



For Immediate Release

Governor's Office of Storm Recovery Announces \$11.6 Million to Support 24 NY Rising Community Reconstruction Projects

Regional Economic Development Councils will provide funding to 24 projects that aim to help localities become more resilient following recent storms

New York, NY (December 15, 2014) – The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) today announced that 24 projects identified through the NY Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) Program will receive more than \$11.6 million in funding, as part of Round Four of the State's Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) initiative.

In April 2014, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo pledged to highlight NYRCR projects through the REDC competition, with some State agencies adjusting their scoring criteria to reflect the importance of the resiliency measures. Working with each REDC, GOSR and local partners briefed the Councils on various community proposals and identified projects that would complement larger regional strategies.

“As a cornerstone of NY Rising, the Community Reconstruction Program is a bottom-up effort that seeks to apply lessons learned from recent storms while acknowledging local assets and needs,” said Executive Director of Storm Recovery, Jamie Rubin. “The announcement exemplifies the Governor's ongoing commitment to incorporating resilience into other State programs. The funding provided through Round Four of the REDC initiative is not only a victory for these communities, but also for New York as a whole, as we continue our mission to build a better, stronger State.”

The two-dozen projects announced today will be supported through six REDCs: Mohawk Valley, Southern Tier, Mid-Hudson, Capital District, North Country, and Long Island. Among the winners was the Village of Sidney (receiving five grants totaling \$1.7 million) and Long Island (receiving eight grants equating to \$8 million).

To date, a total of 66 NYRCR Planning Committees (representing more than 100 communities) have participated in the \$650 million NYRCR Program. Managed by GOSR, the grassroots planning and implementation process strives to empower storm-impacted communities to rebuild, while becoming stronger and more resilient for the future.

Altogether, more than 650 participants serve on NYRCR Planning Committees throughout the State, having proposed approximately 600 projects with an aggregate cost of more than \$800 million. Each participating community was allotted between \$3 million and \$25 million to implement eligible projects that incorporate and capitalize on local needs, strengths, and challenges.

The new allocation of REDC funding will help many projects move toward implementation and will reduce costs for local public entities and municipal governments. The awards also aid the State in leveraging federal funding through the Community Development Block Grant- Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program, which is administered by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD).

The projects being funded include:

Delaware County

- Village of Sidney Wastewater - \$30,000

The Village of Sidney will complete an engineering report to address treatment plant processes including: the grit removal system, influent screen, relocation of blowers above flood elevation, replacement of blowers with energy efficient blowers, improved blower controls and replacement of air diffusers.

- Village of Sidney Resilient Green Streetscape - \$1,046,500

The Village of Sidney will implement recommendations from its New York Rising Community Reconstruction Plan to improve community resiliency. Projects include design of pedestrian facilities, stormwater improvements, and a bio retention area in the historic district. Green infrastructure such as bioswales, rain gardens, and porous pavements will be used to mitigate flood hazards and increase resiliency.

- Village of Sidney Waterfront Entertainment Study - \$25,000

The Village of Sidney will conduct a waterfront entertainment study to explore the potential of for a goal of the New York Rising plan to turn the Sidney floodplain into an eco-friendly park that will be transformed into a tourist area.

- Village of Sidney Freetrade Zone - \$25,000

The Village of Sidney will conduct a study to determine the economic benefit and/or detriments of having a free trade zone in the community.

- Village of Sidney Hotel Study - \$50,000

The Village of Sidney will conduct a feasibility study for a hotel and conference center.

Tioga County

- Tioga County Visitors and Education Center - \$112,960

The Tioga County Local Development Corporation will relocate the Tourism Visitors Center and the Records Office. Both offices were affected by flooding caused by Tropical Storm Lee in 2011 and remain in the floodplain. The new location, outside of the floodplain, will allow for easier public access and will be located in a high tourism traffic area that will capture tourists traveling from New York City to the Finger Lakes, Corning Museum of Glass and other regional attractions.

Schoharie County

- Schoharie Creek Multiuse Trail - \$149,876

Schoharie County will implement recommendations from the Schoharie County New York Rising Community Reconstruction Plan to improve community resiliency and promote tourism and recreation. The project will examine the feasibility of a Schoharie Creek multi-use trail from North Blenheim to the Village of Esperance.

- Village of Middleburgh Local Waterfront Revitalization Program - \$20,000

The Village of Middleburgh will incorporate recommendations from the Schoharie County New York Rising Community Reconstruction Plan into a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program for the Schoharie Creek. The Program will address opportunities for economic activity, redevelopment of historic and abandoned structures, improvements to waterfront recreation, and restoration and protection of natural resources.

- Village of Middleburgh Breadbasket Heritage Train - \$15,200

The Village of Middleburgh will sponsor and create the Breadbasket Heritage Train. Starting in 2015, the community will build a series of stops along this trail to educate residents and visitors of the Schoharie Valley's rich and diverse history. A map of the area's regional historic sites, with literature, will be funded through this grant.

- Schoharie County Broadband Feasibility Study - \$37,500

Broadband study will enable the county to determine unserved and underserved areas.

Essex County

- AuSable Fire House Improvements - \$400,000

The Town of Jay will provide important enhancements to the AuSable Forks fire house.

Albany County

- NY Quality Assurance Laboratory - \$900,000

Build out of a comprehensive calibration laboratory for meteorological instruments and test site for advance technology to support 125 statewide weather stations.

Greene County

- Hurricane Irene Storm Recovery Program - \$231,000

The Town of Prattsville will advance priority projects from its NY Rising and Long Term Community Recovery plans by designing and constructing Phase 2 of the Schoharie Creekside Trail by extending the trail to connect with the Historic Arnold House and Big Loop trail network, building local capacity through staff support to create a more resilient and revitalized community.

Schenectady County

- Schenectady Gateway Park- \$400,000

The reconstruction of Schenectady's Gateway Park aims to increase safety and access to a critical public transportation hub, implement green infrastructure improvements, and create an important flood retention area. Studies have identified the Park's redevelopment as critical to revitalizing Lower State Street, floodplain water management concerns, and new economic investment/revitalization.

- Rotterdam Junction Bike Path Railway Tunnel - \$150,000

Project would address trail network connection and implement flood mitigation measures.

- Inflow and Infiltration Study Project- \$30,000

The Town of Rotterdam will complete an engineering report to identify sources of inflow and infiltration in the areas of Highbridge Road and Vienna Street.

Nassau County

- South Shore Blueway Trail Implementation - \$240,000

Nassau County will design and construct accessibility improvements to existing boat ramps and kayak launches at Cedar Creek Park, Cow Meadow Park, Inwood Boat Ramp, Milburn Creek, Wantagh Park, and two sites at Bay Park Beach. These sites are part of the South Shore Blueway Trail that provides continuous kayak access along an 18-mile stretch of the South Shore Estuary Reserve.

- Freeport Channel Crossing Electrical Improvements/ Outage Management System - \$325,000

Installation of a new underwater electric cable in Freeport Channel and upgrade of the Outage Management System for storm response.

- South Nassau Hospital Emergency Department Expansion - \$500,000

Construction of expanded Oceanside Emergency Department facility including renovation of existing space.

- South Shore Blueway Trail Kayak Launch at Waterfront Park - \$16,000

The Village of Freeport will advance the South Shore Blueway Trail Plan by installing a kayak launch and related signage at Waterfront Park. The trail will provide continuous kayak access along an 18-mile stretch of the South Shore Estuary Reserve, from the western border of the Town of Hempstead to the Nassau/ Suffolk County line.

- City of Long Beach Marketing Promotion - \$300,000

"Long Beach, NY: More Than Just the Beach" is a marketing project, implemented by The City of Long Beach, aimed at increasing both summer and year-round visitors. The 2013 marketing

campaign increased tourism, which countered the potential economic downturn post Superstorm-Sandy.

- Countywide Stormwater Check Valves Flood Mitigation - \$1.6 million

Install 800 check valves on existing outfalls along Long Island's south shore to mitigate tidal flooding after Superstorm Sandy.

- Beech Street Park Avenue Drainage Improvement Project - \$1 million

Design and construct drainage improvements along Park Avenue and Beech Street in the storm-impacted City of Long Beach.

Suffolk County

- Reclaiming Our Water Improving Coastal Resiliency with Sewer Infrastructure - \$4 million

Design of wastewater infrastructure for providing treatment in high groundwater areas throughout Suffolk County's south shore.

As a centerpiece of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's strategy to jumpstart the economy and create jobs, the REDC initiative was introduced in 2011 to redesign the State's approach to economic development. The undertaking shares the community-driven approach of the NYRCR Program and aids localities in developing local plans specifically tailored to their region's unique strengths and assets in order to spur economic growth and jobs.

Established in June 2013, GOSR coordinates Statewide recovery efforts for Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Irene, and Tropical Storm Lee. Through its NY Rising Housing Recovery, Small Business, Community Reconstruction, and Infrastructure programs, GOSR invests more than \$4 billion made available through the CDBG-DR Program to rebuild and better prepare New York for future extreme weather events.

For more information, visit www.stormrecovery.ny.gov.

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