

From: elena@judgewidth.org
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2026 1:57 PM
To: 'Thomas.regan@esd.ny.gov'; 'NBMJcredit@esd.ny.gov'; 'FOIL@esd.ny.gov'
Cc: 'Emily.Mijatovic@esd.ny.gov'

Subject: **STATUS? -- "Newspaper & Broadcast Media Jobs Program" -- Economic Development Law Article 27**

TO: [Empire State Development Commissioner Hope Knight](#)

RE: my below February 20, 2025 FOIL/records request, the [February 21, 2025 e-mail of Downstate Communications Coordinator Emily Mijatovic](#), [my February 26, 2025 e-mail to her](#), and [her March 4, 2025^h e-mail to me](#).

How surprising to see that nearly a full year later, the ESD's webpage for the [Newspaper and Broadcast Media Jobs Program](#) is a single page and inexplicably states, under a section heading "Application and Approval Process":

"Information on the formal application process will be forthcoming with an anticipated opening date in February 2026."

Further down, under a section heading "Program Regulations", it states:

"Please see our draft newspaper and broadcast media jobs tax credit regulations. If you would like to comment on these regulations, please send written email comments to Thomas Regan, Associate Counsel at Thomas.regan@esd.ny.gov by Monday, December 22 at 5pm.

[Regulations](#)"

Beneath that is a concluding section entitled "Contact", stating:

"To contact ESD and request information on when the application will be available, please email NBMJcredit@esd.ny.gov."

Here's a [screenshot of the webpage](#).

Kindly advise as to what the status of things are – and, pursuant to FOIL, furnish copies of such public comment as you received to the proposed regulations, including as published in the [Department of State's October 22, 2025 Register](#) and such application forms as have been developed.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>

Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2025 3:09 PM

To: pressoffice@esd.ny.gov; FOIL@esd.ny.gov

Subject: "Newspaper & Broadcast Media Jobs Program" -- Economic Development Law Article 27

TO: [Empire State Development Commissioner Hope Knight](#)

Following up voice messages I left yesterday and today with the press office, 800-260-7313, after calling [your listed Albany number](#), 518-292-5100, and being routed to 212-803-3281, which was for the Division of Minority and Women's Business Development and VP & Deputy Director for Agency Services and Business Development Dawn Sanders, on which I left a voice message yesterday and which was full today, I seek publicly-available records pertaining to the "Newspaper & Broadcast Media Jobs Program" ([Economic Development Law Article 27](#)), which was enacted last year, *via* the budget, as [Part AAA of Education, Labor and Family Assistance Budget Bill #S.8306-C/A.8806-C \(at pp. 201-205\)](#), and, specifically:

1. "regulations establishing an application process and eligibility criteria", pursuant to [§496](#), including the "certificate of tax credit" and, pursuant to [§494](#), the application forms;
2. records as to the process by which the regulations and forms were developed, most importantly the opportunity for public comment;
3. list of approved applicants and the amounts of moneys already disbursed to them;
4. list of disapproved applicants – and the reasons for the disapproval.

Please advise where I can find this information on your website – and, if not posted, why it is not posted – or, alternatively, for such records pursuant to FOIL.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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