



2022 NY Forward | Round 1 | CNY Region

# Village of Hamilton

Prepared by: Partnership for Community Development, Jocelyn Gavitt, Executive Director | [jgavitt@hamiltonpcd.org](mailto:jgavitt@hamiltonpcd.org)



VILLAGE OF HAMILTON  
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Mayor:  
RuthAnn S. Loveless  
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Village Administrator:  
Jim Stokes  
Village Treasurer:  
Mary Ann Henderson  
Village Clerk:  
Kim Taranto

May 30, 2019

James P. Fayle, Regional Director  
CNY Regional Economic Development Council  
620 Erie Boulevard West, Suite 112  
Syracuse, NY 13204

Dear Mr. Fayle,

On behalf of the Village of Hamilton I am delighted to submit our application for the 2019 Downtown Revitalization Initiative Grant. We are pleased and grateful to Governor Cuomo for understanding the importance of investing in New York's municipalities as we strive to create more attractive communities and strengthen economic development.

Hamilton is a beautiful, historic village with engaged residents who freely give of their time and expertise, adding to our quality of life. Colgate University is also an active partner and enriches our community in countless ways. Hamilton is poised to make great strides as we look to the future and celebrate "Hamilton 2030" but our needs are many.

The importance of strategic and long-range planning cannot be minimized and preparing for this important grant encouraged us to think creatively and engage our residents in thought provoking forums. In addition, the collaborative spirit of our many partners/stakeholders has never been stronger, and we are poised to create a model community that will fulfill the vision of Governor Cuomo to revitalize the upstate region.

However, to be successful and make our dreams a reality we require additional financial help. To this end, we are grateful to the Governor and the Regional Development Council for providing this wonderful opportunity for the Village of Hamilton. Thank you for your consideration.

With best wishes,

  
RuthAnn Speer Loveless

Mayor  
Village of Hamilton  
315-824-1111  
[mayer@hamilton-ny.gov](mailto:mayer@hamilton-ny.gov)



## Introduction

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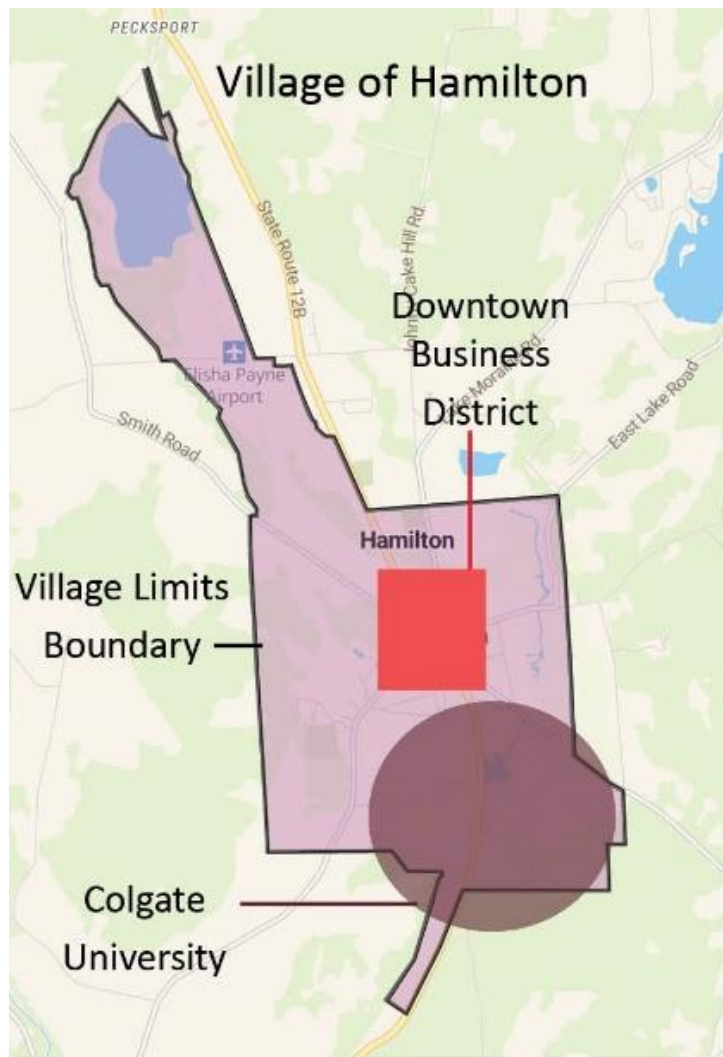
Hamilton is a compact historic village in the midst of rural Madison County. Hamilton has the amenities and feel of a small city and the beauty of a working rural landscape. It is home to Colgate University, a liberal-arts college that has shaped much of Hamilton's identity and created both opportunities and challenges. We are defined in large part by our dual nature – town and gown, village and countryside. Many of the challenges we currently face are a product of these dichotomies, but ultimately, our duality is also our greatest strength. It has allowed Hamilton to become an anchor for the whole region. Hamilton strives to be a place where the new and the traditional converge to form a community that embraces both. Hamilton will use NY Forward to continue becoming truly accessible and equitable for all who come here, whether for only a few years or for a lifetime.



## Location and Boundary

Hamilton is located in the near center of New York State, making it accessible within an hour from Syracuse, Cortland, Utica and many other smaller communities like Norwich. Hamilton, due to its relative isolation, is the commercial center for thousands of rural residents of Central New York. Its restaurants, bars, shops, and other amenities serve a population that would otherwise need to drive great lengths to reach a larger sized commercial district.

Downtown Hamilton also serves the student population of Colgate University and receives frequent traffic from alumni and students' families during and outside the academic year. Colgate hosts reunions, sports camps and other events throughout the summer months. Summer in Hamilton also sees a large number of visitors from the Bouckville Antique Fair, cycling groups, Open Farm Day, and other events around the community.



The proposed DRI area includes the village limits of Hamilton, as all projects are located within its borders. The majority of the projects fall within the downtown center area, with a few others located as infill projects on the periphery of the core to maintain density in the village.





## Vision and Goals

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*“Hamilton will be a vibrant downtown center accessible to the community, the university, and the greater region.”*

### Accessible Workforce Housing

Housing access in Hamilton is reaching crisis levels. We have constantly seen an unmet need for housing for our labor force, including teachers, nurses, and college administrative staff. When our workers have to go far afield to find housing, our institutions and small businesses suffer and we lose the vitality of new people in our community. We will ensure that our community stays livable for all the people that work in our institutions and make both town and college function.

### Accessible Entrepreneurship

We are continuing to evolve Hamilton’s entrepreneurial ecosystem into a network of resources that can support local businesses at every stage of their formation and growth. We have made significant progress toward fulfilling this vision, but there are still gaps to be filled. For example, many entrepreneurs express difficulty finding affordable space to expand their operations locally. We will use NY Forward funding to close these gaps and create new opportunities for local and regional business growth.

### Accessible Civic Spaces

Hamilton’s most valuable asset is its unique character. We have a strong sense of place created by our distinctive buildings and streetscapes and by the many groups and institutions that collaborate every day to strengthen Hamilton’s community life. Hamilton has a beautiful, interesting built environment, but there are aspects of our infrastructure that prevent us from creating a fully vibrant, lively atmosphere in our downtown. There are still gaps in walkability to be addressed, as well as a need for wider-scale electric vehicle access and public transit, including accommodations for people with disabilities. We will use NY Forward to create civic spaces that enhance Hamilton’s character and make our downtown welcoming to residents and visitors using all forms of transportation.

## Past Investment/Future Potential

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Hamilton is ready to capitalize on past investments in our downtown and beyond. Using ESD, CDBG, and other public and private funding, we have established a foundation that will catalyze further growth and improvement. We have several anchor institutions, most prominently Colgate University. We also have underutilized properties well-positioned for redevelopment into dynamic spaces that will invite our student and college employee population into our downtown. Our past work demonstrates our ongoing commitment to our vision and goals. We have invested in downtown infrastructure and business growth, village housing development, connection to arts and recreation, and fostering rich, vibrant community life. We have also participated in programs like Climate Smart Communities and Clean Energy Communities.

In 1998, the Village of Hamilton partnered with the Town of Hamilton and Colgate University to form a community development organization that could work on a regional scale. The result was The Partnership for Community Development (PCD), a 501c3 nonprofit organization that regularly secures grants and works with other community organizations. Over the past four years, the PCD has invested significantly in The Hub, the only New York Certified Business Incubator in southern Madison County. In addition to a co-working space, the incubator is also a hub for the PCD's grant activities, business education and mentoring, and marketing for the local business committee. Among their most recent initiatives is a community gift card program that will be marketed heavily to Colgate students and their families. People will purchase the cards online or in participating local businesses and use them like an ordinary credit card, giving them an easy incentive to shop locally.

Since 2019, the community has been invested in moving forward to 2030 with a sense of purpose. Colgate University had its bicentennial celebration that year and approved its Third Century Plan. The plan is a comprehensive overview of the university's long-term goals and aspirations. The same year, the PCD and the Hamilton community worked on the Hamilton 2030 initiative, a series of public engagement sessions that covered pressing issues like housing and climate preparedness. Colgate and Hamilton have a long-standing strong relationship that has produced significant benefits for Hamilton, including Community Memorial Hospital and the Hamilton municipal electric department. These strong foundations will allow us to use NY Forward as a transformative opportunity for Hamilton.

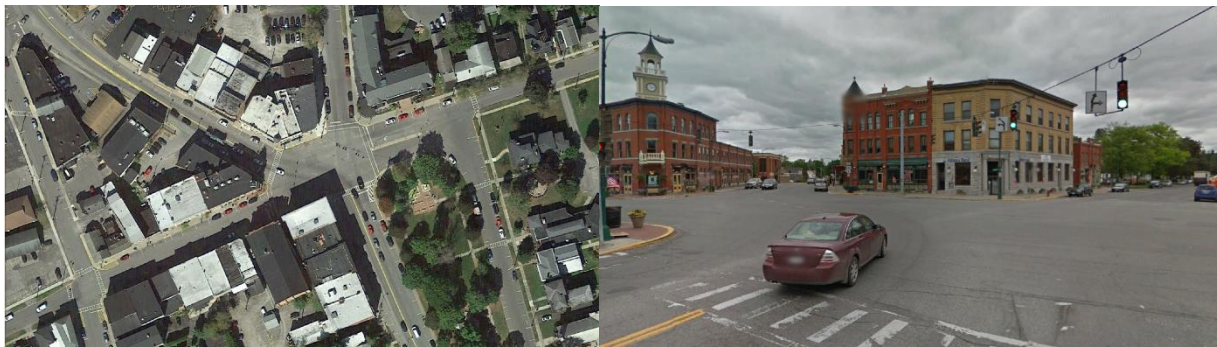


### Keystone Projects to Build Upon

The following are two keystone projects currently planned for Hamilton. We have an opportunity to build on the momentum and disruption caused by the construction of these transformative projects.



**18-22 Utica St.:** The Hamilton Initiative, LLC, whose sole member is Colgate University, has plans to invest an estimated \$25 million in an 88,000 sf building. It will have 39 residential units above ground floor commercial space between Utica Street and Madison Street in the heart of the Village of Hamilton. The apartments will be one and two-bedroom units geared toward young professionals such as Colgate staff. The project will revitalize an underutilized building in our downtown core and create much-needed infill housing. It will add significant retail space frontage on both the Utica Street façade and the Madison Street Façade. This project will add significant population to the village core at all times of day.



**Hamilton Five-Way Intersection:** NYSDOT has plans to redevelop Hamilton’s central intersection within the next few years. The five-way intersection is a prominent and unique feature of Hamilton, but currently it hinders downtown walkability and accessibility. Existing issues include long crosswalks and wait times, as well as the visual character of a large expanse of asphalt separating downtown blocks from one another. An estimated \$14 million is allocated to the street project. This redevelopment is a unique opportunity to address these issues and create a streetscape that enhances the downtown and makes it accessible to everyone. A more compact intersection with pedestrian-friendly streetscape features will allow for significant expansion and alterations to adjacent public spaces. The timing of this project is an opportunity to collaborate for a holistic outcome.

### Housing

Project	Cost
18-22 Utica Street	\$25,000,000
Chenango Hill Development	\$8,500,000
Home Improvement Grants	\$300,00
Hamilton Housing Study	\$50,000

### Entrepreneurship

Project	Cost
Good Nature Farm Brewery expansion	\$4,000,000
CDBG Microenterprise grants	\$300,000
Other micro-grant programs	\$370,000
ESD Incubator grant	\$625,000
FoJo Beans retail expansion	\$250,000
PCD Small Business Fund	\$100,000
Flour & Salt Bakery expansion	\$90,000
RW3 Depot	\$175,000

### Infrastructure

Project	Cost
Village of Hamilton Municipal Natural Gas	\$7,500,000
Village of Hamilton Wastewater Treatment Plant	\$11,000,000
Hamilton Airpark utilities and infrastructure	\$2,640,000
Hamilton Airpark Opportunity Assessment and Redevelopment Plan	\$50,000
Five-Way Intersection	\$14,000,000
Electric car charging stations	



## Community Life

Project	Cost
Hamilton Theater renovation	\$1,500,000
Chenango Canal Towpath Trail extension and resurfacing plan	\$10,000
GoSoMad.com	\$13,000
This Is Hamilton & Hamilton Farmers' Market branding	\$25,000

## Recent/Impending Job Growth

Over the past several years, Hamilton has seen growth and reinvestment that has helped bring jobs back to the area. State grants and private investments have helped our business community create innovative new job growth opportunities. Since 2015, the PCD has worked directly with over 150 businesses and helped create at least 41 full-time equivalent jobs using over \$1.5 million in CDBG and other grant funding. Additionally, the PCD regularly provides education, mentoring, networking, and other services for entrepreneurs.



Community Memorial Hospital is an award-winning anchor institution in Hamilton that employs almost 400 people and serves 45,000 people in 27 communities in the area. Over the last two years, they undertook an expansion project that added ten new jobs. The Hamilton Airpark, a business park located adjacent to the Hamilton Airport, has also seen growth in the last few years. All of the non-aviation portions of the Airpark are now fully occupied by businesses, including manufacturing and warehousing facilities with plans to create 30

new jobs.

Colgate is a powerful engine of job growth, but it is often a challenge for them to fill available positions. One major reason for this is not enough diverse housing for new employees. Our smaller businesses and institutions have all faced this challenge as well. In order to grow sustainably, Hamilton needs to address this issue that prevents us from maintaining a robust local workforce.



## Quality of Life

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Hamilton is a compact, walkable village with the character of a small urban center surrounded by working rural landscapes. Colgate University attracts a diverse population of people from many different cultures and backgrounds and provides activities and spaces that our small community would otherwise not be able to sustain. The amenities of a vibrant college town are attractive not only to students, but to small businesses and residents of all ages. Our walkability, arts and culture, local food, outdoor recreation, and more form the strong sense of place that is our most valuable asset for attracting and retaining population. We want to encourage students to stay post-graduation, attract new young professionals and families, and allow existing residents to age in place. As we work to achieve this goal and reach our full potential as a vibrant, interconnected community, we are building on a strong foundation of existing partnerships and assets.





### Historic Downtown

Hamilton's historic district is listed on the National Register of Historic Places because of its many well-preserved examples of 1890s architecture. Our commercial district is small, but packed with unique locally-owned businesses. We also host the Hamilton Farmers' Market on the Village Green every May to October. The market attracts over eighty vendors from all over Madison and Chenango Counties, including women and veteran-owned businesses, organic and grass-fed producers, and many others doing innovative work in small agribusiness. Two of our successful downtown businesses, FoJo Beans Coffee Roasters and Flour & Salt Bakery, spent many years as farmers' market staples before opening their retail locations. At other times, the Village Green hosts other events like our summer concert series and serves as a general meeting place and center for Village life.

### Arts & Culture

Downtown Hamilton includes Arts at the Palace, which hosts a variety of concerts, live theater and youth classes, and our movie theater, which hosts the annual Hamilton International Film Festival in July. The Village of Hamilton hosts its Concerts on the Green series every summer as well, which includes local bands and activities for kids. The university offers many cultural programs that are available to community members. The Lifelong Learning program sponsored by Colgate's Upstate Institute provides ongoing education for adults in a variety of fields. At the annual Living Writers program, participants discuss a wide variety of acclaimed works of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama. Community members can also apply to take part in the Colgate Writers' Conference, an intensive program designed to nurture aspiring writers at every stage. In addition to these programs, many of Colgate University's exhibitions, guest lectures, and music and theater performances are open to residents throughout the year.





### Recreation

Southern Madison County is a hub for outdoor recreation. The eight-mile Chenango Canal Towpath Trail has two entrances within downtown Hamilton. The Colgate hiking trails and Lake Moraine are also popular destinations located near Hamilton. Visitors and new residents to the area can familiarize themselves with our many recreational assets through GoSoMad.com, an interactive website with a map and descriptions of trails, lakes, and more in southern Madison County.

### Infrastructure

Hamilton has its own municipal electric distribution company that supplies low-cost electricity to the entire village and has invested in low-cost municipal natural gas service. These energy initiatives help keep energy costs low for residents and businesses. The Colgate Cruiser, Colgate's student bus service, is free and available for anyone to use to get around the village and nearby areas. Along with these large investments, small beautification initiatives on the Village Green and the downtown streetscapes keep our downtown an attractive place for residents, students, and college employees to linger and socialize.





## Local Policies

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– In 1998, the Village partnered with the Town of Hamilton and Colgate University to create The Partnership for Community Development, a nonprofit organization that could facilitate collaboration between its three partners and give our community the capacity to do far-reaching community improvement projects. The PCD’s mission is “to enhance sustainable economic development and community vitality” in Hamilton and the surrounding areas. Since its creation, the PCD has been active in the community and secured millions of dollars’ worth of state and private funding for a wide variety of community development projects.

– In 2020, Hamilton became a Bronze Certified Climate Smart Community. This success was thanks to the Hamilton Climate Preparedness Working Group, a group made up of representatives from the Village, Town, Colgate, and the community. The group also created the Village’s municipal Climate Action Plan, which lays out the Village’s goals for decreasing carbon emissions in its municipal operations, primarily energy efficiency and transportation.

– The Hamilton Housing Study completed in 2019 outlines our housing needs and challenges and contains a detailed analysis of how many housing units we can absorb over the next ten years. We are using this document as our roadmap to bring diverse new housing to the Village.

– In 2018, the PCD partnered with an Upstate Institute fellow to conduct a walkability audit of the Village that defined gaps in walkability and accessibility of our streets and sidewalks.

– The Village’s zoning code was updated in 2017 and incorporates smart growth principles to preserve our compact village character.

## Public Support

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This year, Hamilton worked in tandem with Cazenovia and Morrisville to submit a joint application to the DRI as well as individual applications to NY Forward. On August 29th the three communities held a joint public meeting in Morrisville to refine our vision and identify priority projects. At the meeting, the Hamilton representatives gathered feedback about community concerns and priorities for Hamilton. Two follow-up surveys were provided online, one for all residents and one specifically for college students and employees.

Our goals and proposed projects also build upon other recent community initiatives, including the Hamilton Housing Study and the PCD’s outreach to the local business community through The Hub. These ongoing efforts have shown us the community’s greatest concerns and highest priorities for Hamilton’s future.

## Projects



The projects included in this proposal are all located within the village limits of Hamilton. A large number are concentrated in the historic downtown village core area. The projects as described in the following pages have been categorized by Housing, Civic Spaces, Business Development, and Arts, Culture and Recreation.

# Housing

In 2019, Hamilton worked with a consulting firm to complete the Hamilton Housing Study, a detailed outline of our housing needs and challenges. The study confirmed what we had already suspected – that our housing market is “stuck” and requires intervention. One factor is the age and size of the existing housing stock. Older, bigger homes require more substantial renovations, which increases the actual cost of moving in. Another factor is the presence of the university creating a demand for not only short-term student housing, but short-term rentals for visitors. People now buy houses with the intention of renting them out through companies like Airbnb or privately. These buyers are often able to outbid ordinary homebuyers, driving up housing prices overall, and housing that could have accommodated new population for our schools and our community is removed from the market. Without intentional focus on facilitating infill development, our housing market will remain stagnate and Hamilton will continue to lose out on new population and new community vitality.



## 1. NEXT GENERATION HOUSING

Location: Hamilton Village, Milford Street

Impact: 40-50 units of workforce housing

Partner: Housing Visions

Budget: \$15 Million

DRI Investment: **\$2M**

Hamilton has identified a significant need for housing of all types and this project serves to meet an affordable portion of that need by removing blighted buildings along an old railroad corridor and implementing a new housing community that builds off recent adjacent commercial, office and rail-trail improvements. This project will transform an existing blighted area into a thriving neighborhood. The new housing units will act as an infill to the village center, with the downtown core, schools, parks, and college all within walking distance. The project is uniquely situated to take advantage of the rail trail and the architectural typologies associated with the train depot. Partnering with Housing Visions, the village has an opportunity to tap into funding that will provide long-term, well-maintained housing options for the workforce.



## 2. COLEMAN COURT POCKET NEIGHBORHOOD

Location: 45 Madison Street

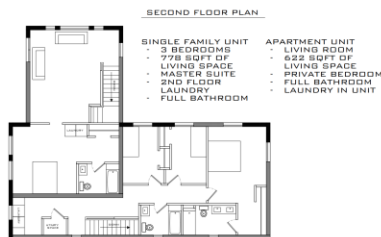
Impact: Regional Business Development Services

Partner: Stephen and Melissa Rock, Owners

Budget: \$7,000,000

DRI Investment: **\$1,500,000**

The Coleman Court housing development will be located within 500 yards of Hamilton's main intersection and 250 yards of Hamilton's general store and pharmacy. The owners have partnered with STREAM Collaborative of Ithaca and Depot Engineering Services of Guilford to design a pocket neighborhood made of single-family homes, townhomes and apartments. When completed, this development would generate over \$200K in tax revenue annually. As currently designed, this infill development will require nearly \$1M in infrastructure improvements before the first home is constructed.



MODEL 1.5: ONE-FAMILY RESIDENCE + APARTMENT  
CANAL TERRACE PARK, HAMILTON, NY

## 3. CANAL TERRACE NEIGHBORHOOD AND PARK

Location: Eaton Street

Impact: Phase 1: 7 housing units, Phase 2: 14 housing units and 25 acres of parkland

Partner: Todd Thomsen Design and Construction

Budget: \$5,000,000

Canal Terrace Park is a proposed development in the Village that includes 21 new homes and a new public park. The units will be affordable by including accessory apartments and duplexes. Phase 1 will provide 7 new residential units for the Village, totaling 10,000 square feet of new residential living space for the community. Phase 2 will provide an additional 20,000 square feet of new residential living space in 14 units, 25 acres of public park including hiking trails connecting to the Chenango Canal Towpath Trail, and public parking. The initial steps for Phase 1 of this project are underway; the land has been acquired, engineering of the utility extensions has been finalized, and preliminary planning board approval has been granted.



## Accessible and Prominent Civic Spaces

A large part of Hamilton’s strong sense of place is the beautiful, distinctive built environment created by our historic buildings, streetscapes, and green spaces. Through building and streetscape renovations, we have invested in creating a welcoming human-scale downtown that people want to spend time in. Still, there are gaps in walkability and accessibility that need to be addressed and opportunities to turn underutilized features into small civic spaces. NY Forward is an opportunity to create new public spaces that make our downtown feel welcoming to people using all forms of transportation.



### 4. HAMILTON 5-WAY INTERSECTION

Location: Downtown Center – Utica St & Broad St.

Impact: Improve traffic and create significant civic space.

Partner: NYS DOT

Budget: \$4M

NY Forward Investment: **\$2,000,000**

NYS DOT and the Village of Hamilton are planning to redesign the central 5-way intersection to improve traffic, enhance pedestrian access and return excess asphalt pavement to pedestrian/civic spaces. Opportunity exists to create plazas, improve sidewalk life, ensure accessibility, and define the community core. A NY Forward award would add enhancement of newly created civic spaces to the \$14 Million NYSDOT realignment investment.



### 5. HAMILTON GREEN / COLGATE CONNECTION

Location: Broad Street

Impact: Public amenities and enhanced pedestrian connection to Colgate University

Partner: Village, Colgate University

Budget: \$1.5 Million

NY Forward Investment: **\$500,000**

Hamilton’s village green is a highly used public gathering space. Opportunities exist to enhance the green with updated public amenities such as bathrooms, skating area and pavilion, and a stronger pedestrian connection to Colgate. The green is flanked by two-way streets on each side, the eastern one could be optimized to better accommodate pedestrians and cyclists, and extend the character of the iconic “Willow Path” on Colgate’s Campus



## 6. ALLEYWAY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Location: Multiple locations Downtown Hamilton

Impact: Creation of civic spaces in alley ways.

Partner: Village

Budget: \$150,000

NY Forward Investment: **\$150,000**

Because of the dense character of our business district, Hamilton has a large number of alleyways between buildings. Most of these are currently vacant and unattractive. We will implement a revolving fund to turn these alleyways into small public spaces, modeled after Lebanon Street Alley, a former PCD initiative.



## 7. ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS

Location: Downtown Center

Impact: Accessibility to electric charging

Partner: Village

Budget: \$1.5 Million

NY Forward Investment: **\$500,000**

Hamilton's downtown serves an ever-growing population of citizens working to use energy efficiently. The increasing use of electric charged vehicles demands opportunities for charging. This project seeks to provide a service in high demand for this area. We would strategically locate multiple charging stations in various locations throughout the village.

# Business Development

Hamilton has invested significantly in creating an entrepreneurial ecosystem that can serve businesses across the region, at every stage of business development. Small businesses are essential to keeping rural communities like ours vital. Through the PCD and the Hamilton Business Alliance, entrepreneurs can access education, grants, mentoring, and other resources that often can't be found elsewhere in the region. Our work with NY Forward and The Hub will continue to fill the gaps in our entrepreneurial ecosystem and make Hamilton a regional center for small business resources.



## 8. HAMILTON COMMUNITY ROOM

Location: Downtown Core

Impact: Community Room and Coworking Space

Partner: Hamilton Initiative, Partnership for

Community Development, HUB

Budget: \$800,000

NY Forward Investment:

**\$400,000**

Madison County's only New York Certified Business Incubator, the Hub, was created in Hamilton in partnership with Colgate University's Thought Into Action Program. This business incubator and coworking space is operating in a space that will be demolished and replaced with a mixed-use building. Hamilton Initiative owns and manages 12 properties in the downtown core and will partner with Partnership for Community Development and The Hub to provide a community space that links with the Coworking and Incubator spaces. The above photo is an example of a precedent public community room workspace.

The HUB has identified an opportunity for expansion of services across the region and within the Hamilton community. This project proposes to implement a community space open to business members for informal work meetings. The Hub plans to expand its programming reach to neighboring communities, including working with Caz CoWorks and Cornell Cooperative Extension. The open community space works as a barrier free entry point for businesses to make use of the HUB's incubating and networking offerings.

## Arts, Culture and Recreation

Hamilton's identity as a rural college town gives us a uniquely multi-faceted public life, in which our residents have equal access to a rural trail network and high-quality arts and theater. Hamilton is fortunate to have many active community partners always coming up with new ideas to keep Hamilton a lively, friendly place to live and visit. As our community continues changing in the twenty-first century, we want to celebrate the full diverse range of people and experiences packed into our small community. NY Forward will help us create new spaces to celebrate Hamilton's culture and public life and make the arts accessible to everyone.



### 9. TRAIL AND WAYFINDING IMPROVEMENTS

Location: Madison County Higher Education Corridor

Impact: Regional tourism attraction

Partners: Madison County Tourism, Cazenovia Preservation Foundation, Southern Madison Heritage Land Trust

Budget: \$500,000

NY Forward Investment: **\$250,000**

Building on GoSoMad.com with an abundance of trails and recreational opportunities in the region, this project seeks to expand the existing marketing programs and use them to identify gaps in interconnectivity. This project also proposes new trail connections, including a three-mile section of the Chenango Canal Towpath Trail in the village. This trail extension will include resurfacing an existing right-of-way using a multi-use, ADA accessible design. The trail will connect the downtown core to Good Nature Farm Brewery to the south and the Hamilton Airpark to the north, linking the Village together with an entirely non-automobile transportation system.



### 10. HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY READING GARDEN

Location: 13 Broad Street, Hamilton

Impact: Expansion of Public Library Space into outdoors.

Partner: Hamilton Public Library

Budget: \$200,000

NY Forward Investment: **\$100,000**

The Hamilton Public Library will use a design created by students at SUNY Morrisville to create a new public space on a currently vacant section of their property. The space will be geared to children and families, as well as being an attractive space for small outdoor events.





## 11. ARTS AND CULTURE FUND

Location: Downtown Hamilton

Impact: Regional tourism attraction, investments in at least 5 new community arts initiatives

Partner: Hamilton Public Library

Budget: \$200,000

NY Forward Investment: **\$100,000**

In addition to the many specific arts and culture initiatives we would like to put NY Forward funding toward, we will also set up a general fund to invest in community arts initiatives. Creative projects can be a vital catalyst for a community's unique character, create interest in underutilized spaces, or amplify the voice of an under-represented community – as well as simply bringing joy to those who pass through our community.

As an example, one of the first initiatives we will consider will be the Access to the Arts Lending Program through the Hamilton Public Library. For many low-income children and residents, the ability to learn a musical instrument or practice a new art form is not an option – expensive materials prohibit even the exploration. We will partner with the library to start a lending program for artistic materials, dedicated to making the arts accessible for everyone.

## Administrative Capacity

The Village administrative staff will collaborate with Hamilton's nonprofit partners to facilitate the NY Forward grant. Partnership for Community Development regularly takes on community development projects on behalf of their community partners. Their Board of Directors has representatives from the three partner organizations as well as Hamilton Central School, Community Memorial Hospital, the local business and agricultural communities, and the community at large. The PCD has a long history of managing grants, the support staff necessary to do this work, and the versatility to take on any kind of community development project. In 2020, the PCD raised over \$100,000 for more than thirty micro-grants to provide emergency support to businesses impacted by the COVID lockdown. These grants were made possible by an incredible outpouring of support from our community and university partners. As businesses began recovering over the next two years, the PCD secured and awarded over \$300,000 in state and federal grant funding for business expansion and transitions. They also draw on resources from the Madison County Department of Planning, the IDA, and Colgate University.



## Department of Transportation

**KATHY HOCHUL**  
Governor

**MARIE THERESE DOMINGUEZ**  
Commissioner

**LINDA A. LUBEY, P.E.**  
Regional Director

Dear Council Members:

Please accept this letter of support for the Madison County Higher Education Corridor's application for Round 6 of the NYS Downtown Revitalization Initiative. This investment of \$10 million will make the college corridor more vibrant and accessible through more diverse housing options, multi-modal transportation, strengthened town-gown collaboration and more.

The DRI compliments the New York State Department of Transportation's planned \$14M investment in a pavement reconstruction project within the Village of Hamilton along Route 12B. The project will include operational and safety enhancements, including at the 5-legged intersection in the center of the Village, a new closed drainage system, new traffic signals and enhancements to pedestrian and bicycle facilities. This project is being developed applying Complete Streets strategies and will benefit all users.

We believe this DRI application is an opportunity to leverage State investment for maximum return.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Linda Lubey", with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Linda A. Lubey, P.E.  
Regional Director

# COLGATE UNIVERSITY

September 21, 2022

Central New York Regional Economic Development Council  
620 Erie Boulevard West  
Syracuse, NY 13204

Re: Village of Hamilton's New York Forward Application

Dear Council Members:

Please accept this letter of support on behalf of Colgate University for the Village of Hamilton's application to Round 1 of the New York Forward initiative. Small village centers define the character of Upstate New York's rural landscape and Hamilton has the capacity to be a model community. This investment will make the Village more vibrant and accessible through the proposed projects furthering diverse housing options, enhanced downtown civic spaces, multi-modal transportation, and investment in the arts.

Hamilton has demonstrated the leadership and dedication to its village center through careful planning and coordination of public and private investment. This college town serves a broad rural community, offering necessary goods and services as well as programming and arts to a large geographical area. A New York Forward Grant would help Hamilton address current gaps in its infrastructure, resulting in a more stable, balanced community.

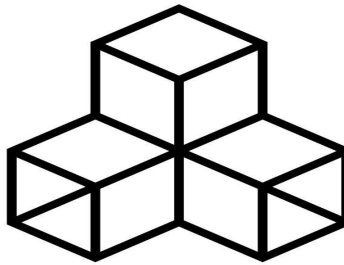
One of the top community priorities for the University is to increase the housing stock in Hamilton. To this end, Colgate took on the developer role, funded and built 21 single family homes over the past 24 months. The University, through the Hamilton Initiative, LLC, has plans to build a four-story mixed use building in the village core with 39 apartments and 11,300 sq. ft. of commercial space. The Village Core Mixed Use Redevelopment project goal is to provide desirable housing options that will benefit the entire community and strengthen and catalyze the Village Core.

The projects outlined in the Village's New York Forward proposal will enhance the work that has been done to date. We believe that the Village is ready for the transformative impact New York Forward would provide. We ask that you support their application for funding.

Sincerely,



Brian W. Casey  
President



## HAMILTON INITIATIVE LLC

Dear [Name],

Please accept this letter of support on behalf of Hamilton Initiative LLC for the Village of Hamilton's application to Round 1 of the NY Forward initiative. Small village centers define the character of Upstate New York's rural landscape and Hamilton has the capacity to be a model community. This investment will make the village more vibrant and accessible through projects furthering more diverse housing options, enhanced downtown civic spaces, multi-modal transportation, and investment in the arts.

Hamilton has demonstrated the leadership and dedication to its village center through careful planning and coordination of public and private investment. This college town serves a broad rural community, offering necessary goods and services as well as programming and arts to a large geographical area. A New York Forward Grant would help Hamilton address current gaps in its infrastructure, resulting in a more stable, balanced community.

The Hamilton Initiative was created by Colgate University in order to preserve and enhance the historical character of downtown Hamilton. We have invested over \$30 million in ten historic buildings in downtown Hamilton, most recently a \$3.0 million renovation of the Hamilton Theater. We are currently preparing for the demolition and reconstruction of 18-22 Utica St into a mixed use building with retail on the first floor and 39 residential units above. This estimated \$25 Million project is located in the village core and would work in conjunction with the proposed projects in the NY Forward Initiative to improve and balance the village center.

We believe that the village is ready for the transformative impact NY Forward would provide. We ask that you support their application for funding.

Sincerely,

Liam McDevitt  
Executive Director  
Hamilton Initiative LLC



**Chair**  
Aging  
Legislative Commission on Rural  
Resources  
**Committees**  
Agriculture  
Banks  
Cities 2  
Elections  
Environmental Conservation  
Health

**THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK**



**RACHEL MAY**  
**SENATOR, 53<sup>RD</sup> DISTRICT**

**Albany Office**  
Legislative Office Building  
Room 803  
Albany, New York 12247  
(518) 455-2838  
**District Office**  
State Office Building  
Room 805  
333 East Washington St.  
Syracuse, New York 13202  
(315) 478-8745  
may@nysenate.gov

September 12, 2022

Central New York Regional Economic Development Council  
620 Erie Boulevard W.  
Syracuse, NY 13204

Re: Village of Cazenovia NY Forward application

Dear Council Members:

Please accept this letter of my support for the Village of Hamilton's application to Round 1 of the NY Forward initiative. Small village centers define the character of Upstate New York's rural landscape, and Hamilton has the capacity to be a model community. This investment will make the village more vibrant and accessible through projects furthering more diverse housing options, enhanced downtown civic spaces, multi-modal transportation, and investment in the arts.

Hamilton has demonstrated the leadership and dedication to its village center through careful planning and coordination of public and private investment. This college town serves a broad rural community, offering necessary goods and services as well as programming and arts to a large geographical area. A New York Forward Grant would help Hamilton address current gaps in its infrastructure, resulting in a more stable, balanced community.

We believe that the village is ready for the transformative impact NY Forward would provide. We ask that you support their application for funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rachel May". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Rachel May  
Senator, 53<sup>rd</sup> District  
New York State Senate  
RM:tcp



**HOUSINGVISIONS**

Real Plans. Real People. Real Progress.

9/15/2022

Honorable, Ruthann Loveless  
Village of Hamilton Mayor  
3 Broad Street  
PO Box 119  
Hamilton, NY 13346

Dear Mayor Loveless,

Please accept this letter of support on behalf of Housing Visions Consultants, Inc. for the Village of Hamilton's application to Round 1 of the NY Forward initiative. Small village centers define the character of Upstate New York's rural landscape and Hamilton has the capacity to be a model community. This investment will make the village more vibrant and accessible through projects furthering more diverse housing options, enhanced downtown civic spaces, multi-modal transportation, and investment in the arts.

Hamilton has demonstrated the leadership and dedication to its village center through careful planning and coordination of public and private investment. This college town serves a broad rural community, offering necessary goods and services as well as programming and arts to a large geographical area. A New York Forward Grant will help Hamilton address current gaps in its infrastructure, resulting in a more stable, balanced community.

Housing Visions has developed and manages over 1,600 workforce, affordable housing units in sixteen communities across New York and Pennsylvania. We are working and planning with the Town and Village of Hamilton and the Partnership for Community Development to create new workforce housing in and near downtown Hamilton. Housing Visions' Mission is to be a catalyst for sustainable positive change in neighborhoods through real estate development and community collaboration. NY Forward is a great opportunity for villages to access funding that will be their catalyst for development. NY Forward funds will allow villages to work with the development community to start positive change that will fuel further investment into the future.

We believe that the village is ready for the transformative impact NY Forward will provide. We ask that you support their application for funding.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Lockwood  
President & CEO

**Housing Visions Unlimited, Inc.**  
1201 East Fayette Street, Syracuse, NY 13210  
Office: (315) 472-3820 ■ Fax: (315) 471-3921  
[www.housingvisions.org](http://www.housingvisions.org)



# **Town of Hamilton**

**38 Milford Street | Hamilton, NY 13346**

**(315) 824-3380 | Fax (315) 824-0246**

[www.TownofHamiltonNY.org](http://www.TownofHamiltonNY.org)

*Eve Ann Shwartz  
Town Supervisor*

*Sue Reymers  
Town Clerk*

September 21, 2022

Central New York Regional Economic Development Council  
620 Erie Boulevard W.  
Syracuse, NY 13204

Re: Village of Hamilton New York Forward application

Dear Council Members:

Please accept this letter of support on behalf of the Town of Hamilton for the Village of Hamilton's application to Round 1 of the NY Forward initiative. Small village centers define the character of Upstate New York's rural landscape and Hamilton has the capacity to be a model community. This investment will make the village more vibrant and accessible through projects furthering more diverse housing options, enhanced downtown civic spaces, multi-modal transportation, and investment in the arts.

Hamilton has demonstrated the leadership and dedication to its village center through careful planning and coordination of public and private investment. This college town serves a broad rural community, offering necessary goods and services as well as programming and arts to a large geographical area. A New York Forward Grant would help Hamilton address current gaps in its infrastructure, resulting in a more stable, balanced community.

The Town of Hamilton is actively partnered with the Village of Hamilton in ongoing support and oversight of the Partnership for Community Development(PCD). In the past we have collaborated to provide technical and financial assistance to small businesses and to sponsor a first time home buyer's program for our community. Most recently we are working with the Village and the PCD to increase the supply and affordability of housing in both the Village and the rural hamlets of the Town.

The goals of the NY Forward program are well matched with the programs the Village is currently pursuing. We believe that the Village is ready for the transformative impact NY Forward would provide. We ask that you support their application for funding.

Sincerely,



Eve Ann Shwartz

Town Supervisor

[ea.shwartz@townofhamiltonny.org](mailto:ea.shwartz@townofhamiltonny.org)

(315) 283-3126



JOHN SALKA  
Assemblyman 121<sup>st</sup> District

THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

COMMITTEES  
Children and Families  
Economic Development, Job Creation,  
Commerce and Industry  
Health  
Higher Education  
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER  
Food, Farm and Nutrition Policy

September 12, 2022

Central New York Regional Economic Development Council  
620 Erie Boulevard West  
Syracuse, NY 13204

**Re: Village of Hamilton NY Forward Application**

Dear Council Members:

I write to you today in support for the Village of Hamilton's application to Round 1 of the NY Forward initiative. Small village centers define the character of Upstate New York's rural landscape and Hamilton has the capacity to be a model community. This investment will make the Village more vibrant and accessible through projects furthering diverse housing options, enhanced downtown civic spaces, multi-modal transportation, and investment in the arts.

Hamilton has demonstrated the leadership and dedication to its village center through careful planning and coordination of public and private investment. This college town serves a broad rural community, offering necessary goods and services as well as programming and arts to a large geographical area. A New York Forward Grant would help Hamilton address current gaps in its infrastructure, resulting in a more stable, balanced community.

I believe the Village's plan will attract new business, creating a robust mix of shopping, entertainment and service options for residents and visitors further establishing an active downtown with a strong sense of place.

I proudly support the Village's application and believe the Village of Hamilton is ready for the transformative impact NY Forward would provide. I ask that you give its application serious consideration for funding. Should you have any questions, you are encouraged to contact my office at any time.

Sincerely,

Assemblyman John Salka  
121<sup>st</sup> Assembly District

# COLGATE UNIVERSITY

Upstate Institute

September 16, 2022

Jocelyn Gavitt, RLA  
Executive Director  
Partnership for Community Development

Dear Jocelyn,

Please accept this letter of support on behalf of the Upstate Institute at Colgate University for the Village of Hamilton's application to Round 1 of the NY Forward initiative. Small village centers define the character of Upstate New York's rural landscape and Hamilton has the capacity to be a model community. This investment will make the village more vibrant and accessible through projects furthering more diverse housing options, enhanced downtown civic spaces, multi-modal transportation, and investment in the arts.

Hamilton has demonstrated the leadership and dedication to its village center through careful planning and coordination of public and private investment. This college town serves a broad rural community, offering necessary goods and services as well as programming and arts to a large geographical area. A New York Forward Grant would help Hamilton address current gaps in its infrastructure, resulting in a more stable, balanced community.

The Upstate Institute regularly partners with the Village of Hamilton on research projects that provide practical experience for our students while enhancing the local community. These include an inventory of street trees in the community, research on the deer population and its impact on flora, fauna and communicable disease, and data collection for the Village's Climate Smart Community Certification. The Village is a valuable local partner for our research institute, and for our institution as a whole.

We believe that the village is ready for the transformative impact NY Forward would provide. We ask that you support their application for funding.

Sincerely,



Catherine Cardelús  
Director, Upstate Institute  
Institute  
Professor, Biology & Environmental Studies



Julie Dudrick  
Associate Director, Upstate



# Hamilton Public Library

13 Broad Street Hamilton, NY 13346 | Ph: 315-824-3060 | Fx: 315-824-8420 | [hamiltonlibrary.org](http://hamiltonlibrary.org)

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September 21, 2022

Dear Council Members,

Please accept this letter of support for the Village of Hamilton's application for Round 1 of the NY Forward Initiative. This investment will make Hamilton more vibrant and accessible through more diverse housing options, multi-modal transportation, strengthened town-gown collaboration, and more.

The Hamilton Public Library is very involved with arts, culture, and recreation in our community. Some of our current programming includes historical presentations, storytimes, trivia nights, book discussions, and so much more. Our diverse collection is available to all of our patrons through free home delivery, and in addition to traditional materials we also circulate American Girl Dolls, video games, education robot kits, and even ice skates in the winter!

We support the Village's efforts to support the arts and recreation and create new civic spaces. We believe that the Village is ready for the transformative impact NY Forward would provide and ask that you support their application for funding.

Sincerely,

Travis Olivera  
Library Director





**Madison County  
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING  
AND  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**



September 12, 2022

Central New York Regional Economic Development Council  
620 Erie Boulevard W.  
Syracuse, NY 13204

Re: Village of Hamilton NY Forward application

Dear Council Members:

Please accept this letter of support on behalf of the Madison County Planning Department for the Village of Hamilton's application to Round 1 of the NY Forward initiative. Small village centers define the character of Upstate New York's rural landscape and Hamilton has the capacity to be a model community. This investment will make the village more vibrant and accessible through projects furthering more diverse housing options, enhanced downtown civic spaces, multi-modal transportation, and investment in the arts.

Hamilton has demonstrated the leadership and dedication to its village center through careful planning and coordination of public and private investment. This college town serves a broad rural community, offering necessary goods and services as well as programming and arts to a large geographical area. A New York Forward Grant would help Hamilton address current gaps in its infrastructure, resulting in a more stable, balanced community.

Madison County has a long history of working closely with the Village, and organizations such as the Partnership for Community Development, to better the lives of residents and improve the greater Hamilton area.

We believe that the village is ready for the transformative impact NY Forward would provide. We ask that you support their application for funding and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Scott Ingmire".

Scott Ingmire

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**Scott Ingmire, Director**  
**Jamie Kowalczyk, Assistant Director**  
Department of Planning and Workforce Development  
P.O. Box 606, Wampsville, NY 13163  
(315) 366-2376 Voice (315) 366-2742 Fax  
[scott.ingmire@madisoncounty.ny.gov](mailto:scott.ingmire@madisoncounty.ny.gov)  
[jamie.kowalczyk@madisoncounty.ny.gov](mailto:jamie.kowalczyk@madisoncounty.ny.gov)

**Ellen Bowe, Workforce Development Supervisor**  
Madison County One-Stop Career Center  
PO Box 609, Wampsville, NY 13163  
(315) 363-2400 Voice (315) 367-1300 Fax  
[ellen.bowe@madisoncounty.ny.gov](mailto:ellen.bowe@madisoncounty.ny.gov)

# Southern Madison Heritage Trust

**P.O. Box 117**  
**Hamilton, NY 13346**  
[www.smht.org](http://www.smht.org) [smht@smht.org](mailto:smht@smht.org)

**Harvey Kliman**  
*President*  
**Debbie Kliman**  
*Secretary*  
**Deede van der**  
**Mandele**  
*Treasurer*  
**Greg Owens**  
*VP for Land*  
*Conservation*  
**John Novak**  
**Thomas Parish**

Dear Council Members,

Please accept this letter of support on behalf of Southern Madison Heritage Trust for the Village of Hamilton's application to Round 1 of the NY Forward initiative. Small village centers define the character of Upstate New York's rural landscape and Hamilton has the capacity to be a model community. This investment will make the village more vibrant and accessible through projects furthering more diverse housing options, enhanced downtown civic spaces, multi-modal transportation, and investment in the arts.

Hamilton has demonstrated the leadership and dedication to its village center through careful planning and coordination of public and private investment. This college town serves a broad rural community, offering necessary goods and services as well as programming and arts to a large geographical area. A New York Forward Grant would help Hamilton address current gaps in its infrastructure, resulting in a more stable, balanced community.

Southern Madison Heritage Trust works closely with the Village and Town of Hamilton and five other townships to protect valuable open space, and in so doing provides public access for residents and visitors alike. Walking trails within the Village of Hamilton lead through agricultural areas, protecting significant prime soils.

We believe that the village is ready for the transformative impact NY Forward would provide. We ask that you support their application for funding.

Sincerely,  
Carolyn Todd



# HAMILTON CENTRAL SCHOOL

47 West Kendrick Avenue • Hamilton, New York 13346

(315) 824-6300 • (315) 824-6314 - Fax

[www.hamiltoncentral.org](http://www.hamiltoncentral.org)

## ADMINISTRATION

WILLIAM DOWSLAND  
*Superintendent of Schools*

MARK ARQUIETT  
*Secondary Principal*

KEVIN P. ELLIS  
*Elementary Principal/PPS*

CHRISTOPHER ROGERS  
*Director of Technology*

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

MICHELLE JACOBSEN  
*President*

ELLEN LARSON  
*Vice-President*

HAROLD JARCHO  
G. CORY DUCLOS  
JENNIFER JONES

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter of support on behalf of the Hamilton Central School District for the Village of Hamilton's application to Round 1 of the NY Forward initiative. Small village centers define the character of Upstate New York's rural landscape and Hamilton has the capacity to be a model community. This investment will make the village more vibrant and accessible through projects furthering more diverse housing options, enhanced downtown civic spaces, multi-modal transportation, and investment in the arts.

Hamilton has demonstrated the leadership and dedication to its village center through careful planning and coordination of public and private investment. This college town serves a broad rural community, offering necessary goods and services as well as programming and arts to a large geographical area. A New York Forward Grant would help Hamilton address current gaps in its infrastructure, resulting in a more stable, balanced community.

At HCS, we believe that community improvements can play a vital role in increasing student enrollment as well as put the district in a better position to attract faculty and staff.

We believe that the village is ready for the transformative impact NY Forward would provide. We ask that you support their application for funding.

Sincerely,

William Dowsland  
Superintendent of Schools

*Aim High!*