



Regional Economic Development Councils



REDC GUIDEBOOK 2024

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INTRODUCTION

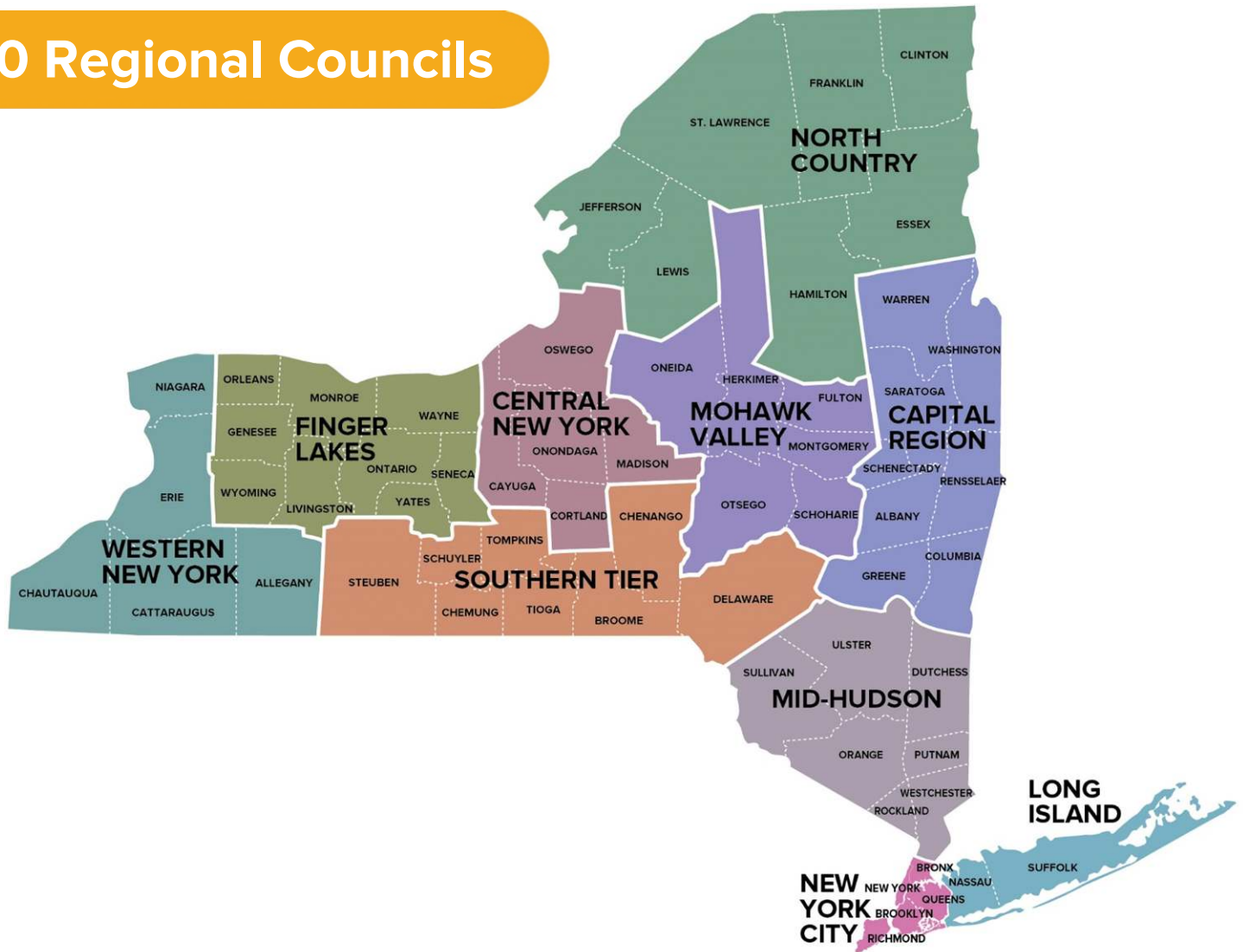
The Regional Economic Development Councils (REDCs) support the state's innovative approach that empowers regional stakeholders to establish pathways to prosperity, mapped out in regional strategic plans. Through the REDCs, community, business, academic leaders, and members of the public in each region 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 \$8 billion to more than 9,900 projects. The REDCs have also played a critical role in selecting the 80 Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) communities and 46 New York Forward communities to receive \$1 billion 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 eighth round of the traditional DRI Program along with the third 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 Army, President & CEO, 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)
William Rahm, Senior Managing Director, Centerbridge

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

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** - \$100 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.
- **Regional Council Challenges Competition** – In Round XIII, Councils were tasked with developing a proposal in response to the Challenges Competition where each council selected one particular challenge set by the State that is shared statewide to develop a proposal that outlined creative and innovation solutions to tackle the selected challenge as part of their strategic plan. The regions below were selected to receive up to \$10 million to implement their challenge proposal.
 - **Long Island** will address a significant shortage of residential housing and seeks to encourage local municipalities to create “shovel ready” sites through targeted initiatives.
 - **Mohawk Valley** will strengthen the regions' workforce ecosystem through the Mohawk Valley Empowers initiative to empower people by recognizing the need to increase workforce participation, expand wraparound services, and redefine career readiness.
 - **North Country** will capitalize on the region's unique regional workforce asset, Fort Drum, through an initiative called Next Move NY to fill an anticipated workforce gap by retaining transitioning soldiers and their spouses.
- **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 Seven rounds of the DRI, 80 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. Through two rounds of NY Forward, 46 communities have benefited from \$200 million to support their communities.
- **Pro-Housing Community Program** – The Pro-Housing Community Program was created to recognize and reward municipalities actively working to unlock their housing potential and encourage others to follow suit. Under the program, Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) will

review and certify communities who have successfully unlocked housing growth or committed to taking important steps to support housing, such as by streamlining permitting and adopting pro-housing policies, and that have applied and submitted critical housing and zoning data to the state. Under the enacted FY 2025 budget, localities that achieve the “Pro-Housing Communities” designation will be eligible for various NYS programs including ESD Grant Funds, DRI, NYF, and other NYS programs.

- **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. Following the continued success of the program, the FY 2025 enacted budget includes an additional \$50 million in funding for the program.
- **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. Since formally launching in December 2022, the FAST NY shovel-ready grant program has made awards totaling more than \$175 million for 20 projects across every region of upstate. Following the success of this program, the FY 2025 enacted budget expanded the FAST NY program with an additional \$100 million.
- **NYS Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI)** – More than \$500 million in federal funding is now available to support the resurgence of small businesses across New York State through the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI), a program through the American Rescue Plan Act. Managed by the U.S. Department of Treasury, 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. With this funding, ESD has developed a suite of capital access programs to help New York State small businesses access capital.
- **Office of Strategic Workforce Development** – The Office of Strategic Workforce Development was created to better align workforce development efforts with the needs and priorities of employers in the State’s priority industry sectors. The Office recently re-launched the \$115 million Pay for Performance Operating Grant and \$35 million Workforce Development Capital Grant programs to support employer-driven, high-skilled workforce training while removing barriers to participation for historically marginalized groups. Later in 2024, the Office will launch the \$200 million ON-RAMP (One Network for Regional Advanced Manufacturing Partnerships) program to establish four new workforce development centers in strategic, high-impact locations along the I-90 corridor, serving the needs of the advanced manufacturing industry.
- **NY SWIMS** – The FY 2025 enacted budget includes \$150 million to expand access to safe swimming, address equity gaps, and provide resources for communities facing extreme heat. The program offers grants between \$50,000 and \$10 million to acquire, design, construct or reconstruct facilities, provide major renovations, improvements, and modernization or rehabilitation of swimming facilities and natural swimming areas. The first application round announced in May will make up to \$90 million available for municipal swimming facility projects in underserved communities across NYS. The remaining NY SWIMS capital funding will be made available during subsequent application periods.

Regional Council Capital Fund Highlights

Round XI - XIII Project Highlights



**Over 420 projects awarded
since Round 11**



**Over 88% of projects
complete or in progress**



Over \$3.3 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. Last year included the addition of strategic focus areas within the ESD Grants program to incentivize projects that advance strategic state priorities and below includes several projects that were awarded funding. Information and status of all projects awarded through the REDC initiative can be found [here](#).

Unique Public-Private Partnership

Western New York: Jacobs Institute – The Jacobs Institute (JI) is a unique and innovative, not-for-profit vascular medical technology innovation center. Vascular Disease accounts for 32% of all deaths and the JI is creating new technology and providing life-changing education to fight it. Strategically located between a world-class university research center and a state-of-the-art vascular hospital, they are uniquely positioned to support cutting-edge product development in a clinical environment. Since 2012, the JI has successfully implemented services to accelerate clinical and medical device development learnings for device companies and physicians around the world. Partnerships with Gates Vascular Institute (GVI) and University at Buffalo (UB) give start-ups and companies access to vital clinical input on ease of use and areas of need, engineering expertise throughout the R&D process, and research facilities to test their technology before first-in-human studies.

The Jacob's Institute was provided funding in Round 13 to renovate and expand their medical device technology incubator located in Buffalo to create a state-of-the-art learning lab that will double their capacity and increase their ability to train and hire more engineers to develop these types of life saving devices. The renovations will enable JI to record and stream live cases, while newly acquired and specialized 3D printing and software is taking the JI's anatomic modeling skills into treatment planning. The state investment in the Jacob's Institute continues to build on the life sciences and entrepreneurial ecosystems in Buffalo where many new companies, new ideas and new technologies benefit from the medical corridor access and collaborations.

Childcare

Capital Region: Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute – Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) was awarded funding in Round 13 to expand access to high-quality, affordable childcare for local families through the construction of a childcare center on its main campus in Troy, NY. The new, 18,200 square foot facility will feature 13 classrooms and provide approximately 154 full-time childcare slots, increasing childcare availability in a region classified as a severe childcare desert. The project will create 30 full-time jobs employed by the center’s operator. The Rensselaer Childcare Center will provide quality, reliable childcare for children from birth through pre-school to the general public and the Rensselaer community.

Distressed Area

Mohawk Valley: Midtown Utica Community Center – Midtown Utica Community Center (MUCC) offers a variety of programs including a summer youth employment program, youth employment services, tutoring, an after-school program, summer camp, youth sports teams and a farm education program, providing essential programming to build a pipeline for k-12 students and their future employment opportunities. They also provide job skill development training and social/life skill development training to various vulnerable populations within Utica. These programs primarily serve the refugee, immigrant, and low-income youth in the severely distressed neighborhoods of Utica. MUCC was provided funding in Round 13 to rehabilitate their community center to expand their current programming and their employment services. The renovations will support the launch of a program with Utica City School District to help orient newly arrived refugee, immigrant, and newcomer youth into the community. Utica currently does not have another accessible youth community center like this, and the MUCC works diligently to continue to fill this gap by investing in their facility and programs to expand accessibility for workforce training and providing critical wraparound services for locally distressed, underserved populations.

Regional Council Priorities in 2024

Regional Strategic Planning & Implementation

The REDCs were created to support the State’s bottom-up, community-based, and performance-driven approach to economic development with the REDCs being 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. Under Governor Hochul’s leadership, the State continues to support and invest in the Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) Initiative to ensure that State resources are provided to support the implementation of regional priorities and strategies for what it needed in each region across the State.

2023 Strategic Plans

In 2023, each Council developed new strategic plans for their region marking the first time that a comprehensive update had been made since 2015 to outline an economic vision for the future and develop strategies to capitalize on key regional assets and priorities for the region. The new strategic plans serve as a road map for growth in each region based on economic circumstances, existing resources, and future opportunities to achieve each regions vision for success. Each Council developed their strategic plan to re-evaluate and re-affirm their goals and strategies for the region as it is through this comprehensive strategic planning process that guides every region across the state to succeed in creating private sector jobs, driving private investment, bolstering workforce development, and revitalizing long-neglected cities, towns, and neighborhoods.

While each strategic plan is unique to the region it serves, below are four re-occurring themes from all regions, all of which are consistent with Empire State Development’s (ESD) pillars with tradeable sectors integrated into each of the regions’ strategic plan based on the target industries within the region. While no one project alone may implement all of the strategies for a region, it is through the collection of projects and leveraging of regional assets that is strategic to the region it serves.

- **Innovation, Collaboration, and Industry Growth** to continue to invest in existing and new industries that advance each regions strategies and target sectors.
- **Housing & Community Development** to invest in housing, community development and placemaking projects to create and sustain thriving communities.
- **Equitable Growth** to break down barriers to economic opportunities through projects that foster equitable entrepreneurship and accessible career pathways for all.
- **Workforce Development** to support the needs and demands of employers across the State.

2024 Annual Report

This year, Councils are asked to provide an annual report to highlight the state of the region, public engagement efforts and provide a summary of previous awards made through the Regional Economic Development Council Initiative. Councils may highlight the continued strengths of the region to facilitate and spur additional investments to the region along with how their new strategic plan is being implemented. Councils may include new or amended strategies, if applicable.

Councils are also asked to facilitate project development and identify projects that advance their 2023 strategic plan by leveraging available resources provided to the Councils in Round 14 as the implementation of many regional strategies continues to be accomplished through projects proposed by businesses, local governments, and nonprofit organizations. Regional councils are encouraged to seek strong candidates for State funding available for economic development activities and encourage applicants whose projects would help implement the region's strategic plan. Regional coordination and collaboration remain crucial to the implementation of the strategic plan.

Regional Councils will identify and recommend priority projects that will be eligible for ESD Capital grant funds on a rolling basis throughout the round. Additionally, they will recommend priority projects for a share of 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 2024.

Round XIV

Since the inception of the REDC Initiative, over \$8 billion in State funding has been awarded to over 9,900 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 2024, the Regional Economic Development Councils will once again compete for a share of ESD Capital Grant Funds and Excelsior Tax Credits to support projects that advance projects supporting regional priorities.

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.

New Grant Programs for this Round

Empire State Development is launching two new grant programs using ESD Grant funds from the \$150 Million made available for Round 14. With the creation of these two new programs, this will leave \$100 Million available through the traditional ESD Grants Program.

- Capital Improvement Grants for Pro-Housing Communities** (up to \$40 Million)
 The Capital Improvement Grants for Pro-Housing Communities Program was established to support capital improvement and placemaking projects located within pro-housing communities that are certified by Homes & Community Renewal (HCR). The program is designed to directly support local participation in Governor Hochul's [Pro-Housing Communities Program](#) to invest in and create more vibrant communities throughout NYS. While projects through the ESD Grant Funds program are typically considered for awards of up to twenty percent of the financing for projects, projects applying to the Capital Improvement Grants for Pro-Housing Communities program will be considered for up to fifty percent of the eligible total project cost with a cap of \$3 million per project.

Housing remains a critical need across the State and these capital improvement projects are intended to foster economic development not only by being a catalyst to the increase in availability and access to housing, but also by stimulating community development and neighborhood growth through placemaking projects and the elimination and redevelopment of blighted structures. Cities, towns, villages, counties and not-for-profit organizations will be eligible for grant awards from \$100,000 to

\$3,000,000. Projects from counties and not-for-profits must be located within a certified pro-housing community.

- **Small Manufacturer Modernization Program** (up to \$10 Million)

The Small Manufacturer Modernization Grant Program was established to support existing New York State small manufacturers investing in capital projects that will improve competitiveness or productivity through modernization and integration of advanced technology. The program is designed to help increase the economic strength of these small manufacturers and safeguard manufacturing jobs in New York State.

Small manufacturers are an integral part of New York State's larger manufacturing supply chain and help make larger investments in New York State manufacturing possible. Capital grant funding will be available to assist these small legacy manufacturers to invest in projects that will significantly increase the operational efficiencies and market competitiveness of their businesses to keep them thriving in New York with grant awards ranging from \$50,000 to \$250,000.

Strategic Focus Areas for the ESD Grants Program

Projects supporting the strategic focus areas below may be eligible for an increased project award through the ESD Grants program. 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.

- **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 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.
- **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 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.

ESD Grants Batch Schedule

Projects applying for ESD Grant funds will be reviewed in batches throughout the year and awards will be made available to projects as they are approved until funds are 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.



Other Resources Available

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, 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.

Consolidated Funding Application

A fourteenth round of the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) will be offered in 2024. 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 20 state programs participating in the CFA which include a combination of grant funds and tax credits.

The CFA opened on May 13, 2024 for all programs included in the Available Resources section of this document. Applications will be accepted through 4:00 PM on July 31, 2024 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 31 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 2024

Open Enrollment Programs

Open Enrollment programs will continue to accept applications on an ongoing basis and are not subject to the July 31st deadline.

Empire State Development: Up to \$177 million

- Up to \$100 million for ESD Grant Funds
- Up to \$2 million for Strategic Planning and Feasibility Studies
- *Up to \$75 million for Excelsior Jobs Program**

Homes & Community Renewal: Up to \$10 million*

- *Up to \$10 million for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) – Vacant Property Clearance Program**

New York State Power Authority: Up to 35.5 Megawatts

- Up to 35.5 Megawatts for the ReCharge NY Program

Programs Subject to 4:00 PM July 31, 2024 Deadline

Empire State Development: Up to \$70 million

- Up to \$40 million for Capital Improvement Grants for Pro-Housing Communities
- Up to \$15 million for Market New York
- Up to \$10 million for the Small Manufacturer Modernization Program
- *Up to \$5 million the Not-For-Profit Capital Grant Program**

Homes and Community Renewal: Up to \$29.2 million

- Up to \$4.2 million for New York Main Street Program
- *Up to \$25 million for New York State Community Development Block Grant Program**

Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation: Up to \$26 million

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

New York State Energy Research and Development Authority: Up to \$20 million

- Up to \$10 million for Commercial and Industrial (C&I) Carbon Challenge
- Up to \$10 million for Building Cleaner Communities Competition

Department of State: Up to \$17.975 million

- Up to \$13.975 million for the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program
- Up to \$2 million for the Brownfield Opportunity Area Program
- *Up to \$2 million for the Smart Growth Community Planning and Zoning Grant Program**

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

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

Department of Environmental Conservation: Up to \$95.5 million*

- *Up to \$75 million for the Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) Program**
- *Up to \$17.5 million for the Climate Smart Communities Grant Program**
- *Up to \$3 million for the Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source Planning and Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Mapping Grant Program**

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

Annual Report

In 2024, Regional Economic Development Councils will be provided with a template that will be used to produce the annual report. The outline presented below and explained in the following pages will allow the Regional Councils to provide consistent and informative online reports. Annual Reports are due to the State on November 15th, 2024.

- I. Executive Summary– up to 3 pages**
- II. State of the Region – up to 10 pages**
 - a. Snapshot of region’s economic status
 - b. Regional Updates
- III. Participation – up to 3 pages**
 - a. Public Outreach and Engagement
 - b. Workgroups
- IV. Status of Past CFA Funded Projects – up to 4 pages**
 - a. Narrative
 - b. Overview of Previously Funded Priority Projects
 - c. Overview of Previously Funded Projects

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- a. Provide a summary of the Annual Report.** This section may include the regional vision, a message from the co-chairs, and a brief overview of the region.

II. STATE OF THE REGION

- a. Provide a snapshot of the region’s economic status.**
- b. Provide progress updates for key regional priorities.** Updates should include the following:
 - i. Overview of progress made to advance the 2023 strategic plan to date.
 - ii. Highlight previously funded projects or initiatives that advance regional strategies and priorities.
 - iii. If applicable, include new strategies or provide updates to existing strategies to meet new opportunities or challenges facing the region.

III. PARTICIPATION

a. Public Outreach and Engagement

- i. Describe how stakeholders and other members of the public are engaged in the Regional Council process.

b. Workgroups

- i. Describe the workgroups that will be engaged in Regional Council activities during Round XIV. This may include the re-structuring of existing workgroups or formation of additional workgroups.

IV. Status of Past CFA Projects

a. Provide a brief narrative on the progress made to previously funded projects.

The narrative should highlight key statistics from the required information below.

b. Provide regional dashboards to illustrate the status of previously awarded projects through the REDC Initiative. In 2023, ESD launched regional dashboards which are available on each of the REDC regional websites and are updated regularly to provide charts and project level data on all previously funded projects through the REDC Initiative. These charts may be used and included in the annual report beginning on August 1st, 2024 to provide the information below.

- i. Summary of all past priority projects
- ii. Leverage of State investments for all past priority projects
- iii. Geographic distribution of past priority projects
- iv. Summary of all past projects
- v. Leverage of State investments for all past projects
- vi. Job creation for the number of jobs created and retained

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**