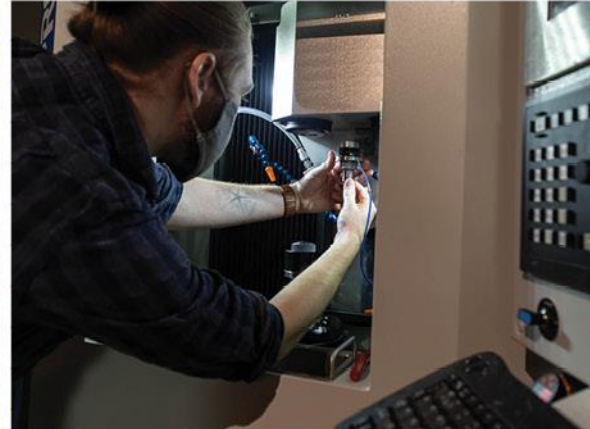




Regional Economic Development Councils



REDC GUIDEBOOK 2023

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INTRODUCTION

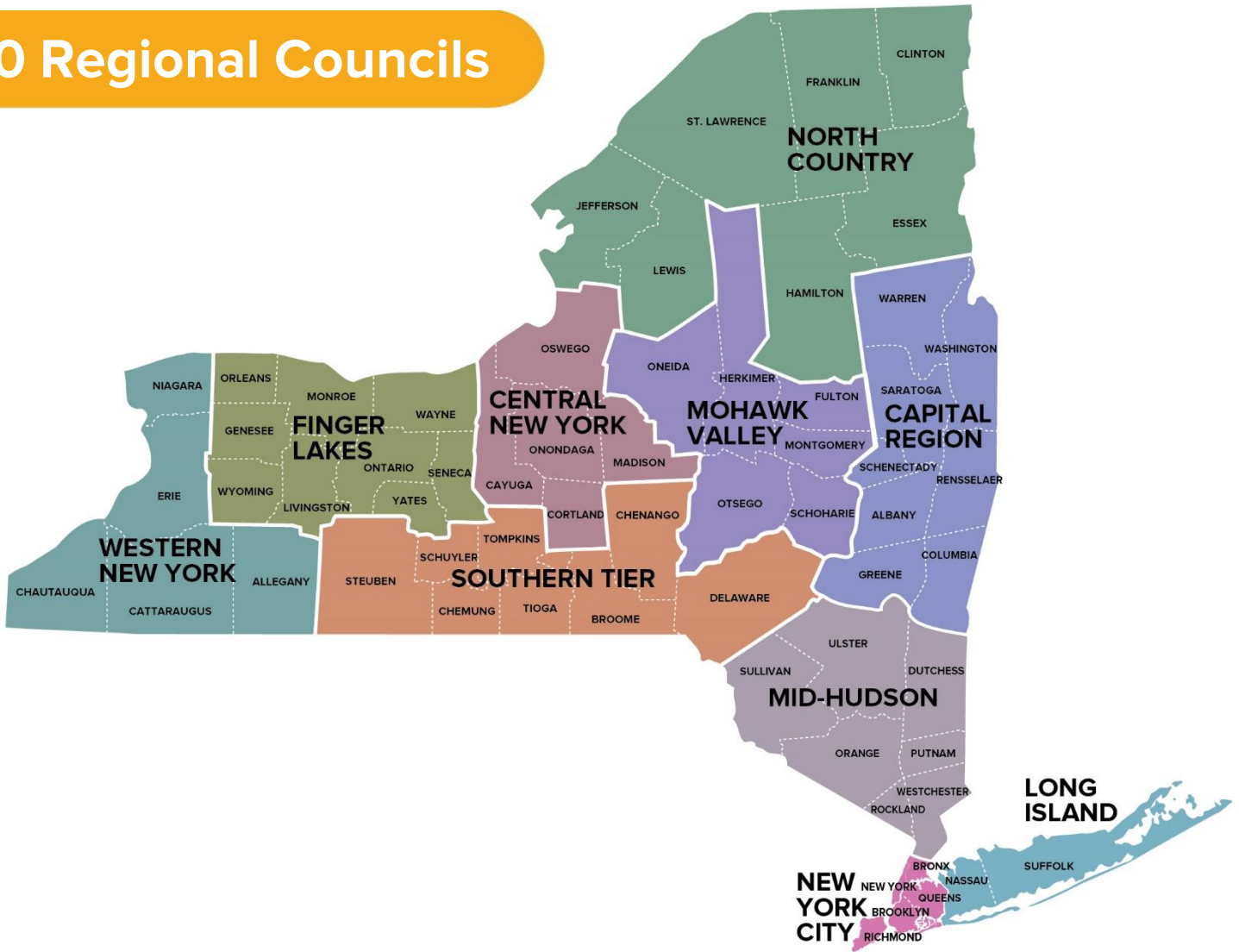
The Regional Economic Development Councils (REDCs) support the state's innovative approach that empowers regional stakeholders to establish pathways to prosperity, mapped out in regional strategic plans. Through the REDCs, community, business, academic leaders, and members of the public in each region of the state put to work their unique knowledge and understanding of local priorities and assets to help direct state investment in support of job creation and economic growth.

Recognizing the importance of the academic community to economic prosperity, the REDCs facilitate collaboration between business and academia to ensure employer workforce needs are being met, and business support services are being provided to start-up companies seeking to commercialize academic research.

Each Regional Council has become the voice of the region, advising agencies on the programs and projects most valuable to the region. What started as an initiative focused on economic investments has blossomed into a program that invests in people and communities. Under Governor Hochul's leadership, the State is continuously improving the REDC process to continue to maximize impact throughout the state.

Since its inception, the REDC Initiative has awarded over \$7.7 billion to more than 9,500 projects. The REDCs have also played a critical role in selecting the nearly 70 Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) communities and 24 New York Forward communities to receive \$800 million for transformative projects to revitalize their downtowns. The DRI is a community planning and implementation process where each participating community develops the key ingredients needed for successful downtown revitalization. The REDCs will again identify the communities that will benefit from \$200 million in state investment this year through the seventh round of the traditional DRI Program along with the second round of the NY Forward program and will appoint an REDC member to co-chair the local planning committee.

10 Regional Councils



Western New York: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Niagara

Finger Lakes: Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming, Yates

Southern Tier: Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Delaware, Schuyler, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins

Central New York: Cayuga, Cortland, Madison, Onondaga, Oswego

Mohawk Valley: Fulton, Herkimer, Montgomery, Oneida, Otsego, Schoharie

North Country: Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence

Capital Region: Albany, Columbia, Greene, Saratoga, Schenectady, Rensselaer, Warren, Washington

Mid-Hudson: Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, Westchester

New York City: Bronx, Kings, New York, Richmond, Queens

Long Island: Nassau, Suffolk

Regional Council Organization

Leadership

The Lieutenant Governor serves as Chair of each Regional Council. He works with each Regional Council to attract and retain business to create much-needed jobs, and address skills gaps to ensure that New Yorkers, particularly in distressed areas, have access to higher-paying jobs.

Regional Co-Chairs, one representing the business community and one from the academic community, lead each Regional Council. Co-Chairs also lead each Regional Council's Executive Committee. Co-Chair terms are for two years and are renewable at the end of each term.

Regional Council Co-Chairs

Capital Region

Ruth H. Mahoney, President of Wealth Management, NBT Bancorp
Dr. Havidán Rodríguez, President, University at Albany

Central New York

Randy Wolken, President, Manufacturers Association of Central NY
Dr. Linda LeMura, President, LeMoyne College

Finger Lakes

Robert Duffy, President & CEO, Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce
Dr. Denise Battles, President, SUNY Geneseo

Long Island

Linda Armyrn, Chief Strategy & Marketing Officer, Bethpage Federal Credit Union
John Nader, President, Farmingdale Community College

Mid-Hudson

Dr. Kristine Young, President, SUNY Orange
Dr. Marsha Gordon, President & CEO, The Business Council of Westchester

Mohawk Valley

Lawrence T. Gilroy III, President, Gilroy, Kernan & Gilroy, Inc.
Dr. Marion Terenzio, President, SUNY Cobleskill

New York City

Félix Matos Rodríguez, Chancellor, City University of New York (CUNY)
Winston Fisher, Partner, Fisher Brothers

North Country

James McKenna, CEO, Regional Office of Sustainable Tourism
Dr. Kathryn Morris, President, St. Lawrence University

Southern Tier

Judy McKinney Cherry, Executive Director, Schuyler County Partnership for Economic Development
Dr. Kevin Drumm, President, Broome County Community College

Western New York

Steve Stoute, President, Canisius College
Eric Reich, Co-Founder Campus Labs, Chairman, 43 North

Membership

Each Regional Council is made up of regional leaders appointed by the Governor, drawn from a broad spectrum of regional stakeholders representing private business, including small businesses; minority-and women-owned business enterprises (MWBES); non-profit organizations; chambers of commerce and trade organizations; organized labor; higher education; community-based organizations; and the agricultural community. County and local officials, as well as all state legislators, serve as nonvoting, ex-officio members and are strongly encouraged to participate. Council members act in a voluntary, advisory capacity to ensure that projects align with regional strategies. All Regional Council members serve a voluntary two-year term, which may be renewed at the end of each term. Council members are expected to regularly attend meetings and actively participate to advance the goals of the region. Council members receive annual training on the REDC Code of Conduct and are expected to act in the interests of the region and to disclose and avoid any conflicts of interest.

Workgroups

Regional Councils have formed work groups comprised of volunteers to help identify and implement their strategies. Work groups allow for greater involvement of regional stakeholders from industries, communities, and other groups, and provide an additional forum for sharing ideas and information. Regional Councils have formed work groups to advance major goals, strategies, and tasks. Thousands of volunteers are actively engaged implementing development strategies through the work groups.

Local Government Engagement

Engagement of local elected officials is essential in supporting Regional Council strategies and identifying priority projects that will further the economic growth of both individual communities and the entire region. Their participation is critical to implementing the Downtown Revitalization Initiative and improving the regional business climate. Local government representatives are encouraged to engage with the Council and participate in workgroups.

Code of Conduct

The Regional Councils serve in an advisory capacity to the state and, therefore, it is vital that they operate with transparency and that its members are held to the highest levels of integrity. Council members are chosen for their depth of experience, expertise and commitment to their respective regions and represent diverse points of view. To prevent potential conflicts of interest, a Code of Conduct (the full text of the Code can be found at the end of this document) and other related policies have been established to ensure that members act in the best interest of New York State and to prevent the appearance of self-interest during their service on the Councils. Most importantly:

Regional Council members receive annual ethics training from Empire State Development counsel.

The Code of Conduct prohibits members from scoring projects, and from participating in any non-public Regional Council discussions or deliberations where they, or a relative, have a financial, or other interest, as described in the Code of Conduct below, in the matter under consideration.

In order to provide transparency, Regional Council members must complete a Statement of Interest, which requires them to list all entities in which they, or members of their immediate family, have an interest.

NYS Economic Development Programs and Initiatives

Programs and Initiatives Highlights

The Regional Economic Development Council initiative has been a key component of the State's strategy for investment and economic development and as part of this strategy, the State has deployed multiple rounds of investment through the Regional Councils to shovel-ready projects. There are several other State related economic development initiatives that complement the work of the Councils and a wide variety of funding that is coordinated with and driven by the strategic plans created by the REDCs at the ground level to ensure that available funding is matched with the unique sector driven needs and priorities of each region. These programs and initiatives together make up the holistic way the State makes investments in economic recovery and the promotion of job creation, job retention, workforce development and the revitalization of every region of the State.

- **Regional Council Capital Fund** - \$150 million in capital funding to fund economic development projects that align with each Region's strategic plan. Funding is available throughout the year and awarded to projects on a rolling basis, with strong emphasis on project readiness.
- **Excelsior Jobs Program** - Provides job creation, investment, and research and development incentives to firms in targeted industries, under a pay for performance structure. The program has been expanded in recent years to create a child care tax credit, a green economy tax credit, and the green CHIPS credit.
- **Upstate Revitalization Initiative (URI)** - In 2015, the URI was created to strategically focus on the economic development of Upstate NY, as part of the REDC initiative. Upstate regions developed revitalization plans that focused on how they would leverage funding awarded to support the plans to stimulate large and impactful public and private investment in the regions.
- **Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI)** - Since 2016, the DRI has been reviving downtowns across the State, large and small, and creating vibrant communities where the next generation of New Yorkers want to live, work and raise families. Through six rounds of the DRI, 70 communities have benefited from funding to support a downtown strategic investment plan in addition to funding to implement key catalytic projects to advance the community's vision for revitalization.
- **New York Forward** - Launched in 2022, the NY Forward program is designed to advance the renaissance of the State's smaller downtowns in more rural and smaller communities to build off of and complement the Downtown Revitalization Initiative. The program's inaugural round invested \$100 million across 24 communities.

- **Restore NY** - The Restore New York Communities Initiative (“Restore NY”) encourages community development and neighborhood growth through the elimination and redevelopment of blighted structures. Restore New York is open to municipalities to support projects that focus on demolishing, rehabilitating and restoring residential, commercial and mixed-use buildings. Round 7 launched in 2022 with \$250 million in funding.
- **Fast NY** – Fast NY is a shovel-ready grant program aimed to help diversify New York State’s economy while propelling new investments for businesses, communities and job creation. Fast NY will provide up to \$200 million in grants to prepare and develop sites statewide to jumpstart New York’s shovel-readiness and increase its attractiveness to large employers, including high-tech manufacturing, particularly semiconductor manufacturing, interstate distribution and logistics businesses.
- **NY Ventures** - New York Ventures partners with diverse teams that are using technology to solve important challenges in areas of strategic interest and importance. NY Ventures actively looks to provide greater access to venture capital for regions, industries and individuals, including women and minority entrepreneurs. The goal is to build a robust startup ecosystem across New York State, leveraging public and private sector assets. The state has devoted \$100 million –with an additional \$35 million in SSBCI funding–to a direct investment venture capital fund that is actively deploying capital.
- **NYS Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI)** - Over \$500 million in new funding was made available to help New York small businesses with recovery through the SSBCI. A program through the American Rescue Plan Act and managed by the U.S. Department of Treasury, the SSBCI provides funds to support programs for small businesses, including socially and economically disadvantaged individual (SEDI) owned businesses and very small businesses (VSB), to recover from the economic effects of COVID-19 and allow them opportunity to succeed in the post-pandemic economy.
- **ConnectALL** - The ConnectALL Initiative will be the largest-ever investment in New York’s digital infrastructure, transforming it so all New Yorkers have affordable and reliable broadband statewide. Catalyzing over \$1 billion in new public and private investments, ConnectALL will provide affordable broadband access to New Yorkers in rural and urban areas statewide and continue New York State’s leadership on connectivity.
- **Office of Strategic Workforce Development** - Launched in April 2022, the new office is charged with better aligning workforce development efforts with the needs and priorities of today’s employers. In October of 2022 the office launched \$ 150 million in workforce development grant programs to support employer-driven, high-skilled workforce training programs.

Regional Council Capital Fund Highlights

Round XI & XII Project Highlights



Over 330 projects awarded thus far



Over 88% of projects complete or in progress



Over \$1.1 Billion leveraged

Through the Regional Economic Development Council initiative, Councils continue to advance priority projects that align with each region’s strategic goals and meet local needs. These job creation and community development projects continue to spur economic growth in the regions and advance regional priorities. Below are project highlights from the last two rounds of the REDC initiative. Information and status of all projects awarded through the REDC initiative can be found [here](#).

Capital Region: Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences - Stack Family Center for Biopharmaceutical Education and Training (CBET) (\$1.75 Million ESD Grant) - The Stack Family Center for Biopharmaceutical Education and Training initiative will leverage partnerships with industry, academia and government agencies to deploy cutting edge biopharmaceutical manufacturing technology to support current and future workforce demands while promoting economic development, community outreach and engagement for students and practicing professionals. It will create a workforce pipeline of new and advanced skilled employees in biomedical and life sciences.

Central NY: Cayuga Milk Ingredients - (\$1.5 Million ESD Grant & \$1.5 Million Excelsior Jobs Tax Credit) - Cayuga Milk Ingredients is a farmer owned company that manufactures infant grade milk ingredients. The expansion project involves the purchase and installation of machinery and equipment, construction of a fully automated high-rise warehouse, adding two receiving bays, and an expansion to the facility’s current wastewater treatment plant. Project completion is anticipated in 2025.

Finger Lakes: Toptica Photonics, Inc. - Toptica Quantum Growth - (\$400,000 ESD Grant) - Toptica, Inc., A leader in the development and manufacturing of photonics components for laser technologies supporting customers in the scientific research fields at universities/government labs/high-tech industries, will relocate to a 20,000 sq. ft. facility to accommodate expansion. The project will include renovations and the purchase of additional machinery and equipment.

Long Island: Life’s W.O.R.C. - WORCForce Initiative - (\$735,000 ESD Grant) - Life's WORC will renovate a building to create the “WORC Force Center.” The new Center will support the advancement of people with disabilities through employment and social opportunities. Project construction will include a state-of-the art computer lab, industrial kitchen, greenhouse and hydroponics workshop. Participants will engage in several activities and training settings that aim

to promote greater independence and job-readiness for people of all abilities. This project will create 40 new full-time jobs in addition to helping place the underserved community in meaningful jobs. Construction is underway and expected to be complete in early 2024.

Mid-Hudson: Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival - (\$2 Million ESD Grant) - Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival will create a new year-round cultural campus in Garrison, NY. The site will offer world-class theater productions with accessible Hudson River view pathways and meadows, on-site dining and concessions, and an ecologically sustainable operation.

Mohawk Valley: The Tech Barn at Marcy Nano - (\$1 Million ESD Grant) - Mohawk Valley Edge will partner with Park Grove Development on a \$30 million project that will encompass 32 acres at 5600 Marcy-SUNY Parkway and will ultimately comprise of 27,500 SF commercial space, a mixed-use building with first floor commercial space, upper residential units and 2 additional residential buildings with first floor covered parking. The outcome will be a modern mixed-use development to meet the critical need for services by the rapidly expanding high tech ecosystem at Marcy Nano and SUNY Poly. This project is a critical component to attracting and retaining top semiconductor talent.

New York City: The Trust for Governors Island- Buttermilk Labs- (\$2.5 Million ESD Grant) - Historic Building 301 on Governors Island will be transformed into Buttermilk Labs, an accelerator hub for climate change-focused businesses, entrepreneurs, and non-profits. The project will provide a platform for supporting and scaling green- and blue-tech businesses, such as offshore wind, and is a critical step in establishing a future Center for Climate Solutions on the Island. Funds will assist in growing the region's climate and sustainability sectors, with a special focus on offshore wind development.

North Country: OWD Site Redevelopment - (\$2.5 Million ESD Grant) - OWD Development, LLC will redevelop a blighted former manufacturing facility into a new mixed-use development site. This certified historic redevelopment project, located in Tupper Lake, NY, will include co-working and training space, a commercial space, and combination workforce and market rate apartments. Construction is anticipated to begin late 2023.

Southern Tier: Storflex Holdings, Inc. - (\$2.2 Million ESD Grant and \$950,000 Excelsior Jobs Tax Credits)- Storflex, a designer and manufacturer of retail shelving and walk-in coolers and freezers, plans to complete an expansion project involving the acquisition and renovations of a second additional site in the Town of Erwin in Steuben County. The expansion project will include the purchase of machinery and equipment consisting of new production lines, including a new robotic welding line and a new paint line to supply customers throughout North America and Canada.

Western NY: Olean Center Mall Redevelopment - (\$2 Million ESD Grant) - Redevelopment of the underutilized 345,000 square foot Olean Center Mall into a mixed-use development that is more connected to the community and builds upon the numerous projects completed in adjacent downtown Olean. When completed, the mall transformation will provide new retail and commercial opportunities, as well as fill a void for much needed affordable senior housing.

Regional Council Priorities in 2023

Regional Strategic Planning Process

The Regional Economic Development Councils (REDCs) were created to support the State's bottom-up, community-based, and performance-driven approach to economic development. Through the comprehensive strategic planning process, every region across the state has succeeded in creating private sector jobs, driving private investment, bolstering workforce development, and revitalizing long-neglected cities, towns, and neighborhoods. The REDCs are guided by their regional strategic economic development plans, which emphasize each region's unique assets and provide strategies to harness local resources to stimulate regional economic development and create jobs statewide.

Each REDC developed an initial strategic plan to establish the region's priorities for growth, guide the deployment of resources, and create a road map for the region to achieve its vision for the future. Over the years, these plans were updated to adapt to the changing economy and economic development landscape.

Under Governor Hochul's leadership, the State is continuously improving the Regional Council process to maximize impact in each region. This year the Regional Councils will review and update their regional strategic plans to re-establish the region's priorities for growth which will continue to guide the deployment of resources and create an updated road map for the region to achieve its vision for the future.

Each REDC will create a strategic plan that identifies an economic vision for the future and develops strategies to capitalize on key regional assets. The updated strategic plan will create a road map for growth in each region based on current economic circumstances, existing resources, and opportunities. This plan should include identified actions and strategies to achieve the goals established in the plan.

As a basic premise, the strategy should include specifics to:

- Re-establish an economic vision for the region's future;
- Identify and advance projects to meet regional needs;
- Establish regional priorities that build off the region's unique assets; and
- Identify opportunities to advance key industries.

Regional coordination and collaboration is crucial to the development of the updated plan. During this planning process, each REDC will engage with regional stakeholders and solicit ideas and feedback to drive the discussion around the goals for the region. Each Council will develop a plan to ensure public participation through outreach and community forums.

New “Challenges” Competition

New this year, the Councils will analyze particular challenges to economic growth. Each REDC will select one challenge to focus on from the list of challenges set by the State below. Each REDC will develop a proposal that outlines creative and innovative solutions to address the challenge they choose as part of their updated strategic plan. The Strategic Implementation Assessment Team (SIAT) will be reconvened to review these submissions and to select regions that will receive funding to implement the proposed solutions. Based on the solutions submitted to the State, up to three regions will be chosen to receive up to \$10 million in funding to implement their challenges solutions. The challenge topics the Councils can choose to focus on include: Blight; Workforce; Population and Talent Attraction and Retention; Sustainability and Clean Energy; Housing; Tourism; and Equity. Additional details on the challenges competition will be forthcoming later in the round.

Identify Recommended Priority Projects

In addition to submitting an updated strategic plan to the state, Regional Councils will identify and recommend priority projects that will be eligible for up to \$150 million in capital funds on a rolling basis throughout the round. Additionally, they will recommend priority projects for a share of \$75 million in Excelsior Tax Credits to help attract and grow business in the region. For state agency programs that are reviewed and scored by the REDCs, Regional Councils will review these projects and provide a score that reflects how well each project aligns with their region’s goals and strategies.

Public Outreach and Engagement Efforts

Local engagement and collaboration are important components of the success of the Regional Councils. In their strategic plans, Regional Councils identified specific strategies to help achieve their vision, and specific projects to stimulate economic investment and growth. Local governments play a critical role in working with the Regional Councils to identify those projects that support the vision for the region. Engagement of the local community is essential in supporting the strategies and identifying priority projects that will further the economic growth of the region.

Regional Councils are asked to continue to encourage public outreach and local government engagement in their strategic plan implementation to improve the regional business climate and report on examples of successful engagement strategies.

Overview of Previously Funded Projects

Regional Councils are asked to continue reporting on projects funded through the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA). A summary of past funded projects will be posted to the Regional Council website and will be highlighted in the strategic plan document being completed by the Councils and posted later in 2023.

Round XIII

Since the inception of the REDC Initiative, over \$7.7 billion in State funding has been awarded to over 9,500 projects through a competitive process to spur job creation based on regional priorities. This initiative has encouraged implementation of the regional strategic economic development plans and has motivated investment opportunities and job creation.

In 2023, the Regional Economic Development Councils will once again compete for a share of up to \$150 million in capital funds and \$75 million in Excelsior Tax Credits.

Funding Sources and Awards

This year the Regional Councils will again be tasked with reviewing applications for projects seeking ESD Grant Funds on a rolling competitive basis, meaning projects will be reviewed throughout the round, and Councils will identify and recommend projects that advance their strategic priorities. An emphasis should be placed on project readiness and alignment with the strategic plan.

Enhancements to ESD Grant Funds - Building Sustainability & Investing in Disadvantaged Communities:

Target capital funding to support projects that advance the strategic state priorities below:

- **Projects that support green buildings & sustainable development:** Projects that will significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions through sustainable building practices. Instances of sustainable building practices include but are not limited to achieving net zero or near zero emissions, obtaining LEED certification (Silver or higher), electrifying space and water heating systems, reusing buildings and/or building materials and incorporating significant energy savings measures.
- **Childcare Projects:** Despite record investments in childcare, many New Yorkers still struggle to access high quality childcare. Focusing on projects that will improve access to quality childcare and build additional capacity in the number of childcare offerings available will help strengthen the state's economy and address challenges that affect the business community.
- **Projects located in severely distressed communities:** Support projects in economically distressed communities to encourage investment and spur economic growth in these communities. Strong projects in this focus area should be able to demonstrate a community and economic benefit as a result of the project or demonstrate the populations that will benefit from the project.
- **Innovative Public-Private Partnerships:** Projects that support innovative public-private partnerships which leverage unique regional assets to advance a region's economic development strategies. Innovative public-private partnerships are intended for higher education institutions with a focus on innovation and research partnerships.

Projects from not-for-profit organizations that support these critical priorities for the state may be eligible for an increased project award of up to 40% of total project cost. The increased award is not an as of right for a project and applicants should demonstrate the need for funding along with the community and economic benefit of the project. Projects will be looked upon more favorably as they are able to show alignment with the REDCs Strategic Plan as well as ESD's economic development pillars.

Projects will be reviewed at least once per quarter and awards will be made available to projects as they are approved until \$150 million is exhausted. Funds will be monitored throughout the year and adjustments may be made to ensure resources are being used effectively across all regions. Additionally, regions and projects will also be eligible for a share of \$75 million in Excelsior Tax Credits to help attract and grow business in the region.

Projects from all 10 regions submitted through the CFA will be eligible for funding from other state agency programs. As outlined in the Available Resources section, for certain agency programs this year, REDCs will be made aware of projects applying to these programs but REDCs will not score projects that have applied to these programs. For programs that are reviewed and scored by the REDCs, Councils will review projects from these programs and provide scores that reflect how well a project aligns with a region's goals and strategies.

New Micro Grant Programs for this Round

Empire State Development is launching two new micro grant programs using ESD capital grant funds.

- **Craft Beverage Micro Grant Program** (Up to \$5 million)
The Craft Beverage Micro Grant Program will be used to increase the production capacity, business infrastructure and profitability of businesses licensed to produce wine, beer, spirits, hard cider and mead by providing matching funds for equipment purchases and facility upgrades. The Program's intent is to induce equipment investment, upgrade and/or to increase production capacity; to induce investment in facilities upgrades that will enhance the customer experience and make craft beverage tasting rooms more profitable. The program will support the sustained development of this industry and the important role that it plays in agri-tourism.
Grant awards will range from \$25,000 to \$50,000.
- **Not-for-Profit Capital Grant Program** (Up to \$5 million)
The Not-for-Profit Capital Grant program will support not-for-profit organizations who provide economic support in their region by providing matching funds for capital improvements. Funding will be made available for not-for-profit organizations whose mission is to provide an economic and community benefit to the area the organization serves and who are undertaking capital projects (including expansion and/or upgrades to the organizations' facility, purchase of new equipment, capital improvements, etc.)
Grant awards will range from \$25,000 to \$100,000.

CONSOLIDATED FUNDING APPLICATION

A thirteenth round of the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) will be offered in 2023. The CFA is a single application for state economic development resources from numerous state agencies. It is designed to give economic development project applicants expedited and streamlined access to a combined pool of grant funds and tax credits from dozens of existing programs. This year, economic development applicants will find over 30 state programs participating in the CFA which include a combination of grant funds and tax credits.

The CFA opened on May 15, 2023 for all programs included in the Available Resources section of this document. Applications will be accepted through 4:00 PM on July 28, 2023 for competitive programs subject to the deadline and award announcements will be made in the fall. Open enrollment programs will continue to accept applications on an ongoing basis and are not subject to the July 28 4:00 PM deadline.

Many applications submitted through the CFA involve projects that have been identified by the Regional Councils as critical to advancing the regional vision and strategies. Identifying projects with the greatest impact on advancing state and regional strategies is an important role of the Regional Councils, and members are encouraged to reach out to potential sponsors of priority projects to make them aware of the CFA process and to encourage them to apply for available State funding.

Interested applicants should visit the CFA website for information about programs available through the CFA, including eligibility standards and recorded webinars for each funding source: <https://apps.cio.ny.gov/apps/cfa/>

Statewide CFA Endorsement Standards		
Implementation of the Plan	Degree	Points
The proposal is identified as a priority project by the Regional Council.	Priority	20
The proposal is identified in the plan and has regional benefits.	Very Strong	15
The proposal advances the plan and has local benefits.	Strong	10
The proposal is consistent with the plan and has project level benefits.	Moderate	5
The proposal has limited relationship to the plan.	Weak	0

For projects being scored by REDCs, each Regional Council will use statewide endorsement standards when reviewing CFAs submitted to their region, considering the degree to which the application implements the regional strategic plan and aligns with regional priorities. A Regional

Council score of 20 represents a priority endorsement by the Council, but does not guarantee funding.

The Regional Council endorsement will account for 20% of the total review, while State agency review will account for 80%. The Regional Council Code of Conduct requires any Regional Council member with a financial interest in a project to recuse themselves from any discussion and review of that application.

Available Resources for Regional Councils in 2023

Programs subject to the 4:00 PM July 28, 2023 Deadline

Empire State Development: Up to \$31 million

- Up to \$15 million for Market New York
- Up to \$5 million for New York State Business Incubator Program
- Up to \$1 million for Strategic Planning and Feasibility Studies
- *Up to \$5 million for Craft Beverage Micro Grant Program**
- *Up to \$5 million Not-For-Profit Capital Grant Program**

Homes and Community Renewal: Up to \$24.2 million

- Up to \$4.2 million for New York Main Street Program
- *Up to \$20 million for New York State Community Development Block Grant Program**

Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation: Up to \$27.9 million

- Up to \$26 million for Environmental Protection Fund Grants Program for Parks, Preservation and Heritage (EPF)
- Up to \$1.9 million for Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

Department of State: Up to \$26.8 million

- Up to \$16.3 million for the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program
- Up to \$2.5 million for the Brownfield Opportunity Area Program
- *Up to \$2 million for the Smart Growth Comprehensive Planning Grant Program**
- *Up to \$2 million for the Smart Growth Countywide Resiliency Planning Grant**
- *Up to \$4 million for Local Government Efficiency Program**

New York State Canal Corporation: Up to \$1 million

- Up to \$1 million for the Canalway Grants Program

New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets: Up to \$5.8 million

- Up to \$5.8 million for the NYS Grown & Certified Infrastructure, Technology & R&D Program

New York State Energy Research and Development Authority: Up to \$25 million

- Up to \$10 million for Carbon Neutral Economic Development Program
- Up to \$15 million for Commercial and Industrial (C&I) Carbon Challenge

Department of Environmental Conservation: Up to \$86 million*

- *Up to \$8 million for the Climate Smart Communities Grant Program**
- *Up to \$75 million for the Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) Program**
- *Up to \$3 million for the Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source Planning and Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Mapping Grant Program**

Environmental Facilities Corporation: Up to \$18 million*

- *Up to \$15 million for the Green Innovation Grant Program**
- *Up to \$3 million for NYS EFC Wastewater Infrastructure Engineering Planning Grant **

Open Enrollment Programs

Empire State Development: Up to \$225 million

- Up to \$150 million for ESD Grant Funds
- Up to \$75 million for Excelsior Jobs Program

New York State Energy Research and Development Authority: Up to \$15 million*

- Up to \$15 million for Energy Efficiency Programs*

New York State Power Authority: Up to 19.4 Megawatts

- Up to 19.4 Megawatts for the ReCharge NY Program

Federal Industrial Development Bond Cap: Up to \$150 million*

- Up to \$150 million for Industrial Development Bond Cap (IDBC)*

Open Enrollment programs will continue to accept applications on an ongoing basis and are not subject to the July 28th deadline.

**REDCs will be made aware of projects applying to these programs but REDCs will not score these projects.*

Regional Economic Development Councils

CODE OF CONDUCT

In 2011, ten Regional Economic Development Councils (the “Councils”) were created to develop long-term strategic plans for economic growth for their regions. The Councils are public-private partnerships made up of local experts and stakeholders from business, academia, local government, and non-governmental organizations and are advisory in nature. This Code of Conduct describes the ethical responsibilities of Members of the Councils.

This Code does not supersede or replace any other applicable laws, regulations, or requirements.

Section 1. Code of Ethics

- 1. Conflicts of Interest:** Members shall avoid actual and potential conflicts of interest and shall not allow their personal interests, financial or otherwise, or those of a Relative, to interfere with, or appear to interfere with, their independent advice as a Member.
- 2. Confidential Information:** Members shall not disclose information obtained as a result of Council membership that is not otherwise public, and shall not use information to further their own interests or those of another Member or a Relative.
- 3. Unwarranted Privileges:** Members shall not use or attempt to use their position on the Council to secure unwarranted privileges for themselves, any other person, or any entity.

Section 2. Disclosure and Recusals

- 1. Statement of Interest Form:** Within 30 days of appointment to the Council, and every year, each Member shall submit to the Regional Council Chair a written statement (the “Statement of Interest Form”) identifying any entity, enterprise, or real property (excluding personal residences), in which he or she, a spouse or unemancipated child, has an interest, whether as an owner, officer, director, employee, Investor, or consultant.
- 2. Recusal:** No Member shall participate in any Council discussion or vote, attempt to influence such discussion or vote, or review materials provided to the Council or distribute materials to the Council relating to any entity where such Member or Relative has an interest as a board member, owner, officer, employee, or Investor in the entity or in a potential competitor, or where such Member or Relative has a financial interest in the matter. No Member shall attend such Council discussions or votes unless such discussions or votes are taking place as part of a meeting or proceeding open to the public.

Section 3. Definitions

1. **“Member”** means any member of any of the Regional Economic Development Councils.
2. **“Relative”** includes any person living in the same household as the Member, or the spouse, parent, child, or sibling of a Member.
3. A Member is an **“Investor”** in an enterprise if he or she has provided money or resources to that enterprise; however, investments in mutual funds, index funds and investments in publicly traded stock are not included in the definition of Investor for purposes of this Code of Conduct.

Section 4. Ethics Officer

ESD’s Ethics Counsel shall serve as Ethics Officer for the Council. If a Member is unsure if he or she has an actual or potential conflict of interest, or has any other questions regarding the interpretation and application of this Code of Conduct, the Member should contact the Ethics Officer for guidance. Members are encouraged to disclose known relationships and potential conflicts of Interest to prevent even the appearance of impropriety.

Section 5. Acknowledgment

I have read the foregoing, and I agree to comply with and be bound by, the Regional Economic Development Council Code of Conduct.

Print Name

Signature

Date



**Regional Economic
Development Councils**