



Howard Zemsky  
President and CEO  
Empire State Development  
633 Third Avenue – Floor 37  
New York, NY 10017

April 28, 2017

Re: Database of Deals and ESDC data in the Open NY Portal per Governor's EO #95

Dear President Zemsky:

We write to request that the Empire State Economic Development Corporation publish all of its public tabular data in the state's Open NY portal in a machine-readable format per Governor Cuomo's Executive Order #95: Using Technology to Promote Transparency, Improve Government Performance and Enhance Citizen Engagement. Much of this data is already on ESDC's website in a format that is not spreadsheet-friendly.

In the spirit of Executive Order 95, we also renew our request that ESDC create a comprehensive, online "Database of Deals" to show all of the economic development benefits received by individual companies. We appreciate that ESDC has already published some important data in the Open NY portal including Empire Zone benefits, Council on the Arts grants, funding approved by ESD Directors, and the Film Tax Credit (See attached inventory).

We request that, per the requirements of EO 95, ESDC also publish additional datasets, especially those most related to increasing the transparency of major ESDC programs. These are listed in the attachment.

Lastly, we were glad to see that the Database of Deals was part of budget negotiations, even if it did not become part of the adopted budget, and look forward to continued dialogue as the session progresses. We understand ESDC has many existing reporting requirements, and we look forward to working with ESDC to create a Database of Deals which maximizes the use of already tabulated data by ESDC.

We welcome further discussion on these issues and can be reached by your staff at 917-388-9087.

Thank you,

Dick Dadey, Executive Director  
Citizens Union  
ddadey@citizensunion.org

Blair Horner, Executive Director  
NY Public Interest Research Group  
bhorner@nypirg.org

Ron Deutsch, Executive Director  
Fiscal Policy Institute  
deutsch@fiscalpolicy.org

John Kaehny, Executive Director  
Reinvent Albany  
jkaehny@reinventalbany.org

Dave Friedfel, Director of State Studies  
Citizens Budget Commission  
dfriedfel@cbny.org

Susan Lerner, Executive Director  
Common Cause New York  
slerner@commoncause.org

Dare Thompson, President  
League of Women Voters – NYS  
darethompson@gmail.com

## **ESDC Data Requested for Publication in Open Data Format**

- REDC Data
  - Appendices in CFA Assessments & Score Cards reports listing projects for each. See:  
<https://nyscfaprojectdata.ny.gov/regional-documents>
  - CFA Project Data. See  
<https://nyscfaprojectdata.ny.gov/cfadatatable>
  - Charts in Regional REDC reports (see:  
<https://nyscfaprojectdata.ny.gov>) including:
    - Summary of All Past Priority Projects by Status
    - Leverage of State Investment in All Past Priority Projects
    - Aggregated Status of All Projects Awarded CFA Funding
    - ESDC Capital Grant charts for individual applicants
    - Overall Investment Ratio for Proposed Priority Projects
- Start Up New York Participating Businesses, Appendix C in 2016 report. See:  
[https://esd.ny.gov/sites/default/files/news-articles/2016\\_STARTUPNY\\_Report.pdf](https://esd.ny.gov/sites/default/files/news-articles/2016_STARTUPNY_Report.pdf)
- Excelsior Jobs Program, Quarterly Reports, Chart A-E, Businesses Admitted to the Program and Issued Tax Credits. See:  
<https://esd.ny.gov/esd-media-center/reports/excelsior-jobs-program-quarterly-report-12312016>
- Empire State Development, Film Tax Credit, Quarterly Reports.
  - Tables A, Businesses Admitted to Program and Table B, Credits Issued. See:  
<https://esd.ny.gov/esd-media-center/reports/empire-state-jobs-retention-program-quarterly-report-12312016>
  - Chart C, Film Tax Credit Program- Credits Issued. See:  
<https://esd.ny.gov/reports.html>
- Annual Report on Jobs Created and Retained. See:  
<https://esd.ny.gov/annual-report-jobs-created-and-retained>

## **ESDC Data Currently in the Open NY Portal Related to Economic Development Programs**

1. **START-UP NY Tax-Free Area Locations**  
Empire State Development (ESD) produces an annual report with a cumulative list of College and University Sponsors approved in the START-UP NY Program. The dataset displays the name of the Sponsor, the street address, city and county of the tax-free areas (TFA) designated by that college or university, square footage of each building space and acreage of each parcel of vacant land, the name of buildings designated and the START-UP NY website of the college.  
See:  
<https://data.ny.gov/Economic-Development/START-UP-NY-Tax-Free-Area-Locations/rpku-hjxn>
  
2. **Empire Zones Business Annual Reports: Beginning 2001**  
Employment, investment and tax credit information reported by businesses certified in the Empire Zones Program.  
See:  
<https://data.ny.gov/Economic-Development/Empire-Zones-Business-Annual-Reports-Beginning-200/edtu-bdbi>
  
3. **Council On The Arts Grant Awards: Beginning 2003**  
This dataset presents a list of funding approved by the ESD Directors. Data categories are project name, region, program, funding amount and fiscal year.  
See:  
<https://data.ny.gov/Economic-Development/Empire-State-Development-ESD-Directors-Approval-Fu/ukw4-nsjd>
  
4. **Empire State Development (ESD) Directors' Approval Funding Summary: Beginning Fiscal Year 2012.**  
This dataset presents a list of funding approved by the ESD Directors. Data categories are project name, region, program, funding amount and fiscal year.  
See:  
<https://data.ny.gov/Economic-Development/Empire-State-Development-ESD-Directors-Approval-Fu/ukw4-nsjd>
  
5. **NYSTAR Regional Technology Development Centers Economic Impacts: Beginning 2008**  
Economic Impacts of the 10 Division of Science, Technology and Innovation (NYSTAR) National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Regional Technology Development Centers (RTDC).  
See:  
<https://data.ny.gov/Economic-Development/NYSTAR-Center-for-Advanced-Technology-Economic-Imp/qas6-tjtc>

6. Film Tax Credit Productions and Stage Locations: Beginning 2004. Empire State Development manages and tracks data for the NYS Film Tax Credit Program. This dataset was provided as a companion file to the Film Credits database. The dataset displays a list of film credit productions and the location of the primary stage facility for each production.  
See:  
<https://data.ny.gov/Economic-Development/Film-Tax-Credit-Productions-and-Stage-Locations-Be/k426-dxqq>