

Rochester Community Coalition

2009 Top Priorities for State Investment - RESULTS

Business – City and County Government – Education – Faith Communities – Labor – Nonprofits
 Many voices, one agenda for a greater Rochester

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

AIM Aid and Mandate Relief - Equity

Investment: Maintain progress toward equity in Upstate funding and mandate relief

AIM funding finances critical public safety, education and economic development services in Rochester. However, a massive disparity exists between Upstate cities on a per capita distribution basis. Over the last three years, the City has made considerable progress toward closing the cavernous gap. The City also seeks to have at least the same mandate relief measures that have been proposed or provided to NYC and Buffalo. Relieving mandates increases aid to our cities at no cost to the state.

2009 Goal: We understand the need to make cuts in AIM aid and other state-funded programs. We only ask that the cuts be made proportionally so that the large gap between Rochester and other Upstate cities does not grow. Further, the City seeks the same rights and privileges as NYC and Buffalo in the area of mandate relief.

RESULTS: No additional AIM funding secured. Cuts in funding proportional to cuts for other upstate cities.

Discussions on mandate relief continue.



COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

Institute for Sustainability at RIT

Investment: \$38 million

The institute will conduct initiatives in education, research and technology transfer that build on RIT's strongest academic programs and regional assets in sustainability and related fields. To reach its total funding goal of \$107 million, RIT already has secured more than \$30 million in federal, state and private funding, including a \$12 million state investment in 2008. Along with its impact on community employment, the institute will establish the region as a global hub for the emerging green-tech global economy.

Return: Up to 6,000 new jobs regionally; 100 new professional and technical positions at RIT; \$650 million in regional earning potential; 140 construction jobs over two years.

RESULTS: No additional funding at this point, but conversations continue. Efforts still underway to secure 2008 \$12 million pledge from the state.



BOOSTING REGIONAL INDUSTRY

Wine in Grocery Stores

The wine and grape industry contributes an estimated \$6 billion annually to the New York economy, with nearly 40 percent of the state's wineries in the Rochester-Finger Lakes region. Currently 35 states allow wine sales in grocery, drug and convenience stores and New York is the only major wine-producing state that does not. A proposal to allow wine sales in these stores, which is already part of Governor Paterson's proposed 2009 budget, would dramatically increase sales and boost state revenues. A coalition composed of the Food Industry Alliance of New York State, the New York Farm Bureau and the Business Council of New York State supports this budget proposal and the positive economic development impact it will have for the state.

Return: Over \$200 million in increased revenue to the state and the creation of regional wine-industry and retail jobs.

RESULTS: Although this issue came down to the wire, the legislature did not pass legislation to allow for the sale of wine in grocery stores. A new bill (A.8632/S.5787) has been introduced that addresses many concerns raised by opponents.

SUPPORTING WORKING FAMILIES

Child Care for Low-Income Families

Investment: \$8.5 million

More than 12,000 Monroe County children under age 12 live in working families below poverty level without subsidized child care. Our community—led by United Way and the Early Childhood Development Initiative—has a comprehensive plan to maximize access to appropriate, quality care that helps parents to remain employed and their children to succeed in school. Along with state funds, we are helping providers to operate more efficiently, seeking private funds and lobbying at the federal level.

Return: An estimated 961 low-income families who lost subsidies will be restored to quality care.

RESULTS: Nearly \$8 million in state/federal funds secured. Qualification threshold to be expanded to 165% poverty level restoring eligibility to hundreds of low-income working families.



STRENGTHENING EDUCATION

Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection

Investment: \$1 million

This highly successful program provides academic counseling and work experience to at-risk middle and high school students by providing long-term advocacy, academic resources, life skills development and job training. The requested state investment will enable Hillside and its business and community partners to serve at least 6,000 students by 2013—doubling graduation rates and helping students to become productive adults.

Return: 6,000 students in the program will generate \$135 million in increased tax revenue and reduced government spending.

RESULTS: \$490,000 in funding secured from state.



STRENGTHENING EDUCATION

Rochester Area Colleges Center for Excellence in Math and Science

Investment: \$1 million

Nineteen area colleges and universities formed this center with the goal of creating professionals and teachers with a passion for engineering, math and science. The center develops and delivers programs designed to increase the quality and quantity of the student talent pool pursuing curricula in math, science and related technical fields, and is targeted at growing into a national model for math and science education.

Return: Thousands of regional students and their teachers directly and indirectly engaged in activities to increase their interest in math, science and related technologies

RESULTS: No additional funding.

