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ULSTER COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE ANNOUNCES NEW BUSINESS COMPETITION FOR ELLENVILLE/WAWARSING AREA

The Ulster County Economic Development Alliance (UCEDA) is announcing a new business competition, offering up to \$100,000 in funds to support business development and job creation in the Ellenville/Wawarsing area. The competition will be conducted in Phases. Phase One will be the Solicitation of Concepts and Phase Two will be a competition among finalists to be judged by the UCEDA board. Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress will oversee the program, but not the judging of the competition.

"This competition is an exciting opportunity for businesses that want to invest and create jobs in the western part of Ulster County," said Julie Lonstein, the Chair of UCEDA. "The Ellenville/Wawarsing area offers an affordable and attractive location for business development, and we expect the competition will support the start up or expansion of promising new ventures that contribute towards sustainable economic development of this part of our county," she added.

Funding for the competition comes from "The Ellenville Million," a program initiated in 2015 by County Executive Mike Hein to spur economic development in the Ellenville/Wawarsing area. In 2017 the Ulster County Legislature authorized a reallocation of program funds to expand the program's efforts aimed at supporting local businesses and generating new jobs.

"The Ellenville/Wawarsing area is a major focus of our economic development efforts," said County Executive Hein. "We know that efforts like this competition can help to continue transforming the economy of this part of our county, boost the tax base, and bring new opportunities to residents of these communities."

The competition will have two phases. Participants may come from anywhere in the region but the project must be located in the Ellenville/Wawarsing area and any funds provided by UCEDA must be used in the same area. The competition will only fund new businesses or expansions that commence after the selection by the UCEDA board.

"UCEDA looks forward to innovative proposals to jumpstart a new or existing business in Ellenville or Wawarsing," said County Legislator James Maloney, the Vice Chair of UCEDA and the Chair of the County Legislature's Economic Development & Tourism Committee.

Details of the competition are as follows:

PHASE ONE - SOLICITATION OF CONCEPTS

In order to generate as many concepts as possible, this first phase will require simply the submission of a two page application which can be found online at: <http://ulstercountyny.gov/economic-development/ulster-county-economic-development-alliance/ellenville-million>. Proposals will be submitted via email to oed@co.ulster.ny.us or in hard-copy to UCEDA, 244 Fair Street, PO Box 1800, Kingston, NY 12402-1800.

All proposals will be bound and presented in packets to the UCEDA board of directors for their review. The Board will select two to four concepts to be advanced to Phase Two of the competition. Proposals are due by June 1, 2018.

PHASE TWO - THE COMPETITION

Having selected finalists, the participants will then be expected to complete a three year business plan. Each finalist will be supported by a counselor from the Mid Hudson Small Business Center to assist them in their preparation and presentations of their business plan to the UCEDA board.

The UCEDA board reserves the right to allocate all funds to one finalist, to divide the funds as they see fit among two or more of the finalists, or not to allocate any funds if no proposal is deemed to satisfy the criteria. Prior to the award of funds, the UCEDA board will conduct due diligence to ensure that the contractor is not debarred or otherwise precluded from receiving public funds.

Recipient(s) should anticipate 60-90 days for contracts to be written. Payment terms will be determined during the development of contracts.

Projects must be initiated within 30 days of the award of contract.

Contracts for UCEDA funds should be completed by December 1, 2018.