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WESTERN NEW YORK REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL SCHEDULES SECOND COMMUNITY WORKSHOP IN BUFFALO

Due to popular demand, another public-input session added for Erie County

The Western New York Regional Economic Development Council today announced it has scheduled a second community workshop in Buffalo due to overwhelming public demand to participate in the regional council planning process. The community workshops are designed to gain input and aid in the creation of the council's five-year strategic economic development plan for the Western New York Region, which includes Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie and Niagara counties.

The community workshop will be held:

Thursday, September 29, 6 to 8 p.m.

Roswell Park Cancer Institute
David C. Hohn Lecture Hall
Research Studies Center
Elm and Carlton streets
Buffalo, New York 14263

The format of the meeting is a facilitated community conversation and will include an overview of the regional council, a discussion of the strategic planning process and will utilize "clicker" technology that will allow the public to have their voices be heard regarding priorities and regional issues.

To register for the workshop, visit <http://nyworks.ny.gov/content/western-new-york> or call (716) 846-8247.

Created 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 Western New York 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.

Each Regional Council will develop 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 www.nyworks.ny.gov.

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