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Andrew M. Cuomo - *Governor*

Governor Cuomo Announces \$715.9 Million in Economic Development Funding Through Third Round of Regional Councils

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Albany, NY (December 11, 2013)

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today announced that \$715.9 million has been awarded through Round Three of the Regional Economic Development Council initiative.

A centerpiece of the Governor's strategy to jumpstart the economy and create jobs, the Regional Councils were put in place in 2011 to redesign the state's approach to economic development from a top-down model to a community-based, performance-driven approach. The initiative empowers community, business, and academic leaders, as well as members of the public in each region of the state, to develop strategic plans specifically tailored to their region's unique strengths and resources in order to create jobs and support economic growth.

"In the last three years, we have put New York's fiscal house in order by controlling spending and cutting taxes and the global business community has taken notice," Governor Cuomo said. "We are

transforming New York State into a top destination for companies from around the world to locate, invest and grow with initiatives like START-UP NY to provide tax-free areas and support to businesses. These efforts have allowed the Regional Councils for the last three years to pursue economic development projects on the ground all across the state, from creating new technologies and supporting innovation to building hospitals and tourism destinations that will further our economic growth. The Regional Councils were empowered to change the face of economic development in their communities and they have accomplished just that. This third round of awards continues the State's commitment to these creative and groundbreaking plans and recognizes the immense progress that has already been made in revitalizing our economy and putting New Yorkers back to work."

Lieutenant Governor Robert J. Duffy, Chair of the Regional Economic Development Councils said, "The first two years' worth of growth stemming from the Regional Economic Development Councils across New York State has been tremendous. Under Governor Cuomo's leadership, it is clear that this plan is working and is ensuring that we are well on the way to strengthening the State's economy. I applaud each of the Co-Chairs, every council member, and all other contributors for their commitment to this process and for the immeasurable work they have put into their plans, and I give sincere congratulations for their achievements."

Senate Majority Coalition Leader Jeffrey D. Klein said, "Congratulations to the recipients of this year's Regional Economic Development Council awards. The REDC's are one of the many important tools we're using to build a strong economic future for our state. I am especially proud of the recipients who are making environmental sustainability and long-term job growth a touchstone of their success."

Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver said, "Regional strategies tailored to maximize each region's resources and competitive advantage is an intelligent approach to modern economic development. The Assembly is committed to continuing to work with our partners in state government to improve the climate for business in New York and to ensure that we have the most innovative and productive workforce in America. I commend Governor Cuomo for his tireless efforts to improve our economy and for his visionary work in the arena of economic development."

Senator John DeFrancisco said, “The process is important. Our community leaders serving on the Regional Economic Development Councils have worked hard to design an economic development strategy that will take advantage of the tremendous resources, talent and skills of the Central New York area. The process also helps to recognize the businesses that want to expand and create jobs. Governor Cuomo and Lieutenant Governor Duffy deserve recognition for this successful economic development initiative that is spurring jobs growth and building a stronger New York.”

On May 15, 2013, Governor Cuomo kicked off Round III of the REDCs and announced two new initiatives to the process: the Innovation Hot Spots Competition and Regional Opportunity Agendas. These new aspects of the Regional Councils will foster innovative new businesses to keep New York at the forefront of the global economy and will ensure the state’s most distressed communities are being provided with greater employment opportunities.

Additionally, as part of the Round III process, a Strategic Implementation Assessment Team composed of state agency commissioners traveled to every region of the state to view progress on projects that have received state funding, assess the regions’ strategic plan implementation, and review priority projects endorsed by the regions in their 2013 applications.

Highlights of the 824 projects across the state receiving awards in the third round of the REDC competition are outlined below:

Western New York: Regional Council Awardee– \$60.8 million

In Western New York, innovation and entrepreneurship are making the region a national leader again in advanced manufacturing, life sciences, and energy production. 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 economic development 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.

Finger Lakes: Regional Council Awardee – \$59.8 million

The Finger Lakes REDC was recognized last year for having one of the best plans in the state. The Council is keeping that momentum moving with its priority projects this year, which 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.

Highlights of projects awarded economic development funding in Round III 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 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.

Southern Tier: Top Performer Awardee– \$81.9 million

Considered one of the best plans 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.

Highlights of projects awarded economic development funding in Round III 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.

Central New York: Regional Council Awardee– \$66.9 million

A top performer in 2012, 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.

Highlights of projects awarded economic development funding in Round III 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.

Mohawk Valley: Top Performer Awardee – \$82.4 million

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.

Highlights of projects awarded economic development funding in Round III 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.

North Country: Top Performer Awardee – \$81.3 million

As one of last year's top performers, 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.

Highlights of projects awarded economic development funding in Round III 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.

Capital Region: Top Performer Awardee – \$82.8 million

The Capital Region REDC's efforts over the last 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 includes 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.

Highlights of projects awarded economic development funding in Round III 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 SMWBE Business Enterprises business center for software development, a data operations center, and a smart city operations training & 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 NYSARC Inc, Warren, Washington and Albany Counties Chapter to fit up a distribution center and to provide training of staff and consumers at two locations in Warren County and Albany County.

Mid-Hudson: Regional Council Awardee – \$59.6 million

Building on the success of being named a best plan in 2012, 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.

Highlights of projects awarded economic development funding in Round III include:

- **\$1,500,000** for the Kingston Connectivity Project to make necessary infrastructure improvements to enhance the community's quality of life. The Kingston Connectivity Project will 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.

New York City: Regional Council Awardee – \$57.4 million

New York City is an economic anchor and has long been at the forefront of the global economy. With leadership from the New York City REDC, the City is building on its world-class status through investments in key industries, such as manufacturing, tourism, and innovative technologies. 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.

Highlights of projects awarded economic development funding in Round III 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.

Long Island: Top Performer Awardee – \$83 million

The Long Island REDC worked through difficult times this year as the focus for all 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, and the priority projects they endorsed for 2013 will continue to strengthen the region's economy. 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.

Highlights of projects awarded economic development funding in Round III 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, while 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 (EPCAL). 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.

The Regional Economic Development Council initiative (REDC) is a key component of Governor Cuomo's transformative approach to State investment and economic development. The Councils are public-private partnerships composed of local experts and stakeholders from business, academia, local government, and non-governmental organizations. The Regional Councils have redefined the way New York invests in jobs and economic growth by putting in place a community-based, bottom up approach and establishing a competitive process for State resources. For more information on the regional councils, visit www.regionalcouncils.ny.gov.

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