

Growing Greene



News from Greene County Economic Development, Tourism & Planning

Press Release

Greene County Department of Economic Development, Tourism & Planning

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Greene County Offers Small Business Grant Funds and Training Classes

CATSKILL, New York - Greene County has received a \$200,000 grant award from the New York State Office of Community Renewal (OCR) for microenterprise development. The State funds will allow Greene County to make small grants to businesses through its Microenterprise Assistance Program (MAP). Greene County will also conduct a series of small business training classes.

"This award is extremely valuable to the county as part of its overall economic development and job creation goals," said Greene County Legislature Chairman Wayne Speenburgh. "The Microenterprise Assistance Program is important both for the capital it provides to small businesses, and the classroom training business owners receive, which helps them get a good start or to expand an existing business," said Chairman Speenburgh.

The Greene County Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Planning is accepting applications to assist start-up companies and existing enterprises with five or fewer employees, one of which is required to be the owner, with grants of up to \$25,000 for job-creating projects to start or expand their business. This special program requires the creation of new jobs, matching funds, ability to meet standard underwriting requirements, and participation is required in one of the small business training classes. The Department can advise businesses on how to qualify for this special incentive. Grants are now available on a first-come, first-served basis, as long as grant funds are available to the county. A summary of the terms and conditions of the program, along with application forms, may be found on the GreeneBusiness website at <http://greenebusiness.com/economic-development/loans-incentives>.

Karen Deyo, Catskill Legislator, Chairwoman of the Government Operations Committee, and member of the Economic Development Committee said, "This incentive program offer is another creative example

of the County's economic development initiatives. The County will continue to make investments and be responsive to the needs of small businesses within Greene County."

The Greene County Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Planning is now accepting reservations for the Spring 2010 Microenterprise Assistance Program (MAP) training class, which is a free, two-day intensive session that covers the basics of business planning, accounting and marketing. This MAP Class will be held on Friday, June 18th and Saturday, June 19th from 8:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Greene County Emergency Operations and Training Center, One Volunteer Drive in Cairo.

Specific business topics covered in the training classes will include marketing, accounting, cash flow analysis, business plan development and implementation, and business regulations. Instructors include local and regional experts, along with staff from Economic Development, Tourism and Planning, and the Greene County Chamber of Commerce. The training is designed to build the knowledge necessary for participants to implement a business plan, and expand their markets and profits quickly once in operation. Owners and managers of existing businesses of five or fewer employees, along with potential start-up entrepreneurs, are eligible to participate. Participants should bring their business plans.

"The County's Microenterprise Assistance Program has been successful in the growth and development of small business in Greene County," said Warren Hart, Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Planning Director. Greene County has received four separate Microenterprise grant awards from the New York State Office of Community Renewal (OCR) since 2002. The county received grant awards for tourism enhancement, downtown development, and overall small business growth and development providing capital to businesses in the amount of 1.3 million dollars. The previous grants assisted 35 small businesses in Greene County. The 2010 Microenterprise Grant the County will allow the county to assist 7 additional businesses. Greene County continues to rank in the top ten counties in New York State for percentage of people working in microenterprises.

Reservations for the MAP classes are required, and may be made by contacting the Greene County Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Planning. Reservations should be requested no later than 4:30 p.m. on Monday, June 14, 2010.

The Greene County MAP has operated since 1998 in order to encourage small business owners and entrepreneurs to either start or expand businesses. The MAP operates with funding obtained from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development awarded by OCR. When special State grant incentives are not available, the MAP makes low-interest loans to qualifying businesses using its pool of revolving loan funds as they are available.

To learn more about the MAP, or this special incentive, visit www.GreeneBusiness.com or call Greene County Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Planning at (518) 719-3290.