

# **New York State Department of State Funding Announcement** **To Advance Governor Cuomo's Opportunity Agenda**

Closes June 16, 2014

The New York State Department of State (DOS) is accepting applications for up to \$2 million in federal Community Services Block Grant discretionary for competitive awards which advance the priorities of a region's Opportunity Agenda. DOS will make up to five grant awards of up to \$400,000 each for programs that run over a period of two years.

Applicants should demonstrate significant and measurable results on the causes of poverty within a community identified as an Opportunity Area by a Regional Economic Development Council, in addition to creating opportunities for economic sustainability in the lives of low-income individuals and families.

For more information, a copy of the Request for Applications and how to apply, visit:

<http://www.dos.ny.gov/funding/rfa-14-csbg-8/index.html>. Applications must be submitted by June 16 at 4pm.

## **Public Presentations About This Funding**

DOS staff will be presenting information about this funding at public events across the State as part of Regional Economic Development Council Consolidated Funding Application events. Dates for these events can be found at: [www.regionalcouncils.ny.gov](http://www.regionalcouncils.ny.gov). The presentations are also available as recordings found on the same website.

## **About the New York State Regional Councils**

In 2011, Governor Cuomo created 10 Regional Councils to develop long-term strategic plans for economic growth for their regions. A key component of Governor Cuomo's transformative approach to economic development, these councils are public-private partnerships made up of local experts and stakeholders from business, academia, local government and non-governmental organizations. The Regional Councils produced innovative plans and implementation agendas that truly reflect the distinct characteristics of each of the 10 regions of our great state. More than \$700 million in state resources are awarded through this process each year.

The Regional Councils have redefined the way New York invests in jobs and economic growth by putting in place a community-based, bottom up approach. This approach allows the regions to continue pursuing and investing in its own economic destiny.

## **About the Opportunity Agenda**

In 2013, at Governor Cuomo's direction, the Regional Councils developed regional Opportunity Agendas to ensure poor communities were included in the economic revitalization spurred by the work and the funding of the Regional Economic Development Councils. Whether they are workforce skills training and job linkage programs to opportunities created by REDC priority projects, infrastructure improvements eliminating restrictions to economic growth in these areas, social services to address challenges facing the long-term unemployed, or transportation assistance to reach newly created jobs, each Opportunity Agenda seeks to bolster economic productivity across New York State by helping these communities overcome barriers to economic success.

This year, each Regional Council is reviewing and refining its Opportunity Agenda, making adjustments as needed based on new information, availability of funds, and lessons learned since it was adopted. To ensure that no one is left behind in our economic revitalization programs and to better leverage the more than \$700 million in state's annual economic development funding to break the cycle of poverty, new graded questions have been added to the state's consolidated funding application asking how project applying for economic development funding (grants, loans, tax credits, etc) regardless of the funding stream creates ladders of opportunity for poor people and their neighborhoods. The Consolidated Funding Application asks applicants to describe the manner in which their projects or initiative advances their region's Opportunity Agenda and Strategic Plan, and how the project proposes to use state funds/resources to connect those living in poverty with skilled employment.