



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Lisa Willner | lwillner@empire.state.ny.us | 212.803.3740 | 1.800.260.7313

Contact: Scott Woodson | swoodson@sustainableli.org | 516-873-0230

EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABLE LONG ISLAND HOST MEETING ON NEW YORK HEALTHY FOOD & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES FUND

Fund will help will help increase access to healthy foods, create local jobs, and support the health and well-being of all New Yorkers

Farmingdale, NY—Empire State Development (ESD) and Sustainable Long Island held an informational meeting today at Farmingdale State College regarding the New York Healthy Food & Healthy Communities Fund. The coalition, joined by members of The Low Income Investment Fund (LIIF) and the New York State Department of Labor, discussed the funding opportunity, which will increase access to healthy foods, create local jobs, and support the health and well-being of all New Yorkers.

“Governor Paterson created the New York Healthy Food & Healthy Communities Fund, understanding the critical need for the improvement of food markets in underserved communities,” said ESD Chairman & CEO Dennis M. Mullen. “By providing financing to supermarket and grocery operators, the program will increase the availability of nutritious food choices for the 1.7 million New Yorkers who lack access to stores with healthy food options – including those here in Long Island.”

“ESD will play a vital role in providing financial incentives for this important initiative,” said ESD’s Long Island Regional Director Andrea Lohneiss. “We will be facilitating discussions between supermarket operators, community groups, local governments and property owners. Working together, I know we can achieve successful outcomes on Long Island.”

Millions of New York residents lack access to fresh healthy food near their homes. These areas, known as “food deserts,” are often located in low income communities where the only food available is from fast food restaurants or convenience stores that stock mostly packaged and processed fare. Inadequate access to fresh food has been linked to poor health outcomes in these neighborhoods, including high rates of obesity and diabetes.

“The introduction of this initiative will alleviate some of the expenses faced by supermarket developers and operators when looking to open in low-income communities,” says Sarah Lansdale, Executive Director of Sustainable Long Island. “This funding will help provide access to fresh food to thousands of New Yorkers, decrease food costs, and also increase property values with new and rehabbed supermarkets in specific communities.”

The \$30 million New York Healthy Food & Healthy Communities (HFHC) Fund is administered by ESD and includes a \$20 million commitment from The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. and a \$10 million commitment from ESD. In addition, the New York State Health Foundation (NYSHealth) is providing an additional \$300,000 to cover expenses related to technical assistance and program administration. State funding for the HFHC program was set aside by Governor Paterson in the 2009-10 State Budget. The Low Income Investment Fund (LIIF), in partnership with The Reinvestment Fund (TRF) and The Food Trust, were selected through an RFP to administer the fund.

About New York State Empire Development

Empire State Development is New York's chief economic development agency and administrator of the statewide business resource portal New York First (www.NYfirst.NY.gov). ESD is committed to being recognized on a global scale as the economic development engine driving job growth, strategic investment and prosperity in New York State. ESD is intent on paving the way for New York State to become the leader of the innovation economy and one of the most business friendly, productive and competitive economic development climates in the world. ESD also oversees the marketing of "I LOVE NY," the State's iconic tourism brand. For more information on Empire State Development, visit www.esd.ny.gov.

About Sustainable Long Island

Sustainable Long Island serves as a catalyst for creating a better quality of life for all Long Islanders, now and for future generations through economic development, environmental health and social equity. Sustainable Long Island connects public and private resources and expertise with communities that need them. Sustainable Long Island is located at 45A Seaman Avenue, Bethpage, NY, 11714. For further information, call (516)873-0230, visit www.sustainableli.org, or follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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