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New York State Targets Manufacturers with Newest Program

Empire State Development recently unveiled the Manufacturing Assistance Program (MAP), which provides grants of up to \$1 million. This new initiative recognizes the importance of the manufacturing sector, structures funds to assist it in more effectively meeting competition from around the world, and better safeguards jobs for New Yorkers.

By encouraging New York manufacturers to make investments that improve the output, productivity and long-term competitiveness of their facilities, MAP targets a sector made up of nearly 20,000 enterprises that directly employ approximately 600,000 workers. Each job further supports about 2.4 additional jobs in the surrounding economy, making the indirect employment benefit of manufacturing about 1.4 million.

Manufacturing generally provides higher paying jobs, and tends to import wealth into a region by exporting products outside of it. New York State manufacturers eligible for MAP funding must employ between 100 to 1,000 workers and export at least 30% of their production beyond the immediate region, or supply at least 30% of their production to a prime manufacturer that exports beyond the region.

Eligible projects must include investments of at least \$2 million in machinery and equipment, and may also include building and infrastructure improvements, changes in manufacturing process or layout, and worker training, to the extent that those contribute to the resulting enhancements to productivity and production. As for employment requirements, MAP stipulates that applicants commit to retain 85% of their current workforce for a five-year project period to maintain funding.

Awards, which can be up to \$1 million, will be based on the quantifiable improvements in competitiveness and productivity and overall benefit to the manufacturer and the regional economy.

For more information, please contact Empire State Development at 800-STATE NY or 518-292-5340 or visit the ESD website at www.nylovesbiz.com.

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