

NY Forward Grant – Community Fact Sheet

Program Overview:

The NY Forward program targets smaller, less dense, rural communities' downtowns, village centers, and hamlets. Downtown revitalization focuses on activities in a compact, well-defined, concentrated boundary. Potential NY Forward communities are those that have lost industry around which their community grew, including small business districts along corridors that connect major employment centers and cities in their regions.

NY Forward is not designed to fund one large expensive project. Over the course of the application and subsequent planning process, communities identify a suite of transformational, catalytic, and synergistic projects including public projects that support redevelopment and foster activity, private projects to provide capital to businesses that drive revitalization and economic growth, and nonprofit projects that support community development. Private projects must leverage other funding sources to the greatest extent possible. Communities will identify projects in excess of the \$4.5 million awarded to ensure an adequate number of funding opportunities.

Winning communities are matched with a consulting team and project manager from NYS Department of State (DOS) who, along with a State team comprised of representatives from Empire State Development (ESD), Homes and Community Renewal (HCR), and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), help guide a targeted community-based planning process to develop a Strategic Investment Plan (SIP). A Local Planning Committee (LPC) is established to oversee the planning process and development of the SIP.

The Local Planning Committee will:

- Develop a vision, goals, and strategies for revitalization.
- Provide community background information to be used in a clear and concise profile of the downtown area.
- Articulate the story of the region and the downtown and identify key challenges and opportunities.
- Provide a logical basis for identifying, evaluating, and recommending projects for funding.
- Identify and vet projects that advance the communities vision, goals, and revitalization strategies.
- Identify a final slate of projects that exceeds the available funding.
- Identify key stakeholders and public engagement opportunities to solicit input, identify projects, and build support for revitalization.

The Consultant team will then develop the Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) which will be submitted to the State for review. This list of potential projects in the final SIP may include some of those included in the original application and others identified through an Open Call for Projects held early in the NY Forward planning process. Each project recommended by the LPC will be evaluated and selected for funding by New York State. **All funding will be used for capital projects that transform the physical environment of the downtown in ways that benefit current residents and future generations.**

Next Steps:

- Sixteen (16) project ideas and concepts were identified in the application as potential capital improvement within the Village, however no projects have been identified or chosen to receive funding to date.
- Interested project sponsors will have an opportunity to apply and advance their projects, with support from the consulting team, for potential inclusion in the final Strategic Investment Plan submitted to NYS.
- Projects will have detailed requirements and eligibility to be determined by the LPC and State.
- Funds are for capital improvement and not for Village personnel or administration, other planning projects or programming, operations and maintenance, property acquisition, or demolition.
- No funds have been received by the Village to date- at this time the Village has only received a commitment from NYS to fund \$4.5 million in projects recommended by the LPC. This is a multi-year grant process.
- Project identification will take 6-8 months with funding awards announced 4-6 months after that.
- There will be a number of opportunities for the public to learn about and participate in the planning process and provide feedback on revitalization strategies and potential projects.