

# Group pushes for state funding



Written by

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Leaders of the Rochester Community Coalition met with a contingent of state leaders including former Rochester Mayor Robert Duffy, now lieutenant governor, in Albany Monday to push for state funding for four projects aimed at promoting job growth and improving the local economy.

The representatives of Rochester-area business, labor, city and county government, education and nonprofits also met with Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, state Budget Director Robert Megna, Empire State Development President Kenneth Adams, Rochester-area legislators and members of Gov. Andrew Cuomo's staff, to discuss funding priorities.

"I think things went very, very well," said Rochester Business Alliance President Sandy Parker. "All of them were impressed. RCC has a lot of priorities that are job producers (in the areas of) business, education, human services and most importantly labor. We were all in agreement when presenting them, as priorities for our region."

RCC is seeking \$25 million for the Institute for Sustainability at Rochester Institute of Technology; \$33 million to create the Health Sciences Center for Computational Innovation at the University of Rochester; \$5 million over four years to expand a Rochester After-School Initiative, and \$100 million for an Interstate 390 Interchange Project.

The Institute for Sustainability at RIT would establish the region as a hub for the emerging green-tech economy, according to a news release from RCC.

The Health Sciences Center for Computational Innovation at the University of Rochester aims to create the nation's largest and most powerful computer systems dedicated to health research.

The Rochester After-School initiative, is designed to help 625 youth annually find safe and constructive options, develop social skills and establish mentor relationships.

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The Interstate 390 Interchange Project will overhaul the corridor from the Genesee River to the I-390-/I-590 Interchange to support and accommodate the increased traffic to UR, RIT and Monroe Community College, and projects along Mt. Hope Avenue and East Henrietta Road.

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