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## **MOHAWK VALLEY REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL LOOKS TOWARD IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN**

The Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council, awarded \$60.2 million in state resources to support 59 significant projects across the region through the Regional Economic Development Council initiative and Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) process, is looking forward to the implementation of its Strategic Plan. The Council Co-Chairs praised the work of its members, workgroups, agency partners and the public and attributed the region's success to the strong partnerships and collaboration established across the region.

"In just a few months, we have seen a true transformation in how the Mohawk Valley is doing business," said Larry Gilroy, Council Co-Chair and President of Gilroy, Kernan & Gilroy, Inc. "With a comprehensive roadmap for our future and state support to back our priority projects in place, we are now in a real position to create jobs and leverage investment that will impact our local economies. I thank Governor Cuomo and Lieutenant Governor Robert Duffy for their vision and all of those who participated in this process for their hard work and commitment. We look forward to implementing our plan and the opportunity for a second round of funding in the next year."

"The initial outcome of this process holds great promise for the entire Mohawk Valley, and we look forward to continuing this work in year two," said Bjong Wolf Yeigh, Council Co-Chair and President of the SUNY Institute of Technology. "Our Council did a great job articulating a regional vision. The Mohawk Valley is clearly an important part of the strategy that will lead to economic growth and future development for all of New York."

The Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council's Strategic Plan is guided by the region's vision statement and its five strategies: enhance regional concentrations; workforce alignment and education; innovation enabling infrastructure; increase spatial efficiency; and

strengthen government and civic effectiveness. The Plan provides a roadmap for promoting and sustaining a diverse, integrated and dynamic regional economy. It puts forth ways to capitalize on the region's strengths and opportunities in its major industry sectors, including agriculture and food processing; financial services, insurance and real estate; travel and tourism; healthcare and medical services; cybersecurity/information technology; semiconductors and nanotechnology; clean technology; manufacturing; and distribution.

The list of projects to receive funding include:

- \$15 million to support construction of the Computer Chip Commercialization Center (Quad-C) on the SUNYIT campus, as part of SUNYIT's partnership with the University at Albany's College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering. (Oneida County)
- \$2 million to develop the Tryon Technology Park and Incubator Center. This project involves transforming the former Tryon juvenile detention facility into a job creating, revenue generating business park, modeled after three successful business parks already established in the county. (Fulton County)
- \$4.1 million project toward construction of a sanitary sewer collection system and water system to serve the Route 7 corridor, County Route 8 and the Howe Caverns Facility. (Schoharie County)
- \$140,000 to support Brewery Ommegang's expansion in Cooperstown, which includes new buildings, expansion of the current brewing and beer packaging operation, as well as construction of a new water and waste treatment facility. (Otsego County)
- \$1.3 million to assist in the expansion of Embassy Millworks, a wood milling operation that specializes in high-end locker room construction, to acquire and renovate the long-vacant Universal Custom Millworks Building in Amsterdam. (Montgomery County)
- \$750,000 to renovate 26 low- and moderate-income homes in Herkimer County. (Herkimer County)

For a look at all of the projects awarded funding in the Mohawk Valley, visit <http://www.governor.ny.gov/assets/documents/CFAAWARDSBooklet.pdf>. In addition, the Council was pleased by the Governor's announcement that a three-way agreement has been reached to hold a second round of awards next year.

Announced in July, Regional Councils represent a fundamental shift in the state's approach to economic development from a top-down development model to a community-based, performance driven approach which empowers individual areas to develop comprehensive strategic plans that invest in regional solutions to create jobs and economic growth. As part of the Regional Council process, a Strategic Plan Review Committee was chosen to analyze and rank the strategic plans for each region competing for \$200 million in specially targeted economic development funding.

In addition to the strategic planning grants made available through the Regional Council initiative, a Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) was created to give businesses and other entities streamlined and expedited access to economic development funding from nine state agencies and 29 existing programs. Awards for CFA projects were based on the endorsement of

the local Regional Council and the technical scoring of various state funding agencies. Additionally, eligible applicants will receive funding from NYSERDA's energy efficiency and renewable energy programs.

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