

GREENE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

909 Greene County Office Building
Cairo, New York 12413-9509

Telephone: (518) 622-3251
Fax: (518) 622-9437
E-Mail: gcplan@mhccable.com

Warren Hart, AICP, Director



Economic Development Satellite Office
700 Route 23B, at Thruway Exit 21
P.O. Box 527, Catskill, NY 12414
Telephone: (518) 943-6585
Fax: (518) 943-2329
E-Mail: gcecon@mhccable.com

Irene J. Norsworthy, Economic Developer

July 16, 2003

For immediate release

**Contact: Ed Diamante, Principal Planner
518-622-3251 x154**

Greene County to Continue Its Microenterprise Assistance Program This Fall

The Greene County Department of Planning & Economic Development is now accepting applications for the Fall 2003 round of the Microenterprise Assistance Program (MAP). The MAP was developed to encourage small business owners and entrepreneurs in the County to pursue the necessary knowledge to either start or expand their business. Upon completion of an eight-week business training seminar and the development of a viable business plan, participants may apply for a low-interest loan from the County's Microenterprise Loan Fund.

The County has administered a successful Microenterprise Assistance Program since 1998. Since its inception, the program has assisted over 120 existing and prospective entrepreneurs, 50% of which have started or expanded a business in Greene County. In addition, microenterprise assistance has leveraged approximately \$325,000 in private capital investment in Greene County since the program's implementation.

If you are committed to starting or expanding your microenterprise, then perhaps the Greene County MAP can assist you. According to Amy and Stuart Krause who own and operate Mesa Traders, sellers of fine, authentic, hand-made Native American jewelry and art online and at their Greenville shop, the commitment was well worth the experience gained. "Our store had been open for almost 2 years when we signed up for the MAP. We needed help with financing, but thought we had it all figured out when it came to running the business. After the very first class, we began to realize that we didn't even know the half of it! The classes were tremendously helpful. Now we have a much clearer idea of what we are doing right, what we've been doing wrong, and where we want our business to go," stated Ms. Krause.

Greene County residents interested in starting or expanding small businesses are also encouraged to attend free information meetings on Greene County's MAP scheduled for August 19th in Hensonville at the Windham Town Hall and on August 20th in Cairo at the Greene County Office Building. Information meetings begin promptly at 7 PM.

To learn more about the Program or applying for acceptance in the Fall session visit **www.greenecountymicro.com**, or call Ed Diamante of the Greene County Department of Planning and Economic Development office at (518) 622-3251 ext. 154.