

Cazenovia Area Community Development Association, Inc. (CACDA)
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MEDIA ADVISORY

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**SMSI Grant Offers Potential Planning Assistance
for Greater Cazenovia Area**

Cazenovia, NY - New York State set aside more than \$2.5M in the 2005-2006 budget to help municipalities that are interested in finding ways to share services – and therefore eliminate redundancy, enhance efficiency and save taxpayers money. The Shared Municipal Services Incentive (SMSI) grant program was developed to support local governments and school districts who want to discover effective methods for sharing and consolidation of services.

Earlier this year, Cazenovia Area Community Development Association, Inc. (CACDA) brought the SMSI program to the attention of the Town and Village of Cazenovia, the Town of Nelson and the Cazenovia Central School District. All four entities decided to partner for the grant application in order to coordinate professional planning assistance for creating and/or updating comprehensive plans for each of the partners.

In a truly collaborative spirit, the partners and CACDA worked together to complete the application in nine days. Unanimous resolutions from each entity and numerous support letters were forwarded a few weeks later as part of the required documentation.

More than 250 applications were received by the Local Government section of the New York State Department of State (DOS), the agency administering the grant program. According to the DOS, most of the applications were received on time and are therefore eligible for funding.

Currently, the greater Cazenovia area is experiencing an increasing amount of growth as well as pressure for more residential housing. Two main priorities have been identified and both focus on land use. The priorities include planning for agricultural land protection and for the future of the Route 20 east corridor, an important area that encompasses a Madison County Empire Zone.

The partners are meeting regularly to communicate about common issues and concerns. Whether or not the grant is funded, they are moving forward with selection of a mutual professional planning consultant to get the process started. If received, the grant will match up to 90% of a community's investment in pursuing shared services.

Cazenovia Area Community Development Association, Inc. is an independent 501(c)(3) not-for-profit community based organization representing a broad cross-section of stakeholders. CACDA seeks to facilitate the planning and implementation of various projects and programs that will enhance the quality of life, for all residents in the greater Cazenovia region, through education and consensus-building activities.

CACDA offers assistance in accomplishing community goals and objectives. It provides a non-political clearinghouse for discussion and a resource for fact finding as well as dissemination of information.

Individuals and corporations can support CACDA's programs through donations and volunteer efforts. For more information, please call Barbara Henderson, Executive Director, at 655-7651 or e-mail director@cacda.net.