

**State of New York
Executive Chamber
Eliot Spitzer, Governor**

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\$100 MILLION IN RESTORE NY GRANTS ANNOUNCED FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Governor Eliot Spitzer, Lieutenant Governor David A. Paterson, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver and Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno today announced the recipients of \$100 million in Restore New York grants. Empire State Development will provide funding to 64 projects statewide through its Restore NY Communities Initiative. Restore New York was designed to revitalize urban areas and stabilize neighborhoods as a means to attract residents and businesses. This announcement comes less than a week after Governor Spitzer delivered his State of the State address, where he spoke about the need to create livable communities.

"The \$100 million investment in Restore NY funding demonstrates the state's commitment to provide a catalyst for meaningful community development projects throughout New York State," said Governor Spitzer as he traveled today in Utica, Plattsburgh and Ithaca. "This year's projects represent the tremendous potential in urban communities, which will spur economic activity and allow our neighborhoods to flourish. Creating resonant communities will provide the foundation for New York's Innovation Economy for generations to come."

Lieutenant Governor David Paterson said: "This initiative provides critically needed resources in order to complete projects that can transform communities. Reviving community development, particularly in urban cores, can spur meaningful economic developments that create vibrant communities, where New Yorkers will want to live, work and raise families."

Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver said: "The Restore NY program is a \$300 million Assembly initiative based on a concept originated in Western New York, and I am pleased that the Governor is announcing this second round of important projects. Restore NY is already providing vital support for revitalization and renaissance in communities throughout New York State, which in turn stimulates much-needed job creation and economic development."

Senate Majority Leader Joseph L. Bruno said: "The Restore NY's Communities Initiative is a vital tool for creating additional economic development opportunities throughout New York State by turning gutted buildings into new, productive facilities. These projects will help generate optimism among residents, and help foster an environment that encourages job creation."

Upstate Empire State Development Chairman Daniel C. Gundersen said: "The 44 Upstate projects awarded through Restore NY connect community initiatives with economic development goals. They serve as catalysts for future development and growth. The process was a competitive one that identified those projects that would truly serve to revitalize urban cores, leverage private investment and bring future business expansion to our Upstate communities."

Downstate Empire State Development Chairman Pat Foye said: "Today's announcement is a perfect example of how state dollars can be leveraged with private investment to best serve deserving communities. Working closely with local elected officials, we were able to identify those submissions which would provide the greatest future impact on local economies and stimulate development. I look forward to standing with our local government partners in the future to announce the tangible results of these Round II Restore NY grants."

Restore NY funds municipally-sponsored projects for the demolition, deconstruction, rehabilitation or reconstruction of vacant or obsolete structures.

This is the second round of funds from a pool appropriated in the 2006-07 State budget. Restore NY was designed as a competitive process with specific criteria. Strong emphasis is placed on projects from economically distressed communities across the state with priority given to projects that leverage other state or federal redevelopment, remediation or planning programs such as brownfields or Empire Zones. Round III of the program will begin in 2008. More information regarding Restore NY can be found at <http://www.empire.state.ny.us/restoreNY>.

Empire State Development is New York's chief economic development agency, encompassing business, workforce and community development. ESD also oversees the marketing of "I LOVE NY," the state's iconic tourism brand. For more information, visit <http://www.nylovesbiz.com/>.

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A listing of projects funded under Round II of the program is available [here](#).

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