

**For Immediate Release:** November 24, 2009

**Contact:** Warner Johnston | [wjohnston@empire.state.ny.us](mailto:wjohnston@empire.state.ny.us) | 1-800-260-7313

Lisa Willner | [lwillner@empire.state.ny.us](mailto:lwillner@empire.state.ny.us) | 1-800-260-7313

**GOVERNOR PATERSON'S SMALL BUSINESS TASK FORCE AND EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT COMPLETE SERIES OF BUSINESS WORKSHOPS STATEWIDE**

*Small Business Task Force to Deliver Report to the Governor in the Coming Weeks*

*Report will Feature Creative Ways to Spark Small Business Growth*

Governor David A. Paterson's Small Business Task Force and Empire State Development (ESD) today announced the completion of a series of small business workshops across the State. The workshops were held in New York City (Brooklyn and Harlem), Western New York (Buffalo), Central New York (Syracuse), the Finger Lakes (Rochester), the Capital Region (Watervliet), the Mohawk Valley (Gloversville) and Long Island (Hauppauge). The Task Force members carried the Governor's pro-business message to forums in Queens, Watertown and Gramercy in the last month, as well.

The goal of the workshops was two-fold: first, to showcase the more than 140 programs – spanning 28 State agencies – described in the newly unveiled [NYS Directory of Small Business Programs](#) that support the needs of small businesses; and second, to address the concerns of the small business community as the Governor's Task Force began crystallizing its recommendations for improving the State's business climate.

Governor Paterson will receive these recommendations in the coming weeks– these will include proposals on how to ease government regulations and access to capital and how to improve technical assistance and workforce development.

"I congratulate my Small Business Task Force and ESD for convening these workshops," Governor Paterson said, "and I am looking forward to hearing their recommendations next week. Small businesses do more than two-thirds of the hiring during an economic recovery, and I am eager to work with my partners in business and government to improve the business climate in a way that leads to a robust recovery."

"As I continue to work to reduce our State's budget deficit, I am acutely aware of the needs of the small business community," Governor Paterson added. "Just as business owners have to balance their books and ensure a healthy cash flow, or else suffer dire consequences, the State must do that same to avoid delayed payments to local school districts and governments. In the days ahead, I am confident that just as leaders in business have had to make difficult decisions to keep their fiscal house in order, State lawmakers will also demonstrate they are serious about making the choices necessary to put New York on the road to fiscal recovery."

Governor Paterson convened the Task Force this summer, charging it with developing new strategies to address the concerns of small business in New York and to promote growth and development in the small business community. The Task Force brings together the necessary government agencies and non-governmental organizations to address the needs and concerns of small businesses, which comprise 98 percent of all businesses in New York and employ 52 percent of New York's non-farm, private sector workforce.

"Governor Paterson and the Small Business Task Force recognize the issues small businesses face in today's economic climate," said ESD Deputy Commissioner Steve Cohen, who led the Downstate workshops. "The Governor's efforts around the Task Force are aimed at addressing the challenges of those small businesses and

promoting their growth and development. The New York State Directory of Small Business Programs makes it easier for small businesses to navigate State programs at a time when they need them the most.”

For more information on New York State’s support for Small Business and the new Directory of Small Business Programs, please visit <http://www.nylovesmallbiz.com> and click on the “Small Business Directory Download.”

###