

# CaRDI Communiqué

Issue 4 / July 2007

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For more information regarding the *Communiqué* or CaRDI in general, please email Ann Prince at [ach37@cornell.edu](mailto:ach37@cornell.edu), or visit us on the web at [www.cardi.cornell.edu](http://www.cardi.cornell.edu).

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## Highlights

### CaRDI Publications

On June 1st, Issue #6 of our *Rural New York Minute* series was released, entitled "**What does "Community" mean to New Yorkers?**" by Robin M Blakely & David L. Brown.

We will release our 7th issue of the *Minute* in early July entitled "**Community Issues in New York State: What's Important?**" by Robin M Blakely.

On June 15th, Issue #6 of our *Research & Policy Brief Series* was released, entitled "**NYS Counties Losing or Gaining Metro Status: So What?**", by David L. Brown and Whitney Mauer, Cornell University.

We will release our 7th issue of the *Brief* on July 15th entitled "**School-Based Health Centers in New York State**", by John Sipple and Hope Casto, Cornell University.

All of our publications are available on the CaRDI website at <http://www.cardi.cornell.edu>.

## **Resources / Articles**

### **ADVANCED MANUFACTURING WORKPLACE STRATEGIES: TOOL KIT**

*"A resource for unions, their signatory employers and partners in the workforce, education and economic development communities"*

[http://www.workingforamerica.org/toolkit/programs\\_resources.asp](http://www.workingforamerica.org/toolkit/programs_resources.asp)

## **Funding / Grants**

## **MAKE IT YOUR OWN**

The Case Foundation has just launched an exciting new grant program called Make It Your Own. It is designed to help grassroots leaders involve their fellow citizens in dialogue, deliberation, and action on community problems. This is one of those rare instances where a national foundation will make grants directly to local and neighborhood-level projects; it is even more unusual in that the decision-making process on who gets the grants will be made, in part, by citizens themselves (see "Foundation Lets Public Help Award Money" in the New York Times at <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/06/26/us/26charity.html>). This is a citizen-centered funding effort that will produce citizen-centered projects.

Many of you know grassroots leaders who would make terrific applicants for Make It Your Own (and some of you fit that description yourselves). Please check out the details at <http://www.casefoundation.org/make-it-your-own> and pass this email along to anyone you think would be a good candidate. If you know someone who is intending to apply, help them think through their proposed project and point them toward other organizations that can help (such as the ones listed at <http://www.casefoundation.org/make-it-your-own/take-action/places>).

## **COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCES AGRICULTURAL GRANT OPPORTUNITY Agricultural Research and Development RFP Released; Proposals Due August 28, 2007**

New York State Agriculture Commissioner Patrick Hooker today announced Round VII of the Grow New York Food and Agriculture Industry Development (FAID) Program, designed to fund research and development projects that enhance the production, processing and distribution of agricultural products and food in New York State.

The FAID Program provides matching funds, up to \$60,000, to public and private agencies, organizations, businesses, educational institutions, local governments and individuals that submit proposals which implement innovative and low-risk approaches to the research, development, production, processing and distribution of agricultural products.

Eligible projects should capitalize on the State's unique resources and strategic location near significant markets, and must involve market development or expansion, production diversification, processing and distribution system development; facilitate commercial application of new technologies; or conduct feasibility studies.

FAID applications are available by contacting the Department at 1-800-544-4501 or by downloading the form from the Department's website at [www.agmkt.state.ny.us/RFPS.html](http://www.agmkt.state.ny.us/RFPS.html). All applications for funding must be received by the Department by 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 28, 2007.

To date, FAID has awarded \$3.5 million to support 106 projects across the State. FAID is part of the Department's Grow New York initiative, which incorporates numerous programs designed to enhance the economic vitality of agriculture in New York.

Since Grow New York was established in 2000, the Department has provided more than \$5 million in competitive grants for nearly 275 agricultural projects including farmers' market improvements, farmland viability projects, and research and development grants.

Agriculture is one of New York's most significant industries, encompassing 25 percent of the State's landscape and generating more than \$3 billion for our economy each year. Currently, New York State has 7.6 million acres of farmland with 35,000 farms.