

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

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS-TOWN OF GREENE

SHANE BUTLER
CHENANGO COUNTY DIRECTOR OF
PLANNING & AIRPORT ADMINISTRATOR

VACANT

CORTLAND

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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

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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

DELAWARE COUNTY 2021-2025

COUNTY INVESTMENT: **\$60,640**

ARC, EDA & DOL Investments: **\$9,384,120**

ROI : **\$1 : \$15,416**



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

DELAWARE 2025

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

2021

Collaborative Recovery Empowerment of the Southern Tier (CREST)	\$479,237
Getthere Transportation to Employment Program: Rural Health Network of SCNY	\$150,000
Physician Assistant Program: Ithaca College	\$147,233
Regional Independent Food Processing	\$25,000
Rural Recovery Development Opportunities and Career Services: FOR-DO	\$500,000
Turning Businesses Into Classrooms: DCMO BOCES	\$112,000

2022

Closing the Gap: Student-Workforce Mentoring Program – DCMO BOCES	\$78,290
Healthcare & Wellness Program Development: Tompkins Cortland Community College (TC3)	\$150,000 +
North4 INSPIRE: Leatherstocking Education on Alcoholism/Addictions Foundation (LEAF)	\$378,704
Otsego County Innovation/Acceleration Center	\$150,000
STEM Education: Oak Ridge National Lab Program: Students (1)	\$8,895
Appalachian Community Leadership Fellow (1):	\$6,950

2023

Appalachian Region Community-Owned Grid Resilient Infrastructure Project (ARCO-GRIP)	\$500,000
Building Skilled Workforce: Delaware County Electric Cooperative	\$400,000
Delaware County Strategic Action Plan: Delaware County Planning	\$150,000

Driving the Regional Economy: ONC BOCES	\$86,925
EDA Build Back Better Challenge: Binghamton University	\$63.7 million
Increasing Tourism Career Pathways: Tompkins Cortland Community College (TC3)	\$150,000
Innovative Readiness Training – Delaware County Medical	\$585,142
Sheffield Industrial and Commercial Park: Delaware County IDA	\$25,000
The Inn at Kirkside Virtual Food Hub: MARK Project	\$175,000
Appalachian Regional Commission Leadership Fellow (1)	\$6,995
Appalachian Entrepreneurship Academy Program: Students (1)	\$8,995

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
Expanding Meat Processing: CADE	\$250,000
Mentoring Students: Delaware County Chamber of Commerce	\$67,000
TakeCharge Southern Tier: TakeCharge NY	\$150,000

2025

Appalachia United Outdoors	\$10,000,000
Appalachian Rural Health Technical Assistance Center (ARISE, Across Appalachia)	\$5,200,000
Regional Workforce Housing Investment Framework	\$200,000
Town of Delhi Comprehensive Plan Update	\$50,000

Pending

BEL/DCEC Municipal Electric Assistance	\$10,000,000
Community & Workforce Wellness Program	\$500,000
Delaware County Electric Infrastructure PREP	\$250,000
Fish Eddy Water System Upgrade	\$250,000
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



SOUTHERN TIER 8

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