

## **Cortland County Development Corporation MISSION STATEMENT AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

### **Name of Public Authority**

Cortland County Development Corporation

**List of Performance Goals** Working with the Cortland County Business Development Corporation and the IDA , the Cortland County Development Corporation will:

- Support the BDC/IDA as the county's lead economic development agency;
- Actively support and further the interests of county-based businesses;
- Will meet regularly with county businesses to identify and mitigate obstacles for growth and to exploit opportunities for growth;
- Will assist in the planning and implementation of programs to increase awareness of federal, state, and local business assistance programs;
- Will assist in the planning and implementation of marketing efforts both inside and outside of Cortland County that target the expansion of existing businesses, the establishment of new business, and the attraction of new companies, people, and investment to the county;
- Will assist in the planning, funding, and development of sites, buildings, infrastructure, and other programs and activities to facilitate business development and expansion;
- Will represent the interests of local governments with our federal and state elected officials with respect to economic development and maintain those relationships to further the County's economic objectives.

### **Accomplishments**

Cortland Regional Medical Center satisfied the balance of the \$20 million bond with revenues received in a state Department of Health grant during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2018.

In support with the Cortland County BDC and Industrial Development Agency, the following economic development activities took place during 2019:

- The BDC continued its effective management of its revolving business loan fund, available to county business owner and entrepreneurs who may not have access to or choose to take advantage of traditional bank financing;
- Has had its executive director continue to work with the Central New York Regional Economic Development Council, which competes for state dollars to assist economic and community development projects in the 5-county region. The director, appointed to the REDC by Governor Cuomo, played an integral role in the region's winning application for funding in 2019.
- Further, the agency leadership was a critically important partner in the city's successful application for \$10 million in funding through the state Downtown Revitalization Initiative. The director continues to work in support of the DRI, service as a co-chair of the Local Planning Committee tasked with the distribution of the grant monies to qualified projects;
- Continue to work as an advocate and advisor for capital projects driving jobs and community growth;
- The BDC continued publishing its bi-monthly newsletter, Cortland County Today;

- Continue to sponsor free small business consulting through the Small Business Administration;
- The BDC continues to administer the Empire Zone program for qualified businesses still enrolled;
- Has its director serve as an officer of the Guthrie Cortland Medical Center Board of Trustees;
- Continues to serve as a “one-stop shop” for a wide range of inquiries and proposals related to economic development and community growth in Cortland County;
- 83-85 Main Street LLC  
The CCIDA approved of sales tax, mortgage tax and real property tax exemptions for a \$2.4 million mixed use redevelopment of a large, historic, deteriorating and chronically vacant building in the heart of downtown Cortland. With assistance from the CCIDA the project will develop 12 luxury apartments on the upper three floors of a four-story, 128- year- old building; create attractive new commercial space on the building’s first floor and attract tenants who will bring exciting new retail options and/or services to the central business district and comprise the latest multimillion-dollar rehabilitation of historic buildings in the district, sustaining momentum for the transformation of downtown Cortland as a vital, vibrant neighborhood, retail, service and entertainment sector.
- Lapeer Cortland Solar LLC  
The CCIDA incentivized a 15 MW community solar project for the town of Lapeer in 2019. This was the first IDA-related solar project in Cortland County.
- Janis Solar LLC  
CCIDA and a developer agreed to an incentive package for a 20MW solar project in the town of Willet during 2019. This project is anticipated to close during the last quarter of 2020.
- EDF Renewables Solar Project  
The CCIDA began conversations with EDF Renewables for a 90 MW solar project for the towns of Homer, Cortlandville and Solon in 2019. This is an Article 10 project that will require significant state involvement in the permitting process. It is anticipated that developers will seek IDA incentives.
- Greek Peak Holdings, LLC  
The CCIDA approved of sales tax exemptions for a \$1.9 million capital investment at Greek Peak in August 2018. The resort’s capital investment is part of an ongoing initiative to enhance the skier experience and drive more visits. Project components include trail snowmaking and infrastructure enhancements, the acquisition of two grooming machines, replacement of a dated chairlift, improvements at its water park, new base building lighting, expansion of the Taverna, upgrades at the reservation desk and replacement of certain furniture, fixtures, and equipment. The project was very active during 2019 and is expected to be completed by September 30, 2020. Greek Peak Holdings LLC pledges the retention of 80 full-time jobs over 5-year term of agreement.
- Dwayne Block Building, Homer  
In 2018 the CCIDA provided sales and mortgage tax abatement to incentivize the mixed-use redevelopment of a building destroyed by fire several years earlier. The \$1.7 million project comprises construction of a three-story mixed-use structure at 23 South Main Street in the heart of the village’s business district. The site had been little more than a hole in the ground and in the streetscape since post-fire cleanup. The project was completed during 2019 and

was successful in obtaining a long-term lease for an eatery on the entire street level space as well as full occupancy in the second and third floor residential units.

- Creamery Hills

The CCIDA provided incentives facilitating SEPP, Inc.'s \$1.6 million capital investment into Creamery Hills Apartments in the town of Harford, resulting in a complete interior and exterior renovation of the 24-unit complex for low to moderate income seniors. The facility also serves as the Harford Senior Center, managed by the Cortland County Area Agency on Aging.

- Buckbee Mears/Cortland Industrial Center

The CCIDA continues to work with the site owner on development opportunities at this former manufacturing site. BIO365, a soil manufacturer, began operations at a portion of the site in 2019 and work began on construction of a 30,000 square-foot manufacturing space next door.

- APEX

The former APEX manufacturing site on the city's east end was mothballed in 2017 after operations ceased there. The CCIDA has been notified that the facility has been sold to an out of town interest, which is now also making the site available. The IDA has been in and will continue discussions about how the property may be repurposed. The site has been identified as a priority brownfield site and may be a candidate for outside funding in support of redevelopment efforts. A major hurdle at the site is ongoing concern about the cost of razing existing structures there as well as the cost of any potential environmental remediation.

- Downtown Investment

Planning and design activities are underway for the reconstruction of Main Street and related projects in downtown Cortland as proposed under the city's \$10 million Downtown Revitalization Initiative grant. Actual construction for Main Street will begin in 2021, but the Agency and partners began participating in the development of public information and branding campaigns during 2019 and will continue with that work throughout 2020. The Agency and its partners will also play an important role in refining the scope of the project as it moves forward. Other significant investment outside of the DRI continues in and near the downtown district. These improvements contributed greatly to the city's winning DRI application and also set the table for future economic progress in the city.