



## North Country Alliance 2019 Education and Outreach Agenda

The North Country Alliance supports programs and services that promote the social and economic well-being of our communities across Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence, Clinton, Essex, Franklin and Hamilton Counties in New York State.

**New York is a diverse state; hence programs with a “one-size-fits-all” approach are not the best mechanism to affect positive job growth.**

The North Country Alliance *strongly opposes*:

- **The imposition of a prevailing wage mandate on economic development projects.** While this language focuses on redefining ‘public works projects,’ if enacted, it would require every project financed in whole, or in part, with funds, subsidies, or tax exemptions provided by a state or local public authority, to pay prevailing rates of wages and supplements. Currently, public financing typically ‘fills the gap’ between private and owner investment, which has traditionally been reflected as public-private partnerships. The public funds are typically the last funds to go into a project as well, as they are typically on a reimbursement basis. Making all projects public means that we will no longer have public-private partnerships. This will increase the costs of these projects and, ultimately, increase the project ‘funding gap.’ With no other resources available to fill ‘the gap,’ projects will not be completed. These projects include schools, hospitals, libraries, affordable housing, historical rehabilitation, and small businesses, to name but a few. **This act would be detrimental to New York’s North Country.**
- **Language reauthorizing, and ultimately expanding, MWBE requirements on projects funded with public funds.** The North Country Alliance has consistently stated that regional disparity must be considered when determining MWBE goals for state funding. The state’s disparity study has not taken into consideration the lack of certified minority or women-owned businesses in the North Country. The effect on the North Country has been detrimental. Recipients of public funds must look outside of the region to meet MWBE goals. This traditionally increases the costs of the projects due to time, transportation and other costs associated with distance. Second, funds that could have been spent paying vendors and suppliers in the North Country flow out of the region. **Any legislation to expand the current MWBE requirements, or increase goals, must reflect a regional percentage consistent with a region’s diversity and disparity.**
- **The extension of the 18-a energy surcharge for an additional 7 years.** The proposal would add \$10 million annually to the 18-a assessment. This surcharge negatively impacts NNY manufacturers.

*The North Country Alliance (NCA) is a private-public consortium of economic development organizations, private businesses, utilities, public and private colleges, the media and financial institutions working to grow the economy of New York’s seven-county North Country region. Its role is to offer a single point of access to the resources you need to expand or locate your business in Northern New York. Visit our website at [www.northcountryalliance.org](http://www.northcountryalliance.org).*