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# Kingston-Ulster County EDZ Lands \$41M Medical Center

## HEAD-TRAUMA THERAPY UNIT BRINGS 400 JOBS TO REGION

A company with a pioneering method of caring for brain-injury survivors has selected the Mid-Hudson region for its new head-trauma center. Healthcare Associates' visionary plan to promote head-trauma healing in so-called "Eden environments" will mean up to 400 new jobs moving into the former IBM complex within the Kingston-Ulster County Economic Development Zone (EDZ).

Plans for the 280-bed facility in Lake Katherine, N.Y., include lush

indoor gardens; restaurants; patient apartments; as well as the therapeutic presence of birds, cats, dogs and other animals. Featuring an innovative design centered around four atria, the facility will be the latest to be operated in the state within the Healthcare Associates network, a proprietary group of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities.

The \$41 million treatment facility, to be called the Hudson River Valley Care Center, will be the company's

and the region's first special care rehabilitation center for the traumatically brain injured. Healthcare Associates also operates facilities in Rochester and on Long Island.

Having lost 7,000 jobs when IBM left Ulster County in 1993, New York State and the region well understand the need to work cooperatively and proactively with companies seeking to relocate or expand within the EDZ. The new trauma center, which will ultimately employ nearly 400, began hiring managers last year.

Because the company relocated within an Economic Development Zone, Healthcare Associates is eligible for a range of economic and other incentives offered through Empire State Development's EDZ program. Among them are wage tax credits, employee tax credits, sales and local tax relief, as well as low-cost power agreements with utilities.

Healthcare Associates says that nearly 1,500 people in Ulster and Dutchess counties alone suffered traumatic brain injuries in the early 1990s, the last period for which records are

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available. Typically, such victims were sent out of the region or state for treatment because no facilities specific to their needs existed. The company is currently working with advocacy organizations and New York State to identify those who are eligible for treatment at the new center.

For more information on the Kingston-Ulster Economic Development Zone, or the EDZ program in general, contact: 518-473-6930. □



***The \$41 million Hudson Valley Care Center, which opened recently in the former IBM complex within the state's Kingston-Ulster Economic Development Zone, features a so-called "Eden environments" designed to expedite recovery of head-trauma patients.***

