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New York State Canal Corporation Announces Awards to Upstate Municipalities Through Round XIII of the Regional Economic Development Council Initiative

Grants Will Support Improvement Projects Along State's Canal System

Full List of Awardees Available [Here](#)

The New York State Canal Corporation today announced that eight upstate municipalities will receive more than \$950,000 in grants from the Canal Corporation through Round XIII of the Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) Initiative. Since its inception, the REDC Initiative has identified and invested in significant economic development projects, revitalizing communities and businesses across the state.

“The significance of the New York Canal System is twofold: it is both a vital economic lifeline for communities across upstate and a cherished recreational haven that boosts our tourism industry while fortifying the well-being of our canalside communities,” **Governor Hochul said.** “I take immense pride in reaffirming our state’s commitment to the prosperity of these communities and the canals that serve them. Each of the eight Canal Corporation grants will contribute to the creation of an inclusive canal community that all New Yorkers will be proud of and able to enjoy.”

Lieutenant Governor Antonio Delgado said, “The New York Canal System plays an indispensable role in our state's economic and recreational landscape. Through these grants we are proud to demonstrate our commitment to ensuring that the Canal’s future is one that includes all New Yorkers. Each grant is an investment in a more inclusive waterway and trail system, allowing all of those in our state the opportunity to appreciate the full potential of our canalside communities.”

New York State Canal Corporation Director Brian U. Stratton said, “For nearly 200 years, our canals have formed the backbone of more than 200 upstate communities and as we look forward to the next century, the grants being awarded today will ensure the

canal corridor is vibrant and accessible for future generations. I applaud Governor Hochul for her commitment to our canals and I know these investments guarantee the continued prosperity of so many communities.”

The grants will support improvement projects in communities along the Canal system across upstate New York which will promote recreation and tourism through investment in the functionality and beautification of areas surrounding the Canal and Canalway Trails.

This year, the Canal Corporation awards will support the following projects:

\$150,000 awarded to the Village of Brockport for the Brockport Boathouse Project

– The Village of Brockport will construct a public boathouse at Commissary Park. Commissary Park is located on the SUNY Brockport campus, and the boathouse will provide a platform to promote tourism and communal recreation through rowing, kayaking, and other community events along the Erie Canal.

\$30,000 awarded to the City of North Tonawanda for the Mayor's Park Kayak Launch and Fishing Dock

– The City of North Tonawanda will install a boat launch and fishing pier at Mayor's Park. This project will provide formalized access to the Erie Canal for small boats, canoes, and kayaks while also providing additional opportunities for fishing at the park. This project will fill an important gap in North Tonawanda's resources for water recreation by connecting the Erie Canal, a popular boating and kayaking destination, with all the amenities and assets that Mayor's Park has to offer including picnic pavilions, picnic areas, a new playground, and restroom facilities.

\$150,000 awarded to the Town of Macedon for Bullis Park Connectivity Improvements

– The Town of Macedon will construct additional sidewalks and paths in Bullis Park to promote use and connectivity between the Erie Canal, Empire State Trail, and different amenities and facilities in and around the park.

\$50,000 awarded to the Village of Fairport IDA for the Canal Thomas Creek Wetlands Improvements

– The Village of Fairport IDA will construct and implement necessary safety, parking, and other capital improvements at the entrance of the Thomas Creek Wetlands, which is located adjacent to the Erie Canal and Empire State Trail. This project will enhance a popular community placemaking asset providing improved access to an important ecological and educational resource for the community.

\$150,000 awarded to City of Rome for the SFM Waterfront Skatepark Plaza

– The City of Rome, in partnership with the SFM Skatepark Project and Rome Community

Foundation, will construct a modern, concrete skate park on the former General Cable Rod Mill site along the Erie Canal.

\$150,000 awarded to the Village of Newark for the Port of Newark Accessible Kayak Launch – The Village of Newark will design and install a new ADA accessible kayak launch in downtown Newark along the Erie Canal.

\$150,000 awarded to City of Amsterdam for the Southside Boardwalk Project – The City of Amsterdam, in partnership with the Southside Realm Project and Amsterdam Community Foundation, will construct a new boardwalk extension from the south side of the Mohawk Valley Gateway Overlook Bridge (MVGOB) with the intent of creating a pedestrian friendly space that will activate a vacant parcel as an amenity for the community, and potential catalyst for new development.

\$125,460 awarded to the Buffalo Maritime Center for the Seneca Chief Launch and Bicentennial Voyage – In anticipation of the Erie Canal's 2025 bicentennial, the Buffalo Maritime Center will continue the construction and historical augmentation of Governor Dewitt Clinton's 1825 Canal Boat. Specifically, this project will include the acquisition of additional resources that will assist with the boat's navigation across the State of New York, and the development of educational exhibits that will be included as part of the program.

Funding for this program was included in Round XIII of the Regional Economic Development Council Initiative. The REDC process continues to support and empower regional stakeholders in developing strategic plans and funding priorities that meet local economic needs. Regional Councils reviewed projects from this program and provided scores that reflect how well a project aligns with a region's goals and strategies. Applicants utilized New York's Consolidated Funding Application, the state's single application for state resources, which includes programs for numerous agencies. It is designed to provide expedited and streamlined access to a combined pool of grant funds and tax credits from dozens of existing programs. A full list of Round XIII awards that have been made can be found [here](#).

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About the Consolidated Funding Application

The Consolidated Funding Application was created to streamline and expedite the grant application process. The CFA process marks a fundamental shift in the way state resources are allocated, ensuring less bureaucracy and greater efficiency to fulfill local economic development needs. The CFA serves as the single-entry point for access to

economic development funding, ensuring applicants no longer have to slowly navigate multiple agencies and sources without any mechanism for coordination. Now, economic development projects use the CFA as a support mechanism to access multiple state funding sources through one application, making the process quicker, easier, and more productive. Learn more about the CFA [here](#).

About the Regional Economic Development Councils

The Regional Economic Development Council initiative is a key component of the State's approach to State investment and economic development. In 2011, 10 Regional Councils were established to develop long-term strategic plans for economic growth for their regions. The Councils are public-private partnerships made up of local experts and stakeholders from business, academia, local government, and non-governmental organizations. The Regional Councils have redefined the way New York invests in jobs and economic growth by putting in place a community-based, bottom-up approach and establishing a competitive process for State resources. Learn more at regionalcouncils.ny.gov.

About the New York State Canal Corporation

New York's Canal system includes four historic canals: the Erie, Champlain, Oswego, and Cayuga – Seneca. Spanning 524 miles, the waterway links the Hudson River with the Great Lakes, the Finger Lakes and Lake Champlain. The canals connect hundreds of unique and historic communities across upstate New York.

The New York State Canal Corporation is a subsidiary of the New York Power Authority.

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