



## Regional Economic Development Council of the Southern Tier Endorsement Standards

The following Endorsement Standards will be used by the Regional Economic Development Council of the Southern Tier to evaluate projects that are submitted through the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA). Questions are provided under each category for purposes of guiding discussion and evaluation.

- 1. Vision** **1 Point**
  - Does the proposal advance the Council's vision for the region? (0-1 point)
  
- 2. Process** **2 Points**
  - To what extent were the public and stakeholders engaged in the development of the strategy? (0-1 point)
  - Is there evidence of community and stakeholder support for the proposal? (0-1) point
  
- 3. Strategies** **7 Points**
  - How well does the project help to drive an economically sustainable future for the region? (0-1 point)
  - Is the project transformative and will it serve as a catalyst to improve the region's business climate? (0-1 point)
  - Is the proposal identified in and/or does it advance a strategy that is part of the region's strategic plan? (0-1 point)
  - Does the project contribute to the region's principal growth sectors and clusters? (0-1 point)
  - Does the project support business retention or creation? (0-1 point)
  - Does the project create long term jobs and/or serve to attract talent to the region? (0-1 point)
  - Does the project promote quality of life? (0-1 point)
  
- 4. Implementation** **3 Points**
  - Is the project ready to go now and can it show evidence of impact in 1-5 years? (0-1 point)
  - Is there an operational plan to ensure implementation, including an organizational structure that makes it clear who and what need to be involved? (0-1 point)
  - Is a realistic financing strategy in place, and is there written evidence of funding participation? (0-1 point)
  
- 5. Leverage Resources** **3 Points**

Does the project:

  - Capitalize on and leverage the region's strengths and resources? (0-1 point)
  - Take advantage of opportunities for partnerships? (0-1 point)
  - Leverage Federal, State, local and private funding sources? (0-1 point)
  
- 6. Performance Measures** **4 Points**
  - If funded, can the results of the proposal be monitored and evaluated against performance measures; i.e., enhanced tax base, new job creation, private investment, etc.? (0-2 points)
  - Is there a project implementation matrix to track progress against milestones? (0-2 points)