Regional Workforce Development in NY’s Southern Tier
A 2008-2011 Project of the EDA University Center at Cornell University

An overall goal for the 2008-2011 Cornell EDA University Center Project is to work with partners and community-based leaders, including Cornell Cooperative Extension, Cornell University and other educational institutions, Regional Planning and Development Boards, and others, to build regional capacity in the Pipeline for Progress (P4P) region. P4P is a workforce development initiative in the Southern Tier region of New York State. To achieve this overall goal, we will focus on four objectives, all of which are related to goals identified in the P4P Action Plan. We will pursue these objectives through an integrated approach that involves research, training and outreach, and regional infrastructure development.

1. **Understand and prepare P4P communities to respond to the reasons for insufficient “brain gain” in the Southern Tier.** We will pursue this objective pursued through a survey of recent P4P region high school graduates.

2. **Understand and address the reasons why some P4P communities successfully apply, unsuccessfully apply, and don’t apply for CDBG funding so that more communities are successful in securing funds that support infrastructure development.** We will pursue this objective through focus groups with P4P region communities and communities outside of the region that have worked to address this issue. If P4P region communities find value in doing so, we will facilitate the development of a peer support network within the region designed to help communities support one another in their efforts to secure infrastructure development funds throughout the region.

3. **Increase regional leadership skills and capacity.** We will provide leadership skill training, educational programs on regional approaches to community and economic development and other development topics of interest to the region, and develop a web-based forum for peer-to-peer support through the Rural Learning Network of Central and Western, New York.

4. **Increase community capacity for Entrepreneurship Support.** We will pursue this objective through training on entrepreneurial communities and through work with two pilot communities to assess and identify ways to enhance their capacity, at a community level, for supporting entrepreneurial efforts. We also plan to work with communities in the region to develop a business retention and expansion plan for key industry sectors they have targeted for development (e.g. green technologies).

As we implement the actions needed to achieve these objectives, we will be working closely with campus-based and P4P regional partners to monitor and evaluate our progress, adjusting our plan of work as necessary to achieve each objective and our overall goal. Questions about our efforts should be directed to Rod Howe, Executive Director of the Community and Rural Development Institute, at rlh13@cornell.edu or 607-255-9510.

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1The draft Action Plan is available for review on the Pipeline for Progress website at: [http://p4pnetwork.com/](http://p4pnetwork.com/)