



2021 DRI Application

Applications for the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) must be received by the appropriate Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) by **4:00 PM on September 15, 2021** at the email address provided at the end of this application.

In **New York City**, the Borough Presidents' offices will be the official applicants to the REDC, and organizations interested in proposing an area for DRI funding should contact the respective Borough President's office as soon as possible. Based on these proposals, each Borough President's office will develop and submit no more than two formal applications for consideration by the New York City REDC. Applications to the offices of the Borough President must be received by email no later than **4:00 PM on September 3, 2021**. The subject heading on the email must be "Downtown Revitalization Round 5."

Applicant responses for each section should be as complete and succinct as possible. Additional information is available in the 2021 DRI Guidebook, available at www.ny.gov/DRI.

Applicants in the **Mid-Hudson region** must limit their application to a total of 15 pages if applying just for a \$10 million award, or 20 pages if applying to also be considered for a \$20 million award. The map of the DRI Area requested in question number 1 must be part of the 15 or 20 page limit. The requested addendum regarding opportunities for electric vehicle chargers may exceed the page limit. No other attachments will be accepted.

Applicants should make every effort to engage the community in the development of the application. Prior to submission, applicants must have held a minimum of one meeting or event (either virtually or in-person) to solicit public input on the community vision and potential projects and should demonstrate that any input received was considered in the final application.

Communities that wish to be considered for a \$20 million award must provide additional documentation as noted below.

BASIC INFORMATION

- REDC Region
- Municipality Name (if joint application, list both municipalities)
- Downtown Name
- County Name
- Applicant Contact(s) Name and Title (if joint application, identify primary contact)
- Applicant Contact(s) Email Address and Secondary Email Address

VISION FOR DOWNTOWN

Provide a brief statement of the municipality's vision for downtown revitalization.

JUSTIFICATION

Provide an overview of the downtown area nominated for the DRI program, highlighting the area's defining characteristics and the reasons for its selection. Explain why the downtown is ready for Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) investment, and how that investment would serve as a catalyst to bring about revitalization.

DOWNTOWN IDENTIFICATION

- 1) Boundaries of the proposed DRI area.** Detail the boundaries of the targeted downtown area or neighborhood, keeping in mind that there is no minimum or maximum size, but that the area should be concentrated and well-defined. Neighborhoods beyond traditional central business districts are eligible if they can meet other criteria making them ripe for investment. Include a map that clearly delineates the area to be included in the downtown revitalization area.
- 2) Past investment, future investment potential.** Describe how this DRI area will be able to capitalize on prior private and public investment and catalyze future investments in the neighborhood and its surrounding areas. Describe recent planning efforts that support public and private investment in the proposed DRI area.
- 3) Recent or impending job growth.** Describe how recent or impending job growth within or near the DRI area will attract a diverse workforce and population to an active life in the downtown, support redevelopment, and make growth sustainable in the long-term.
- 4) Quality of life.** Identify the properties or characteristics that the DRI area possesses that contribute, or could contribute if enhanced, to the attractiveness and livability of the downtown for a diverse population of varying ages, income, gender identity, ability, mobility, and cultural background. Consider, for example, the presence of developable mixed-use spaces, varied housing types at different levels of affordability, walkability and bikeability, healthy and affordable food markets, and public parks and gathering spaces.
- 5) Supportive local policies.** Articulate the policies in place that increase the livability and quality of life of the downtown. Examples include the use of local land banks, modern zoning codes or New York State Stretch Code, comprehensive plans, Clean Energy Communities or Climate Smart Communities designation, complete streets plan, transit-oriented development, non-discrimination laws, age-friendly policies, and a downtown management structure. If policies that support livability and quality of life in downtown are not currently in place, describe near-term efforts by the municipality to create and implement such policies.
- 6) Public support.** Describe the public participation and engagement process conducted to develop the DRI application, and the support of local leaders and stakeholders for pursuing a vision of downtown revitalization. Characterize the commitment among local leaders and stakeholders to preparing and implementing a strategic investment plan.
- 7) Transformative opportunities and readiness.** Describe opportunities to build on the strengths described above by providing a list of transformative projects that could be ready for implementation with an infusion of DRI funds within the first one to two years (depending on the scope and complexity

of the project). Projects may be public or private, and could address economic development, transportation, housing, and community development needs. Project descriptions should include demonstration of readiness, proposed cost and funding sources, and identification of the project sponsor. For private for-profit projects, DRI funds may not exceed 40% of the total project cost (with a 10% bonus available for projects that commit to meaningful carbon reduction goals, including full electrification and net-zero building performance). While DRI funding may be used to cover the entire cost of a public or not-for-profit project, leveraging of investment dollars from other sources (i.e., private, local, federal, or other state sources) is strongly encouraged.

Also identify any other transformative opportunities that may be explored during the planning process, such as reuse of vacant and developable properties and underutilized buildings; projects to address unmet needs in the downtown, including housing, retail, and community services; and activities that will build upon regional strengths and trends.

If a loan or grant fund is proposed, please identify who might be an appropriate entity with capacity to manage the fund. If candidate projects have been identified, please include them to demonstrate potential demand for the fund. Funds are typically capped at \$600,000.

Please note that if your community is selected to participate in the DRI program, projects identified in the application, along with any others that may arise during the DRI planning process, will ultimately be vetted by the Local Planning Committee and the State to determine which projects receive DRI grants.

- 8) Administrative Capacity.** Describe the local administrative capacity to manage this planning and implementation initiative, including the ability to oversee contracts for awarded municipal projects using existing staff and resources.
- 9) Other.** Provide any other information that informs the nomination of this downtown for a DRI award.
- 10) \$20 Million Request.** For applicants wishing to be considered for \$20 million in DRI funding, provide a clear but concise justification of why your community should be awarded \$20 million. Justification should include identification of at least 1-2 large, transformational projects that will have a significant impact on the downtown and could be realized with a larger grant award. Project descriptions should include status of the following: site control, commitments from project partners, other funding sources, and zoning/regulatory requirements. Since a larger award amount will require heightened capacity on the part of your municipality, please identify the individual or entity that will coordinate DRI implementation. Also describe the capacity of any project partners to undertake the additional large-scale projects.

Addendum: Opportunities for Electric Vehicle Charging Stations. DOS is soliciting feedback from communities on whether they may have locations suitable for electric vehicle (EV) fast charging stations in their downtowns, either at municipal or private parking lots. While responses to this question will not be included in the evaluation of applications for a DRI award, applicants are encouraged to consider opportunities for EV charging in their downtowns. Benefits to a host site community include becoming a destination for travelers to the downtown, resulting in additional spending/economic activity for



businesses in proximity to the fast charging site. Public EV charging stations also provide charging opportunities for community members without access to home charging.

Applicants should indicate any interest in having charging station(s) installed within their proposed DRI boundary and identify any locations that have the space requirements/ characteristics listed below. If it is a privately owned site, please indicate owner interest in participation.

* **Upper-bound:** 5 parking spaces able to dedicate to fast charging (e.g. become EV-only), with 32' x 16' additional space for supporting power somewhere in lot that can be either in parking spots or on grassy areas within the property lines.

* **Lower-bound:** 3 parking spaces able to dedicate to charging, with 22' x 16' additional space for supporting power somewhere in lot that can be either in parking spots or on grassy areas within the property lines.

SUBMISSION

Applications from interested communities must be submitted electronically to the relevant Regional Economic Development Council at the email address in the table below. Proposals for areas within New York City must be sent to the relevant Office of the Borough President, which will select two applications for submission to the NYC Regional Economic Development Council.

- Capital Region NYS-CapitalDist@esd.ny.gov
Counties: Albany, Columbia, Greene, Saratoga, Schenectady, Rensselaer, Warren, Washington
- Central New York NYS-CentralNY@esd.ny.gov
Counties: Cayuga, Cortland, Madison, Onondaga, Oswego
- Finger Lakes NYS-FingerLakes@esd.ny.gov
Counties: Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming, Yates
- Long Island LIREDC@esd.ny.gov
Counties: Nassau, Suffolk
- Mid-Hudson NYS-MidHudson@esd.ny.gov
Counties: Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, Westchester
- Mohawk Valley NYS-MohawkVal@esd.ny.gov
Counties: Fulton, Herkimer, Montgomery, Oneida, Otsego, Schoharie
- North Country NYS-NorthCountry@esd.ny.gov
Counties: Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence
- Southern Tier NYS-SouthernTier@esd.ny.gov
Counties: Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Delaware, Schuyler, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins
- Western New York NYS-WNY-REDC@esd.ny.gov
Counties: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Niagara
- New York City - Submit to the appropriate office below.

- Bronx: James Rausse at jrausse@bronxnp.nyc.gov
- Brooklyn: Jeff Lowell at jlowell@brooklynnp.nyc.gov
- Manhattan: Elka Morety at emorety@manhattannp.nyc.gov
- Queens: Shurn Anderson at sanderson@queensnp.org
- Staten Island: Stephen Caracappa at scaracappa@statenislandusa.com