

Grant to breathe life into city buildings

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([Rochester Business Journal](#), January 15, 2008) - The city of Rochester will receive \$6 million to restore and rehabilitate downtown buildings as part of the state's three-year, \$300 million Restore New York Communities Initiative, officials announced Tuesday.

In Rochester, \$4.1 million of the state grant will be used to transform the Academy Building on Fitzhugh Street, the Parry Building on Mill Street, and the Cox Building and H.H. Warner Building on St. Paul Street from office buildings to housing and commercial space.

The work will result in 145 residential units.

The remaining \$1.9 million will be used to demolish 2,800 abandoned residential properties in the city. The land will then be available for new housing.

The Restore New York initiative, funded through the Empire State Development Corp., is designed to aid municipalities in restoring or removing obsolete or rundown commercial and residential properties.

"This initiative not only cleans up blighted and rundown areas in our city, it gives businesses an incentive to locate here, allowing them to fully take advantage of the tremendous resources that our state has to offer," said state Sen. James Alesi, R-Perinton, chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Economic Development and Small Business.