

Rochester and Finger Lakes Region Receive \$68.8 Million

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Rochester, N.Y. - Projects in Rochester and the Finger Lakes will receive \$68.8 million dollars in economic development grants and tax breaks from New York State. The results of the regional competition were announced in Albany Thursday morning.

Rochester was not one of the top four regions in this competitor first announced by [Governor Cuomo](#) early this year. Buffalo, Syracuse, the North Country, and Long Island received the most money.

"The Rochester region is always overlooked," said a disappointed Sandy Parker of the Rochester Business Alliance. "Part of that is because we're so resilient and we do have a history of pulling together as a region and making things happen."

Buffalo received \$100.3 million and the Central [New York Region](#) which includes Syracuse won \$103.7 million.

"You can look at it in all or nothing terms, that's wrong," says Dr. Joel Seligman. The President of the University of Rochester was the co-leader of the Finger Lakes Regional Council. "We walked away with \$68.8 million."

Projects that will receive some funding include a senior citizens housing complex in Henrietta, a storage facility on former Kodak property and a partnership between the U of R and IBM to develop high powered computers for use in [health care](#). The largest project, to create a \$300 million waste-to-ethanol plant, also at Eastman Park, was panned entirely.

The Finger Lakes Council pitched projects promising to create 7,000 [jobs](#) and to leverage \$10 of private investment for every

\$1 of taxpayer money.

"I think that almost worked against us," says Parker. She notes that there is no clear reason why Rochester lost out to some regions committing little, if any, private investment.

"That's a positive thing, and I think the state needs to look at those regions that are able to pull together and make things happen and put their dollars where they know there are going to be successes," she says.

Governor Cuomo surprised many – handing out the full \$1 billion in economic development money all at once, instead of forcing councils not in the top four to go into a second round of competition.

The governor said the awards are the last word for now, but said a similar amount of money will be made available through a similar competition next year.

"I always like to win," says Co-Chairman Seligman. "But we did win in the sense that we have a five year plan and the competition is going to continue next year."

The image shows a screenshot of a video player interface. The top section displays a video player with a dark blue background. The video title is "Finger Lakes Region Gets \$68 Million" with a timestamp of "Dec. 08, 2011. 05:07 PM EST" and a duration of "[2:32]". A "13" logo is visible in the top right corner of the video player. Below the video player, there are three smaller video thumbnails with titles: "Syrians vote in municipal polls" (Dec. 12, 2011. 08:16 AM EST, [0:35]), "Anelka to make Shanghai switch" (Dec. 12, 2011. 08:10 AM EST, [0:54]), and "Who is Kabul's girl in green?" (Dec. 12, 2011. 08:05 AM EST, [2:16]). Below the video player is an advertisement for "ROCHESTER IMMEDIATE CARE" with the tagline "the fastest ER alternative". The ad features a blue banner with the text "When your child is sick" and a photo of a brown teddy bear with a white bandage on its forehead. Below this is a green banner with the text "Rochester Immediate Care is right here, right now."