

Empire State Development News

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ESDC BOARD APPROVES \$17.6 MILLION IN DOWNSTATE GRANTS

Empire State Development Corporation's Board of Directors met today in Manhattan and approved downstate grants totaling \$17.6 million. Among the grants approved was \$15 million to help modernize the Roosevelt Island tram. The tram will contribute to the economic impact of Roosevelt Island by ensuring a reliable form of transportation for residents to travel back and forth to the city.

The Roosevelt Island tram began operating in 1976. There are 20 other trams operating in the U.S. and Canada but the Roosevelt Island tram is the only aerial commuter tram in the country. Originally built as a temporary means of transportation for island residents by New York State's Urban Development Corporation, it has become a permanent part of the life of the island and a treasure for New Yorkers and visitors throughout the world.

The board also approved the following items:

Restore NY Grant – Jamaica Hotel \$1,202,142 (Queens County)

New York City received a grant under the Restore NY Communities Initiative Program to be used towards transforming Jamaica into a vibrant 24-hour mixed-use community centered around one of the region's major transportation hubs. The project will be managed by the Greater Jamaica Development Corporation and proposes to demolish and remediate ten sites, which will be combined to form a 41,000-square-foot site for the new development of the Jamaica Hotel. When completed, the new facility will be comprised of two towers – a 250-450 room hotel and 200-375 units of market and affordable housing on top of a 2-story retail base and 260 underground parking spaces.

Downstate Community Capital Assistance Program grants totaling \$435,000:

St. Savior's Church – \$100,000 (Queens County)

The All Faiths Restoration and Beautification Program is raising funds to preserve, maintain and restore historic structures within the grounds of the All Faith's Cemetery. St. Savior's, located in Maspeth, dates back to 1847. The grant will be used for the renovation costs of the churches interior and exterior infrastructure.

Queens County Farm Museum – \$170,000 (Queens County)

The Queens County Farm in Floral Park dates back to 1697 and is the longest continuously farmed site in New York State. A grant was awarded to be used for a portion of the cost of improvements to the Adriance Farmhouse and Greenhouse as well as for the cost of the replacement of the southwest fence and entrance gate of the Museum.

Services Now for Adult Persons (SNAP) of Eastern Queens – \$165,000 (Queens County)

SNAP is a social service agency dedicated to the needs of older adults. They were awarded a grant to be used for a portion of the cost of planning and designing for the new 15,000-square-foot facility. The new space will accommodate an increased elderly population which depends on SNAP for services such as case management, transportation, home delivered meals, money management, and the volunteer/friendly visiting program.

Town of Wawayanda Community Youth Center – \$50,000 (Orange County)

The Town, founded in 1849, is located within the Newburgh Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area and the Hudson Valley New York State Department of Labor Market Region. According to the 2006

Census, there are just over 7,000 residents. The grant will be used for a portion of the cost of construction for a community youth center.

Village of Unionville Community Center – \$50,000 (Orange County)

The Village, established in the early 1700s, is a small community of approximately 600 residents, located near several large commercial, manufacturing, distribution, and industrial centers. The grant will be used for a portion of the cost of construction for a community youth center.

Strategic Investment Fund grants totaling \$625,000:

Museum of Arts and Design – \$375,000 (New York County)

The United States' first national exhibition center for crafts practitioners educates and involves audiences in the trends and issues surrounding modern art today. The grant will be used for a portion of the cost to plan, design, demolish, and reconstruct sidewalks surrounding the New York City Museum.

Ronald McDonald House of Long Island– \$250,000 (New Hyde Park/Nassau County)

The Long Island House is the 100th House out of a total of 242 Ronald McDonald houses around the world. Its mission is to give comfort and shelter to families experiencing the pain of having a sick child in a hospital facility. The grant will be used for upgrading the electrical system, reconstructing the rear property and a building control system.

The awarding of Aid to Localities Grants totaling \$190,000:

Jamaica Chamber of Commerce – \$65,000 (Queens County)

The 89-year-old not-for-profit organization serving south Queens by working to address the needs of local businesses was awarded a grant to be used for soft costs associated with the development of the Jamaica Export Center (the "Center").

Latinos Making a Difference – \$125,000 (Bronx County)

The not-for-profit organization which improves the local economy and social conditions of its residents, businesses, and institutions in the communities of University Heights, Morris Heights, Mount Hope, and Fordham Road in the Northwest Bronx was awarded a grant to be used for a portion of the cost of salaries/fringes, consultant fees, beautification and merchant programs, rent, and administrative expenses.

An Economic Development Fund grant was awarded to Suffolk County:

ICON Laboratories – \$112,500 (Farmingdale /Suffolk County)

The company provides clinical research and development services to the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries. This is the second half of a \$225,000 incentive approved in 2005. The Economic Development Fund grant will help the company consolidate its Farmingdale operations from three leased facilities into a nearby refurbished facility and acquire new machinery and equipment. ICON will retain 225 full-time jobs in New York State through 2008.

The board also approved a Community Enhancement Facilities Assistance Program grant:

Interactive Museum – \$50,000 (Middletown/Orange County)

The Interactive Museum was awarded a grant to be used for the cost of building renovations. The not-for-profit New York State Educational Museum provides a place where children can realize their full potential through interactive instructional exhibits and educational programs focused on art, science, mathematics, and technology.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will tentatively be held on August 14, 2008 at a location to be announced closer to the time of the event.

Empire State Development is New York's chief economic development agency, encompassing business, workforce and community development. ESD also oversees the marketing of "I LOVE NY," the State's iconic tourism brand. For more information, visit www.nylovesbiz.com.

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