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**NORTH COUNTRY REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
ENCOURAGES PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC FORUMS ACROSS THE REGION**

Forums provide opportunity for public input on strategic plan implementation and potential projects to be considered in the fourth round of the Regional Council initiative

The North Country Regional Economic Development Council (NCREDC) is encouraging all individuals, businesses, organizations, labor, and university representatives from the North Country to attend one of the seven scheduled public forums in the region, one in each county, to provide suggestions for potential projects to be considered in the fourth round of the Regional Council initiative and share ideas for job growth opportunities. The forums will include a presentation to the public on Round 4 of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's Regional Economic Development Council initiative, competitive funding guidelines, and progress made on the implementation of the North Country Strategic Plan and Progress Report since last year. There will also be a period for attendees to offer comments, information and input to the Regional Council regarding plan implementation and potential projects.

The schedule for the public forums is as follows:

Tuesday, June 3

Lewis County- Lowville: 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Lowville Fire Hall
5420 Parkway Drive
Lowville, NY 13367

Jefferson County- Watertown: 1:30 to 3 p.m.

Dulles Office Building: 1st Floor Conf. Room
317 Washington Street
Watertown, NY 13601

St. Lawrence County – Potsdam: 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Clarkson University
Cheel Campus Center & Arena, Barben Rooms
8 Clarkson Avenue
Potsdam, NY 13699

Wednesday, June 4

Clinton County – Plattsburgh: 9 to 10:30 a.m.

SUNY Plattsburgh
Angell College Center, Alumni Conference Room (second floor)
38 Rugar Street
Plattsburgh, NY 12901

Hamilton County - Indian Lake: 12:30 to 2 p.m.

Indian Lake Movie Theater
Main Street
Indian Lake, NY 12842

Franklin County - Tupper Lake: 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Wild Center
45 Museum Drive
Tupper Lake, NY 12986

Thursday, June 5

Essex County - Lake Placid: 6 – 7:30 p.m.

ORDA Lake Placid Conference Center
2608 Main Street
Lake Placid, NY 12946

Parking and registration information for the forums is available on the North Country Regional Economic Development Council website at <http://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/content/2014-ncredc-forums>.

For those who are not able to attend the public forums, please visit www.northcountryopenforbusiness.com to find the NCREDC's Strategic Plan, Progress Report and other important documents, as well as to submit comments and suggestions.

The North Country Regional Economic Development Council is also seeking proposals for projects to be identified and recommended by the Council as priority projects for the fourth round of Governor Cuomo's Regional Council initiative. Priority projects are chosen based on their ability to stimulate job creation, private sector investment and transformational economic growth in accordance with the goals identified by the Council's Strategic Plan.

The CFA application period is now open to applicants across the seven-county North Country region, which includes Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties. **The deadline for CFA submissions is 4 p.m. on Monday, June 16.** CFAs will be reviewed by the NCREDC based on their alignment with the Council's strategic plan and will be reviewed on a technical basis by the State Agency Resource Team. The CFA is available at <https://apps.cio.ny.gov/apps/cfa/>.

The next full North Country Regional Economic Development Council meeting will take place in Lake Placid on Friday, June 6, and will include a public comment session. Details will be posted at www.northcountryopenforbusiness.com.

The NCREDC, which is composed of Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties, is one of 10 regional councils across New York state that serve as a single point of contact for economic activity in the various regions. The NCREDC was named a "Top Performer" in 2013 and 2012 in addition to their Strategic Plan being named a "Best Plan Awardee" in December 2011.

About the Regional Economic Development Councils

The Regional Economic Development Council initiative (REDC) is a key component of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's transformative approach to State investment and economic development. In 2011, Governor Cuomo established 10 Regional Councils to develop long-term strategic plans for economic growth for their regions. The Councils are public-private partnerships made up 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. After three rounds of the REDC process, more than \$2 billion has been awarded to job creation and community development projects consistent with each region's strategic plans, resulting in creation or retention of more than 100,000 jobs. For more information on the Regional Councils, visit www.regionalcouncils.ny.gov.



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