

North Country Regional Economic Development Council (NCREDC)
Request for Priority Nomination for Priority Projects, Opportunity Agenda Projects and/or Cleaner,
Greener Priority Projects
2013 Regional Council Plan

Overview

The North Country Regional Economic Development Council put great importance on its general understanding of the terms “transformative and transformational,” particularly as it applies to their implementation priorities.

The NCREDC has developed this Priority Project Nomination Form to simplify this process. And to allow for the increased awareness of a project by the Council that is believed to meet the NCREDC’s goal(s) of the Priority Project Transformational and Transformative definitions, meets the requirements for the Opportunity Agenda initiative and/or meets the requirements for the Cleaner Greener Communities initiative.

Projects will be selected as a Priority depending upon their alignment with the program requirements contained in sections 1-4 below and the Strategic Plan.

Applicants seeking priority project status should

- Complete a Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) and this nomination form if seeking funding through the NYS CFA program and priority project status. The CFA is an application that requests NYS funding.
- If you only want your project to be considered for Priority Status from NCREDC, then you only need to complete this nomination form.
- The slate of proposed priority project nominations will be presented to the NCREDC for consideration as a priority project for inclusion in the 2013 progress report to the State.

Projects that receive priority project status from the NCREDC will receive a score of 20 points from the council. The remaining 80 points are scored by the State agency that administers the program applied for in the CFA.

While specific project sponsors may see the projects they champion as being “transformative” or “transformational”, for the purposes of the North Country Regional Economic Development Council’s *Five Year Strategic Plan* as it relates to the priority project selection criteria, the following guidance is provided. This will be the first requirement for consideration of a project as one of our priority projects and will be a prime factor in projects being proposed as priorities, specifically traditional Priority Projects, Opportunity Agenda priorities and Cleaner Greener priorities.

Any project selected by NCREDC as a priority project and expecting funding from NYS in 2013 must also complete a Consolidated Funding Application (CFA). Please refer to the CFA homepage at <https://apps.cio.ny.gov/apps/cfa/> for more information. The website will explain the CFA process and timeline, provide information on the various CFA programs, provide questions & answers on CFA programs and process, and offer dates for CFA training throughout NYS.

NCREDC Priority Nomination Form must be filed by August 12, 2013 at 4PM to the North Country’s e-mail address: NYS-NORTHCOUNTRY@esd.ny.gov

Instructions

This form combines three different types of priority nominations: Priority Project, Opportunity Agenda Projects, and Cleaner Greener Communities Projects.

A project may be eligible for any or all of the project types. Please refer to the information listed below each section heading to determine if your project qualifies.

Applicants seeking designation for multiple projects must fill out a separate nomination form and CFA for each project. This does not include a single project that may have multiple project locations.

1. Read all instructions and information carefully to determine which designation type your project is eligible for.
2. All applicants must complete **Section 1**
3. Applicants applying for ONLY Priority Project Status must complete **Section 1 and Section 2**
4. Applicants applying for Opportunity Agenda designation must complete **Section 1 and Section 3**
5. Applicants applying for Cleaner Greener Community designation must complete **Section 1 and Section 4**
6. All applicants must complete **Section 5**
7. All applicants seeking funding from the NYS CFA program, must submit a Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) by 4:00pm on August 12, 2013 to <https://apps.cio.ny.gov/apps/cfa/>
8. All applicants seeking NCREDC priority project, opportunity agenda or cleaner greener communities priority status must submit this nomination form by 4:00pm on August 12, 2013 to NYS-NORTHCOUNTRY@esd.ny.gov

The Council's Priority Project Selection Committee may consult with the Council's relevant work groups as they review priority project proposals. The Committee will recommend projects to the NCREDC for endorsement as priorities that will be incorporated into in the Council's Implementation Agenda and Annual Report that is due September 24th, 2013.

SECTION 1

The following section must be completed by all applicants

Select the type of Priority Nomination you are proposing to the North Country Regional Economic Development Council.

- PRIORITY PROJECT**
- OPPORTUNITY AGENDA PRIORITY PROJECT**
- CLEANER, GREENER PRIORITY PROJECT**

Project Name: _____

Company/Organization Information:

Company/Organization Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Contact Title: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Tel: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Name & Location of Company if different from above:

Year Company/Organization was established: _____

Type of Business or Organization: _____

Ownership:

Please describe the company/organization's ownership structure:

Company/Organization's Total Employment Figures: _____

Company/Organization's North Country Employment Figures: _____

Project Location:

Project Site Address: _____

Municipality & County: _____

Project Site

Size of Existing Facility: _____ SF Use of Facility: _____
New Facility Construction: _____ SF Expanded Facility Construction: _____ SF
Space Renovated: _____ SF

Project Information:

Description: Please describe the project in *no more than 500 words*.

Project commencement date (start of construction or other significant project activity):

Estimated project completion date (date of occupancy or when project is ready for use, completion of training, etc.):

Employment Impact:

Existing year round full-time jobs at the project site:

Existing full-time contract jobs at the project site:

New full-time jobs created by the project: _____ over _____ years

New full-time contract jobs created by project: _____ over _____ years

Retained* year round full-time jobs resulting from project: _____ over _____ years

**Jobs that are at risk of relocating out of New York State.*

Retained* full-time contract jobs resulting from project: _____ over _____ years

If contract period is less than 1 year, average length of contract is _____ months

Average Annual Wage at Project Site (excluding bonus & benefits)

New Job Annual Avg. Wage/Salary: Permanent \$ _____ Contract \$ _____

Retained Job Annual Avg. Wage/Salary: Permanent \$ _____ Contract \$ _____

Statement of Need: This section should clearly state why the North Country Regional Economic Development Council is being asked to consider this as one of its priorities. Also, present a **compelling argument** why that assistance is necessary to encourage undertaking this project.

Project Budget:

Detail Total Project Cost:

Indicate all sources of funding currently in place (approved or committed with dates and amounts), including 10% equity/applicant match if required by funding agency.

Provide detailed information on Project Financing Readiness (include dates):

For example:

Adoption of Bond Resolution:

Professional Service Agreements (Engineering, Financial Advisor, Bond Counsel, Municipal Resolution)

Other Funding Sources:

Engineering, if applicable (Include Status and Dates):

Completion of Environmental Review (including SEQR, SHPO and NEPA if required):

Formation or expansion of existing Districts, if required:

Completion of Engineering Report by federal and State Agencies (DOH, DEC, EFC, RD), if required:

Completion of Project permits, if required:

Project sponsor has site control and has secured all necessary permits and approvals:

Project sponsor does **not** have site control and has not started permitting or approval process:

What is the project timeline from construction commencement to project completion.

List any New York State, Local or Federal Government or Public Authority assistance that will be provided to this project.

Assistance Type	Amount	Source
Sales Tax Exemption	\$	
Property Tax Abatement (indicated total & annual savings)	\$	
Energy Cost Savings	\$	
Loans	\$	
Grants	\$	
Other Assistance	\$	

REGIONAL PLAN IMPLEMENTATION, please describe how:

How does the Project advance the Vision(s) described by the updated Strategic Plan?

What Regional Plan Key Strategy(ies) does the project address?

What Regional benefit does the project advance?

What is the project outcome?

Does the project fall into one of the region’s strategic clusters as defined by the strategic plan and/or builds on or taps into the region’s connection with Canada?

Is there significant community and stakeholder support for the Project? (The Project is supported by a local, county, or regional government and/or is a project reflected in an approved local or regional plan and/or project is part of a multi-jurisdictional/regional effort.) **Please attach letters of support.**

You must ensure that the project is able to address Smart Growth principles.

Section 2
Complete the following section if seeking Priority Project Status

How does your project meet the Transformative and/or Transformational definitions, as described below?

Transformative and Transformational Projects shall exhibit a majority of the following attributes:

- The project will unlock barriers to economic progress;
- The project capitalizes on a unique regional asset(s);
- The project can demonstrate a positive regional impact;
- If a project is a pilot, the project must be able to demonstrate that it can be replicated and is scalable for potential regional results, and
- The project represents an innovative solution • Projects that demonstrate a multi-country or regional impact shall be most highly valued.

SECTION 3
Complete the following section if seeking Opportunity Agenda Nomination

OPPORTUNITY AGENDA NOMINATION

Please briefly explain how your project meets the following special requirements for the North Country Opportunity Agenda year 1 pilot and why it should be considered as a priority nomination under this section of our plan:

The following information is the NCREDC’s Opportunity Agenda requirements, goals, and information. This section is only for reference; please complete the answer above using the following information:

To implement the North Country Opportunity Agenda, the Council is seeking projects that are specifically designed to assist economically distressed populations that are affected by one or more of the following criteria:

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- Experienced significant job loss (either from a particular employer, plant closure or industry) in the past five (5) years;

- Experienced a loss in markets due to foreign competition;
- A poverty rate of at least 125% of the seven (7) county average poverty rate;
- At least 50% of total student population is eligible to participate in the federal free and reduced – price lunch program;
- An April, 2013 county unemployment rate greater than the NYS average (7.8%),
- Residing in a county with a seasonal unemployment rate greater than 125% of the seven County average;
- Experienced a population decline since the last decennial census (2000 to 2010);
- Residing in, or proximate to, a Brownfield site, Environmental Justice Area or former Empire Zone Investment Zone area;
- Residing in, or proximate to, an area where at least 15% of the total property/land within has been vacant, abandoned, deteriorated or is otherwise unavailable for industrial, commercial or retail development or redevelopment;
- Significant barriers to attracting financing and/or investment exist; or
- A median household income of 51% or less than the statewide non-metropolitan Median Individual Household Income (MHI).

Opportunity Agenda Projects that will be considered by the NCREDC must address one or more of these challenges by satisfying one or more of the following:

- Advances e-learning, telecommuting, e-commerce and telemedicine.
- Establishes workforce training opportunities that include skills-gap reversal measures.
- Establishes on the job training programs, internships and apprenticeships that result in career building experiences, include and increase a skilled workforce for today’s employment opportunities.
- Establishes advanced manufacturing programs to remediate skill gaps and prepare the workforce for current employer needs.
- Supports micro-business/self-employment opportunities.
- Boosts the sustainability of long-term learning, employment and investment in distressed communities.
- Redevelops blighted or environmentally challenged areas.
- Benefits households where the average age is 50% or more over 55 years of age.
- Benefits communities with an outmigration rate for persons under the age of 35 that exceeds the regional average.
- At least 13.9% of households who participate in the project are enrolled in SNAP/Food Stamps.
- Provides at least 51% of jobs that are created or saved to low-mod income individuals.

Projects that are selected as a part of the North Country Opportunity Agenda must also demonstrate the ability to:

- Help move impoverished people into jobs;
- Promote private-public partnerships in job investments;
- Overcome a particular challenge to economic participation; and,
- Help revitalize distressed communities.

Opportunity Agenda Projects must also demonstrate that it satisfies one or more of the Vision statements detailed in the Regional Council’s *Transformational Plan*, and/or the *North Country Sustainability Plan*. North Country Opportunity Agenda Projects may serve a particular area or be multi-jurisdictional.

SECTION 4

Complete the following section if seeking Cleaner Greener Sustainability Nomination

The North Country's Cleaner Greener Sustainability Plan is available by [clicking here](#)

CLEANER, GREENER SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT CRITERIA:

Goals and strategies of "Our Economy," the North Country Sustainability Plan, *for reference only*

- Clean Energy
- Vibrant Towns
- Local Economies
- Transportation
- Efficiency
- Water Quality
- Materials Reuse
- Citizen Engagement
- Collaborative Planning
- Resilient Communities

In addition to meeting the overall Priority Project Criteria in Section 1 above, please briefly explain how your project addresses one or more of the Cleaner Greener Sustainability plan requirements:

- Develops or uses renewable energy resources
- Improves building energy efficiency
- Invests in downtowns
- Grows local business/es in forestry, farming , food processing, or access to local food
- Improves transportation efficiency
- Safeguards water quality
- Creates markets for reused materials
- Reduces Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Updates local plans to incorporate smart growth and sustainability principles
- Engages and educates residents
- Improves the resilience of communities through climate adaptation strategies

SECTION 5

All applicants must complete the following section

AFFIRMATIONS:

I affirm that I have reviewed the information provided by Company, Organization or its third-party consultants in this Request for Priority Project Status from the North Country Regional Economic Development Council and hereby represent that such information is true and complete in all material respects.

Official's signature
and date: _____

Print Name: _____

Title: _____

Definitions:

In the jobs and employment section, please note the definitions to be used when completing this section:

Full-time Year Round Employee is a full-time permanent, private sector employee on the grantor's payroll and who works at the project location for a minimum of 35 hours per week for not less than 4 consecutive weeks and who is entitled to receive the usual and customary fringe benefits extended by the grantee to other employees of comparable rank and duties. Full-time equivalency will not be considered.

Full-time Contract Employee is a full-time private sector employee (or self-employed person) who works for the grantee for a minimum of 35 hours per week for not less than 4 consecutive weeks. The position held by a Full-time Contract Employee is a year round position.

Retained Jobs are defined as those at risk of being lost or moved out of the state should the Project not proceed. In the above section, please report only those retained jobs that are truly at risk and the time period over which these jobs would be lost without NYS assistance.

Project Budget you will provide will be used to determine whether this project can be considered as a priority project of the North Country Regional Development Council.

Equity: Please note that some agencies will require contribution of at least **10%** of the total project cost in the form of equity or a local match contributed after the company's written acceptance of our offer. Please refer to the CFA home page at <https://apps.cio.ny.gov/apps/cfa> for more information on this requirement.

Fees: The Consolidated Funding application represents programs from various agencies. Some agencies require applicants to pay commitment and/or other fees. Please refer to the CFA home page at <https://apps.cio.ny.gov/apps/cfa/> for more information.

NYS Smart Growth, Public Infrastructure Policy Act Standard

- Project utilizes, maintains or improves existing infrastructure
- Project is located in a municipal center
- Project is located in a developed area or an area designated for concentrated infill development in a municipally approved comprehensive land use plan, local waterfront revitalization plan and/or Brownfield opportunity plan
- Project protects, preserves and enhances NYS resources, including agricultural lands, forest, surface and groundwater, air quality, recreation and open space, scenic areas, and significant historic and archeological resources

- Project fosters mixed land uses and compact development revitalization, Brownfield redevelopment, the enhancement of beauty in public spaces, the diversity of housing in proximity to places of employment, recreation and commercial development and the integration of all income and age group
- Project provides mobility through transportation choices including public transportation and reduced automobile dependency
- Project involves participation in community-based planning and collaboration
- Project ensures predictability and land uses codes
- Project promotes sustainability by strengthening existing and creating new communities which reduce greenhouse gas emissions and do not compromise the need of future generations, by among other means encouraging broad based public involvement in developing and implementing a community plan and ensuring the governance structure is adequate to sustain its implementation