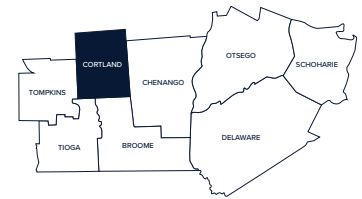


**MISSION**

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

**JOSEPH MIHALKO**  
COUNTY CLERK

**CHENANGO**

**SHANE BUTLER**  
CHENANGO COUNTY DIRECTOR OF  
PLANNING & AIRPORT ADMINISTRATOR

**ROBERT JEFFREY**  
BOARD CHAIR, SUPERVISOR, CITY OF NORWICH

**ERIK SCRIVENER**  
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING – CITY OF NORWICH

**CORTLAND**

**TRISHA HIEMSTRA**  
CORTLAND COUNTY PLANNING  
DIRECTOR

**MELANIE VELARDI**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COUNTY BUSINESS  
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM / IDA

**BEAU HARBIN**  
CORTLAND COUNTY LEGISLATOR

**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

**OTSEGO**

**TAMMIE HARRIS**  
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING

**JODY ZAKREVSKY**  
CEO, OTSEGO NOW

**MICHELLE CATAN**  
OTSEGO COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE

**SCHOHARIE**

**SHANE NICKLE**  
AICP, SCHOHARIE COUNTY PLANNING  
& COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

**ALICIA TERRY**  
TOWN OF GILBOA SUPERVISOR

**JULIE PACATTE**  
SCHOHARIE ECONOMIC ENTERPRISE  
CORPORATION DIRECTOR

**TIOGA**

**ELAINE JARDINE**  
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING

**BRITTANY WOODBURN**  
TIOGA COUNTY ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**RON CIOTOLI**  
TIOGA COUNTY LEGISLATOR

**TOMPKINS**

**KATIE BORGELLA**  
COMMISSIONER OF PLANNING  
AND SUSTAINABILITY

**KURT ANDERSON**  
ACTING PRESIDENT, ITHACA AREA  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**GREGORY MEZEY**  
TOMPKINS COUNTY LEGISLATOR

**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/7yzyjstz5gc80k0>



# RETURN ON INVESTMENT

## CORTLAND COUNTY 2021-2025

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

ARC, EDA & DOL Investments: **\$11,880,403**

ROI: **\$1 : \$17,208**

### 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

#### CORTLAND 2025

**Trisha Hiemstra**  
Director, Cortland County Planning

**Melanie Velardi**  
Executive Director, County Business Development Program/IDA

**Beau Harbin**  
Cortland County Legislator

### 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
STEM Education: Oak Ridge National Lab Program: Students (2)	\$17,790

### 2022

Healthcare & Wellness Program Development: Tompkins Cortland Community College (TC3)	\$150,000 +
STEM Education: Oak Ridge National Lab Program: Students (3)	\$26,685

### 2023

Cortland County Strategic Development Plan	\$100,000
EDA Build Back Better Challenge: Binghamton University	\$63.7 million
Increasing Tourism Career Pathways: Tompkins Cortland Community College (TC3)	\$150,000
STEM Education: Oak Ridge National Lab 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

## 2025

Appalachia United Outdoors (ARISE, Across Appalachia)	\$10,000,000
Appalachian Rural Health Technical Assistance Center (ARISE, Across Appalachia)	\$5,200,000
Enhancing Organizational Capacity Through Grant Administrator Services	\$50,000
Enhancing Organizational Efficiency: Database Development and IT Recruitment	\$50,000
Regional Workforce Housing Investment Framework	\$200,000
Streamlining Operations	\$50,000
Tioga County Regional Career and Technical Education Center	\$1,000,000
Town of Berkshire George Smith Park Master Plan	\$50,000

## Pending

BEL/DCEC Municipal Electric Assistance	\$10,000,000
Community & Workforce Wellness Program	\$500,000
Green Infrastructure, Flood Resiliency & Stream Corridor Planning Studies	\$100,000
Marathon Electric Expansion	\$2,000,000
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.*