

# Tioga County Economic Development & Planning



## Annual Report

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economy  
business  
municipal  
plans  
zoning  
Richford  
Tioga  
County  
workforce  
development  
union  
attract  
retain  
connections  
agriculture  
water  
energy  
renewable  
taxes  
land  
retail  
highways  
local  
telecommunications  
preparedness  
preservation  
regional  
environmental  
Newark  
Berkshire  
Spencer  
small  
TEAM

# EDP Mission

1

## CREATE JOBS

TO STRENGTHEN THE ECONOMIC BASE OF THE COMMUNITY

2

## INCREASE TAX BASE

TO BENEFIT TIOGA COUNTY RESIDENTS

3

## SUSTAIN QUALITY OF LIFE

TO BENEFIT TIOGA COUNTY RESIDENTS AND ATTRACT OUT-OF-COUNTY VISITORS

### EDP Services Include:

- Industrial retention and attraction
- Small business resource and referral
- Business location siting
- Local approvals assistance and streamlining
- Grantsmanship assistance for business and municipalities
- Review of municipal local laws and comprehensive plans
- Municipal technical assistance
- Small business loans
- Commercial revitalization and facade improvements
- Agricultural business loans
- Social media spotlights
- Farm and agricultural development assistance



# 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

## Tioga County Economic Development & Planning

- Village of Owego Downtown Revitalization Initiative \$10M grant
- Tioga County GDP 2014 - 2015 increase of 10.8% largest in NYS
- Tourism Strategic Plan
- Workforce Development Pipeline Strategy
- Institute for Advancement success
- Owego Parkview's historic hotel restoration
- Completion of Gateway infill mixed-use building on Front Street
- Agricultural Development Assistance
- Tioga County Property Development Corporation (Land Bank) grant secured to commence implementation
- Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Draft completed
- Municipal Board visits
- Tioga Tells Quality of Life Assessment

## EDP's 2018 by the numbers...



**164**

BUSINESSES  
CONTACTED



**16%**

SALES TAX  
REVENUE INCREASE



**1.1%**

UNEMPLOYMENT  
RATE DECREASE



**\$13M**

SECURED  
GRANT FUNDING



**2.05%**

PROPERTY TAX  
LEVY INCREASE



**101**

MUNICIPAL BOARD  
VISITS



**122**

NEW ACRES ENROLLED IN NYS  
AG DISTRICTS PROGRAM



**46%**

HOTEL / MOTEL TAX  
REVENUE INCREASE



**114%**

FB FOLLOWERS  
INCREASE

**WHY OWEGO?**  
*"The Village of Owego has demonstrated willingness to revitalize and facilitate redevelopment and vibrancy in the community. It just needs a catalyst"*

# VILLAGE OF OWEGO DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION INITIATIVE (DRI)

## WINNING APPLICATION:

The Village of Owego was awarded the \$10M DRI for ESD's Southern Tier Region. The winning application had to demonstrate several points for eligibility:

- Identify a compact and well-defined boundary that was central to downtown but also included connected neighborhoods
- Prove that the surrounding area has a sizeable population with year-round activities
- Demonstrate recent and current private and public investment and the potential for future development projects
- Demonstrate recent and impending job growth
- Identify attractive physical characteristics of multi-faceted community assets
- Demonstrate that existing policies, laws and plans are designed to facilitate liveability, enhance quality of life, and encourage investment according to smart growth principles
- Demonstrate local leaders and stakeholders commitment to downtown revitalization

TEAM Tioga wrote a competitive application and created a video presentation that combined several business owners and residents testimonials, pictures of assets and visual renderings, as well as drone fly-over footage, which successfully portrayed the spirit, beauty, and potential of the Owego community.

## DOWNTOWN VISION:

Owego will leverage its access to one of America's greatest rivers; its historical charm; its growing arts scene; its safe, friendly and walkable atmosphere; and its proximity to major regional employers, to improve quality of life, resiliency, and economic opportunities for new and future residents, while attracting visitors to enjoy all of the recreational, cultural, and shopping assets that Owego has to offer.

## GOALS:

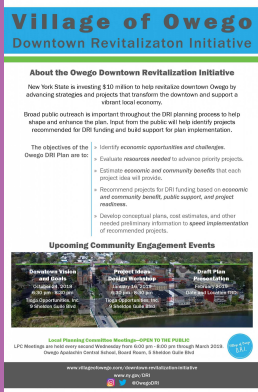
1. Create opportunities for **recreation** to draw visitors and connect residents to local natural resources, and for indoor recreation to provide year-round activities for residents.
2. Make Owego a regional destination known for its **arts and culture**, including live theater, film, music, public art, and the Village's historic charm.
3. Maximize **quality of life** for Owego residents by improving streetscapes, community facilities, and aesthetics.
4. Ensure that municipal **infrastructure** supports residents and businesses and diminishes the impact of flooding, while maximizing cost-effectiveness of municipal services.
5. Bolster **economic development** by supporting small businesses, attracting entrepreneurs, and linking Owego residents to local jobs.
6. Strengthen existing **neighborhoods** and encourage new housing development to attract new residents.

## PROJECTS:

The DRI will ultimately invest \$10M in both public and private projects. The Local Planning Committee (LPC) is currently evaluating a total of 31 private projects submitted through the open call for projects, as well as 29 public project ideas. The list of both types of projects will be finalized for the DRI Plan.

## DRI PLAN:

The LPC, with the aid of the DRI Planning Consultants, BFJ Planning, must develop and finalize an Owego DRI Plan to submit to the Governor's Office by the end of March, 2019. The Governor's Office will announce selected projects in Summer 2019.



## DRI LOCAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

- Mike Baratta, Mayor
- Fran VanHousen, Trustee
- Marte Sauerbrey, Legislature Chair
- LeeAnn Tinney, TCEDP Director
- Nadine Bigsby, OHPC
- Brad Crews, HOM President
- Becca Maffei, Tourism Director
- Mary O'Brien, Rural Ministry
- Jeff Winchell, OPD and OFD
- Corey Green, OACSD Superintendent
- Maureen Abbott, TOI Director
- Christina DiStefano, TAC Director
- John Hitchings, John's Fine Foods
- Jenna Hunsinger, OACSD
- Tom Marzo, Resident
- Ron Pasto, Jr, Resident



## Succession Planning Committee

# SUCCESSION PLANNING



The inaugural class of Tioga County's Institute for Advancement was a huge success. Participants (listed below) attended five training sessions throughout the year including:

- January** - Tioga County Government 101 and Operational Procedures
- March** - Management, Supervision, Performance Evaluation
- July** - Conflict Management
- September** - Real Colors (personality intercommunication skill building)
- November** - Budget Preparation and Fiscal Skills

A certification ceremony was held on December 5th, with the County Legislature recognizing eighteen I4A graduates. Congratulations!



The Succession Planning Committee (SPC) is pleased to announce the addition of two members selected from the 2018 I4A Class - Sarah Begeal from Mental Hygiene and Steve Palinosky from Real Property.

The SPC is now working to schedule a few training sessions throughout 2019 for those I4A graduates interested in continuing their learning journey. Happy learning!



**Martha Sauerbrey**  
Legislature Chair

**Bethany O'Rourke**  
Personnel Officer

**LeeAnn Tinney**  
EDP Director

**Joy Bennett**  
Probation Director

**Elaine Jardine**  
Planning Director

**Ellen Pratt**  
Sustainability Manager



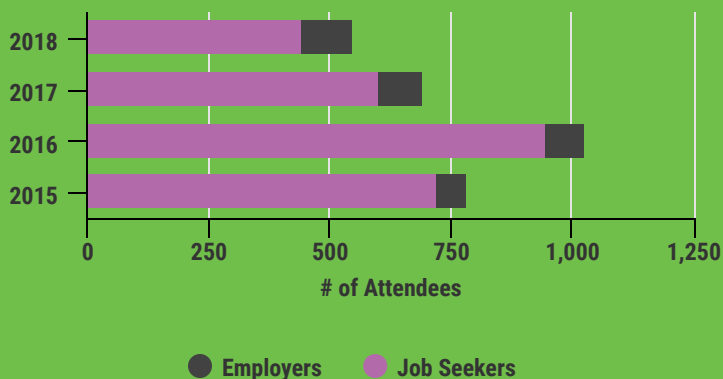
## 2018 Institute for Advancement Inaugural Class:

Mickelle Andrews	DSS	Accounting Supervisor
Sarah Begeal	Mental Hygiene	Clinical Director
Larry Brink	DPW	HEO Site Leader
Linn Bruce	Personnel	Civil Service Administrator
Brian Cain	Probation	Supervisor
Drew Griffin	ITCS	Deputy Director
SueEllen Griffin	County Clerk	Deputy County Clerk
Cathy Haskell	Legislative	Deputy Legislative Clerk
Andrea Klett	County Clerk	County Clerk
Todd Kopalek	Public Health	Environmental Health Supervisor
Linnea Layman	BOE	Deputy Commissioner
Michael Middaugh	Veterans	Veterans Service Officer
Elizabeth Myers	DSS	Director of Social Services
Steven Palinosky	Real Property	Specialist III
Amy Potter	Treasurer	Payroll Supervisor
Arrah Richards	Sheriff's Office	Payroll Clerk
Debbie Stubecki	Emergency Services	Account Clerk Typist
John VanWert	Law	2nd Assistant County Attorney
Brittany Woodburn	EDP	Economic Development Specialist



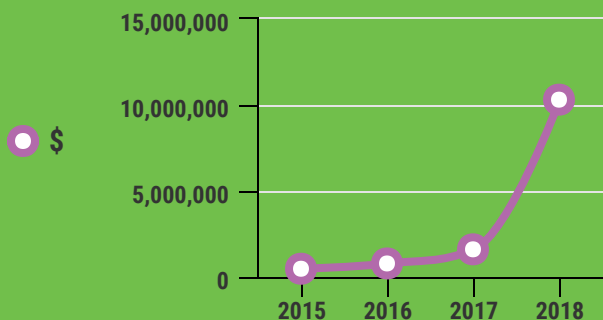
# JOB FAIR

In the past four years, here's the story on employers and job seekers attending the annual Tioga Employment Center Job Fair:



# CFA + OTHER GRANT AWARDS

## EDP CFA & DRI GRANT SUCCESS HISTORY



## 2018 EDP CFA & DRI Awards

ITCS Centralized Shared Services.....	\$210,258
VONV Municipal Building Windows.....	\$100,000
VOO Downtown Revitalization Initiative..	\$10,000,000



## Additional 2018 Grant Awards

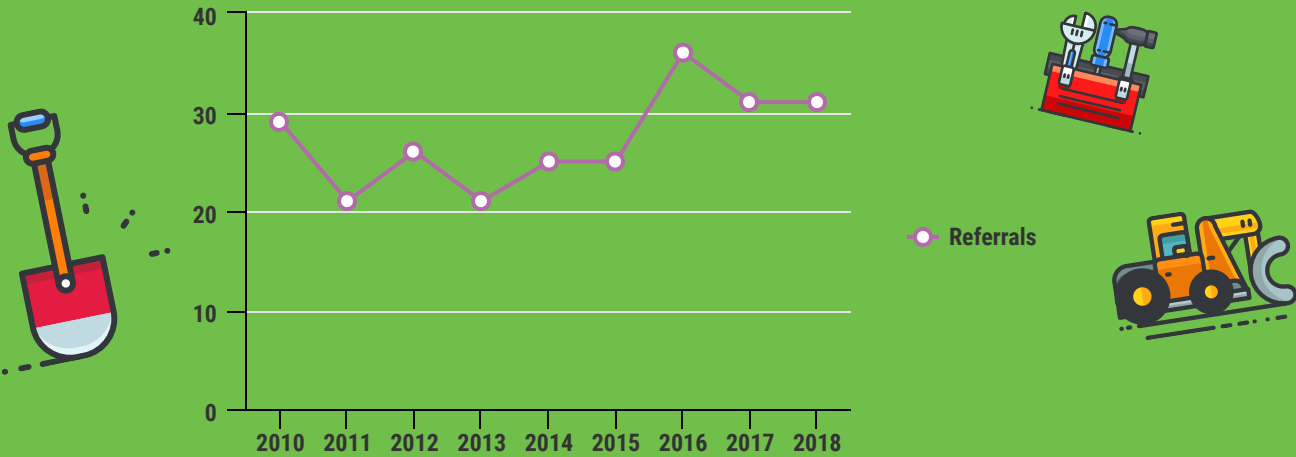
- **Restore NY Village of Owego - \$875,000 from ESD** to rehabilitate two vacant and blighted buildings located at 167-169 and 171 Main Street in the heart of the Owego Central Historic District, which will create two new commercial spaces, and add ten new residential units to the downtown
- **Restore NY Village of Waverly - \$1,000,000 from ESD** to rehabilitate 358 Broad St including exterior and interior renovations of commercial space on the first and second floors, and apartments on the third floor
- **USDA RBDG - \$96,040** was awarded to REAP for the The Public Well Beverage and Assembly (TPW) to purchase equipment for business start-up located in the Village of Owego
- **USDA RBDG - \$51,500** was awarded to REAP to conduct Phase II of the County Housing Study which will create an action strategy to help the villages of Newark Valley, Owego and Waverly develop housing and community investment models that will guide development of quality mixed residential and attractive community areas
- **PLNYS TAG Village of Spencer (\$3,500)** - To fund a historic preservation building condition report for the baseball grandstand in Nichols Park
- **PLNYS TAG Richford Historical Society (\$3,500)** - To fund a historic preservation building condition report for the Richford Graded School

# LAND BANK **Tioga County Property Development Corporation** 2018 Accomplishments

- The TCPDC Board of Directors approved a procurement policy
- The TDPDC secured a **\$500,000** Community Revitalization Initiative Grant award
- The Tioga County Legislature set aside 12 properties from its foreclosure list, located in the villages of Waverly and Owego, for the TCPDC to purchase for \$1.00 each and complete demolition and rehabilitation

# PLANNING & ZONING 239m REFERRALS

Trends in the number of these referrals received since 2010 shows a general up swing in proposed development activity. A good sign for Tioga County's economy.



## HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE



FEMA requires that county Hazard Mitigation Plans be updated every five years. Tioga County was awarded a FEMA grant to prepare the Hazard Mitigation Plan 2018 Update. The Draft Plan Update, including mini-hazard mitigation plans for each local municipality, was completed at the end of 2018. We are now awaiting reviews by federal and state agencies, FEMA and NYSDHSES respectively. It is hoped that all 15 municipalities and the county can adopt this critical plan update by summer 2019.

## TOURISM STRATEGIC PLAN

With the help of a hired consultant and a Strategic Planning Committee, Tioga County Tourism completed a strategic plan to guide operations over the next three years. Major actions include:

- Create and implement a digital marketing plan
- Improve product development
- Improve product promotions
- Optimize partnerships
- Explore and utilize creative people resources

## WORKFORCE DEV PIPELINE STRATEGY

EDP is currently in the process of conducting an important talent supply initiative to identify labor force gaps and challenges, as well as the capacity of our schools, colleges, and universities to respond to the talent needs of local employers. The final deliverable, expected by the end of March 2019, will be a comprehensive strategic workforce action plan that is integrated and reflective of economic development priorities, as well as business and industry needs in Tioga County.

# NEW EMPLOYEE CORNER



**CHRISTINE CURTIS** was hired as the Industrial Development Agency's Executive Administrator in December. Welcome to the TEAM, Christine!



**ZACKARY BAKER** was hired as the EDP Agricultural Development Specialist in June. Zack explains some of his duties below:

## AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

- Assisted two Amish families to complete funding applications and start up food businesses
- Compiled a comprehensive grant and loan directory for agricultural businesses
- Created a database of available agricultural properties
- Participated on the review committee for the \$500,000 NY Grown & Certified Block Grant and helped farmers complete applications
- Continually informed farmers on latest news using website, social media, in-person visits, and monthly newsletter articles
- Began a feasibility analysis to examine the need for expanded slaughterhouse capacity in Tioga County

## BOARDS and COMMITTEES

Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council (STREDC)  
STREDC Workforce Development Work Group  
STREDC Advanced Manufacturers Work Group  
Southern Tier 8 Regional Board (STERPDB)  
ST8 Regional Planners Committee  
Broome Tioga Workforce Investment Board  
Tioga County Chamber of Commerce  
Valley Economic Development Association  
Waverly Business Association  
Finger Lakes Wine County Tourism Marketing Association  
Binghamton Metropolitan Transportation Study Planning Committee  
Tioga County Farm Bureau

Broome Tioga Stormwater Coalition  
New York State Association of County Planning Directors  
NYS Region 7 Open Space Committee  
Rural Economic Area Partnership  
Susquehanna Heritage Area Commission  
Tioga County Local Development Corporation  
Tioga Women Lead  
Leadership Tioga  
Succession Planning Committee  
Tioga County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board  
Tioga County Agricultural Resource Group  
ITCS Steering Committee

## TIOGA TELLS QOL ASSESSMENT



Tioga Tells is a year-long project that is scientifically assessing what exactly impacts Tioga County residents' quality of life. EDP is serving on the Steering Committee that oversees this important project. The project manager, Deanna Hutchison, is an AmeriCorps hire working for both the Tioga County Public Health Department and the Rural Health Network of South Central NY.

The Tioga Tells project started with a literature review on how to measure quality of life via specific indicators, then moved to a survey of workers and residents in Tioga County. A community kick-off event was held in October 2018 to get direct public input on quality of life factors. The project is now in a focus group phase, getting input from small groups representing various sectors of population. Data compilation and analysis will take place early this spring, with a final report and Call to Action expected in May. Presentations to various community groups will take place in summer 2019.