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## **HARLEM CDC HOSTS WORKSHOP FOR SMALL BUSINESSES**

*Governor Paterson's Small Business Task Force demonstrates the new online guide offering "one-stop" shopping for state resources for entrepreneurs*

The Harlem Community Development Corporation (Harlem CDC) recently hosted a group of Harlem business leaders for a close-up look at the recently unveiled [New York State Directory of Small Business Programs](#). The directory, a product of Governor David A. Paterson's Small Business Task Force, is a comprehensive guide to more than 140 programs – spanning 28 state agencies – that support the needs of small businesses.

More than two dozen representatives from a range of Harlem firms and small business service providers attended the workshop, which was led by the head of the Empire State Development (ESD) Division for Small Business, Steve Cohen. Similar workshops are being held across the state, including in Brooklyn, Queens, Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Watervliet (near Albany) and Hauppauge (Suffolk County).

“Governor Paterson and the Small Business Task Force recognize the issues small businesses face in today's economic climate,” ESD Deputy Commissioner Cohen said. “There are more than 100,000 small businesses in New York City, employing some 860,000 people. The Governor, in creating the Small Business Task Force, has made clear his commitment to their development and growth. The New York State Directory of Small Business Programs demonstrates the progress that the team has made in their effort to promote small businesses across the state,” Cohen said. “At a time when we need small businesses most,” Cohen added, “we must ensure that they have the resources to thrive.”

Small businesses, or enterprises that employ 500 or fewer people, comprise 98 percent of all businesses in New York and employ 52 percent of New York's non-farm private sector workforce. Earlier this year the Task Force hosted 11 focus group meetings in each region of the State to hear directly from local leaders about the current small business climate. The Directory of Small Business Programs is a direct result of those meetings.

“This directory is a great step in increasing access to critical information for entrepreneurs all over the state who are struggling to keep their doors open while complying with city, state and federal regulations,” said Regina Smith, president of the Harlem Business Alliance and a member of the Governor's Small Business Task Force who participated in some of the focus groups.

The task force will deliver a final report to the Governor at the end of November that will include recommendations on issues including government regulations, access to capital, technical assistance and workforce development.

For more information on New York State's support for Small Business and the new Directory of Small Business Programs, please visit <http://www.nylovesmallbiz.com> and click on the "Small Business Directory Download."

**Harlem Community Development Corporation**, a subsidiary of Empire State Development Corporation, serves the greater Harlem community through planning and implementing a range of community development and revitalization initiatives for restoring Upper Manhattan as an economically stable and culturally vibrant community. For more information on Harlem CDC and its efforts to support small business, visit <http://www.harlemcdc.org> and <http://www.harlemcdc.org/business.htm>