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## **EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES GROUNDBREAKING FOR LONG ISLAND LGBT NETWORK COMMUNITY CENTER IN PATCHOGUE**

*New community center in Long Island will create 24 new jobs and offer workforce development programs*

Empire State Development (ESD) today announced the groundbreaking for the Long Island LGBT Health and Human Services Network's new eco-friendly community center in Patchogue. The 18,000-square-foot facility will create 24 full-time jobs and provide a wide range of services. It was a Round V priority project for the Long Island Regional Economic Development Council. (LIREDC)

"The LGBT Network's new community center will create jobs, return a long-vacant building to use, and provide a welcoming space for Long Island's growing LGBT community," said ESD President, CEO & Commissioner Howard Zemsky. "The project aligns with the LIREDC's commitment to Cleaner, Greener Communities and regional sustainability."

"We are thankful and appreciative to the LIREDC and ESD for their support for the new LGBT Center in Patchogue," said David Kilmnick, PhD, CEO of the LGBT Network. "The new facility will increase the capacity of the LGBT Network to provide a wide range of brand-new health and social services that will meet the growing needs and transform life for LGBT Long Islander's for generations. With two dozen new full-time job opportunities along with the full array of health and human services and arts and cultural programs, Long Island will become one of the more desirable places for LGBT people to live and raise and their families."

John B. Rhodes, President and CEO, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), said, "Under Governor Cuomo's leadership, New York is advancing the use of green technologies to reduce carbon emissions and help ensure healthy, sustainable communities. Incorporating clean energy into the LGBT Network Community Center is a smart investment that will help create a healthier community that benefits all Long Islanders."

The LGBT Network will convert a vacant 8,000-square-foot, vacant building into a state-of-the-art, eco-friendly community center – the first on Long Island – for Long Island's significant and

growing LGBT community. The building had been empty for more than seven years. The facility will address a range of LGBT community needs and include a health center, runaway/homeless services including showers and laundry machines, free clothing for people in need, and a computer center to support a workforce development program. It will also have gallery space, conference and meeting rooms, mental health counseling rooms, landscaped outdoor meditation space, and a children's playground. Working in partnership with the United States Green Building Council Long Island's chapter, the facility will incorporate a range of "green" materials and technologies, such as geothermal heating and cooling, solar energy, storm water harvesting, charge stations for electric vehicles and more.

ESD is providing the LGBT Network a \$500,000 Capital Grant. LGBT Network will invest \$5 million to renovate and outfit the facility and will create 24 full-time jobs staffing the facility.

**About the LGBT Network:**

The LGBT Network is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that is a home and voice for LGBT people, their families, and support systems of Long Island and Queens. The LGBT Network's community centers in Woodbury, Bay Shore, Sag Harbor, Little Neck, and the upcoming flagship center in Patchogue help LGBT people to be themselves, connect with others, get healthy, and be empowered. The LGBT Network has a 24-year history of pioneering advocacy and change to promote safe spaces, not only within its programs, but also in schools, workplaces, organizations, and in the greater community. As a champion for LGBT people and their allies, we pioneer programs, build supportive communities, and lead social change in suburban and underserved communities.

**About Empire State Development:**

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).

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