



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
Hon. Stephanie A. Miner, Mayor

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**CITY OF SYRACUSE OFFICE OF INNOVATION
LAUNCHES BLOG**

*Blog, Found at www.innovatesyracuse.com, Will Showcase the i-team's Progress
and Offer Opportunities for Community Engagement*

SYRACUSE, N.Y. – The City of Syracuse Office of Innovation (i-team) has launched a blog aimed at fostering connections between their work and constituents. The blog, which can be found at www.innovatesyracuse.com, will be regularly updated with posts by members of the Office of Innovation.

“The Office of Innovation is eagerly seeking more ways to communicate with the people of Syracuse and this blog is yet another platform giving us this opportunity,” said **Andrew M. Maxwell**, Director of Policy and Innovation for the City of Syracuse and head of the Office of Innovation. “I look forward to working with the team to publish meaningful posts and continue our community conversation.”

Mayor Stephanie A. Miner established the office in February and tasked the team with examining new solutions to the city's infrastructure issues. Already, the City of Syracuse i-team has solicited public opinion about infrastructure issues throughout the community, presenting at Tomorrow's Neighborhoods Today (TNT) meetings as well as before a number of community organizations. Additionally, following an award of \$10 million in state funding infrastructure upgrades, the i-team has begun researching the most creative and effective ways these funds can be deployed.

The Office of Innovation, announced in December 2014, was made possible with a three year, \$1.35 million grant from Bloomberg Philanthropies. Syracuse was one of fourteen cities selected in 2014 as part of the Bloomberg Philanthropies' Innovation Teams (i-teams) program. The program aims to improve the capacity of City Halls to effectively design and implement new approaches that improve citizens' lives. Grant funds allow mayors to hire and fund i-teams for up to three years. These teams function as in-house innovation consultants, moving from one mayoral priority to the next. Using Bloomberg Philanthropies' tested Innovation Delivery approach, i-teams help agency leaders and staff utilize through a data-driven process to assess problems, generate responsive new interventions, develop partnerships, and deliver measurable results.

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