



News from Livingston County, NY

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Livingston County Supports Prison Closure Funding Executive Budget Proposes Incentives for Impacted Communities

Geneseo, NY, January 30, 2020 — On January 21, 2020, Governor Andrew Cuomo unveiled his \$178.6 billion proposed budget plan for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. The plan provides the foundation for upcoming negotiations between Cuomo and state lawmakers as they work to reach a budget deal by the April 1, 2020 deadline.

As part of his plan, Cuomo is seeking authorization to close an unspecified number of prisons in the state this year and extend millions of dollars in economic development incentives to communities impacted by previous closures.

Since 2010, New York State has closed 17 correctional facilities. The state-operated Livingston Correctional Facility was one of two prisons closed in 2019.

In 2011, the Economic Transformation and Redevelopment program was created by state lawmakers to address the issue of prison closures. The program earmarked \$50 million in incentives to redevelop empty prisons or create jobs within the surrounding communities. An additional \$32 million was set aside in 2014. Of the program's \$82 million total, only \$59 million has been committed to date – with most of these funds allocated toward the construction of a nanocenter near Utica.

Cuomo would like to extend the remaining funds in the Economic Transformation and Redevelopment program - \$23 million - to all prisons closed after April 1, 2011. This plan has the support of New York State Senator Patrick Gallivan, R-Elma, whose district includes the Livingston Correctional Facility. During last session, Gallivan introduced legislation that would provide program funds to two prisons – the Livingston Correctional Facility and the Lincoln Correctional Facility in Manhattan.

Livingston County Administrator Ian Coyle is also supportive of the plan to tap into the remaining Economic Transformation and Redevelopment program funds. Coyle stated, “The abrupt closure of the Livingston Correctional Facility has had a corresponding ripple effect on our county workforce and our local economy. We would like to work with the State to explore our options for community revitalization, including redevelopment of the empty prison and job creation in the surrounding area.” Coyle continued, “Prison closures in the past had an extended notice period of the actual closing and the communities impacted had access to potential funds for redevelopment and revitalization. In our closure scenario last year, we received neither benefit. The time is right to correct this wrong.”

For more information on Governor Cuomo’s proposed Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget, click [here](#).

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