

Economic Services Division 2019 Annual Report

The Economic Services Unit provides expertise in market and financial feasibility analysis, economic and fiscal impact analysis, and economic development planning to the Agency, State and local economic development organizations, and the region's business community. Staff assists project sponsors and economic developers in evaluating business locations and identifying other sources of assistance for business development. Staff also works with local governments and economic development entities in the development and implementation of sustainable economic growth strategies.

Community Outreach

Staff provided support to local development initiatives by attending 91 public outreach, local and regional workgroup, and community development meetings spread throughout the Park. Among significant initiatives, staff attended meetings regarding the Common Ground Alliance, the North Country Regional Economic Development Council, Local Waterfront Revitalization planning, and economic development planning.

Organizations staff worked with include:

Adirondack Angels
Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages
Adirondack Common Ground Alliance
Adirondack Economic Development Corporation
Adirondack North Country Association
Adirondack Foundation
ADK Action
Center for Businesses in Transition
CITEC Business Solutions
Clarkson University
Clinton County Industrial Development Agency (IDA)
Cornell University
Cornell Cooperative Extension
Development Authority of the North Country
Economic Development Corporation of Warren County
Empire State Forest Products Association
Essex County IDA
Fort Drum Regional Liaison Organization
Franklin County Economic Development
Franklin County IDA
Greater Watertown-North Country Chamber of Commerce
Hamilton County IDA
Indian Lake Local Development Corporation
Jefferson County IDA
Jefferson Community College
Johnsburg Local Development Corporation

Lake Champlain – Lake George Regional Planning Board
Lake George Chamber of Commerce
Lake Placid High School
Lewis County Economic Development
Lewis County IDA
Mercy Care for the Adirondacks
New York Federal Reserve
New York Pulp and Paper Workgroup
New York State Complete Count Commission
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
New York State Empire State Development
North Country Chamber of Commerce
North Country Community College
North Country Regional Economic Development Council
North Country Regional Economic Development Council Innovation Workgroup
North Country Regional Economic Development Council Lodging Taskforce
North Country Regional Economic Development Council Writing Team
Northern Border Regional Commission
Point Positive, Inc.
Regional Office of Sustainable Tourism
Saranac Lake Area Chamber of Commerce
SUNY Canton
SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry
SUNY Potsdam
St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce
St. Lawrence County IDA
Ticonderoga Area Chamber of Commerce
Upstate Capital Association
United States Economic Development Administration
Warren County Chamber of Chambers
The Wild Center

Project Permitting

During project review, Economic Services staff provides expertise in market and financial feasibility analysis as well as economic and fiscal impact analysis pursuant to the Agency's Section 809 mandate to take into account the potential benefits of a proposed project. Staff advised the Agency on the economic impacts of five projects that were approved in 2019 including a hospitality development in the Town of Johnsbury, Warren County, entertainment facilities in Essex County, and forestry projects in Hamilton and Essex Counties. Staff also provided technical expertise related to the Agency's project review process to a range of large-scale and entrepreneurial ventures during the pre-application process such as a mine expansion in Franklin County, a hospitality development in Franklin County, a vineyard in Clinton County, and a sawmill in Essex County.

Regional Council Support

In 2019, the three Regional Economic Development Councils (REDC) representing the Adirondack Park, the Capital Region, Mohawk Valley, and North Country Councils, received a combined \$234.7 million in grant and loan funding through Governor Cuomo's REDC competition to pursue key economic development projects. The Mohawk Valley and Capital Regions were identified as Top Performers and the North Country council was awarded \$67.9 million. Since 2011, Governor Cuomo's REDC competition has delivered over \$2.05 billion for projects in the three regions representing the Adirondack Park.

Some key projects in the Park that were awarded funding include wastewater infrastructure improvements in the Village of Corinth, Saratoga County, snowmobile trail grooming infrastructure in Fulton County, improvements to the Town of Dannemora beach on Chazy Lake, Clinton County, and a new children's museum in Saranac Lake, Franklin County. A total of 46 projects located inside the Park received funding.

In 2019, Agency staff served on the North Country Regional Economic Development Council's (NCREDC) Writing Team and was the Writing Captain of the Council's Innovation Workgroup. In these capacities, staff led the development of the NCREDC's Innovation Workplan and facilitated the implementation of key projects. Staff also helped present the 2019 NCREDC Strategic Plan to Governor Cuomo's Strategic Implementation Assessment Team.

Economic Affairs Committee

The Agency's Economic Affairs Committee continued to highlight economic initiatives in the Park. In 2019, the Committee received a presentation from Garrett Kopp of Birch Boys Chaga. The company sells tinctures and teas made from locally-sourced ingredients.

Entrepreneurship Support

In September, the Agency partnered with the Upstate Capital Association and Point Positive, Inc. to bring over 60 investors and entrepreneurs together in downtown Saranac Lake. At the event, investors from as far away as Philadelphia and Boston heard from four startups in the region that recently had accomplished either their first or second funding. Highlighted firms included Birch Boys Chaga, Confluent Energies, LC Drives, and Crua Outdoors. Representatives from the SUNY Jefferson, Clarkson University, and the North Country Regional Chamber of Commerce also presented.

Community Planning Support

In 2019, Agency staff assisted communities on economic development and community planning initiatives. Staff assisted the Village of Northville in the development of its Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan and worked with the Town of Johnsbury Community Development Corporation to develop and implement its own strategic plan.