



**Department of State**  
Planning, Development  
& Community Infrastructure

# NYS DEPARTMENT OF STATE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



EMPOWERING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AND  
RESILIENT DOWNTOWNS

JUNE 12, 2026

# WHY THIS MATTERS

## Communities Face Real Challenges

- Aging Infrastructure
- Disinvestment
- Vacant Properties
- Housing Shortages
- Waterfront Underutilization
- Economic Transition

Department of State programs help move communities from planning to implementation.

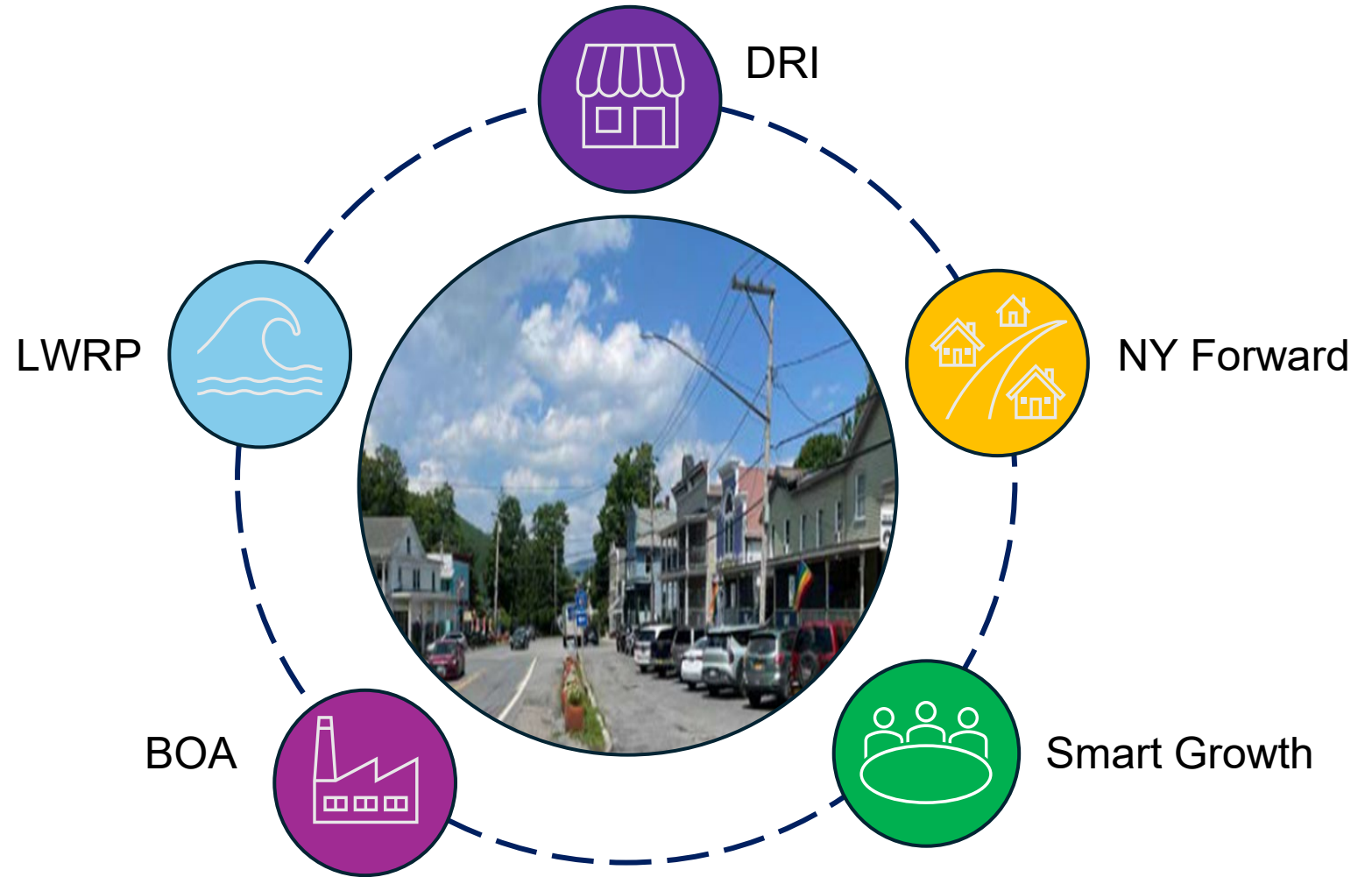


# HOW DEPARTMENT OF STATE PROGRAMS WORK TOGETHER

## Multiple Goals. Many Pathways.

DOS programs are designed to be complementary, not competitive.

Communities are encouraged to combine programs over time to move ideas from planning to implementation.



**Stronger Together:** By aligning local goals with the right mix of programs communities can build momentum and achieve lasting results.

# WHERE TO START?

## Great Projects Start with Great Planning



### Engage the Community

Build broad public support through meaningful engagement



### Develop a Shared Vision

Define what success looks like for your community's future.



### Create a Strategic Plan

Identify priorities, goals, and resources.



### Identify Priority Projects

Focus on projects that align with community vision.



### Build Partnerships

Leverage local, regional and State partners.





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# SMART GROWTH COMMUNITY PLANNING PROGRAM



2026 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

JUNE 12, 2026

# WHAT IS SMART GROWTH?

Smart Growth is an approach to planning that revolves around ten key principles, intended to promote livable, sustainable, equitable communities.



# WHAT DOES IT FUND?



## Comprehensive Plan

- ✓ Reflects a community's vision and goals
- ✓ Addresses a wide range of planning issues
- ✓ Provides legal basis for zoning regulations
- ✓ Guides local decision making

## Zoning Code



- ✓ Developed by the community with input from the public
- ✓ Organizes and regulates how land is used
- ✓ Is consistent with and helps implement an adopted comprehensive plan



## Area Plan

- ✓ Consistent with an adopted comprehensive plan
- ✓ Supplements a Comprehensive Plan in a specific area (e.g., downtown)
- ✓ Can be followed with updates to a zoning code

**ALL PLANS MUST ADDRESS SMART GROWTH PRINCIPLES**

# WHAT IS SMART GROWTH?

## 10 Smart Growth Principles

Allow for and encourage neighborhoods with a mix of uses, such as residential, commercial and community spaces.

Preserve open space, agricultural resources and natural resources.

Enable a diverse mix of housing types, providing opportunity and choice for people of all ages, abilities and incomes.

Prioritize transportation options that are safe and accessible for everyone, including pedestrians, cyclists and public transit users.

Prioritize infill and redevelopment of existing buildings to revitalize neighborhoods and downtowns, including areas around public transit.

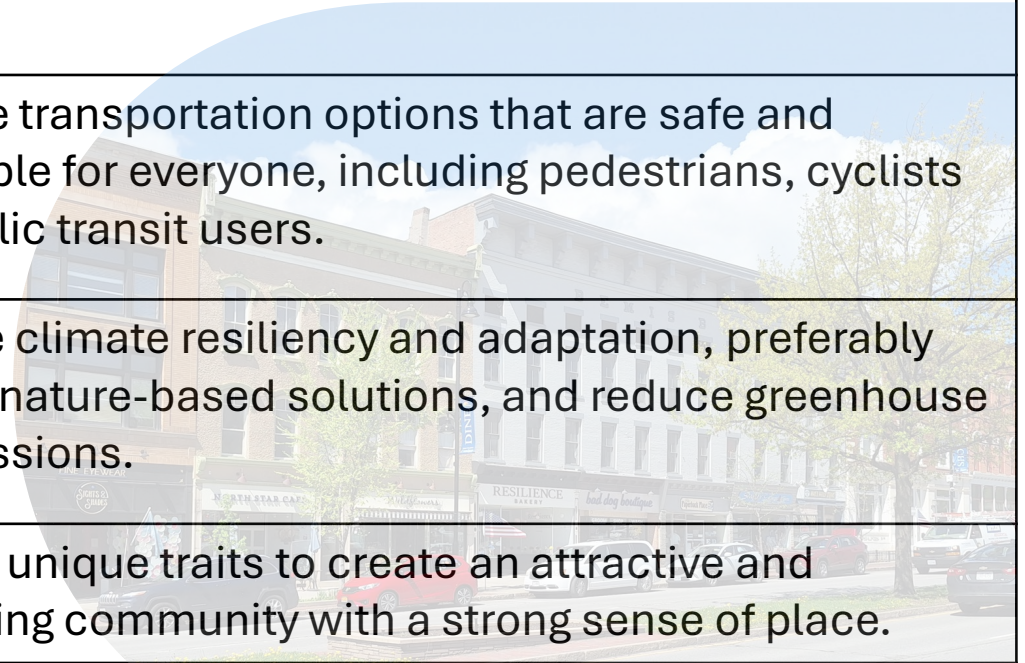
Promote climate resiliency and adaptation, preferably through nature-based solutions, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Provide well-planned, equitable, and accessible public spaces for people of all ages and abilities.

Build on unique traits to create an attractive and welcoming community with a strong sense of place.

Encourage compact neighborhood design and concentrated development around existing infrastructure.

Engage in an inclusive, collaborative public planning process that considers the needs and character of the community.



# WHAT SMART GROWTH ISN'T



- ✗ Single use
- ✗ Automobile-centric
- ✗ Difficult to walk or bike
- ✗ Dominated by pavement
- ✗ Lack of greenspace
- ✗ Lack of character





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# **BROWNFIELD OPPORTUNITY AREA (BOA) PROGRAM**



2026 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

JUNE 12, 2026

# BOA Program Objective

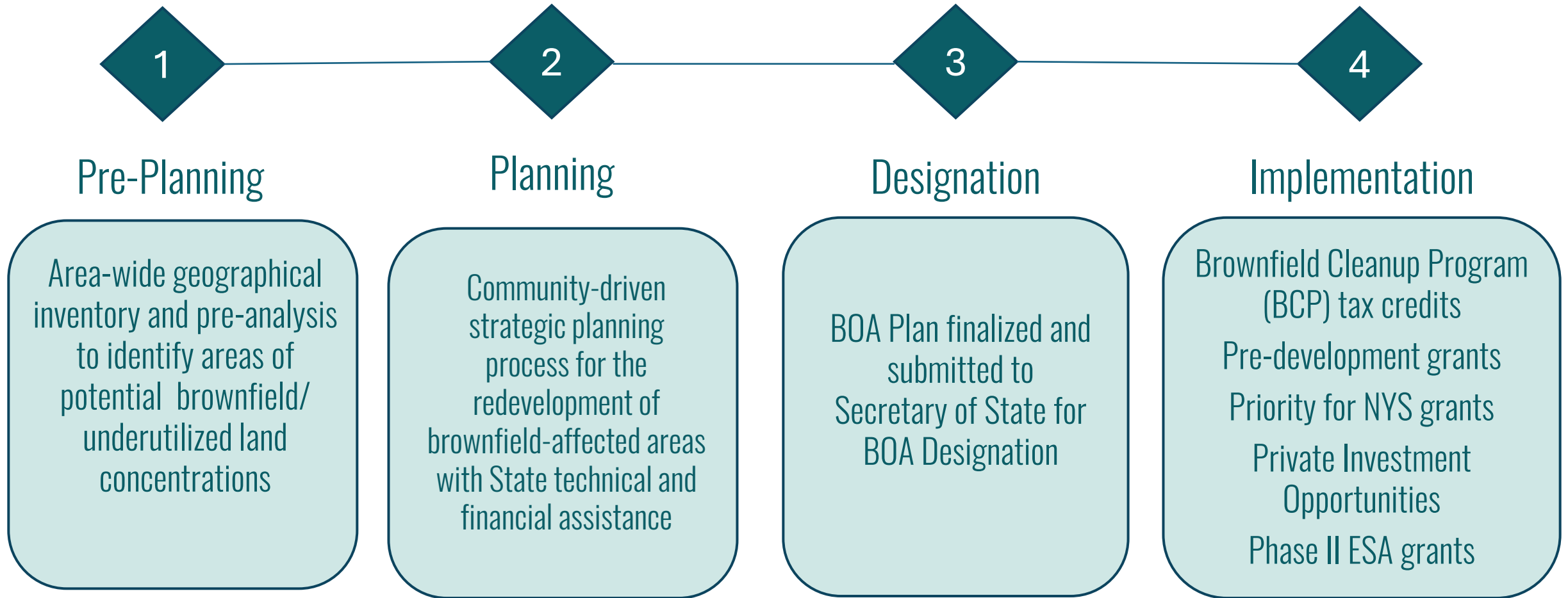
The BOA program applies a Smart Growth approach to brownfield assessment and redevelopment, facilitating the transition of areas of historical disinvestment into productive centers, creating jobs, housing, and public amenities for residents and visitors.



## Eligible Activities:

1. Pre-Planning: Brownfield Identification and Preliminary Analysis
2. Planning: Development or Update of a BOA Plan
3. Predevelopment Activities within a State-Designated BOA
4. Phase II Environmental Site Assessments within a State-Designated BOA

# BOA Program: A Multi-Step Process for Revitalization





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# LOCAL WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION PROGRAM (LWRP)



2026 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

JUNE 12, 2026

# LOCAL WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION PROGRAM (LWRP)

The State's primary program for working in partnership with waterfront communities across New York State, which:

- **Promotes** accessibility, resilience, improves water quality, and enhances coastal uses and resources through public projects
- **Prioritizes** inclusive planning and public engagement throughout the process
- **Identifies** a clear and consensus-driven direction for appropriate future development of the waterfront
- **Increases** opportunities to apply for financial assistance from State funding sources to implement the LWRP



# THE LWRP GRANT PROGRAM

- The Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) provides technical and financial assistance for planning and implementation projects which achieve more resilient and accessible waterfront communities.
- Available through the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA)
- **Eligible Applicants:**
  - Villages, towns, or cities, located along New York's coasts or designated inland waterways
  - Counties or Regional Planning Councils with the written consent and acting on behalf of one or more villages, towns, or cities, located along New York's coasts or designated inland waterways
- A map depicting eligible municipalities, coastal waterbodies and designated inland waterways and the Coastal Waterbodies and Designated Inland Waterways List are available on the Department of State's website.



# THE LWRP DOCUMENT – REQUIRED SECTIONS



## LWRP Video Training Series



<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIjoYdAmWljbUWXHMfoMveJPLL6LWi2E>

## LWRP Guidance Manual



[lwrp\\_preparation\\_guidance\\_04\\_10\\_2024\\_final\\_with\\_appendices.pdf](#)

# RECENTLY APPROVED LWRPS

## Town of Grand Island LWRP



[grand\\_island\\_lwrp\\_ocm\\_approved\\_s1-s7.pdf](#)



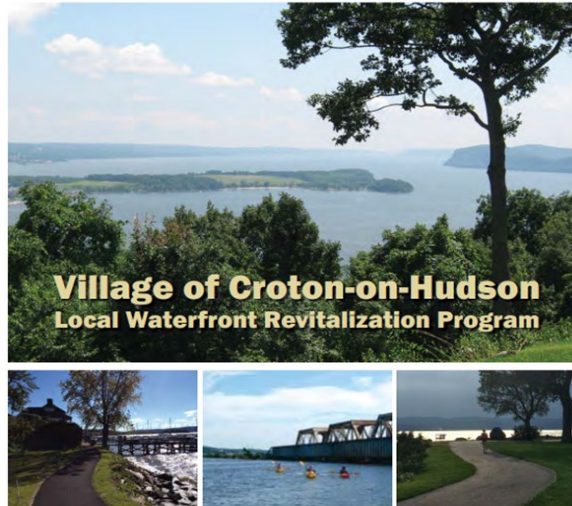
### Town of Grand Island Local Waterfront Revitalization Program

Adopted:  
Town of Grand Island Town Board, May 20, 2024  
Approved:  
NYS Secretary of State, Walter T. Mosley, January 15, 2025  
Concurred:  
U.S. NOAA, Office for Coastal Management, June 11, 2025

## Croton-on-Hudson LWRP



[croton\\_on\\_hudson\\_lwrp\\_amdmt\\_and\\_app\\_a-e\\_ocm\\_concurred.pdf](#)



### Village of Croton-on-Hudson Local Waterfront Revitalization Program

Original LWRP  
Adopted:  
Village of Croton-on-Hudson Board of Trustees, March 16, 1992  
Approved:  
NYS Secretary of State Gail S. Shaffer, June 15, 1992  
Concurred:  
U.S. Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, August 17, 1992  
Amended LWRP  
Adopted:  
Village of Croton-on-Hudson Board of Trustees, August 14, 2023  
Approved:  
NYS Secretary of State Robert J. Rodriguez, March 26, 2024  
Concurred:  
U.S. Office for Coastal Management, October 16, 2024



## Town of Amherst LWRP



[amherst\\_lwrp\\_approved\\_sections\\_1-7.pdf](#)



### Town of Amherst Local Waterfront Revitalization Program

Adopted:  
Town of Amherst Town Board, June 5, 2023  
Approved:  
NYS Secretary of State Robert Rodriguez, November 8, 2023



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# **DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION INITIATIVE (DRI) + NY FORWARD**

2026 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

JUNE 12, 2026

## WHAT ARE THE DRI + NY FORWARD PROGRAMS?

*The Downtown Revitalization Initiative and NY Forward programs focus on creating healthy, vibrant, walkable downtowns that catalyze sustainable economic development and accrue numerous economic, social, and environmental benefits to the locality, the region, and the State as a whole.*

# DRI OVERVIEW

- The Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) is a cornerstone of the State's economic development program.

## The DRI program...

- Was launched in 2016 to accelerate revitalization of downtowns in all ten regions of the State
- Transforms downtown neighborhoods into vibrant centers that offer a high quality of life and become magnets for redevelopment, business growth, job creation, and economic and housing diversity
- Has invested over \$1 billion in communities across the State

### \$100 million per round

- \$10 million award to 9 REDC regions
- \$20 million award in NYC region



# DRI OVERVIEW

## Community Characteristics

Larger, walkable, more dense geographical areas with amenities that serve the regional community

Multi-modal transportation, including mass transit options

Employment center for the regional economy

Larger, urban tourist center with more attractions to offer spread out over several blocks of development — walkable between multiple nodes of activities/attractions

Availability or potential for rail/bus/ferry public transportation

Higher-density development; most buildings are three or more stories; buildings contain a number of uses and tenants; there is greater square footage of built space per acre

Existing or potential for multi-story buildings with opportunities for upper story housing



# DRI OVERVIEW

## Community Selection and Funding

\$10M in each region — either to one community or a joint application from two to three smaller, contiguous communities with a single unified vision *\*NYC Region receives one \$20M DRI award\**

A portion of funds from each regional award are used for professional consulting services through the planning phase

REDCs recommend communities based on application process

## Potential Projects

Larger private, mixed-use projects focused on new construction, adaptive reuse, and redevelopment to generate economic benefit for the downtown; creation of new public parks, plazas, and/or open spaces in the downtown

Projects that elevate urban- and employment-based downtown qualities and enhance the regional draw of the DRI area

Wayfinding projects to connect the network of amenities and attractions distributed over several commercial corridors



# NY FORWARD OVERVIEW

- NY Forward supports a more equitable downtown recovery for New York's smaller and rural communities.

## The NY Forward program...

- Is intended to invigorate and enliven downtowns that are smaller or more rural than their surrounding region
- Focuses on hamlets, villages, and neighborhood-scale municipal centers
- Created so all communities can benefit from the State's revitalization efforts, regardless of size, character, needs and challenges.
- Will attract more businesses, residents, and visitors, while also providing a higher quality of life for residents to these smaller downtown



**\$100 million per round**

- Two \$4.5 million awards in each REDC region.  
\*Not applicable to NYC

# NY FORWARD OVERVIEW

## Community Characteristics

Smaller, walkable, less dense geographical areas with amenities that serve the immediate local community

More vehicle dependent; patrons mainly arrive by car

Predominantly service-oriented businesses and employment opportunities. Services may include maintaining employment and job growth

Small-town charm – with heritage, antiques, cottage, agriculture and other niche based tourism.

Vehicle dependent with limited public transportation potential. Residential or rural agricultural centric development

Lower-density: most buildings are two to four stories; buildings contain a few uses and tenants; there is lesser square footage of built space per acre

Two to four story buildings with opportunities for upper story housing



# NY FORWARD OVERVIEW

## Community Selection and Funding

Two \$4.5M awards per region *\*not including NYC region\**

Funds used for pre-application technical assistance, capacity building webinars, and private consultant teams used through the planning phase are not deducted from community awards

REDCs recommend communities based on application process

## Potential Projects

Smaller projects focused more on building renovation, adaptive reuse, redevelopment, or activation of upper-stories (ex: housing, additional commercial) rather than new construction; enhancements of existing public spaces

Projects that elevate specific cultural, historical qualities that enhance the feeling of local charm

Tight commercial activity area with opportunity to enhance cultural heritage through signage or historic markers





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# CASE STUDIES



DOS PROGRAMS IN ACTION

JUNE 12, 2026

# Smart Growth Community Planning Awardees (April 2026)

- 116 Smart Growth awards statewide
- 9 in Southern Tier
  - 6 Comprehensive/Area Plans
    - Village of Groton, Tompkins County
    - City of Corning, Steuben County
    - Town of Union, Broome County
    - Village of Johnson City, Broome County
    - Town of Orange, Schuyler County
    - Village of Watkins Glen, Schuyler County
  - 3 Zoning Code Updates
    - City of Ithaca, Tompkins County
    - Town of Lansing, Tompkins County
    - City of Binghamton, Broome County (\*and area plan)

# CITY OF CORNING COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



CITY OF CORNING  
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN  
UPDATE



2025



*This Comprehensive Plan was prepared with funding provided by the New York State Department of State Environmental Protection Fund.*

## VISION STATEMENT CITY OF CORNING

The City of Corning is the **premier small city** in the region, blending innovation, history, and community to attract residents, businesses, and visitors. As a regional hub, Corning offers an attractive quality of life with **walkable, well-maintained, and affordable neighborhoods, thriving commercial districts, advanced manufacturing,** and abundant arts, cultural, educational, and recreational opportunities.

A **strong sense of connectedness** defines the city—linking people to each other, to the natural environment, and to the global economy. Corning features **well-integrated transportation networks** that support pedestrians, cyclists, public transit, and vehicles. Revitalized spaces and a strong commitment to sustainability ensure the city continuously reinvents itself while honoring its rich heritage.

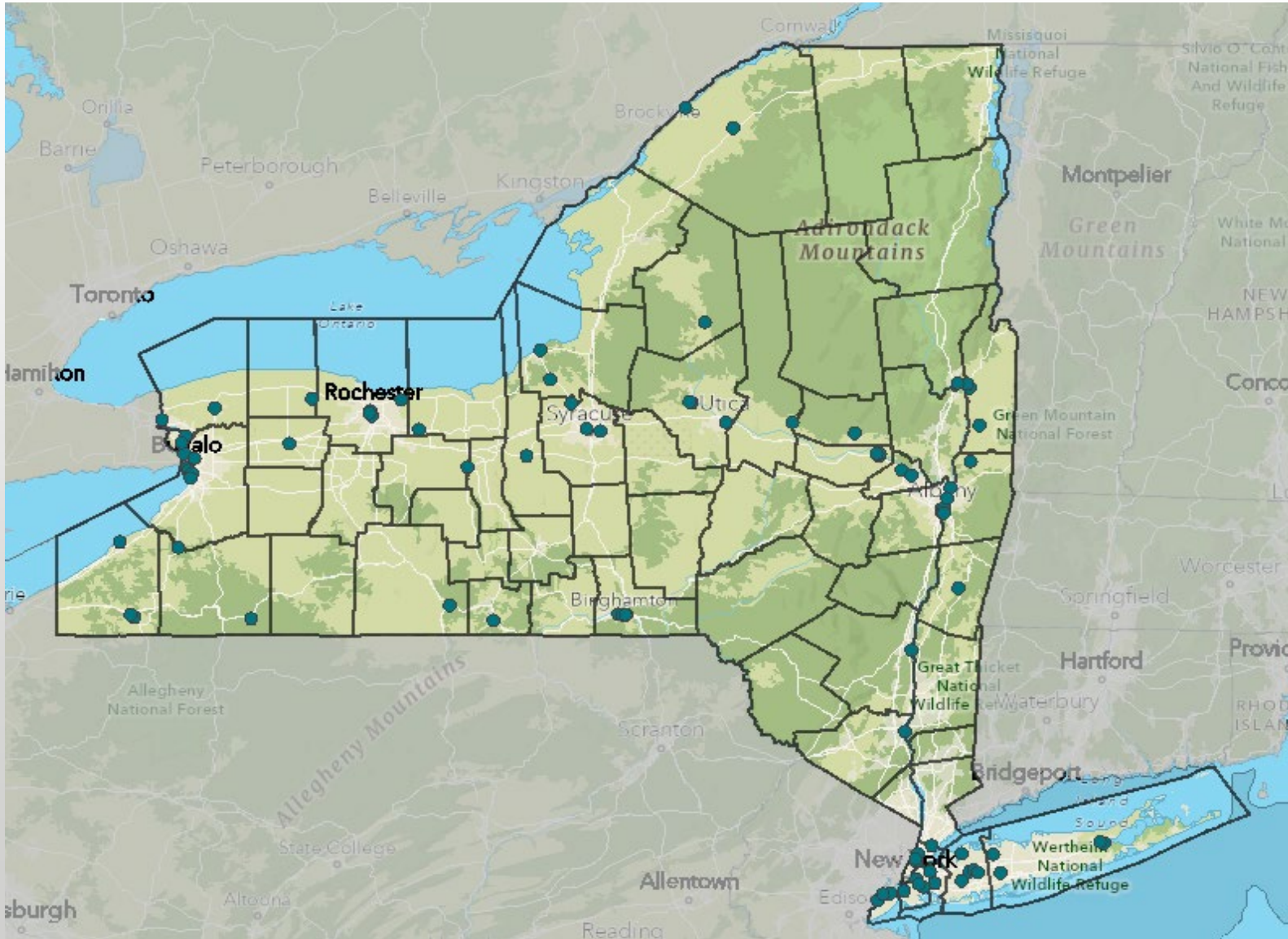
**The City of Corning is a welcoming and thriving community for all.**

# CITY OF CORNING COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

## Key Projects



# Designated BOA Communities

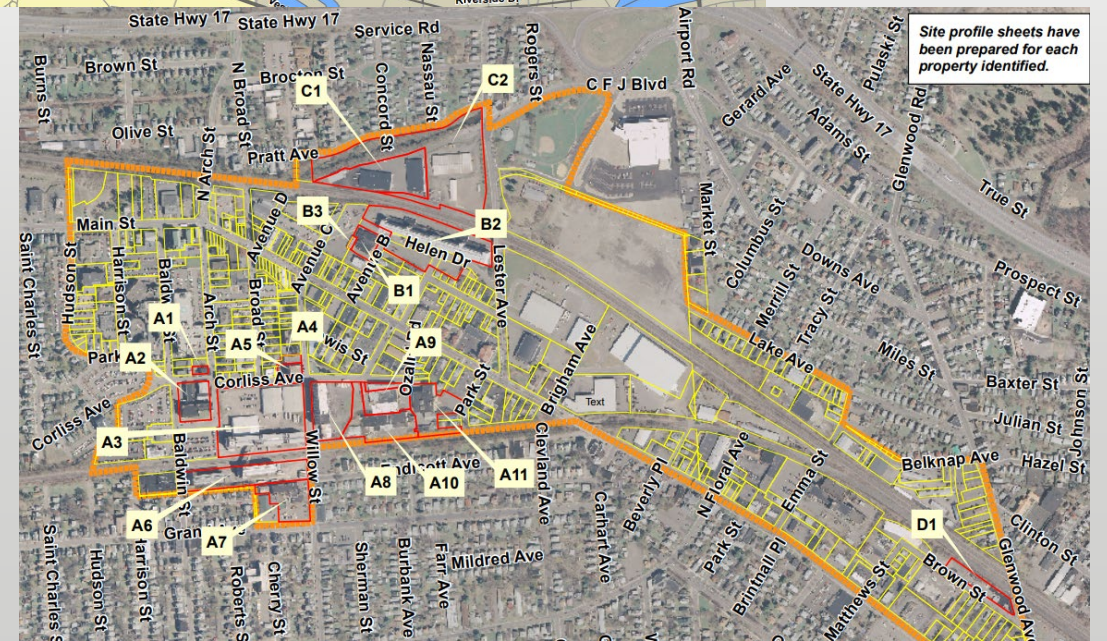
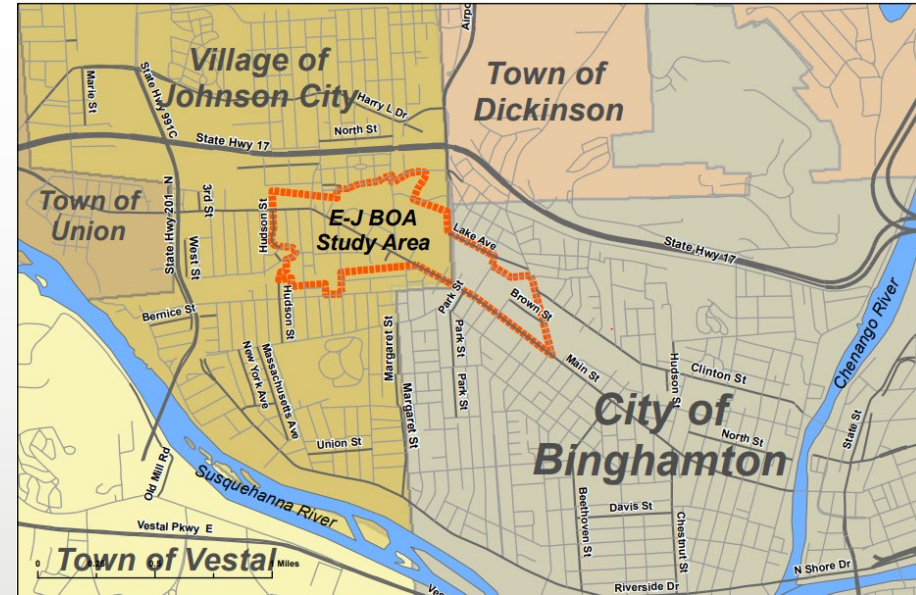


- 91 Designated BOAs statewide
- 6 in Southern Tier
  - Erwin, Painted Post and Riverside, Steuben County
  - Elmira, Chemung County
  - Johnson City, Broome County
  - (3) City of Binghamton, Broome County

# BOA Success

## Endicott Johnson Industrial Spine BOA

- 230-acre area
- BOA area is dominated by industrial, office/commercial, or warehouse/distribution uses (47%) and includes a walkable commercial corridor on Main Street and residential properties
- BOA Nomination identified 17 strategic sites for future redevelopment



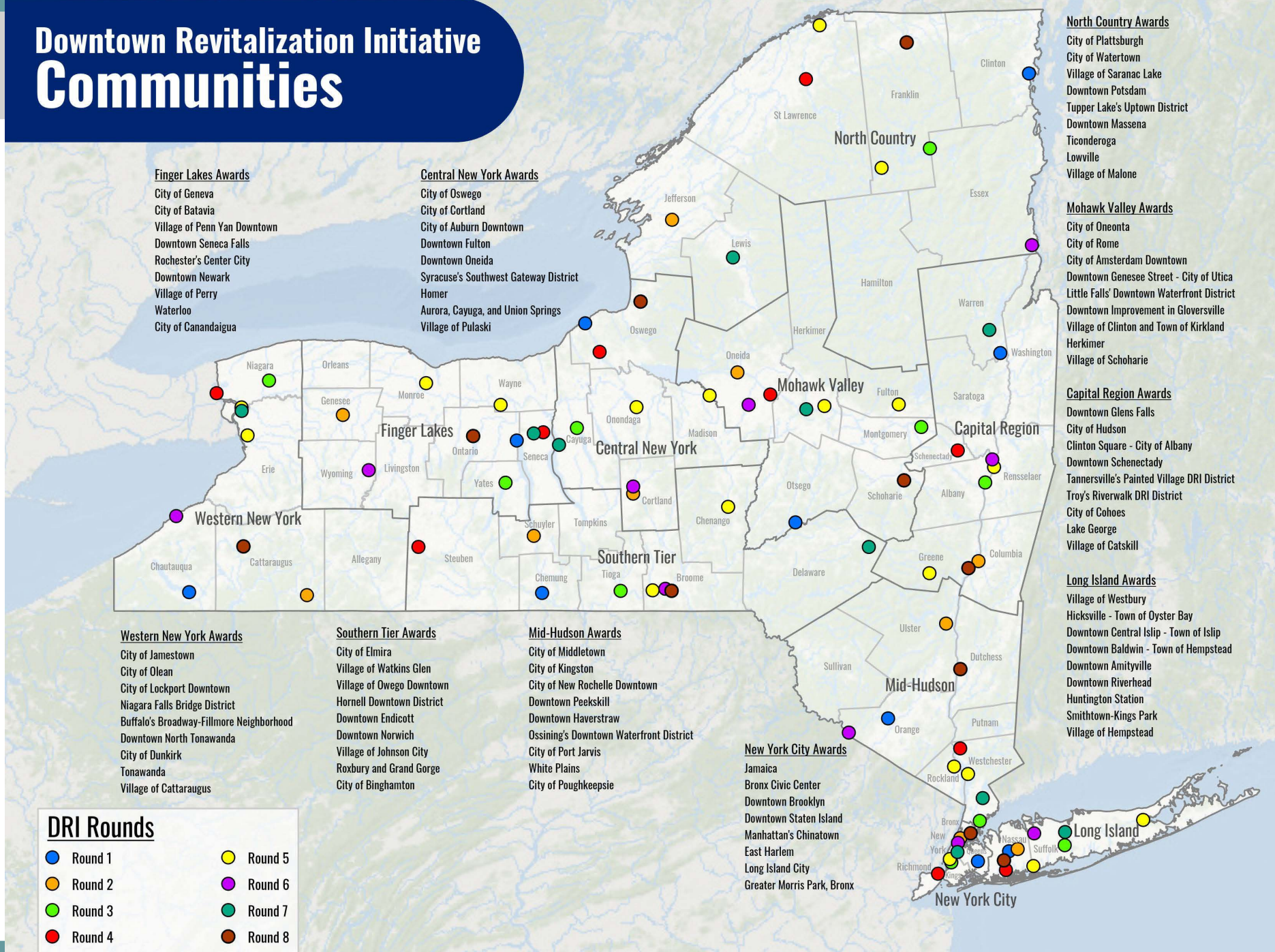
# EJ Victory Building- Before



# EJ Victory Building- After



# Downtown Revitalization Initiative Communities



### Finger Lakes Awards

- City of Geneva
- City of Batavia
- Village of Penn Yan Downtown
- Downtown Seneca Falls
- Rochester's Center City
- Downtown Newark
- Village of Perry
- Waterloo
- City of Canandaigua

### Central New York Awards

- City of Oswego
- City of Cortland
- City of Auburn Downtown
- Downtown Fulton
- Downtown Oneida
- Syracuse's Southwest Gateway District
- Homer
- Aurora, Cayuga, and Union Springs
- Village of Pulaski

### North Country Awards

- City of Plattsburgh
- City of Watertown
- Village of Saranac Lake
- Downtown Potsdam
- Tupper Lake's Uptown District
- Downtown Massena
- Ticonderoga
- Lowville
- Village of Malone

### Mohawk Valley Awards

- City of Oneonta
- City of Rome
- City of Amsterdam Downtown
- Downtown Genesee Street - City of Utica
- Little Falls' Downtown Waterfront District
- Downtown Improvement in Gloversville
- Village of Clinton and Town of Kirkland
- Herkimer
- Village of Schoharie

### Capital Region Awards

- Downtown Glens Falls
- City of Hudson
- Clinton Square - City of Albany
- Downtown Schenectady
- Tannersville's Painted Village DRI District
- Troy's Riverwalk DRI District
- City of Cohoes
- Lake George
- Village of Catskill

### Long Island Awards

- Village of Westbury
- Hicksville - Town of Oyster Bay
- Downtown Central Islip - Town of Islip
- Downtown Baldwin - Town of Hempstead
- Downtown Amityville
- Downtown Riverhead
- Huntington Station
- Smithtown-Kings Park
- Village of Hempstead

### Western New York Awards

- City of Jamestown
- City of Olean
- City of Lockport Downtown
- Niagara Falls Bridge District
- Buffalo's Broadway-Fillmore Neighborhood
- Downtown North Tonawanda
- City of Dunkirk
- Tonawanda
- Village of Cattaraugus

### Southern Tier Awards

- City of Elmira
- Village of Watkins Glen
- Village of Owego Downtown
- Hornell Downtown District
- Downtown Endicott
- Downtown Norwich
- Village of Johnson City
- Roxbury and Grand Gorge
- City of Binghamton

### Mid-Hudson Awards

- City of Middletown
- City of Kingston
- City of New Rochelle Downtown
- Downtown Peekskill
- Downtown Haverstraw
- Ossining's Downtown Waterfront District
- City of Port Jarvis
- White Plains
- City of Poughkeepsie

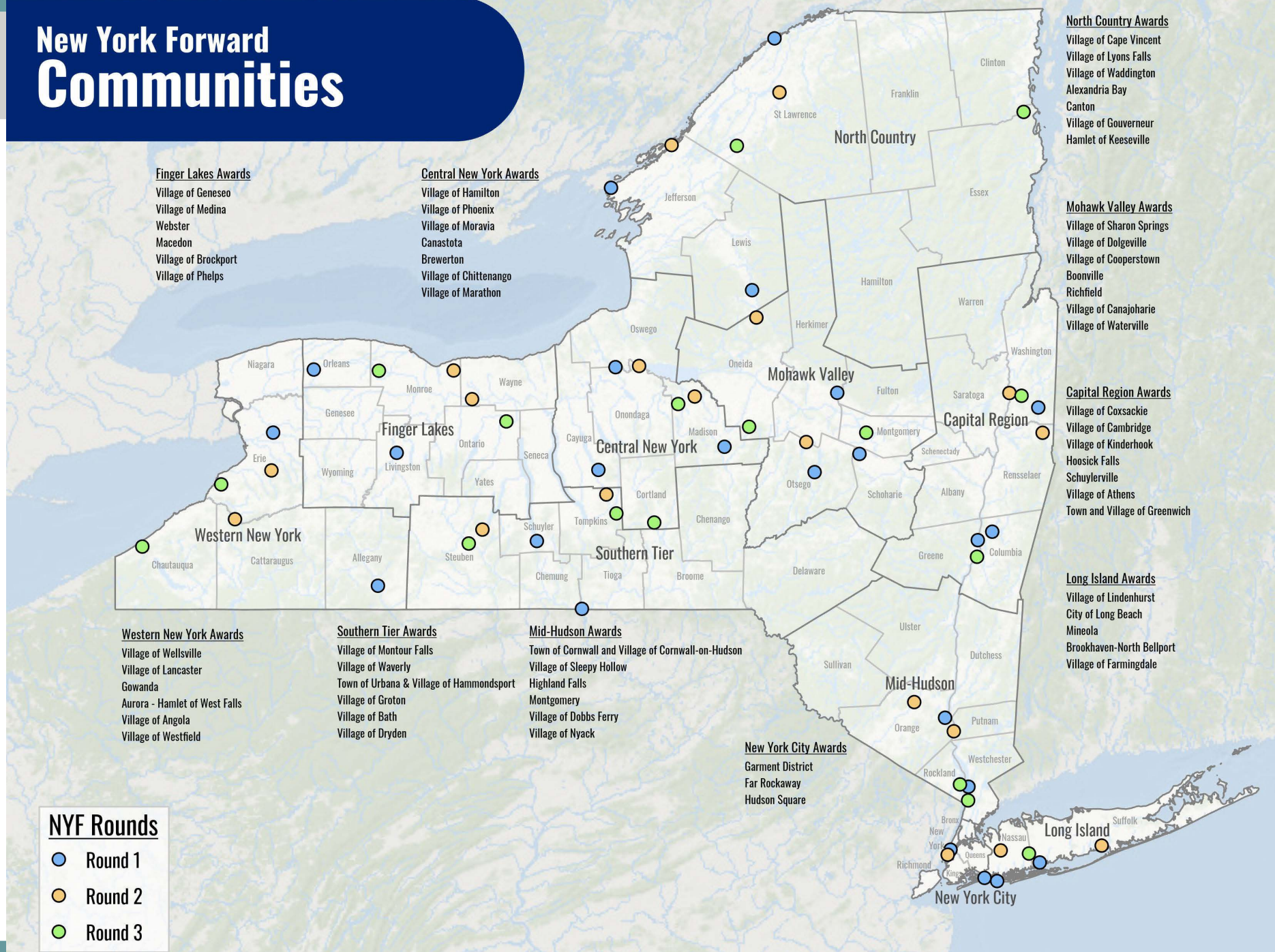
### New York City Awards

- Jamaica
- Bronx Civic Center
- Downtown Brooklyn
- Downtown Staten Island
- Manhattan's Chinatown
- East Harlem
- Long Island City
- Greater Morris Park, Bronx

## DRI Rounds

- Round 1 (Blue)
- Round 2 (Orange)
- Round 3 (Green)
- Round 4 (Red)
- Round 5 (Yellow)
- Round 6 (Purple)
- Round 7 (Teal)
- Round 8 (Brown)

# New York Forward Communities



**Finger Lakes Awards**

- Village of Geneseo
- Village of Medina
- Webster
- Macedon
- Village of Brockport
- Village of Phelps

**Central New York Awards**

- Village of Hamilton
- Village of Phoenix
- Village of Moravia
- Canastota
- Brewerton
- Village of Chittenango
- Village of Marathon

**North Country Awards**

- Village of Cape Vincent
- Village of Lyons Falls
- Village of Waddington
- Alexandria Bay
- Canton
- Village of Gouverneur
- Hamlet of Keeseville

**Mohawk Valley Awards**

- Village of Sharon Springs
- Village of Dolgeville
- Village of Cooperstown
- Boonville
- Richfield
- Village of Canajoharie
- Village of Waterville

**Capital Region Awards**

- Village of Coxsackie
- Village of Cambridge
- Village of Kinderhook
- Hoosick Falls
- Schuylerville
- Village of Athens
- Town and Village of Greenwich

**Long Island Awards**

- Village of Lindenhurst
- City of Long Beach
- Mineola
- Brookhaven-North Bellport
- Village of Farmingdale

**Western New York Awards**

- Village of Wellsville
- Village of Lancaster
- Gowanda
- Aurora - Hamlet of West Falls
- Village of Angola
- Village of Westfield

**Southern Tier Awards**

- Village of Montour Falls
- Village of Waverly
- Town of Urbana & Village of Hammondsport
- Village of Groton
- Village of Bath
- Village of Dryden

**Mid-Hudson Awards**

- Town of Cornwall and Village of Cornwall-on-Hudson
- Village of Sleepy Hollow
- Highland Falls
- Montgomery
- Village of Dobbs Ferry
- Village of Nyack

**New York City Awards**

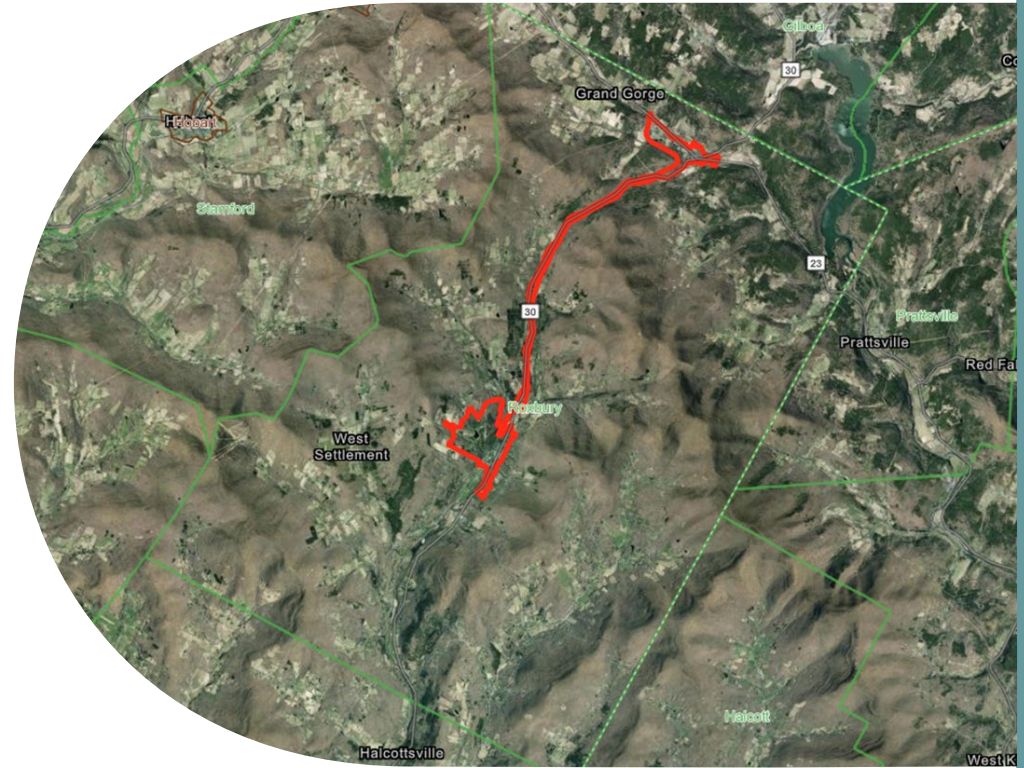
- Garment District
- Far Rockaway
- Hudson Square

**NYF Rounds**

- Round 1
- Round 2
- Round 3

# GRAND GORGE & ROXBURY DRI

- DRI Round 7 Winner
- One Town, Two Hamlets
- Key Partnerships
  - MARK Project
  - Catskill Watershed Corporation



# GRAND GORGE & ROXBURY DRI



# OPDCI PROGRAMS WORKING TOGETHER

## Replace Champlin Beach Pier to Increase Access to Keuka Lake



- **Project Description:** Increase access to Keuka Lake by building a new pier that will attract newcomers and residents to the waterfront and encourage boaters to patronize local businesses by providing additional docking access.
- **Recipient:** Town of Urbana
- **Program:** NY Forward Round 2
- **NY Forward Funding Award:** \$1,357,000
- **LWRP Funding Award:** \$1,474,959
- **Total DOS Investment:** \$2,831,959

# TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION

## **TELL YOUR STORY**

What makes your community unique?

## **CLEARLY DEFINE**

What do you want to do? Where do you want to do it?

## **KNOW THE CRITERIA**

Review the Request for Applications (RFA)

Thank you!



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