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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **ECIDA Board approves updated five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy** *“CEDS” document outlines suggested economic development priorities for post-pandemic recovery, future economic growth and resiliency*

*Buffalo, NY*— The Erie County Industrial Development Agency (“ECIDA”) Board of Directors unanimously approved an updated Erie County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (“CEDS”) Wednesday, fulfilling a qualification by the federal Economic Development Administration (“EDA”). The EDA requires the ECIDA to publish a revised, current CEDS every five years in order for regional entities to apply and qualify for certain federal grant monies.

The report is the result of a months-long effort by a coalition of Erie County economic development stakeholders, led by the ECIDA and consultant MRB Group.

“We convened a 25-member CEDS Strategy committee and several smaller working groups in order to gather data and input from a wide variety of community organizations,” **said ECIDA President and CEO John Cappellino.** “I think what we came up with is a good framework to better align our economic development efforts with what is most critically needed right now for post-pandemic economic recovery and future growth,” **Cappellino said.**

The 2022 CEDS highlights four main goals, and incorporated principles of resilience equity and inclusion throughout an Action Plan Matrix and Evaluation Framework:

- Infrastructure
- Business Support
- Quality of Life
- Regional Collaboration

Priorities outlined by stakeholders in the Strategy and Working Groups include:

- Enhance integration of community development efforts and economic development strategy to attract workers, address workforce shortages and address equity and inclusion
- Meet the need for warehouse/distribution space and logistical infrastructure in Erie County to improve supply chain and attract more manufacturing jobs

Cappellino added that the CEDS includes and compliments other regional economic strategy blueprints such as the Statewide Regional Economic Development Council’s (“REDC”) published initiatives, which offer a

roadmap to implement the State's economic development goals and qualify for certain State and federal funds.

"The ECIDA publishes the CEDS document every five years as a report to the U.S. EDA that we have done the legwork and gathered input from the community we serve. The CEDS informs the EDA what our regional priorities are, based on information provided by dozens of organizations and individuals who face these challenges directly every day." **Cappellino said.** "It's a reference document that we and our partner organizations will continue to use as guidelines, to inform project reviews, strategic thinking and actions during the next five years.," **said Cappellino.**

The CEDS coalition led by the ECIDA and MRB Group included local economic development agencies, government agencies, the NFTA, utility companies, trade organizations, advocacy groups, business support organizations, and minority advocacy groups.

The full document can be found in downloadable PDF form at [ecidany.com](http://ecidany.com)

*The Erie County Industrial Development Agency is a public benefit corporation sanctioned by the State of New York to offer tax incentives to qualified businesses, and is dedicated to furthering economic development, adaptive reuse of qualified properties, job creation and ensuring a thriving business environment in Erie County. The staff of the ECIDA are not employees of the City of Buffalo, the County of Erie, or the State of New York. The ECIDA does not receive operating funds from taxpayer revenues. The ECIDA receives its operating funds by collecting fees from businesses that enter into contracts with the Agency, from investments, and from loan fees.*

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