Downtown Revitalization Initiative – Round 5

Village of Spring Valley Downtown Revitalization

BASIC INFORMATION

- REDC Region: Mid-Hudson
- Municipality Name: Village of Spring Valley
- Downtown Name: Village of Spring Valley Downtown
- County Name: Rockland
- Applicant Contact Name & Title: Nida Sharif, Director of Community Development
- Applicant Contact Email & Phone: nsharif@villagespringvalley.org / (845) 517-1144
- Request Amount: $10,000,000

VISION FOR DOWNTOWN

The Village of Spring Valley, which takes its name from a large spring, was incorporated in 1902 and once served as the epicenter for vacation resorts and regional trading in the Mid-Hudson region. The Village is just 22 miles north of New York City, making it a desirable place to live for commuters as the heart of the Village’s downtown contains the Spring Valley Train Station. The Village seeks to rehabilitate its downtown by leveraging its rich cultural diversity and existing mixed land-used structures, which will attract individuals who have a desire to “live, work, and play” in the region, in accordance with the Mid-Hudson REDC’s goals.

Spring Valley has begun efforts to revitalize the downtown through the pursuit of applicable grant opportunities and the implementation of programming and services designed to improve the quality of life for existing residents. Funding assistance is required to complete downtown revitalization efforts as the Village lacks the financial resources to complete this transformative project autonomously. Spring Valley intends to use DRI funding to improve existing infrastructure, identify areas for new infrastructure development, improve accessibility, beautify the downtown, and complete additional improvements to aid in the attraction and retention of future public and private investment that will support workforce revitalization, improve government practices, and instill a sense of pride within the community.

JUSTIFICATION

The Village of Spring Valley is located just above Interstate 287 and west of the Interstate Palisades Parkway, which has the potential to attract new businesses and families seeking to move to a community that will provide them with the opportunity to easily travel throughout New York State. Spring Valley is less than a 10 minute drive from the Rockland Community College and less than 30 minutes from the Tappan Zee Bridge.

The Village is just 2.02 square miles in size, but has a population of 33,066, according to the results of the 2020 United States Census. This represents a 3.1% increase since 2010; however, it is widely understood that the actual population of Spring Valley is much higher as a result of the
community’s large immigrant population. For instance, the devastating 2010 Earthquake in Haiti led to a massive influx of Haitian immigrants to the Village. Spring Valley is incredibly diverse as 31.3% of the population are Hispanic/Latino and 33.7% are Black. Just over 40% of the Village’s residents were born in another county and almost 70% use a language other than English as the primary tool of communication at home. Spring Valley views the community’s diversity as a strength and intends to support these communities by collaborating with them to rehabilitate the downtown. Unfortunately, the Village has a staggering poverty rate of 26.2%, which results in an incredibly thin tax base, making it difficult to implement initiatives funded solely through the Village’s annual budget.

The vision of the proposed project is to lift the community out of poverty by becoming a regional workforce hub, desirable place to call home, and a destination for recreational activities. We want to improve the quality of life of our existing residents while simultaneously attracting new residents, visitors, and businesses. There are several planned initiatives, both physical and programmatic, that Spring Valley needs to capitalize upon in order to begin the level of growth needed to revitalize the community.

Spring Valley is a community in need. The community’s size has resulted in dense living and working conditions and the Village seeks to use this as an advantage through mixed land-use development and by enhancing accessibility throughout the downtown. Revitalizing downtown Spring Valley will have a meaningful impact in the region and will result in benefits not seen in this area in decades.

**DOWNTOWN IDENTIFICATION**

1) **Boundaries of Proposed DRI Area**

Spring Valley’s downtown is a compact space contained by Grove Street in the north, East Central Avenue in the south, South Madison Avenue and North Madison Avenue to the west, and Franklin Street and Centre Street to the east. The size of the downtown is less than half a square mile and the proposed project will encompass the entirety of the downtown due to its small size. The downtown is concentrated with small businesses including salons, restaurants, and markets, as well as municipal offices, childcare facilities, churches, a civic center, cultural arts center, and multi-story, mixed land-use structures. The downtown is also directly adjacent to Memorial Park, the Village’s largest recreational asset.

Downtown Spring Valley is distinctly urban in nature and prime for revitalization and accessibility improvements due to its central location in Rockland County and proximity to major routes of transportation.

A map of the Village of Spring Valley downtown catchment area and a map of the downtown catchment area in relation to the rest of the Village are included on the following pages.
2) Past Investment, Future Investment Potential

Past Investment

The Village of Spring Valley is a chronically poor community. In fact, the Village’s population reflects that 63.49% are Low-to-Moderate income persons. As a result, HUD designates that the entire Village of Spring Valley currently meets HUD’s LMI National Objective, making it eligible for federal funding for economic development projects and programs. This funding is often the only source of investment available to the Village due to a thin tax base from reduced private investment in the community in recent years. Capital projects funded autonomously through the Village budget are often completed out of necessity for the safety and well-being of the community. For instance, in 2017, the Village spent $226,372 for the required milling and paving of several roads within the community, including Franklin Street which serves as a major boundary road for the downtown. Spring Valley spent an additional $394,093 in 2017 for necessary concrete repairs throughout the Village, including in the downtown. A street sweeper vehicle was also purchased in 2017 for $193,109 in an effort to keep public spaces clean of litter and debris and to serve as a more attractive community for tourists and businesses. These efforts were continued in 2019 with the purchase of a new mason dump truck for $36,734. In 2019, Spring Valley also spent $27,125
to acquire a new lawn mower with a polar trac conversion which allows the Village to spread salt and remove snow during winter months in areas where large fleet vehicles cannot access.

Behan Planning and Design completed downtown design guidelines for Spring Valley in 2020 worth an estimated value of $20,000 through funding made available by the New York Main Street program. In 2019, the Village received a $125,000 State and Municipal Grant to upgrade the HVAC system, roofing, interior carpeting, plumbing, and tiles at the Louis Kurtz Civic Center, where a number of regional county departments operate local offices, including the Rockland County Department of Health, the Rockland County Department of Probation, the Rockland County Department of Social Services, the Rockland Council on Alcoholism & Other Drug Dependence, the Rockland County Emergency Rental Assistance Program, and Living Resources. Further, several additional independent organizations operate within the Civic Center, including the Children’s Village, Cluster Inc., Creative Response to Conflict, Living Resources Corporation, the Mental Health Association, and WestCOP. These offices provide residents of Spring Valley with accessible assistance to help them improve their quality of life. The Village’s large immigrant and low-income community necessitates the need for social services offices and organizations to be in close proximity. In 2021, Spring Valley received an additional $125,000 for the installation of a security surveillance system at the Civic Center and to complete necessary communal kitchen renovations.

In 2021, Spring Valley received $250,000 in grant funding to renovate a four-way intersection at Maple Avenue and Union Road, a major intersection just north of the downtown and $250,000 in 2016 for new equipment for the Department of Public Works. This equipment included a vehicle lift, catch basin cleaner, backhoe bucket, air compressor, F350 rack truck, and an F250 truck.

Although Spring Valley has been largely limited to grant awards to facilitate meaningful infrastructure improvements within and around the downtown, the Village has made other investments aimed at improving the quality of life of residents and to prepare for future development in the downtown. In 2019, the Village of Spring Valley updated its energy code standards for new construction and building modifications. The updates include specific requirements relating to construction documents, applications for building approvals of building permit applications, and inspections and tests to be performed during construction.

In 2015, a study was conducted regarding the feasibility of consolidating the Spring Valley Fire Department with surrounding municipal fire departments for a new fire district. While the feasibility study did not ultimately result in the creation of a new fire district, it was completed with the intention of finding ways to improve municipal services for the community.

Spring Valley has also sought to support local organizations as they work to improve the lives of the community. Between 2015 – 2020, the Village provided $515,780 to the Martin Luther King Multi-Purpose Center and $40,000 to Konbit Neg Lakay, a Haitian non-profit community organization. These investments represent the Village’s commitment to improving the quality of life of the community’s low-income and immigrant populations who have historically remained in or moved to Spring Valley when other populations have relocated.
The Spring Valley Office of Community Development serves as a liaison between residents and the local resources they need, including job referrals. Job fairs are regularly hosted by the Community Development Office where participants get assistance with company, training, and resource referrals, networking, job interview and application preparation, and general career guidance. These events are held to help struggling community members reenter the workforce, which will spur economic development within the community.

**Current/Future Investment**

Financial constraints have prevented the Village of Spring Valley from implementing large-scale infrastructure investments as doing so would compromise the Village’s ability to operate on a day-to-day basis. However, Spring Valley has implemented programming and services initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life and safety of residents.

A Core Task Force Group was established to help address the homeless issue in the downtown and surrounding areas. The task force consists of Helping Hands of Rockland, Catholic Charities, and other religious and local community organizations. The main objective of the task force is to bring homeless people back into the mainstream of society. The task force is seeking to accomplish this through the following initiatives:

- Shelter/Housing
- Health Care
- Resource Referral Center
- Education & Empowerment
- Socialization
- Spiritual Connection

The task force assigned organizations to address these initiatives and meet every two months with the full task force.

A needs assessment survey was conducted by the Core Task Force Group to identify the needs of the homeless people, with one of the top priorities being cleanliness. To satisfy this need, the task force is assisting Helping Hands of Rockland to raise funds to purchase a mobile shower unit, which will be utilized throughout Rockland County. This will provide homeless people with the basic dignity of cleanliness.

One of the main areas of focus for the near future is to work with Helping Hands of Rockland and other community resources to obtain mental health and substance abuse assistance for the Village’s homeless population, many of whom are undocumented and afraid to seek assistance.

The Village of Spring Valley Police Department is also in the process of implementing a new bicycle patrol unit to enhance patrols in the downtown. The purpose of this new initiative is to respond to former Governor Andrew Cuomo’s Executive Order 203, which mandated municipalities that employ police officers to actively engage community stakeholders to develop locally approved plans for strategies, policies, and procedures pertaining to local police agencies.

The Spring Valley Collaborative Committee to Study Police Reform developed a list of...
recommendations to improve community relations between the police department and the implementation of a bicycle patrol unit identified. The Village of Spring Valley will use allocated funding from the Justice Assistance Grant Program to purchase bicycles and requisite equipment for this new project. The intention of the project is to improve the relationship between the police department and community members by facilitating more face-to-face interactions which will foster trust in the Village with local law enforcement.

Moreover, the Village is currently working with the New York Power Authority to replace all 855 streetlights in Spring Valley as many of them are no longer functioning. This will improve lighting in the downtown, which will enhance safety and assist the police department in their patrols as they seek to reduce crime within the downtown.

3) Recent or Impending Job Growth

Spring Valley has historically been a center for trade due to its central location in Rockland County. Moreover, private investment within the Village contributed to the community’s early success and growth due to its close proximity to New York City, which helped Spring Valley serve as a vital commuter Village with the introduction of the railroad to the Mid-Hudson region.

In 2021, the Village submitted a grant application to the New York Department of State’s Smart Growth Comprehensive Planning Grant Program to obtain financial assistance in the drafting and implementation of a comprehensive plan. The incorporation of Smart Growth principles in a comprehensive plan will ensure that adequate efforts are given to the following major areas of focus:

- Mixed Land-Uses: The Village incorporates mixed land-uses primarily in the downtown. With many of the structures in the defined downtown in a state of disrepair, the Village will seek to improve the condition of the downtown to attract new businesses and spur local job growth.
- Density: Spring Valley will look to turn the density of the community into a strength whereas it is currently considered a detriment. A comprehensive plan will help Spring Valley to accommodate the Village’s large population by connecting them with the resources they need for long-term employment.
- Clean Energy and Green Infrastructure: The Village has a desire to invest in clean energy and green infrastructure in the near future. These investments will require substantial changes to the makeup of the downtown community, which will attract private businesses and potential residents seeking work in a growing sector of business.
- Regional Planning and Coordination: At present, the Village does not have the fiscal resources to conduct in-house planning for the long-term. Spring Valley will use a comprehensive plan to align and coordinate with Rockland County and New York State objectives, systems, and plans as represented in the Mid-Hudson REDC Strategic Plan and Rockland County’s Comprehensive Plan in an effort to maximize available resources for residents and businesses in need of assistance with employment.
- Variety of Mobility Choices: A major train station is located in the Village’s downtown, which connects commuters to Hoboken and then into Manhattan. The Village intends to
highlight public transportation in an attempt to encourage residents and small businesses to look at Spring Valley as a destination for work as it is the last stop on the New Jersey Pascack Valley Line.

- Walkable/Bikeable Neighborhood Design: As a compact community, it is a priority to provide walkable and bikeable spaces in the downtown to reduce vehicular congestion and reduce all barriers for downtown access, which will lead to future private investment.

It is widely understood that a comprehensive plan is a major contributing factor in the success of a municipality as the plan provides local officials and staff with a vision and framework for future activities and investments. Spring Valley is hopeful that a comprehensive plan can be drafted and approved during the DRI process so that revitalization initiatives in the downtown are incorporated into the plan.

As of May 2021, the Village’s unemployment rate had dropped to 4.2% as Spring Valley continues to rebound from being one of the hardest hit COVID-19 centers in the nation. This unemployment rate fared better than Rockland County at 4.3%, New York State at 7.8%, and the United States at 5.8%, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The low unemployment rate signifies that Spring Valley residents are returning to work quickly compared to other populations.

4) Quality of Life

Downtown Spring Valley is primed to support the improvement of the quality of life of the entire community. The vast majority of structures in the downtown are mixed land-use buildings that support both businesses and residents. While many of these structures have deteriorated in recent years, the improvement of these buildings will immediately contribute to the attractiveness and livability of the Village’s downtown. Most private apartments are above restaurants and other small businesses and if these buildings are improved it will help to support these small businesses as they look to not only rebound from COVID-19, but improve their business in the long-term as well.

The downtown also has the first/last stop on New Jersey Transit’s Pascack Valley Line, which means the downtown can be easily accessed by people who do not live in the downtown. Further, the location of this train station should be highlighted to entice potential residents to move to the downtown knowing public transportation is within walking distance of their home. One area of need is the addition of more walkable and bikeable spaces. The downtown is congested in a manner that is considered detrimental to the growth of the downtown. The Village hopes to leverage funding from DRI to become a more walkable community, which will in turn support local businesses as residents feel more comfortable walking.

The Village’s prominent immigrant population has also led to a variety of restaurants and markets representative of these cultures, which will prove instrumental in the growth of the downtown as Spring Valley seeks to attract residents and small businesses from various backgrounds who can find a new community or reconnect with a former community. There are also a number of churches in the downtown as well, which further strengthens the cultural bonds of the Village’s residents and ensures foot traffic on weekends.
In the north of the downtown is the Ramapo Cultural Arts Center, an event space that can accommodate up to 500 guests. The center has historically been used for screenings, exhibits, and local events. The improvement of the downtown will help to attract additional events to the arts center, ensuring that the downtown improves both culturally and financially.

The Village’s largest amenity is Memorial Park, which sits directly adjacent to the downtown. The park has the potential to serve as a major attraction for families and businesses due to its size, location, and number of amenities, which includes a playground, tennis courts, basketball courts, softball and soccer fields, a track, amphitheater, 9/11 Memorial, picnic area, and community pool. Moreover, Memorial Park is used on a regular basis for festivals, carnivals, protests, and marches, which helps to draw visitors near the downtown. Downtown revitalization can help retain these visitors and bring them back outside of their visits to Memorial Park.

5) Supportive Local Policies

Spring Valley updated its energy code standards in 2019 for new construction and building modifications in an attempt to ensure that future development within the Village adheres to twenty-first century climate-resilient standards. The updates included specific requirements relating to construction documents, applications for building approvals of building permit applications, and inspections and tests to be performed during construction.

As stated, the Village lacks the fiscal capacity to conduct in-house long-term planning for the downtown. However, the Village has sought to support the livability and quality of life in the downtown through the implementation of initiatives and programming. These initiatives include the formation of a task force to address the issue of a rising homeless population in Spring Valley to improve shelter and housing, health care, access to resources and education, and socialization and spiritual connections. A Section 8 Housing Waitlist Lottery program was also implemented in an attempt to facilitate the connection of low-income residents with affordable housing, including in the downtown.

The Office of Community Development, which serves as a direct liaison between residents and Spring Valley, provides access to job referral, job fairs, training, networking, and application and interview preparation. This office was created with the specific intention of helping the under- and unemployed enter the workforce to boost local economic development. The Office of Community Development will serve an integral role in completion of the downtown revitalization by ensuring public input and access to newly available resources through the revitalization of the downtown.

6) Public Support

The Village of Spring Valley has made it a priority to obtain input from stakeholders regarding downtown revitalization. Since 2020, the Village has solicited feedback from business owners, local organizations, and residents regarding their concerns with future development and rehabilitation in the downtown. In 2020, Spring Valley retained the services of Behan Planning and Design to develop a set of practical streetscape and architectural design recommendations for Village staff, property owners, and architects to refer to when renovating an existing façade or constructing a new building. Obtained feedback was largely consistent with what the Village
expected. Survey participants noted that existing issues within the downtown were traffic congestion, a lack of streetscape amenities, a lack of design unity, bland facades, and vacant or overgrown areas. Positive feedback included the downtown’s proximity to a train station, its use of mixed land-use developments, and cultural diversity. 78% of survey responses indicated a high level of interest in façade improvements. Additional feedback included:

- Expanding mixed land-used development to grow a customer base
- Improving parking, adding street meters, and creating a pedestrian only street
- New signage
- New fencing and improved cleanliness

In 2021, the Village obtained additional feedback from the public regarding downtown revitalization. A questionnaire was made publicly available for feedback regarding desirable projects and initiatives the community would like to see implemented with DRI grant funding. The Village intends to use this input when developing plans for revitalization in the downtown. As of September 2021, the Village has obtained feedback from Rockland United Crusade, the Haitian American Nurses Association of Hudson Valley, the Haitian American Cultural and Social Organization, the Kidsnett Child Care Program, the Finkelstein Memorial Library, and individual residents. Feedback related to the improvement of the downtown includes:

- More cultural arts programming
- Museum/historical information
- Use of renewable energy for new development
- Introduction of electric vehicle charging stations
- Introduction of parking meters
- Pedestrian walking improvements
- More general office space
- Dedicated office space for various local non-profits
- Performing arts center
- Road improvements
- More educational, arts, and employment engagement for youth
- More support for small businesses

Spring Valley is a diverse community with many residents relying heavily on the Village to improve their quality of life through programming and local services. As such, a close relationship exists between residents and Village staff. This relationship will prove instrumental as Spring Valley seeks to become a DRI community and transform the makeup of its downtown.

7) Transformative Opportunities and Readiness

There are several transformative projects that can be initiated with DRI funding. As stated, the Village has historically lacked the fiscal capacity to carry out long-term planning for transformative projects with assistance at the local, state, and federal level. A number of planning projects have been completed in recent years that can be immediately implemented to improve the downtown area.
Existing Sidewalk/Road Repairs and Improvements: Spring Valley’s infrastructure has experienced years of deterioration as the Village has been unable to make necessary repairs and upgrades in the downtown autonomously. Within 1-2 years of a DRI award, the Village of Spring Valley will be able to make all necessary sidewalk and road repairs within the designated downtown catchment area.

Improvements to roads in the downtown will consist of the addition of a dedicated bike lane and designated street parking spaces. The installation of parking meters will also be accomplished with DRI funding. This will serve as a source of revenue for the Village and will help to organize parked vehicles in the catchment area.

Green Infrastructure/Flood Mitigation: In 2019, CivilTec Engineering + Surveying completed a feasibility study to study green infrastructure practices that would reduce stormwater flooding in Spring Valley, and in particular, Main Street in the downtown. CivilTec identified areas of the downtown and Memorial Park that routinely flood during typical storm events and found that the pond in Memorial Park often overflowed into the downtown. This issue has proven costly for the Village as the Spring Valley Police Department is needed to re-direct traffic around flooded areas, resulting in overtime costs.

CivilTec determined that a bioretention area and tree planting in Memorial Park, specifically near the park’s pond, would reduce flooding in the downtown. The Village would be able to implement this green infrastructure practice within 1-2 years of a DRI award since the feasibility study has already been completed.

Facade/Sign/Streetscape Improvements: In 2020, Spring Valley received funding through the New York Main Street Grant Program for technical assistance to complete design guidelines for the downtown. The guidelines were created to:

1) Improve the overall visual quality of the Village’s commercial center
2) Help maintain an attractive look and feel of local architecture
3) Improve cohesiveness and create design unity, while maintaining diversity
4) Improve the pedestrian experience and neighborhood atmosphere

The guidelines developed by Behan Planning and Design apply to:

1) Alterations to existing building facades, signs, streetscapes, and construction of new buildings, signs, and streetscapes
2) Materials, including windows and doors, signs, exterior lighting, roof design, awnings and façade accessories
3) Street trees and plantings, sidewalk dimensions and materials, creative interim use of street frontage, and building setbacks for future development

The completion of design guidelines for the downtown will expedite the revitalization process for Spring Valley as there is a clear vision in place regarding how best to improve the physical aspect of the downtown. The Village is confident that façade, sign, and streetscape improvements can be made within 1-2 years of a DRI award as a result of the design guidelines in possession of the Village.
Traffic/Parking Improvements: Congestion remains one of the most prevalent issues plaguing the downtown area of Spring Valley. As a small community just 2.02 square miles in size, traffic naturally flows through Main Street, which is the Village’s busiest road for drivers. Residents have regularly requested bike lanes for commuters and dedicated parking spaces for vehicles parked on the street as it is widely believed that this will alleviate congestion in the downtown.

In 2021, Spring Valley submitted a grant application to the Empire State Development Planning and Feasibility Study Grant Program to conduct a traffic and parking study in the downtown. The purpose of this project is to:

1) Study traffic patterns in and out of the area
2) Determine 24-hour traffic volume levels
3) Review extent and location of public transportation opportunities and pedestrian access
4) Features to facilitate the movement of pedestrians
5) Opportunities to increase parking supply
6) Review parking regulations and
7) Provide an assessment of transportation conditions to identify measures to mitigate future issues

The Village anticipates that the traffic study will be completed in time to supplement DRI activities.

Solar Panel Installation: The Village has a desire to utilize solar panels in the downtown to reduce energy costs for residents, small businesses, and municipal offices, and to reduce the Spring Valley’s carbon footprint. The Village has identified several structures in the downtown catchment area for solar panel installation. DRI funding will allow Spring Valley to confirm which structures can obtain solar panels, estimated energy savings, and project costs, which will allow the Village to begin the installation process within 1-2 years of an award.

Electric Vehicle Charging Station Installation: As stated, Spring Valley is chronically poor community with a federal poverty rate of 26.2%. As such, the Village has not identified a pressing need for electric vehicle charging installation for residents; however, the Village understands that electric vehicle charging stations will encourage residents to invest in electric vehicles and will help to attract future development opportunities for the Village. Spring Valley is confident that charging stations can be installed as a result of street and sidewalk enhancements.

Mixed Land-Use Development: The downtown area of Spring Valley is known for its mixed land-use structures. While a number of these structures will require repairs, the Village is confident that the construction of new mixed land-use structures can be designed for the downtown. Confirmation of this new development will be obtained during the planning process.

Kurtz Civic Center Community Initiatives: The Kurtz Civic Center has quickly become a hub for regional services for Rockland County and local residents. County offices and independent organizations utilize the Civic Center in order to have a presence in Spring Valley due to the high level of need in the community. Notification of an award would allow Spring Valley to attract additional organizations and groups with similar objectives of improving the quality of life for
residents. Moreover, improvements to the Civic Center will allow the Village to accommodate additional groups seeking to set up a local office in the community.

8) Administrative Capacity

Spring Valley has a team in place who have both the requisite experience and capacity to lead project development, grant management, and coordination responsibilities. The Village understands that a Local Planning Committee comprised of local and regional leaders, stakeholders, and community representatives, and members of the Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council, will meet regularly to facilitate planning activities with the Village of Spring Valley.

Project Management

The Village’s Director of Community Development, Nida Sharif, will serve as project director. Ms. Sharif will be responsible for overseeing grant activities and certifying that project fiscal and program progress reports are accurate. Ms. Sharif has served in her role since 2018 and has over a decade of experience managing community development projects and will ensure compliance with the Regional Economic Development Council’s standards. She has a Master of Business Administration in Management and Personnel Administration. Ms. Sharif will be assisted by Althea Hutchinson, the Village’s Grant Specialist. Ms. Hutchinson will assist Ms. Sharif in coordination efforts between the Local Planning Committee, Consultant Team, State Team, and municipal staff. Ms. Hutchinson will also assist with required documentation and reporting, as needed.

Fiscal Management

The Village Treasurer, Arlene Karger, will be responsible for all fiscal management requirements. Responsibilities will include the verified execution of check preparation and fiscal file maintenance. Ms. Karger will be assisted by Andrew Gioseffi, Deputy Village Treasurer. Recent fiscal grant management examples include:

- Department of Justice COPS Hiring: $1,020,664 to hire additional officers for Spring Valley Police Department.
- Empire State Development: $350,000 for the construction of a mixed-use apartment complex for low-to-moderate income families.
- Empire State Development: $2,500,000 for the construction of a mixed-use apartment complex for low-to-moderate income families.

9) Other

As made clear, the Village of Spring Valley is a community in desperate need of revitalization. A thin tax base, lack of private investment, and rising crime have all contributed to the community’s deteriorating condition. In fact, Spring Valley is home to roughly 10% of Rockland County’s overall population yet is the location of approximately 33% of the total violent crimes within the County annually, according to DCJS UCR County and Agency Statistics.
A third (33.1%) of the Village’s population is under the age of 18 and Spring Valley has made efforts to reduce the level of criminal activity among youth in the community. A prominent youth population exacerbates the need to revitalize the downtown so that the Village can prepare this group for future employment and living opportunities in Spring Valley.

The Village is comprised of vulnerable populations and the revitalization of the downtown will fulfill a major goal to improve the lives of residents and small businesses in the community. An award will allow Spring Valley to focus future financial investments in other areas of the Village that are in need, which will ultimately help to raise the community out of poverty. The Downtown Revitalization Initiative will truly transform the Village of Spring Valley from a deteriorating municipality into an example of how combined efforts and a unified vision can create a new identity for a community.

The Village of Spring Valley would like to thank the Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council for the opportunity to submit a proposal and your valued consideration of our request.