



**For Immediate Release:** Monday, November 24, 2014

**Contact:**

Jason Conwall | [jason.conwall@esd.ny.gov](mailto:jason.conwall@esd.ny.gov) | (800) 260-7313

Press Office | [pressoffice@esd.ny.gov](mailto:pressoffice@esd.ny.gov) | (800) 260-7313

**EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT ISSUES REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR REDEVELOPMENT OF  
FORMER BEACON CORRECTIONAL FACILITY IN DUTCHESS COUNTY**

Empire State Development (ESD) today announced it has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the purchase or long-term lease and redevelopment of the former Beacon Correctional Facility, an approximately 39 acre site located in the City of Beacon, Dutchess County, New York. The site was formerly a minimum security facility and closed in Fall 2013 as part of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's efforts to save taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars by consolidating the state's underutilized correctional facilities based on a declining inmate population.

"One of our main goals at ESD is to help local economies grow by maximizing the economic impact and new jobs generated by our investments, and we want to ensure that the redevelopment of the Beacon Correctional Facility achieves these goals," said Empire State Development President, CEO & Commissioner Kenneth Adams. "This RFP provides an opportunity to create new employment and encourage private investment in Dutchess County, which is known for its historic tourism attractions, major retail operations, and manufacturing and agricultural industries."

The Beacon site includes 21 modern construction structures totaling approximately 100,000 square feet of floor area and related infrastructure, and did not utilize perimeter security walls or fences. The campus-like operation and setting is ideal for businesses and institutions that have a need for multiple uses on a single site. The facility is located on the outskirts of the urban core, sited one mile from Beacon's downtown area and Main Street and within close proximity to Dia Beacon and Storm King, two of the nation's most renowned centers for the exhibition of contemporary art.

Since the prison's closure, ESD has worked closely with local stakeholders to evaluate the site's potential economic re-uses and to collaborate on development priorities. ESD has posted materials to provide a comprehensive analysis of the site, including descriptions and layouts of the site's structures and infrastructure, and video of the site at [www.esd.ny.gov/CorporateInformation/RFPs.html](http://www.esd.ny.gov/CorporateInformation/RFPs.html). Tours of Beacon will be offered on December 17 and responses to the RFP are due by January 15. Respondents to the RFP may

propose uses that will create new jobs – both permanent and construction, stimulate economic activity in the local municipality and region, and satisfy the selection criteria specified in the RFP.

Senator Terry Gipson said, “Since working to secure \$6 million in state funding to re-purpose this important site in Beacon, we have continued to work proactively with the ESD, state and local officials to ensure the greatest outcome for our regional economy. This RFP is an exciting next step in that process and our shared commitment to creating good local jobs and making smart investments to establish long-term economic growth.”

Assemblyman Frank Skartados said, “Organizations thinking of locating in the City of Beacon, or, in fact, anywhere in the entire Hudson River Valley, will find the area plentiful in resources and talent suitable for any business, with the added bonus of it being an outstanding place to live, recreate and raise a family.”

Dutchess County Executive Marcus J. Molinaro said, “As a State Assemblyman I fought for just such an effort – and now, when the State closes a facility like Beacon Correctional, there are significant efforts and funding made available to repurpose the property and restore the economic benefit. I’m pleased the State is working to bring new private investment and economic opportunities to the City of Beacon and this property. We are beginning to rebound and this strong commitment to help make this facility a job creator and economic benefit will help.”

City of Beacon Mayor Randy Casale said, “Located one mile from the city’s downtown area, the site of the former Beacon Correctional Facility is a great location to do business in Dutchess County. We have worked closely with Empire State Development, state, local and city officials since the closure to ensure that the community has a strong voice in the redevelopment process. I commend the State for its continued efforts to boost economic activity and create new opportunities in the wake of the facility’s closure.”

Fishkill Town Supervisor Robert LaColla said, “The Town recognizes that the Beacon Correctional property is located in a unique traffic hub with easy access to an interstate highway, commuter rail, the Hudson River and nearby Stewart Airport. The City of Beacon and the Town of Fishkill have been working diligently to ensure that the water, sewer and road systems are ready to support this and other appropriate development.”

In order to mitigate the impact of the facility’s closure on the local community, New York State is prepared to make up to \$6 million in grants available from the State and Municipal Facilities Program to assist with eligible capital costs associated with the redevelopment of the site.

The following qualify as eligible capital purposes:

- Capital costs of construction, improvement, rehabilitation or reconstruction of facilities;
- Acquisition of capital facilities and assets;

- Acquisition of capital assets with at least a 10-year useful life for the sole purpose of preserving and protecting infrastructure;
- Economic development projects sponsored by the State or municipal corporations that create or retain jobs; and
- Environmental projects sponsored by the State or municipal corporations.

The site is also eligible to host Tax-Free Areas for new or expanding businesses through the START-UP NY program, which would require a partnership with a sponsoring academic institution. Companies looking to locate to the site may also qualify for a number of incentive programs encouraging job creation and private investment. For more information about available NYS incentive programs, go to <http://esd.ny.gov/BusinessPrograms.html>

The RFP and additional details about the site of the former Beacon Correctional Facility can be found at: [http://esd.ny.gov/CorporateInformation/Data/RFPs/BeaconCF/11122014\\_Beacon\\_RFP.pdf](http://esd.ny.gov/CorporateInformation/Data/RFPs/BeaconCF/11122014_Beacon_RFP.pdf).

Empire State Development (ESD) is New York's chief economic development agency ([www.esd.ny.gov](http://www.esd.ny.gov)). The mission of ESD is to promote a vigorous and growing economy, encourage the creation of new job and economic opportunities, increase revenues to the State and its municipalities, and achieve stable and diversified local economies. Through the use of loans, grants, tax credits and other forms of financial assistance, ESD strives to enhance private business investment and growth to spur job creation and support prosperous communities across New York State. ESD is also the primary administrative agency overseeing Governor Cuomo's Regional Economic Development Councils and the marketing of "I Love NY," the State's iconic tourism brand. For more information on Regional Councils and Empire State Development, visit [www.regionalcouncils.ny.gov](http://www.regionalcouncils.ny.gov) and [www.esd.ny.gov](http://www.esd.ny.gov).

###