



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*

2024 BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

BROOME

ANTHONY FIALA
COMMISSIONER OF PLANNING
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

JOSEPH MIHALKO
COUNTY CLERK

SUSAN RYAN
BROOME COUNTY LEGISLATOR

CHENANGO

SHANE BUTLER
CHENANGO COUNTY DIRECTOR OF
PLANNING & AIRPORT ADMINISTRATOR

BOB JEFFREY
BOARD CHAIR, ALDERMAN, CITY OF NORWICH

ERIK SCRIVENER
CITY OF NORWICH DEPARTMENT OF
PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

CORTLAND

BEAU HARBIN
CORTLAND COUNTY LEGISLATOR

TRISHA JESSET, PE.
CORTLAND COUNTY PLANNING
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BRENDAN O'BRYAN
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DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM/IDA

DELAWARE

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

ALLEN HINKLEY
SUPERVISOR, TOWN OF ROXBURY

VACANCY

TOMPKINS

**KATIE
BORGELLA**
COMMISSIONER OF PLANNING AND
SUSTAINABILITY

HEATHER MCDANIEL
PRESIDENT, ITHACA AREA ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

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TOMPKINS COUNTY LEGISLATOR

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

ECOSYSTEM DEVELOPMENT

Since 2021, the **Broadband Collaborative** (Staff, County Planning Directors, Southern Tier Network, Inc and BOCES) built community capacity and provided technical assistance with educational resources & national expertise, advocacy, data, project development, community outreach. In 2024, Southern Tier 8 hosted the New York State Rural Infrastructure Conference with **125 attendees**. This community development work **resulted in NTIA BEAD/ NYS ESD's Connect All investment of \$87million for 17,997 households (\$4,834 per hardest-to-serve, most rural households)** across Chenango, Cortland, Tioga and Schoharie Counties.

Developed a **Connectivity Plan** for middle-mile broadband infrastructure in **Chenango and Otsego** Counties with Rural Innovation Strategies Inc (RISI), as part of ARC ARISE Connect Humanity grant.

Hosted a regional partnership development program to consider **alternative strategies in workforce readiness, community engagement and housing policies, in advancing the Southern Tier's Tech Hub ecosystem with 19 professionals from all 8 member counties**, to engage with ARC ARISE \$10 million recipient Catalyst Connection & EDA Build Back Better Recipient Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, and others in Pittsburgh, PA from November 19-21.

Awarded 2025-2026 grant to assist all 8 counties with understanding **new cybersecurity** regulations.

With the 8 County Planning Departments, staff assessed local housing needs, identified common challenges, and **defined 6 shared housing priorities**: Increase Availability and Variety of Housing Options, Support New Housing Development, Improve Existing Housing Stock, Enhance Capacity to Implement Housing Solutions, Revitalize Existing Neighborhoods, and Provide Options for Demographics with Specific Needs. In 2025, a strategy is being developed to identify potential efficiencies and encourage expedited investment.



RETURN ON INVESTMENT

TOMPKINS COUNTY 2020-2024

COUNTY INVESTMENT: **\$62,400**

ARC, EDA & DOL Investments: **\$15,080,069**

ROI : **\$1 : \$24,067**

2024 REGIONAL PLANNING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- Provided project development and technical assistance to **48 unique local organizations**.
- Provided grant administration assistance for **45 Active Projects** across the 8 counties.
- Hosted **6 CEDS “Sync-Up Sessions”** to provide partner networking opportunities and project development, with **81 attendees**.
- Promoted **STEM & Entrepreneurship** opportunities across **74** unique school districts.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES FOR 3 PROJECTS CLOSED IN 2024

201	Businesses Served
9	Businesses Improved/Created
1	Program Implemented
177	Workers/Trainees Served
63	Workers/Trainees Improved
23	Students Served
23	Students Improved

BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

TOMPKINS 2023

Katie Borgella
Commissioner of Planning and Sustainability

Heather McDaniel
President, Ithaca Area Economic Development

Gregory Mezey
Tompkins County Legislator

2020

Cayuga Data Juice – Broadband Connectivity: IAED	\$404,170 +
Monitoring Energy & Water Through an Open Source IOT	\$99,980 +
SEEDing Economic Development in Tompkins County	\$146,730
Mapping the Southern Tier Clean Energy Eco-System with Tier Energy Network	\$65,000 +
Opportunity Zones Regional Portfolio	\$84,500 +
Southern Tier Network Expansion: Tioga, Tompkins	\$3,105,187 +
Improving Maple Technology and Syrup Quality: Cornell University	\$150,000
STEED Loan	\$103,500

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: One Student	\$8,895

2022

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

2023

EDA Build Back Better Challenge: Binghamton University	\$63.7 million +
Tompkins County Strategic Operations Plan: Tompkins County Planning	\$160,000
South Works District Infrastructure Upgrade Plan: IAED	\$250,000
New Energy New York: Binghamton University	\$1,500,000 +
Increasing Tourism Career Pathways: Tompkins Cortland Community College (TC3)	\$150,000 +
ReUse Technical Assistance & Capacity Building Program: Finger Lakes ReUse	\$248,275
Direct-To-Work (DTW) Pathways to Employment program: IAED	\$1,173,278
Rev Hardware Accelerator Expansion: Cornell University	\$2,000,000
Appalachian Regional Commission Leadership Fellow	\$6,950
STEM Education: Oak Ridge National Lab Program: One Teacher	\$9,895
Appalachian Entrepreneurship Academy Program: Students (2)	\$17,790

2024

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

2025 Pending

Appalachian Rural Health Technical Assistance Center (ARISE, Across Appalachia)	\$5,200,000
Regional Housing Investment Framework	\$200,000
Cayuga Waterfront Trail Connector	\$750,000



SOUTHERN TIER 8

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

Southern Tier 8 Regional Board is the counties link to federal planning and economic development investments. We are a government agency offering shared services in grant writing and administration, geospatial and data analysis, and infrastructure solutions with consideration for our natural resources across the eight-county region of Broome, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Otsego, Schoharie, Tioga and Tompkins.