

Hope Knight – Regional Economic Development Council Initiative

New York State takes a unique regional approach to economic development. We call it the Regional Economic Development Council Initiative. We engage local stakeholders from business, academia, and nonprofits to create strategic plans for their regions, and they recommend projects for funding. This brings communities off the sidelines and makes them part of the process. Regions know their strengths. They understand which priorities and resources can have the biggest impact. As someone who worked on local economic development issues in places like Harlem and Queens, this regional bottom-up approach is especially important to me.