

Downtown Revitalization Initiative Downtown Improvement Fund: An Update on the Selection Process

Greetings to all of the applicants and stakeholders in the City of Oneonta. On behalf of the Project Selection Committee that has responsibility for reviewing applications and recommending awards, I wanted to share information about our timeline and review process.

I'm happy to say that the number and quality of Downtown Improvement Fund (DIF) applications we received far exceeded our expectations. While this is great news for the City, the fact that we received so many applications – including several for the more complicated “Transformative” projects – means that it will be some time before we can announce results. We're beginning with a high-level review of applications, centered principally on smaller geographic clusters so that we can assess the potential impact on different areas of the City. Because the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) Fund is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, we are focused more on thoroughness of review than on speed. That said, we're sensitive to applicants' eagerness to begin projects, and we will be as expeditious as we can with our review.

At present, we've held three review meetings, and have another five meetings scheduled across the next few weeks. Once we have made our funding decisions, the projects require approval by New York State; we don't have any control over the length of time it will take the State to review our recommendations. As a result, we can't provide the community with a specific timeline for grant announcements. What we intend to do, however, is to continue to communicate with you about our process. And you are always welcome to contact Elizabeth Horvath at Delaware Engineering if you have questions or want an update.

Thank you for your patience with this process as it unfolds. We are committed to giving each application the thorough consideration it deserves in order to make the best possible decisions for Oneonta's downtown.

With best regards,



Kim Muller
Chair, Project Selection Committee