DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
NORTHERN DUTCHESS ALLIANCE (NDA) – GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Community Profiles

The Northern Dutchess Alliance is composed of 10 towns and villages (Towns of Clinton, Hyde Park, Milan, Pleasant Valley, Rhinebeck, Red Hook, and Stanford, and the Villages of Rhinebeck, Red Hook, and Tivoli) in northern Dutchess County in the Hudson Valley/Down State region of New York State. The organization was created to address regional planning and development issues.

Background

The creation of the NDA in 1997 was a direct response to the economic hardship caused by the rapid downsizing of the County's major employer, IBM, in the mid 1990's. NDA's mission was "to create an institutional structure for regional cooperation and economic development that is broadly based and inclusive and that has within it a public process that will lead to the implementation of the goals, ideas, and policies established by the membership of the Alliance."

The main results expected were the promotion of an inter-municipal discussion on economic development and planning policy, leading to increased coordination and cooperation. The Alliance was organized initially to primarily address economic development and to forestall the kind of development and rapid change to the landscape residents observed occurring in Southern Dutchess County. The Alliance also was expected to serve as a forum for new municipal managers to meet and get to know their colleagues, and in so doing, remain a "clearinghouse for dialogue."

Funding

The Rural New York Grant Program sponsored some of the early activities of the NDA. The NYS Department of State, Division of Coastal Resources, awarded a grant in the amount of $64,000 in 2000 to support general Alliance activities. Other grantors include the Greenway Compact.

Outcome

Since its formal organization in 1997, the Alliance has continued to meet and implement activities according to the agenda set by the members. Some of its significant activities and accomplishments include:

- Engaging speakers for meetings to help build a broad based conversation on matters of regional importance;
- Obtaining grant funding and helping member governments to obtain grant funding;
- Creating an agricultural farmland protection plan;
- Creating an inter-municipal green space plan that organizes development patterns; and
- Preparing reports on matters of importance to members.