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# Brewery competition awards fully funded through REDC grant

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Four award packages for Livingston County's "Brew IN Livingston" competition are fully funded after the county received a \$185,000 grant last week.

Given as part of New York's 2016 Regional Economic Development Council awards, the grant will provide each of the competition's four winners \$35,000 that can be used to purchase furniture, fixtures and equipment for their breweries.

The competition just wrapped up its penultimate round, with 29 of the 35 semifinalists

sending in short videos to give judges a feel for their proposed breweries and the types of beer they would offer.

Bill Bacon, executive director of Livingston County's Industrial Development Agency, said judges watched the videos Dec. 9. An announcement of those chosen to continue in the competition is expected any day.

Somewhere between 10 and 15 contestants will move on to the competition's final round, where they'll receive a crash course on state brewery regulations and finalize a business plan to be presented in February.

Four eventual winners will be named in March.

In addition to the \$35,000 grants, winners will receive a \$100,000 low-interest loan, technical assistance with business plan development, including instruction in accounting, payroll, marketing, trademark; and licensing and a one-year membership in the Livingston County Area Chamber of Commerce.

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