

Economic Development & Planning 2022 Annual Report

HIGHLIGHTS

- Tioga County Sustainability Office coordinated 3 electronic waste collection events. 12,800 lbs of e-waste recycled.
- Land Bank acquired 13 properties in the Temple/Liberty Street area in Owego. 10 blighted buildings razed and prepped for future residential development.
- IDA invested \$1.9 M to construct water system on southside of Owego that supports 93 residential working family units and enhances water service to pre-existing adjacent neighborhood.
- Planning Dept and Sustainability Office commissioned a Solar Best Practices and Policies document to offer as a guide for municipalities when considering and negotiating proposed solar projects.
- Tioga County Education Workforce Report resulted in increased transparency about how each of our schools are addressing career/workforce programming. Also supports alignment between the schools and local employer needs.
- Community Development provided guidance and assistance for local not-for-profits and municipalities, resulting in 52 grant applications made, totaling \$236K in new funds.
- ED&P assisted local business in accessing NYS Grant funds. \$1.8 M awarded to Fuddy Duddy's and \$3.2 M awarded to Best Bev.
- ED&P and IDA worked with GIS to create web application that allows public access to available development sites.
- Tourism managed implementation of DRI project, including new logo and sign plan for Village of Owego.
- NYS ConnectALL initiative brought affordable broadband internet to Town and Village of Nichols.

EDP BY THE NUMBERS

- 20 Land Bank Properties
- \$5.8 M secured grant funding
- 41 active grants
- 35 miles fiber to home installed in Nichols
- 32 Boards/Committees that TEAM Tioga serves
- 2051 social media followers
- \$1.9 M investment by IDA in Owego Square
- 57 participants in shared business list
- 32 Tioga County ED&P 239 referrals

HIRED ONE NEW EMPLOYEE

- Karen Warfle – Office Specialist

PLANNING & ZONING 239 REFERRALS

- Village of Waverly awarded ESD grant to conduct Downtown Market Analysis.
- Planning assisted Waverly High School students to develop the Waverly Mural Program. A mural will be installed on a Broad Street building in 2023 and additional murals are planned.

- Tioga County commissioned the MRB Group to develop a Municipal Best Practices and Policies for Solar Development report. This report serves as a resource for municipal officials to utilize when a solar developer proposes a project in Tioga County.
- TEAM Tioga received 32 239 referrals for recommendations from municipalities. Highlights include a new gasoline station in the Town of Owego, the redevelopment of the former Glenmary Inn as an eating disorder clinic focused on adolescent females, the Apalachin Dunkin Donuts plan to rebuild to comply with floodplain regulations, and two solar projects in the Town of Owego.

ED&P

- TEAM Tioga developed a Site Selector Tool in conjunction with the GIS Department. This web application highlights available vacant land and buildings that are either for sale or lease in Tioga County.
- Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) progress
 - Construction is nearly complete on The Spa at Shear Paradise. This project supported job growth, revitalization, and expansion of a mixed-use property in downtown Owego.
 - Work is complete on the Home Central kitchen and bath design showroom. The new showroom and staff provide a unique opportunity for the community to add value to their homes, while stimulating the local economy.
 - Since 2018, some DRI Multi-Site projects have not moved forward, and have since relinquished their funding. A fund was established to reallocate these relinquished funds and the IDA will be accepting RFPs from property owners within the DRI boundary to this Multi-Site Projects Fund.
- Construction on three buildings on Main Street in the Village of Candor is nearing completion. These buildings will provide residential and commercial space; work is expected to be complete in Spring 2023.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- TEAM Tioga provided technical and grant writing assistance to the Village of Spencer, INSPIRE S-VE, and the Nichols Park Pond Beautification Committee in support of a trail restoration project at Nichols Park in the Village of Spencer.
- Community Development provided guidance and assistance for local not-for-profits and municipalities, resulting in 52 grant applications made, totaling \$236K in new funds.
- Under the guidance of the Office of Emergency Services, and with assistance from TEAM Tioga, the Center for Governmental Research recently completed a comprehensive Tioga County-wide EMS study.
- TEAM Tioga writes and manages the NYS Snowmobile Trail Grant each year in support of 5 clubs. These clubs maintain 174 miles of NYS-funded snowmobile trails throughout Tioga County.

TOURISM

- TCT continued to manage the Experience Tioga Mobile App, a free app that can be used on all Android and iPhone devices. The app includes all partner businesses and allows users to choose places to visit and help plan their stay.
- TCT worked with Carantouan Greenway, Design Connect, and a group of local stakeholders to begin planning an access point to the Chemung River and a new recreation area within the Village of Waverly.

- TCT continued work on the NYS Southern Tier Paddle Trail, a multi-county initiative with the goal of creating a regional paddle trail.
- TCT managed the development of a new logo and branding guidance for the Village of Owego, the completion of the Tioga Arts Council building improvements, and coordination with multiple DRI projects to maximize design services and draft a comprehensive sign family for the entire DRI area.
- A one-on-one technical assistance program aided 4 small businesses in enhancing online sales, orders, and marketing.
- The development of a recruitment website, a “one-stop-shop” for information about living in Tioga County, is nearly complete. The site can be used by multiple private and public employers and organizations to recruit employees.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- TEAM Tioga helped Candor EMS secure a \$36K grant from the Floyd Hooker Foundation for the Candor EMS Junior Member program. This program is a creative solution to the shortage of EMS and healthcare workers in the area.
- The Talent Supply Table initiative brought together the 6 public school districts in Tioga County, their 3 BOCES partners, and several other government and not-for-profit actors to improve the workforce talent pipeline. As a result of this effort, over 50 local businesses and organizations agreed to offer student internships. Job shadows, guest speaking opportunities, and hiring graduating seniors.
- WBL Opportunities.com was created as a centralized location where businesses can advertise opportunities to students. Waverly Central School District, GST BOCES, and TST BOCES have all started using the site, with additional schools expected to participate in 2023.
- The Education Workforce Report was released in 2022. The report highlights the County’s education workforce strategy, the role of the Education Workforce Coordinator, and various classes offered by the county’s 6 public school districts and 3 BOCES partners.

LAND BANK

- The Land Bank, in partnership with the Owego Apalachin Central School District, has developed a project that has students from the district’s Building Trades and Construction Systems Program rehabilitating a single-family home in the Village of Owego. This project provides hands-on experience in carpentry and cabinet making, residential wiring, plumbing, and heating, etc.
- The Land Bank has continued work on the large redevelopment project located on Temple and Liberty Streets in the Village of Owego. 10 structures were demolished in 2022.
- The Land Bank acquired 6 properties, including 2 in the Village of Newark Valley.

SUSTAINABILITY

- The Tioga County Sustainability Manager suggested 5 locations within Tioga County that fit the criteria for the NYS Evolve program, administered by the New York Power Authority. This program provides for the installation and management of Fast Charging EV stations.
- Two solar fields went online in Tioga County, both located in the Town of Owego. Each has a generating capacity of 4.98 megawatts.
- Funds from NYSERDA’s Clean Energy Communities program were used to create a Clean Energy Fund. This program will generate a reduction in energy costs, as well as increase community awareness of the benefits of using clean energy and clean energy products.

- Tioga County partnered with Broome County to collect and properly dispose of Household hazardous waste. From 584 Tioga County residents, this program collected and properly disposed of 12.5 tons of household hazardous waste and 16.7 tons of electronic waste. TEAM Tioga also partnered with 4 towns to collect 6.4 tons of electronic waste.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

- The IDA administered an ESD grant and assisted coordination for a newly constructed water tank. The water system supports the development of 93 residential units, enhances water service to the adjacent pre-existing neighborhood, and provides excess capacity to support future development.
- The IDA was awarded an ESD grant for a Water Capacity Feasibility Study in support of the Raymond Hadley Corporation. The sustainability of Raymond Hadley Corporation will enable future growth and support retention of approximately 60 jobs in the Village of Spencer.
- The IDA approved a \$163K IRP loan for HeaHea Health + Healing Retreat.
- The IDA facilitated negotiations, prepared the Cost Benefit Analysis, and approved a PILOT agreement for Sun East Valley Solar LLC.

GRANT AWARDS

- \$100K Land Bank Initiative Phase 1 program funds.
- \$1.8 M Restore NY grant for Fuddy Duddy's building rehabilitation.
- \$25K Village of Waverly ESD grant for economic study.
- \$50K IDA ESD planning grant for Raymond Hadley Corporation Water Capacity Feasibility Study.
- \$90K Tioga County FEMA/DHSES Tioga County Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- \$3.2 M ESD Capital Grant for Best Bev in Waverly.
- \$100K grant from the Floyd Hooker Foundation to support Education Workforce Coordinator position.
- 34 grants awarded in 2022
- **GRAND TOTAL - \$5.8 Million**

2023 GOALS

2023 Goals Economic Development and Planning

- Bring additional jobs and retain existing jobs in Tioga County
- Increase the tax base
- Continue to advance interscholastic and business relationships
- Complete the Tioga County Sustainability Plan
- Complete the Tioga County Strategic Operations Plan
- Increase public awareness of services available through TEAM Tioga
- Continue to build relationships, seek funding for organizations and municipalities, and build active partnerships throughout Tioga County