

SOUTHERN TIER 8

R E G I O N A L B O A R D

YEAR IN REVIEW

NY

SOUTHERN TIER 8



2020 year in Review...

Regional Board Staff:

- ✓ Executive Director: Jen Gregory
- ✓ Secretary: Lolene Cornish
- ✓ Regional Development Analyst II: Dot Richter
- ✓ Water Quality Coordinator: George Basila
- ✓ Part-time Intern: Evan Maslin

& Contracted Assistance:

- ✓ VSBO Kowalik & Associates
- ✓ Peretore Accounting LLC
- ✓ Hue creative
- ✓ The Opportunity Exchange
- ✓ Inero & CO CPAs
- ✓ Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness

SERVICE: Funding & Project Development...

Recommended funding for Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Area Development:

a) Project Development:

- ✓ Assisted **75 unique local organizations** seeking funding
- ✓ Reviewed **17** pre-application requests & **4** additional applications
- ✓ Prepared **7 full applications**
- ✓ Recommended **7 priority projects totaling \$906,208** in investment requests

b) 2020 investment awards:

- 1) Broome County Council of Churches: The Northside Market
- 2) JM Murray Center, Inc.: Manufacturing Equipment Project
- 3) Alternatives Impact: SEEDing Economic Development in Tompkins County
- 4) Broome-Tioga Workforce: Opportunity Impact Project
- 5) UHS Hospitals, Inc.: UHS Hospitals Nursing Collaborative Clinical Tract (CCT)
- 6) Broad of Cooperative Education Services - Delaware, Chenango, Madison, Otsego:
Career Destinations- Connecting Students to Local Jobs and Careers
- 7) YWCA Cortland, NY Inc.: YWCA Child Care Center

c) **2021 pending requests:**

- 1) Schoharie Economic Enterprise Corporation (SEEC): Regional Independent Food Processing
- 2) Waverly Central School District: Waverly Center for Innovation Studies
- 3) Ithaca College: Physician Assistant Program at Ithaca College
- 4) Whitney Point Central School District: EAGLES (Engagement-Achievement-Growth-Life-Experience-Success)
- 5) Rural Health Network of South Central New York: Getthere Transportation to Employment Program
- 6) Health Workforce New York, Inc.: The Hub Online Health Career Center
- 7) Broad of Cooperative Education Services - Delaware, Chenango, Madison, Otsego: Turning Businesses Into Classrooms

Additional Technical Assistance Provided...

a) **ARC POWER:**

- ✓ Assisted Tompkins County Area Development with project development for ARC's POWER \$404,170 investment to extend Southern Tier Network and create a 100 MW data center in Lansing.

b) **ARC INSPIRE:**

- ✓ Southern Tier 8 & partners LEAF, Otsego Chamber, Broome Tioga WIB, Family Counseling of Cortland & The Council of Tompkins designed and submitted "Collaborative Recovery Empowerment of the Southern Tier (CREST)": to utilize ARC's \$498,000 investment to establish regular processes between our recovery-to-work **ecosystem partners** and systematically expand support for not only the **workforce** seeking to obtain employment and maintain recovery, but also support for the **workplace** seeking to maintain a talented workforce.

c) **DOL WORC (Workforce Opportunity for Rural Communities):**

- 1) Assisted Broome Tioga Workforce Investment Board and
- 2) Cortland's Family and Children's Counseling with application development.

d) **EDA STEM Challenge:**

- 1) Project development & grant-writing assistance provided to Alliance for Manufacturing and Technology (AM&T) for a \$570,000 EDA STEM Challenge application to develop a Workforce Apprentice Program partnering with Clean Tech Manufacturers.
- 2) Grant-writing assistance also provided to Binghamton University to expand a life-sciences cluster development program with Syracuse University.

SERVICE: Funding & Project Development...[Workforce Development Initiatives](#)

- a) **Supported Regional STEM Ecosystem Development:**
 - ✓ **March 3:** Convening @ Kopernick Observatory, 72 registrations: Introduction to ARC Area Development Program and ARC ORNL STEM opportunities.
 - ✓ **July:** Cancelled due to limited school district capabilities
 - ✓ **September 2:** Virtual Convening for after-school programs, 15 registrations
- b) **Promoted Oak Ridge National Laboratory Summer STEM Program:**
 - ✓ 11 Middle School, 9 High School students & 10 educators applied from the region.
 - ✓ Two Middle school students from Otsego, two high school students (Delaware and Cortland) and one teacher from Binghamton High School were awarded scholarships.
- c) **Promoted ARC Leadership Program:**
 - ✓ Southern Tier 8 was proud as Regional Board Vice-Chair Beau Harbin participated in the Inaugural class and
 - ✓ Excited that ARC invited Hal McCabe to participate in the 2020-2021 Leadership Class. Hal McCabe is the Director of the State's Legislative Commission on Rural Resources and Mayor of the Village of Homer.
- d) **Promoted ARC Entrepreneurship Institute:**
 - ✓ 2 students (Broome & Chenango Counties)
- e) **Hosted Industry Summit: Recruiting and Retaining Workers in Recovery:**
 - ✓ Hosted virtually to introduce employers to the supportive Recovery-to-Work ecosystem in the Southern Tier 8 Region (June 10th: 38 attendees, 17th: 43, 24th: 31).

SERVICE: Funding & Project Development...[Rural Advancement Initiative](#)

- a) **Prepared Federal Investment Requests: DOD Innovative Readiness Training (IRT):**
 - 1) Pursued grant-writing for 2022 Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) Department of Defense applications for no-cost dental-vision-veterinary care for in Delaware County &
 - 2) Pursued grant-writing for 2022 Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) Department of Defense applications for construction in Chenango County.

SERVICE: Planning...Infrastructure Adaptation Initiative

Launched Regional Broadband Collaborative:

- ✓ Established Collaboration "To assess current limitations, build community capacity and align resources to position communities for expansion of broadband infrastructure, bringing improved internet access across Broome, Chenango, Cortland & Delaware & Tompkins Counties."
- ✓ Identified underserved areas: surveyed 55 school districts and 116 municipalities to participate & engaged 22 school districts (40% response rate) and 12 municipalities.
- ✓ Prioritized 8 areas of disinvestment.
- ✓ Hosted Public Education Sessions September 15th: 25 attendees, October 13th: 30 & 20th: 33.

SERVICE: Planning...Regionalism Approach Initiative

a) Promoted Asset/Industry-Cluster Development: Clean Energy Industry Cluster:

- ✓ In 2020, Southern Tier 8 contracted with industry-led non-profit Tier Energy Network (TEN) to research and map the Clean Energy/Clean Tech Industry in Southern Tier 8 and Southern Tier Central regions and explain industry and community challenges and benefits of the 2019 New York State Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (Climate Act).
- ✓ TEN provided a spatial database of companies throughout the 11 counties, documented workforce needs and identified several strategies to (a) grow the Southern Tier Clean Industry, (b) improve community capacity to achieve clean energy goals (c) improve entrepreneurial access in rural communities and (d) advance all three nodes of clean energy research triangle (Elmira/Corning, Ithaca, and Binghamton).

b) Launched Opportunity Zone Development (Phase 1):

- ✓ Offered National Partner for 11 economic development and planning teams
- ✓ Developed & shared guidance/resource library
- ✓ Developed Inventory of additional Local and State incentives
- ✓ Defined unique geographic advantages &/or assets defined within the 19 designated opportunity zones

SERVICE: Networking...Regionalism Approach Initiative

Hosted Industry Summit Platform: Drone Usage in Stormwater Management:

- ✓ hosted in-person event on March 11, 2020, showcased new technology to map municipal water flow with thermal detection and other tools, 40 registrants.

SERVICE: Reducing Municipal Costs > Program: Water Quality

a) Supported Broome Tioga Stormwater Coalition

- 1) As the region is home to the headwaters of the Susquehanna River (leading to the Chesapeake Bay) Southern Tier 8 maintains the education & outreach program for 15 municipalities in the EPA-designated small municipal stormwater sewer systems (MS₄s) area.
- 2) Staff also launched the development of a spatial database for all municipal stormwater assets in the designated MS₄ area.

Adapted Pandemic Operations:

- ✓ On **March 16, 2020**, Southern Tier 8 transitioned to remote work with modified operations utilizing the server capabilities and online meeting platforms such as Zoom and Microsoft Teams. Additional modifications:
- ✓ Live grant-writing sessions were transitioned to a virtual platform service (**3 Q&A sessions**, and in addition, a **5-session grant-writing class** was offered to assist those pursuing a FY2021 Area Development request).
- ✓ **Increased project development time 600%** with **Planning Directors & Economic Developers** to discuss the rapidly changing need for resources and pandemic response (**CEEDS Sync-Up Sessions** from 4 Qly to **13**: 9 weekly in April & May) & developed plan for Broadband (9) & Opportunity Zones (6).
- ✓ On May 18, a **Zoom training** was held for **Board Members**.
- ✓ In October, **staff** attended "Effective LDD Operation in a Virtual Work Environment" with DDAA.

Received Recognition:

- ✓ Southern Tier 8 selected as **1 of 4** LDDs to participate in Development District Association of Appalachian (DDAA) **Learning Academy** with Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness to support the **Substance Use Disorder Recovery-to-Work Ecosystem**.
- ✓ ARC invited Executive Director to speak at "Economic Innovation + Ingenuity During COVID" discussing Appalachia's **dual pandemics - substance abuse and COVID-19**. August 26, 2020