



**For Immediate Release:** December 7, 2022

**Contact:** Shane Mahar | 518-603-0791 | [shane.mahar@nypa.gov](mailto:shane.mahar@nypa.gov)

## **NEW YORK STATE CANAL CORPORATION ANNOUNCES AWARDS TO UPSTATE MUNICIPALITIES THROUGH ROUND XII 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 \$1 million in grants from the Canal Corporation through Round XII 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.

“As we have demonstrated time and again, our administration is committed to the economic revitalization of upstate New York and by supporting our Canal system, we are supporting a vital lifeline that fuels the Empire State, its tourism industry, and its canalside communities,” **said Lieutenant Governor Antonio Delgado.** “These grants are a demonstration of our unwavering pledge to protecting this lifeline and all that is vital to our state’s growth through key investments in the functionality of our canal waterways.”

**New York State Canal Corporation Director Brian U. Stratton** said, “For nearly 200 years, New York’s canals have powered upstate economies through the transportation of people and products, and today, the canal waterways and adjacent trails serve as destinations for recreation and exploration that allow canalside communities to buzz with a positive energy. Under Governor Kathy Hochul’s leadership, the grants awarded through this program demonstrate our continued commitment to supporting vital economic development in these villages, towns, and cities that will allow them to prosper for the next generation of residents and visitors.”

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

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

**\$150,000 awarded to the Town of Macedon for Gravino Park Canal Access Improvements** – The Town of Macedon will make various enhancements to Gravino Park to improve recreational amenities and overall accessibility to the park. Enhancements include a variety of amenities such as a playground, parking, bathrooms, and general gathering spaces. Funding awarded through the Canalway Grant Program for this project will specifically include funds for sidewalk and intersection improvements that will create access between the Erie Canal, Canal/Empire State Trail, ABX Innovative Packaging Solutions, and Downtown Macedon. All amenities will be ADA accessible and inclusive in nature.

**\$140,410 awarded to the Buffalo Maritime Center for Gov. Dewitt Clinton's 1825 Canal Boat Construction and Historical Augmentation** – 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 allow implementation of structural and other building elements of the design of the Seneca Chief as a historically accurate Erie Canal Line Boat.

**\$150,000 awarded to Homesteads for Hope Community Farm for Historic Estate Restoration** – To increase the organization's capacity to serve more individuals and families, Homesteads for Hope Community Farm will preserve and rehabilitate a 200-year-old Estate Home. The renovation aims to create multiple classrooms, gathering spaces, a teaching kitchen, offices, and housing for apprentices. Homesteads for Hope is an inclusive community farm for individuals with and without disabilities to learn, work, live, and grow in a natural environment.

**\$25,628 awarded to the City of North Tonawanda for Gateway Harbor Technology Enhancements** – The City of North Tonawanda will install technological enhancements throughout Gateway Harbor Park including wireless internet and interactive kiosks. These enhancements will allow visitors to obtain necessary information about the Erie Canal, North Tonawanda, and other amenities across the region and state that operate within the Erie Canal corridor.

**\$136,026 awarded to the City of Tonawanda for Erie Canal Scenic Overlook** – The City of Tonawanda will revitalize an existing swing bridge abutment for use as a scenic overlook to the Erie Canal and the historic swing bridge. The project aims to increase access to the waterfront area that surrounds the city and will include stabilization of the existing abutment to provide a viewing area with landscaping, lighting, cultural/historical interpretation, a potential fishing access point, and a resting area for trail users.

**\$148,475 awarded to the Village of Spencerport for Canal Access and Parking Improvements** – The Village of Spencerport will make enhancements to an existing parking area that will increase and improve access to Lester Merz Park, the Erie Canalway Trail, and the Village's downtown. In addition to enabling increased levels of parking, the area will have a park-like appearance with landscaping, greenspace, benches, and electric vehicle charging stations.

**\$100,000 awarded to Stillwater Public Library for Library Renovation and Champlain Canalway Amenities** – As part of the renovation of a new library in the Town of Stillwater, The Stillwater Public Library will add various amenities aimed at celebrating the historic and existing relationship between the Town of Stillwater and Champlain Canal. Amenities include the installation of interpretive history panels and a map of the canal system; the installation of commercial grade seating in view of the Hudson River, and other displays that will communicate and promote local and regional events, businesses, parks, and museums.

**\$150,000 awarded to Lockport Locks Heritage District Corporation for Historic Lock Tender Tribute Expansion** – In anticipation of the 200th anniversary of the completion of the construction of the Erie Canal (1825 - 2025), the Lockport Locks Heritage District Corporation will aid in the construction and installation of the final phase of sculptures within Lockport's existing Lock Tender Tribute. The installation honors an iconic 19th-century photograph of lock tenders on the steps of the old Flight of Five locks in Lockport.

Funding for this program was included in Round 12 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 the 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 12 awards that have been made can be found [here](#).

### **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](http://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 form the backbone of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor and connect hundreds of unique and historic communities.

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

Like Canals on Facebook at [NYS Canal Corporation](https://www.facebook.com/NYSCanalCorporation)

Follow Canals on Twitter at [@NYSCanalCorp](https://twitter.com/NYSCanalCorp)