

Washington, DC -- U.S. Rep. Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) announced today that he secured \$3,904,750 in congressionally-directed funding for projects in Oneida County, including funding for a gang task force initiative, the Utica Community Access Center, improvements to the Griffiss International Airport and upgrades for the City of Utica's traffic lights. These funds were included in a fiscal year 2009 funding bill, which will be voted on in the House of Representatives this week.

"I work hard to bring taxpayer money back to Oneida County to improve the quality of life of our citizens by investing in transportation infrastructure, public safety and community development," **Arcuri said**. "As District Attorney for 13 years, I worked on many of the programs now receiving the federal funding to keep our neighborhoods and our families safe. Fighting for local projects to help our area grow and develop is my number one priority in Congress, and I will continue to fight for local businesses and families."

To Upgrade Local Transportation Infrastructure and Foster Job Creation:

\$475,000 for the City of Utica's Traffic Signal Modernization program. Funds will be used to replace the City's traffic lights along Genesee Street, which are antiquated, cause unnecessary delays and lack replacement parts. Current incandescent bulbs will be replaced with low-maintenance, energy-efficient LEDs and be equipped with emergency preemption equipment to improve public safety.

\$1,662,500 for Mohawk Valley EDGE to improve facilities at the Griffiss International Airport in Rome. Funds will go toward hangar door improvements, including structural and electrical work to make Building 100 industry-ready. This project will aid Empire Aero Center's business expansion, as well as the consolidation of the Oneida County Airport's General Aviation service.

\$950,000 for Central New York Regional Transportation Authority. These funds may be used for the design, land acquisition, and construction of a central maintenance facility in Oneida County for repair and maintenance of buses used in Central New York.

To Protect Families and Strengthen Neighborhoods:

\$215,000 for the Oneida County Gang Task Force Initiative. Funds will go to the Oneida County District Attorney's office to establish an information sharing database to analyze gang-related crime to keep City streets safe from gangs that prey on our citizens.

\$150,000 for Utica College Identity Theft Research Project. This initiative will examine the role of insiders and mail theft in the commission of identity theft and identity fraud through a multi-level effort based on data from a sample of state attorney general offices and metropolitan district attorney offices. The Center for Identity Management and Information Protection will facilitate a national research agenda on identity fraud and theft, information sharing policy, and data protection.

\$48,000 for Kids Oneida for the "Stop ACES" program to reduce the effects of childhood abuse and neglect on Oneida County's youth. Funds will be used to develop a comprehensive community intervention plan to reduce the effects of childhood abuse, neglect, and negative experiences on Oneida County youth. The plan will be based on the results of the Center for Disease Control's 1998 "ACE Study," which examined the relationship between nine adverse experiences when experienced in childhood and the lifelong medical, psychological, and psychiatric impact.

To Invest in Workforce Development and Economic Growth:

\$166,250 for the City of Utica Community Access Center, which is critical to the region's educational, economic and social redevelopment. Funds will be used to acquire and renovate property in the City the Utica's central business district for the development of a Community Access Center to host job training, educational advancement and other community related services while enhancing redevelopment of the City's downtown area.

\$238,000 for Mohawk Valley Community College's Aircraft Maintenance certificate program. Funds will be used to purchase specialized laboratory equipment and training aids for MVCC's FAA-approved Aircraft Maintenance certificate program. New equipment and training aids will allow students to attain the level of training required by Northeast regional aviation businesses, including Empire Aero, Lear Siegler, Eclipse Aviation, Bombardier Aerospace, Big Sky Airline, Richmor Aviation, Pratt Whitney, Sikorsky Aircraft, Bell Helicopter, and Jet Blue.

The funds secured by Arcuri are included in the fiscal year 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act, which is expected to pass the House of Representatives this week. The legislation will then go to the Senate.

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