

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - 8020

AGENCY REORGANIZATION

The County Executive's 2010 budget proposes reorganization of the agency. Historically, the agency was tasked to provide the following range of services:

Economic Development initiatives that focus on business expansion, job growth and job retention in Albany County. These initiatives include the County Empire Zone and Community Development Block Grant programs, in addition to coordinated efforts with businesses, municipalities and organizations to enhance the local economy.

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- Economic Development efforts have been led by the County Executive's office for a number of years, with economic development staff directly reporting to senior Executive staff. This includes the County Empire Zone program.
- Community Development Block Grant programs, as well as the housing trust fund, are currently led by the Housing Coordinator. This individual is employed by the Department of Social Services.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Computer Graphics functions had provided the Department and other County agencies with GIS capability, particularly with respect to ongoing development and maintenance of the County's GIS data base and participation in the NYS GIS Data Clearinghouse. The Department also provided graphic arts support to other County agencies, but no longer has staff to perform either function. Moreover, GIS functions for the Stormwater Coalition are now performed directly by coalition staff and tax mapping functions are performed in the Department of Management and Budget.

Planning and Land Use programs will continue to be provided by a Senior Planner position newly located within the Department of Public Works. Placing this program within the Department of Public Works will result in synergies related to transportation planning.

The Office of Natural Resource Conservation will continue to fulfill its mission without any changes in direct staffing.

Stormwater Management programs are currently performed by the Stormwater Coalition. The County is a member and houses the staff and other administrative functions on behalf of the Coalition. The Executive's Budget proposes that this account become part of the Department of Public Works. However, neither the independence nor the funding for the coalition will be affected. The Department of Public Works will assist with performing necessary administrative duties, including payroll, requisition of supplies, etc.

The Control of Animals (3510) account will be placed under the auspices of the Health Department. Funds in this account are appropriated for the Mohawk and Hudson River Humane Society, which provides shelter and care for animals.

The Economic Growth and Development account relates to the collection and distribution of hotel occupancy tax revenues. Because the distribution of these funds is fixed and staff persons in the Department of Finance ensure the funds are appropriately distributed, the placement of this account in the Department of Management and Budget is more appropriate.

The Economic Development (6421), Strategic Economic Development (6422) and Economic Growth and Development (6989) accounts have also been moved to the Department of Management and Budget to ensure greater financial oversight.

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Account	Description	2008 Expended	2009 Adjusted	2010 Proposed	2009-10 Change	2009-10 Percent Change
Appropriations						
	Economic Development -(8020)					
	Personal Services	\$402,435	\$290,358	\$127,937	(\$162,421)	-55.9%
	Contractual Expenses	\$320,887	\$390,923	\$51,039	(\$339,884)	-86.9%
	Fringe Benefits	\$109,232	\$129,106	\$65,830	(\$63,276)	-49.0%
	Economic Development -(8020)	\$832,553	\$810,387	\$244,806	(\$565,581)	-69.8%
	Appropriations	\$832,553	\$810,387	\$244,806	(\$565,581)	-69.8%
Revenue						
	Economic Development -(8020)	(\$185,705)	(\$36,508)	\$0	\$36,508	-100.0%
	Revenue	(\$185,705)	(\$36,508)	\$0	\$36,508	-100.0%
	County Share	\$646,848	\$773,879	\$244,806	(\$529,073)	-68.4%