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**MID-HUDSON REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL ANNOUNCES  
FIRST COMMUNITY WORKSHOP**

*The public is invited to participate in the first in a series of workshops to be held across the Hudson Valley*

*First public forum will be held on September 12 in Sullivan County*

The Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council today announced details of community workshops designed to gain input and aid in the creation of the council's five-year strategic economic development plan for the Hudson Valley. The council will host a series of facilitated community conversations at public meetings across the region in each of its seven counties: Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster & Westchester. The first meeting will be held on Monday, September 12 at Bethel Woods Center for the Arts, located at 200 Hurd Road in Bethel, NY.

"Our region's seven counties are geographically, demographically, and economically diverse," said Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council Vice-Chair and President of Marist College Dennis Murray. "In order to create a plan that captures the unique needs of each we need to engage with the public. The strategic planning process is a critical part of our work to design an economic development plan that reflects the vision for job creation and economic opportunity of our communities."

"Governor Cuomo has challenged us with the task of developing and implementing an economic development strategy that is best suited to the needs and opportunities of the mid-Hudson region of New York State," said Leonard S. Schleifer, MD, PhD, Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council Vice-Chair and President & CEO of Regeneron Pharmaceuticals,

Inc. "We can only succeed in that mission with the active collaboration and participation of the people of this great part of New York State."

The meeting will begin with an overview of the purpose of the regional council and a discussion of the strategic planning process. Facilitators will then break the attendees into small groups that will brainstorm and discuss the issues and opportunities facing the region. Groups will report their results, and those results will be tabulated and presented to the regional council at the next council meeting.

Following the Community Workshop, the public is invited for a complimentary tour of the Museum at Bethel Woods' permanent exhibition, "The Story of the Sixties and Woodstock" and special exhibits currently on view.

[Click here](#) to register for this workshop, or call (845) 567-4882.

In addition, the Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council has launched an online public survey. To take the survey visit <http://nyworks.ny.gov/content/mid-hudson>

Created by Executive Order by Governor Cuomo, the Regional Economic Development Councils represent a fundamental shift in the state's approach to economic development—from a top-down development model to a community-based approach that emphasizes regions' unique assets, harnesses local expertise, and empowers each region to set plans and priorities.

The [Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council](#) is one of ten regional councils across New York that will serve as a single point of contact for economic activity in the region. Through their strategic planning process, the Councils will identify and expedite priority projects that demonstrate the greatest potential for job growth. As part of the initiative, up to \$1 billion in state resources will be accessible to eligible economic development projects through existing program grants and tax credits. To learn more about the Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council, visit <http://nyworks.ny.gov/content/mid-hudson>.

Each Regional Council will draft a plan for the development of their region, which will provide a regional vision for economic development, address critical issues and opportunities, and lay out an implementation roadmap for future growth. The state will work with the Regional Councils to align state resources and policies, eliminate unnecessary barriers to growth and prosperity, and streamline the delivery of government services and programs to help the Regional Councils carry out their plans for development. To learn more about each region and their economic development plans, visit <http://nyworks.ny.gov/>

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