

New York Forward

Central New York Open Call for Projects Webinar

July 6, 2023



Agenda

- Overview of the NY Forward program
- Open Call for Project form
- Timeline

This presentation is being recorded and will be posted on each village's NYF website.

State Team

Roles and responsibilities

- Led by NYS Department of State (DOS) representatives
- Support planning process with best practices, funding resources, and technical expertise

Members

NYS Department of State (DOS):

- Holly Granat (Phoenix, Moravia)
- Lissa D'Aquanni (Hamilton)

Tracy DiGenova, Regional Representative to the Governor's Office

Dan Kolinski, Empire State Development (ESD)

Patricia O'Reilly, Homes and Community Renewal (HCR)

NYSERDA

Consultant Team

Roles and responsibilities

- Prepare all program documents, including the Downtown Profile and Assessment, revitalization strategies, project profiles, and Strategic Investment Plan
- Provide expertise in public engagement, market analysis, communications, feasibility

Team members

Stantec

Steve Kearney, Principal-in-Charge
Phil Schaeffing, Project Manager
Planners, urban designers, landscape architects, engineers

Subconsultants (Subject Matter Experts)

W-ZHA (Market understanding/project economics lead)

BJH Advisors (Project economics support)

Zimmerman/Volk Associates (Residential market demand)

Revby (Small business and retail strategy)

Ideas and Action (Housing finance)

Trophy Point Construction Consulting (Cost estimation)

Highland Planning (Community engagement)

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Overview of NY Forward



NY Forward



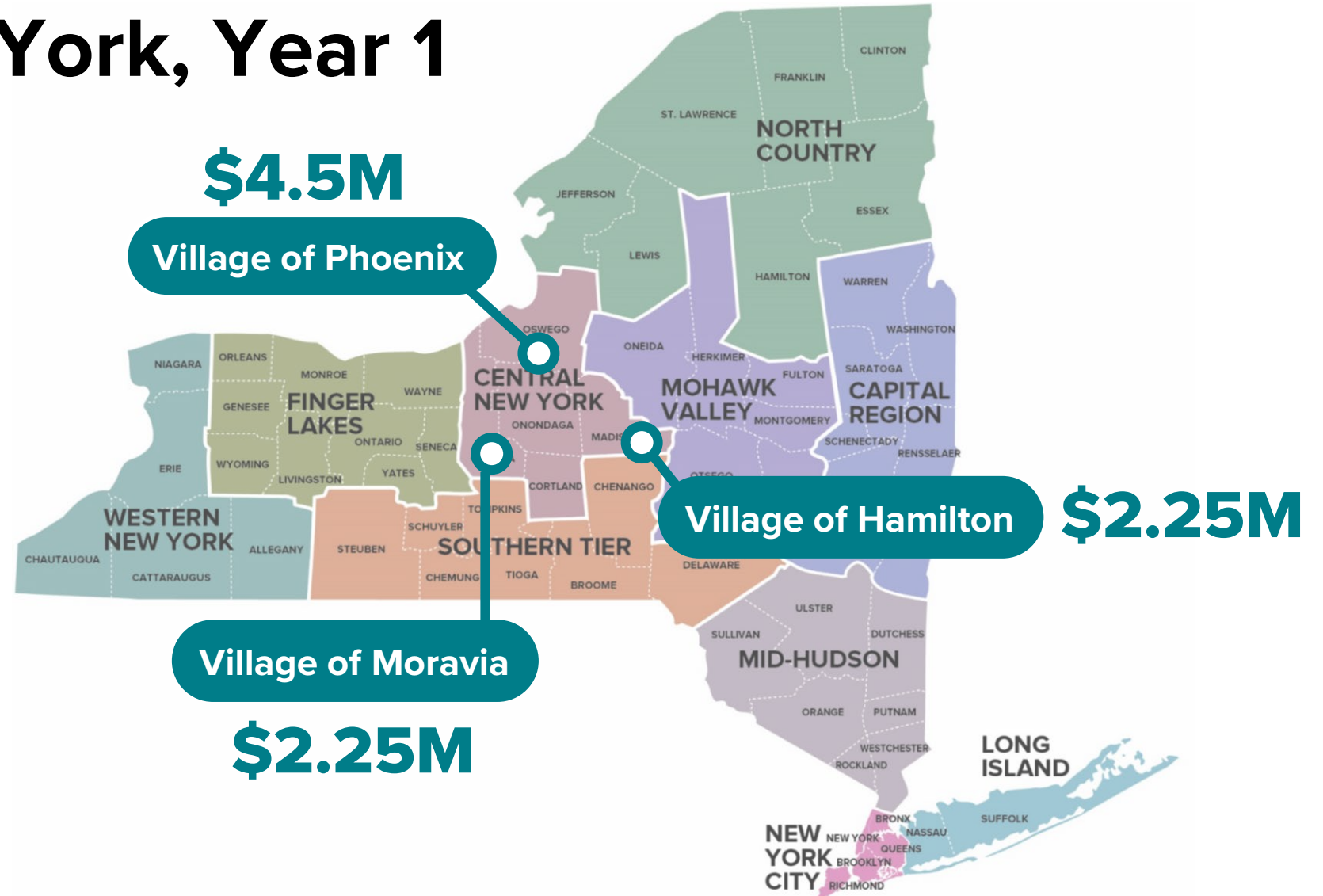
The Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) and NY Forward programs focus on **creating healthy, vibrant, walkable downtowns that catalyze sustainable economic development and accrue numerous economic, social, and environmental benefits** to the locality, the region, and the State as a whole.

- NY Forward (NYF) was launched in 2022 for New York's **smaller communities**, with a focus on hamlets, villages, and neighborhood-scale commercial centers.
- NYF provides **planning and implementation support**, including capacity-building and technical assistance.
- **DOS** administers NYF in coordination with **HCR, ESD, NYSERDA**, and several other State partners.

<https://www.ny.gov/programs/ny-forward>

NY Forward: Central New York, Year 1

Each REDC has the option of nominating two communities for \$4.5 million NYF awards or three communities, one of which will receive \$4.5 million and two that will be awarded \$2.25 million.



Who's Involved?

The NYF process is a partnership between

**Local Planning
Committee
(LPC)**

+

Community

+

**New York
State**

+

**Consultant
Team**

NY Forward Process

- Villages submitted an application to REDC and were awarded NY Forward funding
- Community planning process identifies potential NY Forward projects (now through October)
 - Sponsors submit project proposal form
 - Consultant team reviews project proposals
 - Local Planning Committee (LPC) votes to recommend list of projects for funding consideration
 - *Note:* recommended projects should total slightly more in requested NYF funding than community's award
- State team reviews list and makes awards to subset of LPC's recommended project list
- Funded projects begin after contracting period
 - *Note:* NY Forward award is reimbursable grant (sponsor pays initially and gets reimbursed later, typically when project completed)

Common Questions

- Project ideas included in each village's application *must* submit an open call for projects form to be considered for funding.
- Projects should be within each community's NYF study area boundary. Projects outside but near the boundary can still submit, but LPC will decide whether project merits adjusting boundaries or not
- Project information will be shared with the Local Planning Committee (LPC) and summarized for the general public.
- If your project is included in the LPC's list of recommended projects, it has not been awarded funding yet. State agencies make the final award decisions from that list – not every project recommended by the LPC will receive funding.
- NYF awards are reimbursable grants. Project sponsors must pay for and complete the project as described in the project form. Once complete, the contracting State agency will provide reimbursement for the grant award amount.

Strategic Investment Plan (SIP)

Purpose

The Strategic Investment Plan will...

- Describe the unique challenges and opportunities for revitalization of the downtown, Present the community's vision for the future of the area, and
- Propose transformative projects that may be realized with an investment of NY Forward funds

Components

- Downtown Profile and Assessment
- Community Vision, Goals, and Revitalization Strategies
- Public Engagement
- Project Profiles

SIP Components

Project Profiles

The most substantial part of the SIP: Includes all relevant information needed for the State to evaluate projects in the context of downtown revitalization

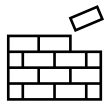
- NYF funding request and total project cost
- Project description
- Project location
- Project sponsor
- Property ownership status
- Sponsor capacity
- Project partners
- Relevant revitalization strategies
- Relevant decarbonization strategies
- Relevant resiliency considerations
- Synergies with other projects
- Public support
- Project budget
- Project feasibility and impact
- Relevant regulatory requirements
- Images of current and proposed conditions
- Timeframe for implementation

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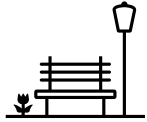
Open Call for Projects Form



NY Forward Eligible Project Types



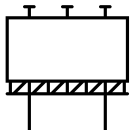
New Development and/or Rehabilitation
of Existing Downtown Buildings



Public Improvement Projects



Small Project Fund



Branding and Marketing

Eligibility Requirements

Projects must meet the following eligibility requirements to be considered:

- Must be able to break ground within two years or sooner of receiving NYF funding
- Large enough to be truly transformative to downtown
- Identified project sponsor with capacity and legal authority to undertake project
- Financing commitments largely secured – or demonstrated to be able to be secured
- Project sponsor has site control
- Includes decarbonization techniques
[if new construction, substantial renovation, or building addition]

Decarbonization Requirements




Helps achieve the State's goals for carbon emissions reduction in accordance with the New York Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

Relevant projects must follow one of the below






Relevant projects:

- New construction projects > 5,000 SF
- Building addition projects > 5,000 SF
- Substantial renovation projects > 5,000 SF and where other conditions are met (such as replacement of majority of exterior wallcovering material)

Compliance pathways:

-  Meet the New York State Stretch Energy Code, regardless of local adoption of the code
-  Obtain an Energy Star score of 90 or better using EPA's Target Finder Calculator
-  Obtain a building or project certification from an approved third-party organization, such as Energy Star, LEED, etc.

Ineligible Activities

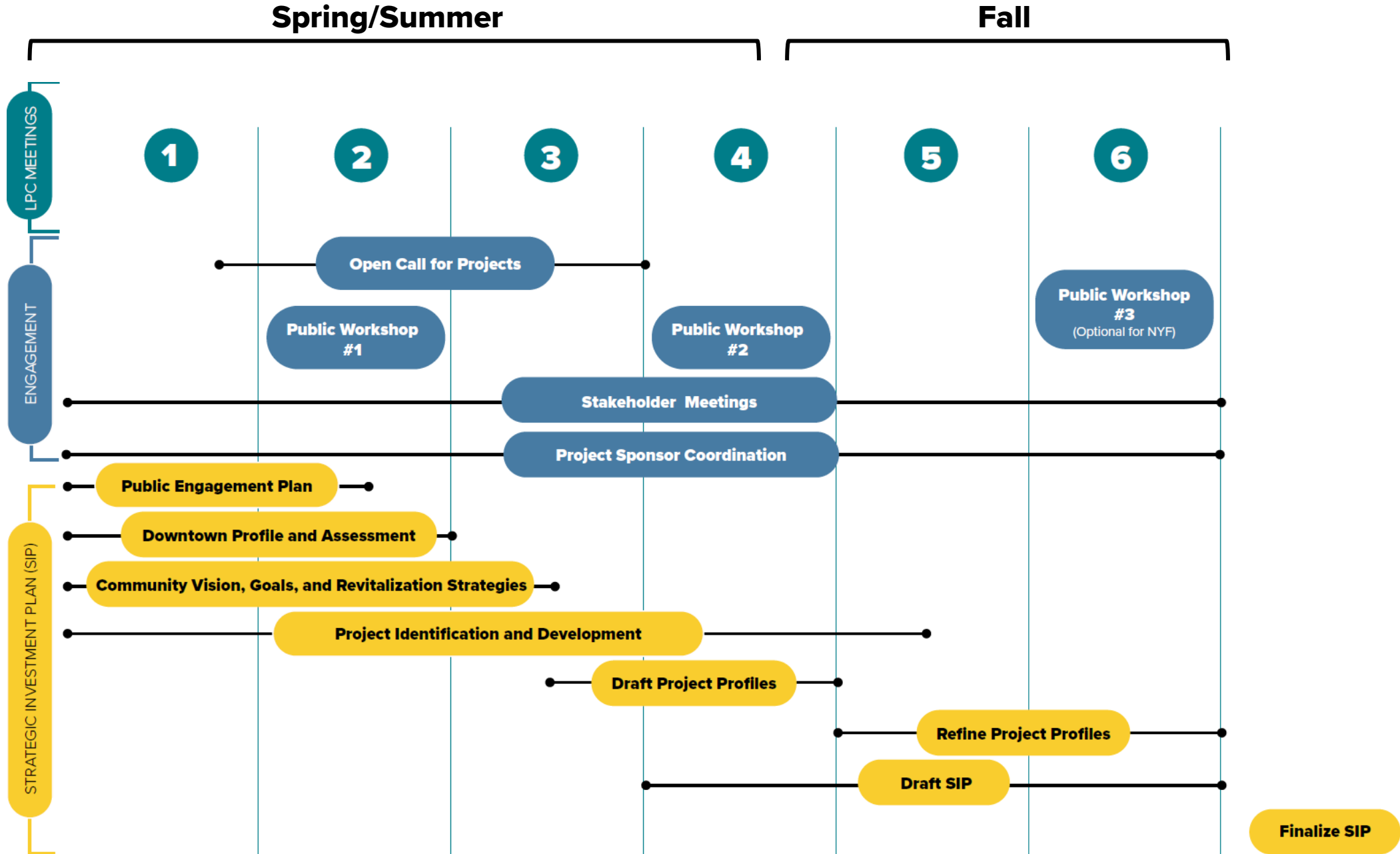
-  Property acquisition
-  Standalone planning activities
-  Operations and maintenance
-  Training and other program expenses
-  Pre-award costs

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Timeline



Planning Timeline/Sequence



Upcoming Dates

Open Call for Projects

**Closes Sunday, July 23
at midnight**

Project Review

August – October 2023

Consultant team reviews information submitted with form, follows up with sponsors

Information presented to LPC for discussion

LPC votes to recommend list of projects for funding consideration:

Late October

General Timeline

State Review

Fall/Winter 2023-2024

Award announcements anticipated Q1 2024 (subject to change)

State Contracting

Spring/Summer 2024

Selected sponsors contract with State agency

Project Execution

Starting Fall 2024

Sponsors break ground within two years of funding award and complete projects

Sponsors reimbursed for the NYF grant amount once project completed (or other milestone determined during contracting phase)

Thank You

Questions?

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[Steve.Kearney\(at\)Stantec.com](mailto:Steve.Kearney@Stantec.com)