readiness activities and encourage them to align programs with Opportunity Agenda strategic priorities.
- The Southern Tier REDC intends to host a municipal leader's summit in early 2014 to discuss how communities can participate in enhancing the region's economic climate. A segment of that summit will focus on region's challenges and opportunities identified in its Opportunity Agenda strategy.

More information on the Southern Tier REDC Initiatives, Priority Projects, Awards and Membership can be found at: <http://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/content/southern-tier>.

Regional Economic Development Council Initiatives

Western New York Regional Economic Development Council

The Western New York Regional Economic Development Council (WNY-REDC) is comprised of Niagara, Erie, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus and Allegany Counties. The priority industry sectors in Western New York are Advanced Manufacturing, Agriculture, Bi-national Logistics, Energy, Health/Life Sciences, Higher Education, Professional Services and Tourism. The WNY-REDC has included in their five year plan a targeted, industry- specific growth strategy to achieve benchmarks in the strategic industrial sectors of the region.

The WNY-REDC was awarded \$60.8 million dollars in Round III of the Regional Economic Development Council Awards. The REDC's priority project this year included a focus on providing employers with on-demand access to advanced cloud computing resources, modernizing water infrastructure to help industrial businesses improve efficiency, and creating jobs through expanding the region's manufacturing industry.

Highlights of projects awarded funding in Round III include:

- **\$1,000,000** to SUNY Buffalo to expand its high performance computing and data analytics center located at the Buffalo Niagara campus to provide regional industry and organizations with on-demand, immediate access to advanced computing and storage infrastructure.
- **\$1,000,000** to the Town of Lockport to revitalize a long vacant commercial shopping center into a new mixed use development, including a planned two-pad hockey arena with retail support services.
- **\$1,000,000** to Chautauqua County for modernizing water infrastructure to help industrial businesses improve efficiency.
- **\$500,000** to Alfred State College to create a highly energy efficient facility to train students in state-of-the-art sustainable manufacturing techniques.
- **\$250,000** to TAM Ceramics to expand manufacturing operations in Niagara Falls.

Opportunity Agenda:

The WNY-REDC has selected the following applications as priority projects that meet the regional Opportunity Agenda:

- Buffalo Urban League's pre-manufacturing training program will advance the education and training goals of the Opportunity Agenda by collaborating with partners in the Advance Buffalo pilot to prepare unemployed individuals for careers in advanced manufacturing.
- Education to Employment will advance the Opportunity Agenda goal of removing foundational barriers to accessing the workforce by offering special programming designed to improve the retention and graduation rate of low-income single mother students attending Niagara County Community College (NCCC), leading to their employment in

Regional Economic Development Council Initiatives

family-sustainable jobs.

- The Immigrant and Refugee Manufacturing Employment Program will advance the Opportunity Agenda in the areas of education and training by providing an 8-week manufacturing training program that gives refugee and immigrant candidates the soft skills and manufacturing-specific training necessary for placement in entry level manufacturing jobs.

More information on the Western New York REDC Initiatives, Priority Projects, Awards and Membership can be found at: <http://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/content/western-new-york>.