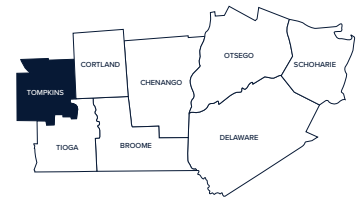


MISSION

To partner with member counties to identify and address multi-county issues in order to improve the quality of life within the region.



THE ROLE OF THE REGIONAL BOARD

- 1 PRIORITIZE ANNUAL FEDERAL INVESTMENTS** of the ARC and EDA that support self-sustaining and alignment of local economic development initiatives. *Ex.) Area Development Program*
- 2 PROMOTE COLLABORATION** with partner organizations and strategic ecosystem development. *Ex.) Regional Broadband Collaborative, New Energy New York Tech Hub, Broome Tioga Stormwater Coalition, and Recovery-to-Work Workforce Development*
- 3 PROVIDE EDUCATION AND NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES** to support economic & community development with public and private sector stakeholders. *Ex.) Industry Summit Platform, So-Tier Regional Portal*

2025 BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

BROOME

ANTHONY FIALA
COMMISSIONER OF PLANNING
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

SUSAN RYAN
BROOME COUNTY LEGISLATOR

VACANT

CHENANGO

BERNIE MCDERMOTT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS-TOWN OF GREENE

SHANE BUTLER
CHENANGO COUNTY DIRECTOR OF
PLANNING & AIRPORT ADMINISTRATOR

VACANT

CORTLAND

WILLIAM MCGOVERN
COUNTY LEGISLATOR

TRISHA HIEMSTRA
CORTLAND COUNTY PLANNING
DIRECTOR

MELANIE VELARDI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COUNTY BUSINESS
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM / IDA

DELAWARE

SHELLY JOHNSON-BENNETT
DELAWARE COUNTY PLANNING & WATERSHED
AFFAIRS/DELAWARE COUNTY PUBLIC
INFORMATION OFFICER

ALLEN HINKLEY
SUPERVISOR, TOWN OF ROXBURY

SOPHIA PICCO
DELAWARE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
SPECIALIST

OTSEGO

EAMONN HINCHEY
OTSEGO COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE

TAMMIE HARRIS
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING

JODY ZAKREVSKY
CEO, OTSEGO NOW

SCHOHARIE

VACANT

ALICIA TERRY
TOWN OF GILBOA SUPERVISOR

TREVOR BENDER
CEO/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COUNTY IDA

TIOGA

RON CIOTOLI
TIOGA COUNTY LEGISLATOR

SARA ZUBALSKY-PEERS
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING

BRITTANY WOODBURN
TIOGA COUNTY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT DEPUTY DIRECTOR

TOMPKINS

GREGORY MEZEY
TOMPKINS COUNTY LEGISLATOR

KATIE BORGELLA
COMMISSIONER OF PLANNING
AND SUSTAINABILITY

KURT ANDERSON
ACTING PRESIDENT, ITHACA AREA
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ECOSYSTEM DEVELOPMENT

BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE

Since 2021, the Broadband Collaborative (Staff, County Planning, Southern Tier Network, Inc and BOCES) built community capacity and provided technical assistance with educational resources & national expertise, advocacy, data, project development, community outreach. RESULTS: NTIA BEAD/NYS ESD's Connect All investment of \$87 million for 17,997 households (hardest-to-serve, most rural) across Chenango, Cortland, Tioga and Schoharie Counties. Fiber/Ground Infrastructure: for 25 years of service Build cost: \$193 per year & Consumer cost: \$55-\$99/month

WORKFORCE HOUSING

Launched the Regional Workforce Housing Investment Framework Program to define stakeholder capacity with 13 functional sectors of the housing development ecosystem and identify funding pathways to expedite construction & redevelopment across the Southern Tier. In November, the Regional Board hosted the Southern Tier Developers Summit for 150 attendees to introduce concepts, approaches and goals for 2026 planning activities.

RECOVERY-TO-WORK

See "Innovations in Community Collaborations" for an understanding of the expanded economic development partnerships to support Recovery-to-Work ecosystem development. (launched with ARC INSPIRE investments) <https://admin.steny.org/southern-tier-8/assets/7yzpyjstz5gc80k0>

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

TOMPKINS COUNTY 2021-2025

COUNTY INVESTMENT: **\$68,640**

ARC, EDA & DOL Investments: **\$9,977,033**

ROI : **\$1 : \$14,335**



2025 REGIONAL PLANNING ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY SOUTHERN TIER 8 REGIONAL BOARD STAFF

- Provided grant administration assistance for **54 active projects** across the 8 counties.
- Hosted 6 grant writing sessions, provided project development assistance to **31 organizations**, reviewed **23** pre-applications, assisted in preparing **4** completed applications & **16** additional project concepts for 2026 investments
- Hosted **6 CEDS “Sync-Up Sessions”** to provide partner networking opportunities and project development, with **75 attendees**.
- Promoted STEM opportunities across **74** school districts, with **8** students & **1** teacher awarded scholarships

BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

TOMPKINS 2025

Gregory Mezey
Tompkins County Legislator

Katie Borgella
Commissioner of Planning and Sustainability

Kurt Anderson
Acting President, Ithaca Area Economic Development

2021

Collaborative Recovery Empowerment of the Southern Tier (CREST)	\$479,237
Physician Assistant Program: Ithaca College	\$147,233
Town of Dryden Southern Tier Network Expansion	\$624,614
STEM Education: Oak Ridge National Lab Program: Students (1)	\$8,895

2022

Healthcare & Wellness Program Development: Tompkins Cortland Community College (TC3)	\$150,000+
Appalachian Regional Commission Leadership Fellow (1)	\$6,950

2023

Direct-To-Work (DTW) Pathways to Employment program: IAED	\$1,173,278
EDA Build Back Better Challenge: Binghamton University	\$63.7 million
Increasing Tourism Career Pathways: Tompkins Cortland Community College (TC3)	\$150,000
ReUse Technical Assistance & Capacity Building Program: Finger Lakes ReUse	\$248,275
Rev Hardware Accelerator Expansion: Cornell University (TC3)	\$2,000,000
South Works District Infrastructure Upgrade Plan: IAED	\$250,000
Tompkins County Strategic Operations Plan: Tompkins County Planning	\$160,000
Appalachian Regional Commission Leadership Fellow (1)	\$6,950
Appalachian Entrepreneurship Academy Program: Students (2)	\$17,790

2024

ConnectAll Technical Assistance Cybersecurity Grant	\$90,000
DCEC Line Worker Training Program Development Project (ARISE, across Appalachia)	\$400,000
Electric Technology Training Center Planning Study (POWER)	\$50,000
Shared Kitchen Ithaca: Friends of Ithaca Farmers Market	\$110,000

2025

Appalachia United Outdoors (ARISE, Across Appalachia)	\$10,000,000
Appalachian Rural Health Technical Assistance Center (ARISE, Across Appalachia)	\$5,200,000
CFTC's Organizational Capacity Building Project	\$50,000
Regional Workforce Housing Investment Framework	\$200,000

Pending

BEL/DCEC Municipal Electric Assistance	\$10,000,000
Cayuga Waterfront Trail Connector	\$750,000
Community & Workforce Wellness Program	\$500,000
Green Infrastructure, Flood Resiliency & Stream Corridor Planning Studies	\$100,000
Southern Tier Brownfields Assessment Coalition	\$1,500,000
Southern Tier Site Readiness Accelerator	\$500,000
SouthWorks Ithaca Infrastructure Upgrades	\$750,000



SOUTHERN TIER 8

Projects: "+" represents total for the project is provided below, but ROI is calculated on county portion of total funds.