



Spotlight on Success

Raymour & Flanigan creates 300 new jobs, invests \$46 million in Rockland County

Raymour & Flanigan
FURNITURE

Governor Cuomo has said his number one priority is creating jobs, jobs and more jobs. As New York State's economic development agency, Empire State Development works to retain and grow existing companies, lay the ground work for future job-creating industries and make New York State the place to do business.

One of the companies ESD has worked closely with over the years is Raymour & Flanigan, a family-owned furniture retailer founded in Syracuse in 1947. As a result of this close ESD/company partnership, Raymour & Flanigan last year announced plans to significantly expand its New York operations by establishing a new regional distribution center in Rockland County, creating 300 new jobs that will result in over \$135 million in wages for local employees over the next ten years. [Continue reading more.](#)



What NYS Can Do for You: The Tax Credits of the Excelsior Program

Businesses committed to growing in New York State may be eligible for substantial tax savings through Empire State Development's Excelsior Jobs Program

Created in 2011, the Excelsior Jobs Program was conceived to provide job creation and investment incentives to firms in industries like biotechnology, pharmaceutical, high-tech, clean-technology, green technology, financial services, agriculture and manufacturing. The program encourages businesses to expand in and relocate to New York State. [To learn more click here.](#)

Regional Spotlight

North Country named a "Top Performer," awarded \$90.2 million

The North Country was named a "Top Performer" in Round Two of the Regional Economic Development Council initiative. The North Country Regional Economic Development Council (NCREDC) credits its accomplishments to the collaboration across all sectors -business, labor, education and government - as well as unprecedented public participation from all corners of the seven county region. Consistent with Governor Cuomo's vision for the regional councils serving as a community-based approach to economic development, public participation helped differentiate the North Country plan and its priorities. This Round Two achievement continues the momentum from Round One and has the NCREDC busy implementing its Strategic Plan and the projects that support the region's vision for economic growth and prosperity. For full story, [click here.](#)





And the Winners Are:

NYS♥FILM tax credit program participants are well respected during award season

The New York State Film Production Tax Credit program, administered by Empire State Development, successfully attracted 135 new projects to the state over the course of 2012. In addition to creating jobs for thousands of New Yorkers and attracting billions of dollars annually, these shows and films have gained critical acclaim for their artistic merit. The year's crop of productions includes television shows and films that have been nominated for some of the most prestigious awards in the industry. For the full story, [click here](#).

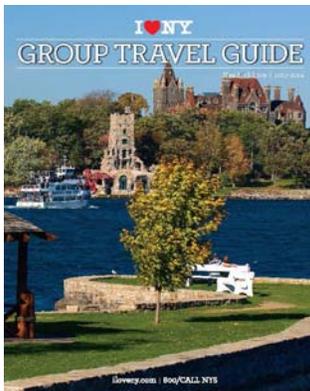
Open Budget

"Bringing the people back into government..."

In January, Governor Andrew Cuomo proposed the 2013-14 Executive Budget and Management Plan, which builds on two years of balanced, fiscally responsible budgeting and invests in economic development, education reform and Superstorm Sandy rebuilding. The proposed budget also provides support to local governments and school districts and includes no new taxes or fees.



With state finances steadied, New York has the means to target new spending to grow the economy, create jobs and train students for the demands of the 21st Century workforce. Governor Cuomo's budget proposal includes some exciting new economic development initiatives while maintaining support for key programs like the Regional Economic Development Councils and the New York Open for Business campaign. For full story, [click here](#).



New York Loves Groups

Group Travel is getting big in New York State

Group travel is big business. Whether it is individuals joining group trips organized by a travel company, or individual groups chartering their own trips through tour operators, many travelers get to experience New York's exciting tourism attractions as part of a group tour. In fact, according to the American Bus Association, the direct economic impact of the motorcoach tourism industry in New York State in 2012 was over \$1.9 billion for things like: hotel and lodging; eating and drinking establishments; entertainment and amusement; and retail.

Recognizing the importance of the group tour industry, the I Love New York tourism team has stepped up its outreach to this vital industry segment. The new 2013-14 I Love NY Group Travel Guide was released last month, in time for the important industry tradeshows taking place in January. For full story, [click here](#).

Events

ESD activities around New York State that you can attend

Following Governor Cuomo's presentation of his proposed 2013-14 Executive Budget in January, Kenneth Adams, Western NY Regional President Sam Hoyt and other ESD officials were back on the road, touring the state to deliver the governor's agenda directly to local community organizations and chambers of commerce. Presentations continue through February. [View full schedule](#).



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