



**For Immediate Release:** August 30, 2011

**Contact:**

Austin Shafran (ESD) | [ashafran@empire.state.ny.us](mailto:ashafran@empire.state.ny.us) | (800) 260-7313

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

## **MID-HUDSON REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL LAUNCHES ONLINE SURVEY TO ENGAGE THE PUBLIC**

*Next meeting of the Regional Council is scheduled for September 8<sup>th</sup> at SUNY Purchase*

The Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council today announced the launch of an online public survey. The Council is seeking public input to gauge which regional issues, opportunities and challenges Hudson Valley residents believe are most critical. The feedback received through the survey will help to form the basis for Council deliberations and planning. The identity of Individual survey responses will be for internal use only; however, identification is requested so that the Council can follow up with individuals regarding their ideas and concerns.

The survey asks individuals to:

- Identify the top three challenges which are unique to the Mid-Hudson Region, that adversely affect economic development and which can be addressed in a five-year Strategic Plan.
- Identify the top three opportunities for economic growth which are unique to the Mid-Hudson Region and where he/she feels the region should focus its efforts to develop over the next five years.
- Identify the top three assets which give the Mid-Hudson Region the greatest opportunity for economic growth and represent economic advantages, compared with the other regions in New York and the United States.

To take the survey visit <http://nyworks.ny.gov/content/mid-hudson>

In addition to the survey, the Mid-Hudson Regional Council announced its next meeting scheduled for **Thursday, September 8 at SUNY Purchase.**

The Mid-Hudson Regional Council also plans to hold a series of facilitated community conversations at public meetings across the region in each of its seven counties: Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland,

Sullivan, Ulster & Westchester. Dates will be announced soon and the public is encouraged to visit the Mid-Hudson Regional Council website for the latest information regarding the Council.

Created by Governor Cuomo, the Regional Economic Development Councils represent a fundamental shift in the state's approach to economic development—from a top-down development model to a community-based approach that emphasizes regions' unique assets, harnesses local expertise, and empowers each region to set plans and priorities.

The Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council is one of ten regional councils across New York that will serve as a single point of contact for economic activity in the region. Through their strategic planning process, the Councils will identify and expedite priority projects that demonstrate the greatest potential for job growth. As part of the initiative, up to \$1 billion in state resources will be accessible to eligible economic development projects through existing program grants and tax credits.

Each Regional Council will draft a plan for the development of their region, which will provide a regional vision for economic development, address critical issues and opportunities, and lay out an implementation roadmap for future growth. The state will work with the Regional Councils to align state resources and policies, eliminate unnecessary barriers to growth and prosperity, and streamline the delivery of government services and programs to help the Regional Councils carry out their plans for development.

To learn more about each region and their economic development plans, visit <http://nyworks.ny.gov/>.

###