

**TOWN OF KIRKLAND  
& VILLAGE OF CLINTON**  
A Community of Everyone, for Every One



**Downtown Revitalization Initiative Round 6  
2022 Application**

**Regional Economic Development Council  
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# WE'RE READY

The Clinton and Kirkland community proudly returns for a third time to request a \$10 million Downtown Revitalization Initiative grant to enhance our downtown. The process of applying twice before for a DRI grant rallied and focused the community and municipal leaders in ways that we believe make this 2022 application our strongest yet.

Your feedback in 2019 and 2021 helped immeasurably to concentrate our efforts on addressing areas in need of improvement and strengthened our current application by aligning it more closely with local, regional, and state goals. We did not stand still after finishing behind communities with stronger applications; rather, we studied those who won to achieve their level of success.

We believe all those steps taken in the last three years make the Clinton-Kirkland community ready to accept a \$10 million DRI grant and successfully implement changes that will benefit our area, the Mohawk Valley, and New York State. In short, we're ready to take our place alongside the communities around New York that have proven worthy of a DRI grant.

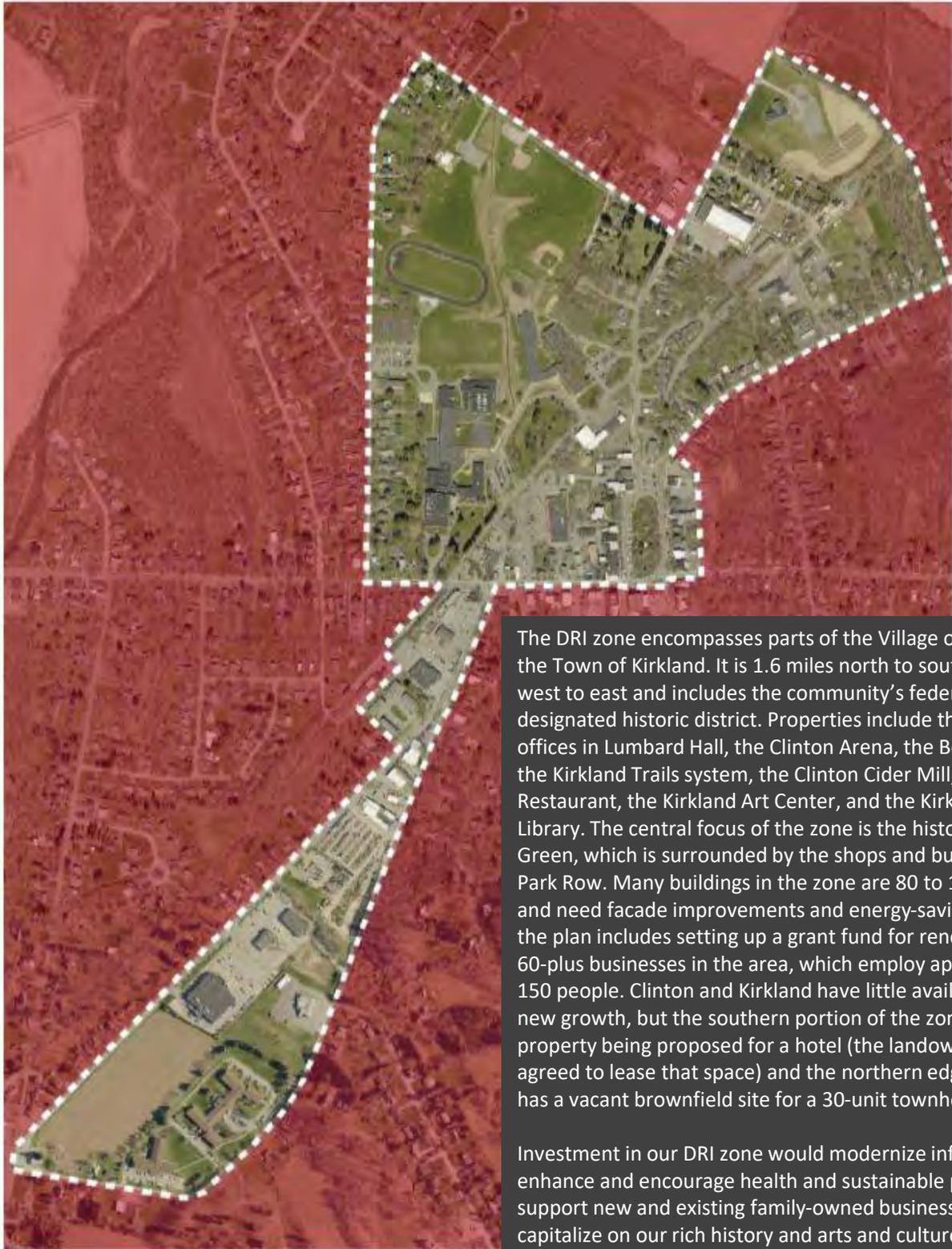
We've done the following since first applying in 2019:

- Our applications, including this one, have been prepared solely by volunteers in the community. In December 2021 that volunteer effort formally became the Clinton Kirkland Improvement Corporation (CKIC). This legal status as a non-profit allows CKIC to apply for grants on behalf of the municipalities and take a more formal and active role in implementing and overseeing a DRI grant.
- In early 2020, recognizing the need for a more cohesive improvement plan where all parts worked to complement each other and fall in with local, regional, and state goals, the Village of Clinton began creating a Strategic Master Plan. This has helped our 2022 application better respond to the vision of that plan through the projects we have chosen to put forward.
- In spring 2020 our efforts shifted from a second try at a DRI grant to helping local businesses and non-profits survive the economic impact of the pandemic. Along with short-term solutions, the focus also looked long term to allow businesses to grow despite the challenges they faced in 2020 and 2021.

Encouraged by the possibility of receiving a DRI grant, a number of Clinton-Kirkland business owners and nonprofits moved ahead with Phase 1 projects. Recognizing that the DRI program works best in support of communities that already have implemented positive changes for growth, local investment grew tremendously. Here is what has been done to date:

- Water – Completed \$464K water system upgrades to improve water flows, which will support the construction of a hotel; replaced and installed additional valve inserts across the water system; closed blind loops on Franklin Avenue (near the proposed hotel) and on New Street; and made upgrades to pumping stations.
- Sanitary Sewer – Completed a sanitary sewer study for village, town, and college sewer districts to ascertain future improvements and renewal of the system overall.
- Storm Water Sewer and Management – Completed a study of the St. Mary's drainage corridor and the village and town joined the Oriskany Creek Stormwater Commission to develop short- and long-term efforts to mitigate flooding.
- Sustainability – The village and town have embraced sustainable practices by replacing all incandescent street lighting with LEDs, furthering our goal of becoming a silver status Climate Smart community.
- Introduced a new July 4th festival in 2022 centered on the Village Green.
- The Kirkland Art Center – Kicked off in 2021 its Raise the Roof campaign to replace its 60-year old roof and make other repairs. The KAC is requesting DRI funds to expand and add classes requested by the community.
- The Clinton Cider Mill – Used private funds to remodel its interior and exterior, which was originally part of a Phase 1 DRI plan. The next step, with DRI funding, is to expand the kitchen and parking lot while adding an ADA-compliant bathroom to allow bus tours for this historic business that features delicious products from throughout New York State.
- Vacant Property – The Village of Clinton and CKIC have been in discussion with owners of a brownfield site for private development and expansion of the trail started in the community. Mohawk Valley EDGE has agreed to study the property to assess the parcels for development. This property is being proposed as the site for a 30-unit townhome development.
- Clinton Arena – Grants and bonds are being used to replace the roof of the historic Clinton Arena, a project that was in our 2019 DRI application. The town has requested funds for Phase II Arena improvements to replace the floor, enhance safety features, and install a girls' locker room.

# GEOGRAPHIC AREA AND JUSTIFICATION



The DRI zone encompasses parts of the Village of Clinton and the Town of Kirkland. It is 1.6 miles north to south and .3 miles west to east and includes the community's federally designated historic district. Properties include the village offices in Lumbard Hall, the Clinton Arena, the Boynton Pool, the Kirkland Trails system, the Clinton Cider Mill, Alteri's Restaurant, the Kirkland Art Center, and the Kirkland Town Library. The central focus of the zone is the historic Village Green, which is surrounded by the shops and businesses on Park Row. Many buildings in the zone are 80 to 100 years old and need facade improvements and energy-saving updates, so the plan includes setting up a grant fund for renovations to the 60-plus businesses in the area, which employ approximately 150 people. Clinton and Kirkland have little available land for new growth, but the southern portion of the zone contains property being proposed for a hotel (the landowner has agreed to lease that space) and the northern edge of the zone has a vacant brownfield site for a 30-unit townhome complex.

Investment in our DRI zone would modernize infrastructure, enhance and encourage health and sustainable practices, support new and existing family-owned businesses, and capitalize on our rich history and arts and culture traditions to spur future growth, enhance the quality of life for our permanent residents, and heighten our community's attractiveness to visitors, thereby increasing the tax base and opportunities for short- and long-term employment.

# VISION STATEMENT

Building from its picturesque Village Green, rich history, and active arts and culture traditions, Clinton and Kirkland will modernize infrastructure, further commit to on-going environmental, climate, and economic initiatives, and enhance programs for wellness, health, and quality of life for its increasingly diverse residents and visitors. As the hometown for a nationally designated historic district and a leading liberal arts college, and winner of the 2018 Kraft Hockeyville competition, Clinton will capitalize on these assets to grow its reputation as a tourist destination and a place to call home.



# PAST INVESTMENT & FUTURE POTENTIAL

A Downtown Revitalization Initiative grant would be transformative for the Village of Clinton and the Town of Kirkland, but by simply applying for the grants – this year and in our two prior attempts – we have created enthusiasm and momentum for envisioning an even brighter future for our village and town. From the beginning, the process of applying for a DRI grant has been a collaborative venture among local business owners, community leaders, nonprofit representatives, and elected officials – all volunteering their time, enthusiasm, and expertise to imagine the most transformative use of DRI dollars for the community as a whole. We believe our 2019 application was the first multi-jurisdictional proposal for a DRI grant, and that partnership continues to guide our approach for economic development today.

Our initial DRI effort in 2019 led to an ad hoc grassroots effort in 2020 to help our merchants survive the pandemic. Led by the village mayor, business leaders, the school superintendent, the Chamber of Commerce executive director, and representatives from the local college, among others, we met biweekly throughout the year and into 2021 to brainstorm strategies for economic vitality at a time of worldwide uncertainty. This group formed the core working group for our second DRI application in 2021, and some of the strategies we developed earlier have been carried through into our DRI application again this year. In other words, working to secure a DRI grant has been both a goal and a catalyst for our approach to economic development.

Since our first DRI effort in 2019, we have gotten more organized, become more focused, and taken what we've learned in two prior DRI attempts to prepare this, our third application. In December 2022, we incorporated as the Clinton-Kirkland Improvement Corporation (CKIC), a 501(c) 3 organization that is registered with the Internal Revenue Service and the New York State Charities Bureau to “foster collaboration with the Town of Kirkland, New York, and the Village of Clinton, New York, by researching, creating, planning, and implementing diverse and equitable opportunities that enhance the educational, environmental, cultural, and economic quality of life for all residents.” We were motivated to incorporate, in part, to demonstrate to the Regional Economic Development Council and New York State that we are committed to the DRI process and have the administrative capacity to oversee the implementation of a DRI grant and to ensure the long-term success of our projects.

Our overarching message is this: We're ready – ready to maximize use of the DRI grant and implement our revitalization plan to reinvigorate our local and regional economies should we be fortunate to be selected the Mohawk Valley Region's DRI Round 6 representative.

While much has changed since 2019, our approach has remained fundamentally the same: We are a collaborative group of civic-minded citizens who volunteer their time to represent a broad cross-section of our community. Win or lose (and we certainly hope it's the former), we will continue working to fulfill our mission. In fact, as we were preparing our application, a local grassroots organization approached the mayor for assistance in helping to locate a natural food store in the village; the mayor expressed support and referred the request to CKIC. Like Mohawk Valley EDGE, Genesis, and other similarly focused regional entities, CKIC is seen as a resource and focal point to spur economic development and the overall quality of life in our smaller community.

Over the past five years, we have seen significant public and private investment in and around the DRI zone. These investments demonstrate that we have “skin in the game,” and that we understand that local investment precedes external investment and that it must continue if we are fortunate to receive a Round 6 Downtown Revitalization Initiative grant.

Since 2013 approximately \$110 million in public and private funds have been invested in the Clinton community. This has brought about job growth (60 jobs at Indium Corp.); improvements to the infrastructure (\$14 million in village and town improvements in water, sewer, and roads); educational growth (\$65 million spent in construction by Hamilton College and Clinton Central School District); and enhancements to small businesses and non-profit organizations (\$10 to \$15 million).



Partnerships that form for the greater good are a differentiating characteristic of the Clinton community. For example, Hamilton College established the Town-Gown Fund in 2001 to make grants to support the work of local nonprofits and public service organizations. The fund has grown over time so that in recent years, an average of \$75,000 annually is awarded to between six and eight nonprofits, charities, and the two municipalities. These grants do not require matching funds. Now, thanks to the DRI application discussions, The Town-Gown Fund has begun awarding funds so organizations can work with a grant writer to leverage larger funding sources. This approach increases the likelihood of obtaining private and public funds, and has already resulted in a grant from the Empire State Development Planning and Feasibility Studies program to fund development of a village master plan.

In addition, Hamilton College has donated nearly \$8 million to the Village of Clinton, Town of Kirkland, and Clinton Central School District since 2006 (including \$606,000 in 2022) to use for operating expenses to keep the tax base down while allowing for adequate funding of municipal services. These contributions help offset the presence of tax-exempt properties in the village and town, which represent a higher percentage than most other municipalities.

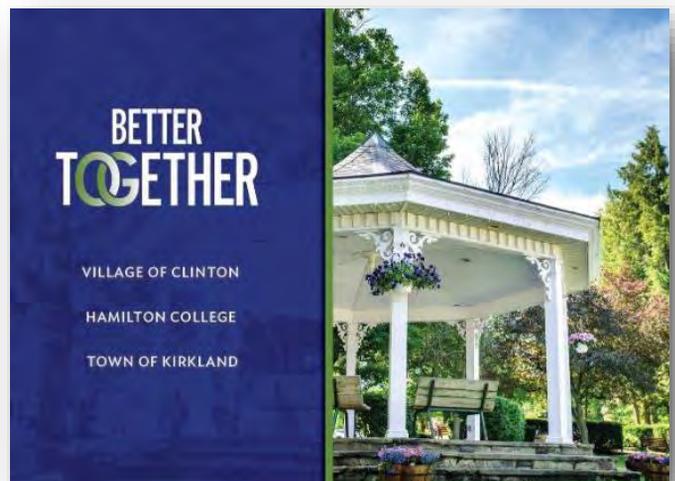
The 2018 Kraft USA Hockeyville title is another example of a collaborative partnership that resulted in current and future investment in the Clinton community. The Clinton Arena received approximately \$100,000 in equipment and services from the NHL, while the Town of Kirkland was given a grant of \$150,000 from Kraft for improvements to the Arena. Additional renovations are envisioned and reflected in this application.



Development of a 70-room hotel would greatly expand economic growth in the Clinton community, Oneida County, and the Mohawk Valley. While there are many reasons to come to Clinton (e.g., college visits and events, youth hockey tournaments, the annual Arts & Music festival) the community – aside from a few B&Bs, and Air BnBs not registered to provide sales tax information – has no hotels. Construction of a hotel and its operation would add numerous jobs to the local economy.

In aggregate, projects included in this application meet the following criteria and show benefits that extend beyond the Clinton-Kirkland community:

- Fuel new job creation and adaptive reuse of underutilized building stock
- Continue to create a sustainable, walkable, diverse community that meets the needs of current and future residents
- Retain historic charm while modernizing for the future
- Promote the community’s reputation for an outstanding quality of life, first-rate educational offerings, and excellent opportunities for artistic expression
- Build on existing community partnerships to enhance quality of life assets that are accessible to all populations



# RECENT & IMPENDING JOB GROWTH

A DRI grant would facilitate new construction projects, adding short-term jobs in our community, and once the construction is completed, allow for business expansion and additional long-term hiring. The momentum created by such a large infusion of economic development has encouraged additional new projects. For example, the 1.8-acre distressed property mentioned earlier has been the subject of numerous ideas for development, including the multi-unit apartment complex proposed in this application. Other uses discussed to improve the quality of life for our residents included a community garden, dog park, or retail complex.

Recent job growth in our DRI zone has been limited due to the effects and uncertainty caused by the pandemic, but we have been fortunate because storefronts that recently closed due to retirement have reopened as new businesses, enabling employment to remain stable. Outside our immediate DRI zone, two anchor employers have increased their employee base in the past several years.

Hamilton College, our largest anchor employer, has grown its employee base 4% since 2017 to 725 FTE. Although the college is not physically located in the DRI zone, its employees and visitors have a large impact on the vitality of our community and businesses. Similarly, Indium Corporation, a worldwide company headquartered on Robinson Road in Clinton that manufactures electronics assembly materials, recently announced plans to add 300 jobs at one of its regional facilities. Vacant property adjacent to Indium's Clinton facility could be developed for further expansion and job growth.



## QUALITY OF LIFE

Our DRI application is focused on enhancing the quality of life for our residents and visitors by protecting and enhancing those arts, cultural, educational, recreational, and business assets that already exist, and supplementing them with exciting new opportunities. For example, the Kirkland Art Center, a local treasure for 60 years, is using funds raised in a recent campaign to make long-overdue renovations to its centuries-old building. Our DRI proposal calls for supporting the center's interest in installing a Culinary Arts Studio to fulfill a community request. Many KAC events and activities are subsidized with state arts grants to keep programs affordable to a diverse population. Similarly, we're fortunate to host a popular Farmers Market (which accepts SNAP tokens) throughout the summer, but we lack public restrooms for vendors and visitors who frequent the market (and other events centered on the Village Green); this DRI proposal addresses that deficiency.

And Kirkland Trails has, in just a few short years, made significant progress toward converting abandoned railroad beds that traverse the town into multi-use paths that ultimately will connect to sections of the Chenango Canal corridor in the area, and this success has encouraged our interest in capitalizing on our identity as a walkable community. Likewise, the Clinton Kirkland Improvement Corporation has identified a potential use of the vacant property mentioned earlier for residential development. A portion of the property is similarly attractive to Kirkland Trails since it is immediately adjacent to an abandoned railroad bed.

# SUPPORTIVE LOCAL POLICIES

Having a nationally recognized liberal arts college in the village attracts diverse students, faculty, and staff who have high expectations for the community they have chosen to join. The relationship is mutually reinforcing. Clinton's strong school system, abundant arts and culture offerings, and variety of social and recreational opportunities also appeal to visitors and future residents who, in turn, invest their expertise to strengthen these important community assets. Above all, the community offers a welcoming and supportive environment characterized as "A Community of Everyone, For Every One."

Hamilton College encourages its students to become involved in the community. The college students visit Clinton Middle School once a month for Hamilton Happenings, an evening of fun and games; members of the college's men's and women's ice hockey teams pair with Clinton Youth Hockey skaters each season. And Clinton's A Better Chance program, which each year brings in up to eight young men of color from disadvantaged communities to live in the community and attend Clinton High School, are warmly welcomed.

Clinton is a multi-generational community, with many children growing up within minutes of where their grandparents live. Members of the Kirkland Seniors, for instance, annually are guests for lunch and the final dress rehearsal for the school musical, and there are several retirement communities in the town.

Clinton provides a great example of how a small community gets things done because of peoples' willingness to connect with other groups and organizations to form a larger network. For example, the Clinton Ministerium brings the community's church congregations together to work for a common cause, such as Rise Against Hunger and to support the local food pantry for those facing food insecurity.

The Village of Clinton, Town of Kirkland, and Clinton Central School District have adopted policies to ensure no member of the community – whether resident or visitor – faces discrimination. Zero tolerance for failing to follow these edicts is molded into the fabric of the community's character.

The community is also working toward achieving silver status as a Climate Smart community, led by the all-volunteer Clinton/Kirkland Climate Smart Taskforce. At the recommendation of the taskforce, both the village and the town adopted the New York State Climate Communities pledge. In addition, students and faculty from Hamilton College conducted a greenhouse gas inventory for the village in March 2022, which will help shape the development of a Community Climate Action Plan.





# TRANSFORMATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

Encouraged by prior feedback, and driven by a clear vision for our community's needs and interest in economic development, we are pleased to present our third DRI application for your consideration. Our proposal has identified nearly \$45 million in projects – led by the construction of a new 70-bed franchised hotel and 30 new townhomes – that have broad support. These projects will help fulfill our community's vision for a modernized downtown that capitalizes on its rich history, active arts and culture traditions, and strong commitment to enhancing the health, wellness, and sustainable practices of our increasingly diverse residents and visitors.

Equally important, our 21 projects, organized into five broad categories, meet the DRI's overarching goals to revitalize our downtown area and reinvigorate our local and regional economies by:

- Creating an active downtown with a strong sense of place
- Attracting new businesses (while supporting existing family-owned establishments)
- Enhancing public spaces for arts and cultural events
- Building and supporting a diverse population
- Growing the local property tax base
- Providing amenities that support and enhance downtown living and quality of life
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions

We recognize that the total implementation costs for our projects far exceed the generous resources available from New York State through the DRI program, and that it is not possible for all projects to come to fruition if we are fortunate to be chosen as the Mohawk Valley's DRI recipient in 2022. Nevertheless, the DRI application process has been a catalyst for imagining ways to enhance the economic vitality of our community and creating momentum for the future. Should we be selected to receive DRI Round 6 funding, the Clinton Kirkland Improvement Corporation stands ready to work closely with a Local Planning Committee and the State to determine how best to move forward.



## PROJECT CATEGORY 1:

### Modernize Infrastructure for Growth and Sustainable Practices

*The Village of Clinton Historic District – which includes the heavily utilized Village Green and is the geographic focal point for our DRI proposal – was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982. That designation acknowledges the rich history of our community, but also suggests the need for updated infrastructure to serve our businesses and residents and make Clinton an even more desirable location for tourism. This includes achieving “silver status” as a Climate Smart community. Our DRI proposal, which seeks to provide important amenities that enhance quality of life, includes the following infrastructure projects to modernize our historic downtown:*

#### Improvements to the Clinton Sewer Service Area (CSSA)

Parts of this collaborative, multi-jurisdictional system that includes the village, the town and the college are more than 100 years old. This infrastructure project will improve capacity, reduce maintenance costs, protect the environment, and facilitate further economic development. The work necessary to achieve these objectives would include upgrading sewers along Route 12B to College Street, renewal of interceptor piping, and installing a new interceptor along Sanford Avenue to reduce groundwater inflows and assist in maximizing the potential of our treatment facility to support local growth.

Total Project Cost: \$5,000,000

DRI Request: \$2,000,000

Other Financing: Grants -- \$2,000,000 and Bonds -- \$1,000,000

Timeline: Construction 2024

Primary Responsible Organizations: Village of Clinton, Town of Kirkland, Hamilton College

#### Lumbard Hall Renovations

Lumbard Hall, which dates to 1926 and is on the north end of the Village Green, houses village offices. Our proposal includes adding public restrooms to support activities centered on the Village Green, including the Farmers Market and summer concerts, the annual Kirkland Town Library Book Sale, the July 4th Festival, our annual Art & Music Festival, and many other formal and informal programs that attract visitors and residents. In addition, an elevator will be added to make the building more accessible, the mechanical system (converting steam heat to a heat pump system) will be upgraded, and EV charging stations will be constructed adjacent to the building to further support our goal of being designated a silver level Climate Smart community.

Total Project Cost: \$3,000,000

DRI Request: \$2,000,000

Other Financing: Grants -- \$1,000,000

Timeline: Construction 2024

Primary Responsible Organization: Lumbard Hall Commission



## Sidewalk Expansion

Clinton residents overwhelmingly support building additional sidewalks in and around the DRI zone. This infrastructure project supports our vision for enhancing the health, wellness, and quality of life for our residents, while increasing the community's attractiveness as a destination for visitors interested in our history, our expanded walking tours, and our growing trail system.

Total Project Cost: \$300,000

DRI Request: \$200,000

Other Financing: Grants -- \$50,000, Local Government Funding -- \$50,000

Timeline: TBD

Primary Responsible Organizations: Village of Clinton, Town of Kirkland

## Public Wi-Fi

A 235-year-old community has to modernize to meet the expectations of 21st century visitors. At the same time, free public Wi-Fi is an essential infrastructure need for economically disadvantaged residents. Our proposal includes making Wi-Fi freely available on the Village Green for all visitors and residents.

Total Project Cost: \$60,000

DRI Request: Business Fund -- \$40,000

Other Financing: Local Government Funding and Grants -- \$20,000

Timeline: Construction 2023

Primary Responsible Organization: Village of Clinton

## Climate Smart Community

To achieve "silver status" as a Climate Smart community we will expand the "Green Bucket" composting program with incentive grants to residents, incentivize installation of EV charging stations by private businesses and organizations, and institute a plan to reduce Clinton's greenhouse gas emissions based on a recently completed survey conducted for the village by Hamilton College. Our carbon reduction strategy includes implementing a plan to actively manage our urban forest to capture carbon.

Total Project Cost: \$250,000

DRI Request: \$150,000

Other Financing: Green Funding for EV Stations -- \$100,000

Timeline: Construction 2024

Primary Responsible Organizations: Village of Clinton, Town of Kirkland

## PROJECT CATEGORY 2:

### Beautifying an Active Downtown with a Strong Sense of Place

*In many ways Clinton is the quintessential small town in America: quaint, picturesque, and safe, with locally owned shops centered around a charming Village Green. These qualities, and the proximity of a highly regarded college and an award-winning school district, make the community an attractive place to live, work, and visit. Our DRI proposal seeks not only to protect our existing assets, but to enhance our standing as a destination for visitors by improving our sense of place, creating a consistent presentation of public amenities and resources, incorporating sustainable practices, and planning for pending changes to our natural beauty.*

#### Streetscape Improvements/ Business Fund

Streetscape enhancements that include outdoor seating, waste and recycling receptacles, signage, and decorative LED lighting would reflect the historical significance of the community, unify wayfinding for visitors, and encourage tourism. A recently completed tree inventory will guide the maintenance and replacement of those trees whose lifespans are limited due to age, disease, or damage caused by insects such as the Emerald Ash Bore. At the same time, we will establish a program for merchants in the DRI zone to improve their businesses by enhancing their storefronts and incorporating climate smart technology and practices.

Total Project Cost: \$750,000

DRI Request: \$750,000

Other Financing: TBD

Timeline: Ongoing

Primary Responsible Organizations: Village of Clinton, Clinton Kirkland Improvement Corporation

#### West Park Row Beautification

West Park Row faces the Village Green and helps define Clinton's shopping district. Our plan to widen the sidewalk will provide more green space for new trees and landscaping to enhance the arrival frontage for Clinton shops, while maintaining the existing parking along the street. To further improve the area, the plan includes new historic street lighting on both sides of the roadway, burying the utility lines (i.e., electric, cable, telephone), and upgrading the aging water and sanitary sewer lines while West Park Row is under renovation.

Total Project Cost: \$3,000,000

DRI Request: \$2,000,000

Other Financing: Infrastructure Grants -- \$800,000;  
Bonds -- \$200,000

Timeline: Construction 2024

Primary Responsible Organization: Village of Clinton



## PROJECT CATEGORY 3:

### Attracting New Businesses and Strengthening Existing Family-Owned Establishments With History as Our Guide

*We seek to leverage our rich history and existing community assets to attract new businesses and retain established businesses to better serve and appeal to visitors and residents. Settled in 1787 by pioneers from Connecticut led by Capt. Moses Foote, a veteran of the Revolutionary War, Clinton still mirrors its New England heritage, from the attractive Village Green in the center of the business district to the tree-lined streets and Victorian homes in its federally designated historic district. It was named in honor of George Clinton, the first governor of New York State. In 1843, by then the hub of the growing Town of Kirkland, Clinton was incorporated as a village. Over time, Clinton has been home to President Grover Cleveland, Red Cross Founder Clara Barton, and Nobel Peace Prize winner Elihu Root. Nearby Hamilton College was chartered in 1812, and the Bristol-Myers Squibb Company was founded on Park Row in 1887. In 2018, in conjunction with 100 years of hockey being played in Clinton, this hockey-loving community*

*achieved designation as Hockeyville USA. Like walking and hockey, history defines our community and with better promotion can make Clinton an even more desirable destination for visitors. Our DRI proposal includes the following projects to attract new businesses, increase our stock of permanent housing, and strengthen several of our long-standing existing family-owned establishments:*

#### 70-Room Franchised Hotel

Hamilton College is located in Kirkland, a little more than a mile from the Village Green. A new hotel would provide a necessary and exciting boost to the local economy, help offset the larger-than-normal number of tax-exempt properties in our community, and provide ample overnight accommodations for the more than 12,000 prospective students, parents, alumni, and other guests visiting the College for open houses, sporting events, Commencements, Family Weekends, Fallcoming Weekends, and Reunions. The proposal of a 70-room franchised hotel property would support an annual customer reach of 12,775 room nights at 50% occupancy. The project will provide modern amenities that are necessary to attract the mid-scale tourist market in support of the local college, Clinton Arena, and surrounding businesses and further support Clinton as a starting point for tourists visiting the area.

Total Project Cost: \$8,850,000

DRI Request: \$3,540,000

Bank Financing: \$4,867,500

Owner Financing: \$442,500

Timeline: Construction 2024 (10 months from groundbreaking to opening)

Primary Responsible Organization: Branch Management, LLC

#### 2 East Park Row

Located at the junction of three roads as they enter the center of the village, this property represents a mixed-use project that includes renovating and expanding the existing structure to add five residential units, 4,500 square feet of commercial space, and parking. The annual income of the tenants is expected to be at least \$75,000, and design and construction should take approximately one year after the project is approved by the village.

Total Project Cost: \$4,000,000

DRI Request: \$3,200,000

Private Funding: \$800,000

Timeline: Construction 2024

Primary Responsible Organization: OB Properties Group, LLC



## Clinton Cider Mill Expansion

Built in 1927, the Clinton Cider Mill is now the longest operating cider mill in Oneida County, with a 129-year-old cider press that was moved to its current location from Madison County. The Mill currently employs 12 to 14 full- and part-time employees, serving over 22,000 customers during its three-month operating season. Aside from being one of the most frequented tourist attractions in the county, the Mill is also a gathering spot for college students, seniors, and children of all ages. When they purchased the Cider Mill in 1998, the Fehlners became the second family to own and operate this treasure, which was listed in *Saveur* magazine in 2001 as one of the 100 most interesting places in the United States to visit. Improvements, repairs, and expansions will increase future sales, maintain historic values and charm, and enable the Mill to continue operating successfully. This construction program will lead to more customer visits, the hiring of 10 to 15 additional employees, and increased tax revenue. Specific projects include repaving the driveway and adding restrooms (including an ADA compliant bathroom), a 1,600-square foot kitchen, storage and office space, solar panels, and two-EV charging stations.

Total Project Cost: \$388,000

DRI Request: \$194,000

Energy/Private Funding: \$194,000

Projected time to implement: Eight months upon funding approval

Primary Responsible Organization: Clinton Cider Mill

## Alteri's Restaurant Expansion

Alteri's Restaurant is a third-generation, family-owned community treasure. The restaurant's success can be measured not only in the number of customers who visit on a weekly basis, but also by the community's unrelenting support in times of adversity. When Alteri's burned down in 1963, the Clinton and Kirkland communities united to rebuild the establishment, and when the pandemic hit 57 years later, Clintonians near and far rallied to support the restaurant despite dealing with their own hardships. Locals placed to-go orders sometimes three times per week, and those far away offered to pay to have frozen pizzas and other products shipped to them, giving rise to a frozen food business that served people in 38 states. To build on this very promising new part of the business, while continuing to serve in-person diners, Alteri's plans to renovate its entire second floor (2,500 square feet), converting it into a dual-purpose space that meets all current energy codes and includes a new elevated roof. The renovation and expansion would provide space to grow the frozen food business, create a dedicated catering and event space, and add five to 10 new jobs.

Total Project Cost: \$2,000,000

DRI Request: \$2,000,000

Energy/Private Funding: unknown

Projected time to implement: 24 months upon funding approval

Primary Responsible Organization: Alteri's Restaurant



## New 30-Unit Townhome Community

The proposed hotel (described earlier) in this application anticipates overnight accommodations for visitors (and new jobs to assist them) on the southern edge of our DRI zone, and **we're** delighted to also put forth a proposal from Lewiston Townhomes, a long-standing developer of high-quality residential townhomes, for permanent residents on the northern perimeter of our proposed zone. This 30-unit, \$7.5 million project would rehabilitate the vacant brownfield site described earlier for approximately 60 people, providing 100 construction jobs and up to three permanent jobs, thereby adding much-needed tax dollars to the community. Consistent with our **community's** emphasis on sustainability, the developer will attempt to incorporate solar and geothermal elements into the project.

Total Project Cost: \$7,500,000

DRI Request: \$2,000,000

Bank Financing: \$5,500,000

Timeline: 18 months following approval

Primary Responsible Organization: Lewiston Townhomes

## Canal Place B&B Expansion

Built in 1844 as a warehouse on the historic Chenango Canal and later flanked on the north side by the railroad, 43 College Street is one of the most historic buildings in Oneida County. The property was purchased by the Fehlner's in 1974 and has been home to a number of small businesses. 43 College Street is now a mixed-use building located in the heart of the Clinton Village with one luxury apartment, two lodging suites, a nine-room office suite, and a 1,400 square foot space in need of development. The current owner feels the best use for this undeveloped space would be additional lodging units. In addition, the main property requires completion of blacktop paving, a new hedge row to replace the rundown fencing on the bank side of the building, and a decorative berm along the backside and bankside of the building to diffuse excessive rain water runoff from neighboring properties.

Total Project Cost: \$278,600

DRI Request: \$109,600

Energy/Private Funding: \$169,000

Timeline: 12 months upon funding approval

Primary Responsible Organization: Clinton Cider Mill, Inc.

## PROJECT CATEGORY 4:

### Increasing Opportunities for Recreation, Tourism, and Healthy Lifestyles

*Clinton is a community of walkers. At almost any time of the day or night, and in all weather, people are out walking throughout the community. Building on that appeal, and consistent with our commitment to embracing healthy and sustainable practices for all, we will tell and celebrate our unique story through multi-stop, self-guided walking tours that are open to all residents and visitors at no charge. These tours will connect the many worthwhile projects in our 2022 DRI proposal and amplify the DRI themes of creating an active downtown, providing amenities that support and enhance downtown living and quality of life, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Our DRI proposal includes the following projects:*

#### Kirkland Trails

Kirkland Trails, an all-volunteer, community-based organization, was founded in January 2018 to develop safe trails and sidewalks in the Town of Kirkland. Its mission is “...to develop a network of connected multi-use trails, paths and bike lanes in the Town of Kirkland, N.Y., to provide our community and the greater Mohawk Valley with safe routes for recreation and transportation and the opportunity to learn about local history and the natural environment.” In coordination with the town, Kirkland Trails received a NY Department of Transportation permit to develop an initial three-mile section of the abandoned railroad bed traversing the town. Other communities already have developed sections of the Chenango Canal Trail corridor in their area, and we are actively planning to develop the entire extent of the corridor in Kirkland so that our section of the trail will contribute to connecting Binghamton to Utica, just as the Chenango Canal did in the 19th century. This conversion will require the installation of sidewalks in portions of the town that are part of the designated DRI zone, and the creation of a “Trailhead Park” (see adjacent) on an unused parcel of land at the intersection of College Street and Chenango Avenue. Additional construction will take place outside the DRI zone.

Total Project Cost: \$1,200,000/DRI Request: \$600,000  
Other Financing: TBD / Timeline: TBD  
Primary Responsible Organization: Kirkland Trails

#### Trailhead Park

42 College Street is located in the heart of the Village of Clinton, on the corner of College Street and Chenango Avenue. It served most recently as a bank drive thru and kiosk. The Fehlners recently purchased the property under the name of Property 42 LLC, and have several ideas to improve the mostly abandoned parcel. Working with others (i.e., Kirkland Trails, Clinton Chamber of Commerce, Village, Hamilton College), this community-focused project would convert this neglected parcel into a more attractive space that could house a small kiosk to display information about community groups, businesses, places to eat, churches, non-profit organizations, Hamilton College, and municipal services. The parcel is strategically situated at the beginning of a proposed connection point for the canal towpath walking and bike route. In addition to the kiosk, improvements would include repaving, benches, landscaping, painting the existing iron fence, trash receptacles, an electrical service panel with enclosure, and parking spaces (some reserved for EV charging stations).

Total Project Cost: \$152,700  
DRI Request: Business Fund Grant  
Other Financing: Community -- \$40,000; Green Energy EV -- \$80,000  
Timeline: Construction 2024  
Primary Responsible Organization: Property 42 LLC

## Clinton Arena

The historic Clinton Arena will celebrate its 75th anniversary in 2023-24. It served as home to the Eastern Hockey League's Clinton Comets from 1954 to 1973, and now hosts teams from Clinton Central Schools, Clinton Youth Hockey, and the Clinton Figure Skating Club, one of the largest and oldest clubs on the East Coast. Built in 1948-49 and rebuilt in 1954 after a fire, the Arena was the site of an NHL preseason game in 2018 between the Buffalo Sabres and the Columbus Blue Jackets after the community won the Kraft Hockeyville grand prize. To protect this historic landmark, maximize its use, and keep the building in compliance with 21st century requirements and expectations, we plan to install new refrigeration and a new floor to improve energy efficiency, and renovate the interior spaces to provide a girls' locker room for the Clinton Warriors ice hockey team, which won the state championship in its fourth year of play. The locker room would address gender equity issues and provide additional support for the girls' skating club.

Total Project Cost: \$2,000,000

DRI Request: \$1,500,000

Other Financing: County Parks and Rec Grants -- \$500,000

Timeline: Construction in 2023-24, the Arena's 75th anniversary

Primary Responsible Organization: Town of Kirkland

## Boynton Pool

The Clinton Youth Foundation is a non-profit organization founded in 1957 to manage the Boynton Pool. For 65 years, the pool has provided a safe, welcoming environment for our community, especially children from all backgrounds and economic circumstances. It offers family friendly recreation, healthy physical activity, and swim instruction designed to build self-esteem, promote personal growth, and create a deeper sense of community. We are committed to ensuring the pool remains an accessible and affordable option for our residents, guests, and those in surrounding communities, providing reasonably priced membership options, discount admission days, and scholarships for memberships and swim lessons. Our proposal seeks to renovate the pool and clubhouse for longer seasonal use, make both fully ADA compliant to those with physical limitations, and open the facility for use by Clinton Central School sports teams. Included in the work would be a solar cover to extend the use of the pool an additional three months.

Total Project Cost: \$1,750,000

DRI Request: \$1,500,000

Other Financing: Grants Being Pursued by the Clinton Youth Foundation with Support from the Hamilton College Town-Gown Fund

Timeline: 2024

Primary Responsible Organization: Clinton Youth Foundation

## Hockeyville Trolley

Next to sidewalks, parking is one of our community's most-often requested enhancements. The call for increased parking in the downtown area becomes especially acute during our frequent festivals, community gatherings, and weekly Farmers Market in the summer. Our solution is an open-air Hockeyville Trolley that would ferry residents and visitors from nearby parking lots at the Clinton Central School District campus, the Hannaford Plaza, and even Hamilton College to the Village Green and central business district during community events, KAC-sponsored programs and events, and special Chamber of Commerce-designated promotions. Once the hotel is built, the trolley could ferry visitors from there to the business district, Hamilton College, and other local stops. The trolley would create jobs, especially for Clinton Central School bus drivers in the summer, and utilize the resources and expertise of locally owned Hale Transportation for training and maintenance.

Total Project Cost: \$160,000

DRI Request: \$100,000

Other Financing: \$60,000

Timeline: 2023

Primary Responsible Organization: Clinton Kirkland Improvement Corporation

## Promote and Expand Walking Tours

The Kirkland Town Library installed a Poetry Path in 2016, and the Clinton Historical Society regularly conducts walking tours that highlight points of historic significance in our 235-year-old community. “The Path” at Sunset Hill Cemetery is a short walking trail for contemplation, and the Town of Kirkland maintains several miles of nature trails at the Town Park. More recently, the Kirkland Trails organization is working to link the southern Chenango Canal Trail System and the Northern Erie Canal by establishing walking trails through the town and village. We plan to promote these tours and walking trails and add another that highlights the arts in our community. Although outside our designated DRI zone, our neighbor Hamilton College maintains its own extensive trails, glens, and gardens that are a popular destination for walkers, hikers, birders, and cross-country skiers, further establishing our community as a haven for walkers.

Total Project Cost: \$75,000

DRI Request: Business Fund

Other Financing: TBD

Timeline: 2023

Primary Responsible Organization: Clinton Kirkland Improvement Corporation

## PROJECT CATEGORY 5:

### Enhancing Arts, Culture, and Education Offerings for Residents and Visitors

*Clinton and Kirkland’s commitment to the arts, culture, and education is evident and longstanding. The Kirkland Art Center has been a mainstay on East Park Row for 60 years; the Kirkland Town Library is a thriving center of literary, artistic, and educational pursuit; and the Clinton Central School District is home to an award-winning educational program with a state-of-the-art theater and auditorium. Likewise, several artistic-themed local businesses enjoy broad support. Our DRI proposal capitalizes on this solid foundation with the following proposals focused on enhancing the arts, culture, and education in our community:*

## Kirkland Town Library

The Kirkland Town Library brings together people of all ages, cultures, interests, and education and economic status. As a community education center it offers, for example, arts and entertainment programs, self-help activities, and even wine tastings, in addition to being a place where books, periodicals, newspapers, and other materials are kept for reading or lending. Many community organizations also use the library to host meetings and other gatherings. To address this need (which is once again growing as COVID restrictions ease) and to fulfill its vision as the community’s education center open to all, the library will add second floor offices above the current staff space, allowing the existing staff offices to be converted into a meeting space, small business incubator space, and after-school student space.

Total Project Costs: \$350,000

DRI Request: \$300,000

Other Financing: NYS construction grants, fundraising

Timeline: TBD

Primary Responsible Organization: Kirkland Town Library

# Kirkland Art Center

The Kirkland Art Center recently celebrated its 60th anniversary serving the Clinton-Kirkland community and the surrounding area. Its Artist-in-Residence program has, over the past three years, provided minority artists with opportunities to explore their passions in various art mediums. In addition, the KAC has continued providing classes in the visual arts and dance to children and adults, while also offering local and regional artists a venue to display and perform their work. A well-received capital campaign for facility renewal and to expand its programming in response to community input is underway. To date, those funds have been used to refurbish the steeple and undertake roof replacement and eave repairs, but additional work to restore the building envelope is necessary. To continue supporting the long-term mission of the Kirkland Art Center, this project proposal would include the following: replacing the windows in the 1994 addition and Barn; restoring the bell and stair tower exteriors; conducting a full HVAC upgrade to install a more efficient heat pump system (cold weather and/or geothermal); installing a Culinary Art Studio (to fulfill a community survey request) that is wheelchair accessible and features energy efficient appliances; improving ADA access to the pottery studio; and creating a new entrance that fully meets ADA standards. Additional funding would come from grants from NYSCA, the NYS Energy program, and private donations.

Total Project Costs: \$1,800,000

DRI Request: \$1,500,000

Other Financing: State and local grants -- \$300,000

Timeline: TBD as funding becomes available

Primary Responsible Organization: Kirkland Art Center

## ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY

We're ready! Since our first DRI application in 2019, we have consistently refined our proposal and sharpened our planning process. In December 2022, an ad hoc group of volunteers who spearheaded past DRI proposals, formally organized as the Clinton Kirkland Improvement Corporation (CKIC) and received IRS designation as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. CKIC, working closely with New York State, the Local Planning Committee, and village and town officials, is committed to implementing and ensuring the long-term success of the projects identified in this application should our community be chosen as the 2022 DRI grant recipient from the Mohawk Valley Region. We hope our evolution from an informal, ad hoc group into a formal corporation focused on enhancing economic development and quality of life in our community provides evidence of our readiness and commitment to successfully maintaining and operating projects outlined in this proposal.

Finally, we're grateful for the guidance and direction provided in the "Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) Round 6 and NY Forward" Application + Submission Requirements, as well as the six capacity-building webinars. These resources were both helpful and reassuring as we developed our third DRI application. Thank you for this opportunity to envision our community's future economic development.



# LETTERS OF SUPPORT

This application touches all aspects of our community and many in the surrounding region. We're grateful for the support and endorsement we've received from the following community leaders.

Adopted: September 6, 2022

## VILLAGE OF CLINTON

### RESOLUTION: SUPPORT FOR DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION GRANT

Whereas, the Village of Clinton (the Village) is a municipal corporation located with the geographical boundaries of the Town of Kirkland (the "Town"); and

Whereas, there is located within the Village and Town a downtown commercial district incorporating, and surrounded by historic buildings, parks, cultural, educational and recreational facilities; and

Whereas, the Village and Town are eligible to apply for the 2022 State of New York Downtown Revitalization Grant (the DRI Grant) in an amount up to Ten Million dollars (\$10,000,000.00), which DRI Grant would benefit recreational facilities, organizations and residences within the community; and

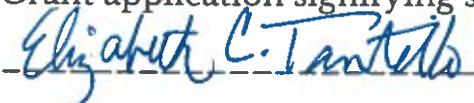
Whereas, the Village Board for the Village of Clinton supports such endeavors to improve the infrastructure and physical appearance of the Village and Town within an area to be defined within the DRI Grant;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the Village Board of Trustees in conjunction and cooperation with the Town Board for the Town of Kirkland consents to the Clinton Kirkland Improvement Corporation (CKIC) to prepare and submit the DRI Grant; and it is further

RESOLVED, that CKIC shall be authorized and is encouraged to compile the information required to apply for the DRI Grant and prepare the application; and it is further

RESOLVED, that subject to the final approval of the grant application by the Village Board that the Village Mayor is authorized to sign the DRI Grant application signifying such approval.

  
-----  
Mayor

  
-----  
Village Clerk



# TOWN OF KIRKLAND

Robert J. Meelan  
Supervisor  
(315) 853-5892

Adopted: September 7, 2022

## TOWN OF KIRKLAND RESOLUTION: SUPPORT FOR DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION GRANT

Whereas, the Town of Kirkland (the Town) is a municipal corporation whose geographical boundaries include the Village of Clinton; and

Whereas, there is located within the Village and Town a downtown commercial district incorporating, and surrounded by historic buildings, parks, cultural, educational and recreational facilities; and

Whereas, the Village and Town are eligible to apply for the 2022 State of New York Downtown Revitalization Grant (the DRI Grant) in an amount up to Ten Million dollars (\$10,000,000.00), which DRI Grant would benefit recreational facilities, organizations and residences within the community; and

Whereas, the Town Board for the Town of Kirkland supports such endeavors to improve the infrastructure and physical appearance of the Village and Town within an area to be defined within the DRI Grant;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of Council Members in conjunction and cooperation with the Village Board for the Village of Clinton consents to the Clinton Kirkland Improvement Corporation (CKIC) to prepare and submit the DRI Grant; and it is further

RESOLVED, that CKIC shall be authorized and is encouraged to compile the information required to apply for the DRI Grant and prepare the application; and it is further

RESOLVED, that subject to the final approval of the grant application by the Town Board that the Town Supervisor is authorized to sign the DRI Grant application signifying such approval.

P.O. Box 235  
Clinton, NY 13323

Fax: 315-853-4865  
[www.townofkirkland.org](http://www.townofkirkland.org)

3699 State Route 12B  
Clinton, NY 13323

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PO Box 139 ♦ Clinton, NY 13323-0139

[abetterchanceclintonmv.org](http://abetterchanceclintonmv.org)

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*Co-President*

L. Hazel Jack  
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Mia Rogers

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Douglas Walters

## PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Marilee Ensign

## RESIDENT DIRECTOR

Dayna Campbell

September 21, 2022

Mr. Robert Meelan, Supervisor  
Town of Kirkland  
Ms. Elizabeth Tantillo, Mayor  
Village of Clinton  
3699 Route 12B  
Clinton, NY 13323

Dear Supervisor Meelan and Mayor Tantillo,

We are pleased to offer this letter of support for the Town of Kirkland and Village of Clinton's application for a Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) grant.

Clinton A Better Chance, which is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, is part of a national program that prepares talented students of color for positions of responsibility and leadership in American society. Clinton, Kirkland, and Mohawk Valley residents have opened their hearts and homes as teachers, mentors, host families, coaches and especially as friends to the ABC scholars enrolled at Clinton High School. In turn, these extraordinary young men have contributed their talents, skills and perspectives in the classroom, on stage, on the field and elsewhere in our community.

Our ABC scholars -- and the ABC program in general -- have thrived because of support from the local community, so we are delighted to add our voice to those working to make Clinton and Kirkland an even more attractive, accessible and welcoming community for residents, visitors, and the ABC scholars we are honored to host each year.

Sincerely,

**Travis Hill and L. Hazel Jack**

Travis Hill and L. Hazel Jack  
Co-Presidents

# CLINTON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

75 Chenango Avenue  
Clinton, New York 13323-1395  
(315) 557-2253  
Fax (315) 853-8727  
Website: [www.ccs.edu](http://www.ccs.edu)

September 14, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

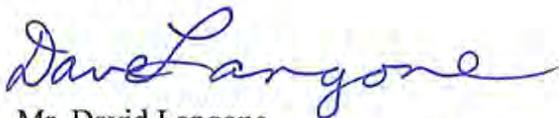
I am writing this letter on behalf of the Clinton Central School District in support for the DRI application from the Town of Kirkland and the Village of Clinton, the boundaries within which the school district lies. As in most small communities, the school is central to its life, enjoying a mutually beneficial relationship with the village and town. The quality of education that we are able to provide for the children residing in our school district will be a reflection of the vitality of the surrounding community.

Having served as an administrator in neighboring school districts for many years, I am well acquainted with the reputation for excellence the Clinton Central School District has rightfully earned. The continuation of these programs has, over time, become less sustainable as the financial burden on our property owners becomes more challenging.

In the District's Vision 2025 Strategic Plan, the need for local intentional economic development was identified as a high priority. Due to financial constraints, the District resources are stretched in order to meet the expectations of residents for continued high quality educational programming, which, for most families, is a key factor for choosing to reside in Clinton. The Clinton District supports the efforts of our public officials as they strive to stimulate economic growth, effectively reducing our reliance on property owners for funding.

I highly recommend that the Town of Kirkland and Village of Clinton receive the support of the DRI so that the quality of life for its residents and the children that we serve can continue.

Sincerely,



Mr. David Langone  
Interim Superintendent of Schools



## ONEIDA COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

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*Chad Davis ♦ 3438 Martin Road ♦ Clinton, New York 13323*  
*Home Phone: (315) 853-4037 ♦ Business Phone: (315) 732-0324*

September 20, 2022

Robert J. Meelan, Kirkland Town Supervisor, and,  
Elizabeth C. Tantillo, Mayor of Clinton  
3699 NYS Route 12B  
Clinton, New York 13323

**Re: Letter of Support for Clinton and Kirkland's Joint Application for the DRI Grant**

Dear Supervisor Meelan and Mayor Tantillo:

I wish to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to you and to the community volunteers for all of your due diligence and thoughtful review of the great projects and initiatives that have been proposed for this year's joint municipal application by the Town of Kirkland and Village relative to New York's 2022 grant program for downtown revitalization.

The planning and vetting process for certain needed improvements to move our community forward is never easy, and, it takes much commitment and forward thinking on the part of engaged stakeholders, concerned citizens and community leaders to put together the great number of outstanding community projects and initiatives – as you have done so well to make a strong case for the available grant monies.

The vision to keep and sustain Clinton and Kirkland as a vibrant New York State community with the proposed improvements is quite evident in the list of project ideas, and the details behind each one. Certainly, the proposed funding to assist the Kirkland Art Center, the Kirkland Town Library, the Clinton Pool and the Clinton Arena, with various essential renovations designed to sustain their respective futures, is critically important to the community's core, vibrancy and overall great quality of life.

I believe that the joint, municipal 2022 DRI application, as endorsed by the Town of Kirkland and the Village of Clinton, involve first-class projects which, if brought to fruition, will substantially enhance the educational, environmental and cultural quality of life for all of its residents and for all those who choose to make Clinton a destination when visiting Central New York.

Respectfully submitted,

Chad Davis

Oneida County Board of Legislators – 14th District



Monday, August 15, 2022

Mr. Robert Meelan, Supervisor, Town of Kirkland  
Ms. Elizabeth Tantillo, Mayor, Village of Clinton  
3699 Route 12B  
Clinton, NY 13323

### **Letter of Support**

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Clinton Chamber of Commerce, I wish to express our whole hearted support of the efforts of the Village of Clinton and the Town of Kirkland in putting forth an application for funding through New York State's Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) Round 6 & New York Forward. We see these programs as a wonderful opportunity to not only enhance our own community but to provide benefits which will be felt throughout the region.

The Clinton Chamber hosts a number of events throughout the year which have a significant and positive impact on the community's revenue and awareness building efforts. Projects that have been put forth like the construction of a 70-room hotel, establishment of walking & bicycle trails, exterior and infrastructure improvements, development of our green resources and so many more innovative ideas would significantly further those efforts to showcase our dynamic community and build on what is already a strong foundation.

The Clinton Chamber of Commerce remains steadfast in its commitment to the interests of those we serve and, to this end, we thank you for your consideration of the Village of Clinton/Town of Kirkland's Downtown Revitalization Initiative & NY Forward grant application.

Respectfully,

Karen Ostinett, President  
Clinton Chamber Board of Directors

September 16, 2022

Downtown Revitalization Initiative Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Climate Smart Community Taskforce for Kirkland and Clinton to express our strong support for the proposal being developed for a Downtown Revitalization Initiative grant that would greatly benefit both the village and the town. The task force assisted both municipalities in earning the state's Clean Energy Community designation, adopting Complete Streets and Climate Smart Communities resolutions, and is currently assisting with various actions so that both may earn the Climate Smart Community designation in the near future.

The task force is especially supportive of proposed projects which support improved environmental sustainability and awareness. These include projects which provide more means of non-motorized travel, encourage reduction of carbon emissions and use of more renewable energy.

We appreciate the efforts members of the community have put into soliciting ideas and feedback from the community on the DRI grant proposal and feel the process has already helped garner great input and feedback as to what sort of improvements residents would like to see in the village and town. We look forward to continuing these efforts to build stronger, more resilient and vibrant communities.

Regards,

Stephen Orvis

Coordinator for CSC Task Force for Kirkland and Clinton

<https://kirklandclintonclimatesmart.org/>

**THE JACK BOYNTON  
COMMUNITY POOL  
CLINTON YOUTH FOUNDATION**



September 22, 2022

Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council  
207 East Genesee Street  
Suite 1604  
Utica, NY 13501

**Re: Letter of Support for Joint Kirkland/Clinton DRI Application**

Dear Sirs/Madams:

On behalf of the Clinton Youth Foundation (CYF), I am pleased to submit this letter of support for the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) Application being submitted jointly by the Town of Kirkland and the Village of Clinton. The CYF, an all-volunteer organization that manages the Jack Boynton Community Pool in Clinton, believes that the proposed DRI projects will have cultural and economic benefits for Kirkland, Clinton, and the broader region.

Our Kirkland/Clinton community benefits from a strong and diverse group of non-profit, municipal, and volunteer organizations, including the Clinton Arena, the Kirkland Art Center, the Kirkland Town Library, Kirkland Trails, Hamilton College, and the CYF's own Jack Boynton Community Pool. Local businesses are varied and deeply connected to the broader community. Together, these institutions provide rich recreational and cultural opportunities for area residents, including well-organized and well-supported local events ranging from our weekly Farmer's Market to the annual Clinton Arts and Music Festival. These events are local treasures, but also draw many visitors to Kirkland, Clinton, and the broader region.

The Kirkland-Clinton community also has a history of collaborating to raise funds for and deliver programming to our residents. Each spring, the CYF calls on local businesses to support our silent auction fundraiser. In turn, the CYF has begun to sponsor a family-friendly Treasure Hunt with clues leading participants to different businesses and institutions within the community. The Kirkland Town Library and Clinton Pool worked together to create a circulating "pool pass" that allowed families

**CYF Letter of Support for Kirkland-Clinton DRI Application**

September 3, 2021

Page 2

to visit the Pool free of charge. Together, we have worked hard to help our community make the most of the funding and other resources available to us. However, as a small community, our resources are limited. The DRI would dramatically expand our community's ability to serve and engage with residents and visitors alike.

The spirit of cooperation and collaboration embedded in our community is reflected in the Town of Kirkland and Village of Clinton's current DRI application. Some of the proposed projects will provide needed support and expansion opportunities for existing organizations, like the Clinton Arena and the Jack Boynton Community Pool, to ensure that they remain strong anchors for a thriving community. Others will support newer enterprises, such as an expanded series of recreational trails, to fill identified gaps in services, recreational opportunities, and infrastructure. Taken together, the proposed DRI projects would increase our area's draw for tourists and new residents alike.

For all of these reasons, the Clinton Youth Foundation supports the joint Town of Kirkland/Village of Clinton DRI application. Thank you for considering this proposal.

Sincerely,

*Alma Lowry*

Alma Lowry  
Clinton Youth Foundation Board President



# ONEIDA COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

Colin Idzi ♦ 252 Main St. ♦ Oriskany Falls, NY 13425 ♦ (315) 525-2774

Email: [colimidzi@yahoo.com](mailto:colimidzi@yahoo.com) and [cidzi@ocgov.net](mailto:cidzi@ocgov.net)

Sept. 22, 2022

Kirkland Supervisor Robert Meelan  
PO Box 235  
Clinton, NY 13323

Clinton Mayor Elizabeth Tantillo  
PO Box 242  
Clinton, NY 13323

Dear Supervisor Meelan and Mayor Tantillo:

I wholeheartedly endorse the application being made by the town of Kirkland and village of Clinton for a state Downtown Revitalization Initiative grant. I am certain this award will greatly enhance our community in many ways, as well as provide added benefits to Oneida County, the Mohawk Valley and New York state.

The application covers a number of initiatives all aimed at a broad community revitalization through investment and economic development. Of special note is the main project, a 70-room franchised hotel that will provide a nearby place to stay for those visiting historic Hamilton College and the area and increase visits to Clinton's downtown.

In addition, formation of the Clinton Kirkland Improvement Corp. [501(c)3] to assist the village and town in administering the grant and projects unequivocally signals the community's energy and commitment to enhancing the educational, environmental and cultural quality of life for all residents.

I strongly urge the inclusion of the application from Clinton and Kirkland in the next round of Downtown Revitalization Initiative awards. The request aligns with the community vision and deserves funding.

Sincerely yours,

Colin Idzi  
County Legislator  
2nd District (Kirkland, Augusta, Marshall and Sangerfield)



ONEIDA COUNTY  
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

ANTHONY J. PICENTE, JR.  
County Executive  
ce@ocgov.net

September 21, 2022

Michael Reese  
Regional Director  
Empire State Development  
207 Genesee St.  
Utica, NY 13501

Dear Mr. Reese,

I am writing this letter to extend my support for the Town of Kirkland and Village of Clinton's application for the state's Downtown Revitalization Initiative grant.

Kirkland and Clinton have taken what they have learned from their past DRI application to focus their needs and refine their plan to address them. I believe what they have devised will greatly enhance their community, Oneida County and the region. It includes 21 projects in five categories, including:

- Category 1: Modernize infrastructure to facilitate growth and encourage sustainable practices (e.g., improvements to the Clinton Sewer Service Area, Lombard Hall renovations, sidewalk expansion, and climate smart enhancements)
- Category 2: Beautifying an active downtown with a strong sense of place (e.g., streetscape improvement/business fund, West Park Row beautification)
- Category 3: Attracting new businesses and strengthening existing family-owned businesses (e.g., a new hotel, new townhouses, and expansion of the Clinton Cider Mill and Alteri's restaurant)
- Category 4: Increasing opportunities for recreation, tourism, and healthy lifestyles (e.g., expanding Kirkland Trails, and enhancements to the Clinton Arena and the Boynton Pool)
- Category 5: Enhancing arts, culture, and education offerings for residents and visitors (e.g., Kirkland Art Center, Kirkland Town Library)

This application will provide economic benefits by adding to the tax base and creating jobs, along with the indirect advantages of bringing in outside dollars to our existing businesses. It will also spur further development from private investors looking to commit to a vibrant and healthy community.

Thank you for your consideration of this application that will certainly add to our tax base, create jobs and bring in outside dollars to our existing businesses. Please feel free to contact my office for further assistance.

Sincerely,

Anthony J. Picente Jr.  
County Executive



# Hamilton

August 24, 2022

Mr. Robert Meelan, Town of Kirkland Supervisor  
Ms. Elizabeth Tantillo, Village of Clinton Mayor  
Downtown Revitalization Initiative  
3699 Route 12B  
Clinton, NY 13323

Dear Bob and Elizabeth,

I am aware that the Village and the Town are working together to secure a Downtown Revitalization Initiative grant and am writing to express Hamilton College's enthusiastic and unqualified support of this effort.

Hamilton's success in attracting some of the finest students and employees to this region is tied directly to our ability to offer quality programs and an attractive and safe quality of life, both on campus and off. For more than 200 years, the Village, the Town, and the College have partnered to protect the characteristics that make Clinton, Kirkland, and Hamilton such desirable places to live, work, and learn. We know, however, that we cannot take for granted the features that draw people to our community and our College, so I'm grateful for the leadership you are providing to ensure our future economic health, vitality, and overall quality of life.

Hamilton will continue to support local efforts to strengthen our community, including through direct voluntary contributions outlined in the Municipal Contributions Agreement, and through grants awarded annually from the Hamilton College Town-Gown Fund. As a nonprofit, however, Hamilton is unable to make the large investments that can transform a community and spur further economic development and growth. The Downtown Revitalization Initiative offers that promise, and I applaud your pursuit of this opportunity. If successful, the DRI grant will benefit not just Clinton and Kirkland, but Oneida County as well.

I look forward with great anticipation to what this grant will make possible for our community.

Sincerely,

David Wippman  
President

Amy Goodfriend  
115 Zaccheus Mead Lane  
Greenwich, CT 06831

September 15, 2022

Mr. Robert Meelan, Town of Kirkland Supervisor  
Ms. Elizabeth Tantillo, Village of Clinton Mayor  
3699 Route 12B  
Clinton, NY 13323

Dear Mr. Meelan and Ms. Tantillo:

As a trustee of Hamilton College and a native of Clinton, New York, I write to voice my support for Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) grant application submitted by the Town of Kirkland and Village of Clinton.

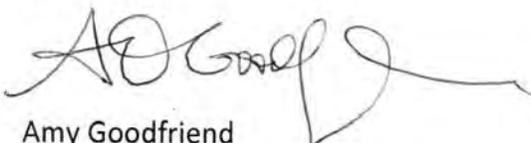
Hamilton College, renowned as one of the finest liberal arts institutions in the country, began as the Hamilton-Oneida Academy in 1793 by Samuel Kirkland and was chartered by New York State as Hamilton College in 1812. For these 226 years, the histories of Hamilton, the Town of Kirkland and the Village of Clinton have been intertwined. The College recognizes that its success requires a vibrant community, one that is attractive to its students and faculty. Because this relationship is so vital, we have worked closely with our colleagues in the Town and Village to strengthen local organizations that foster education, safety and quality of life.

Toward that end, the Town-Gown Fund was established by friends of the community and the College as a vehicle to make gifts or grants to various organizations and agencies servicing the Town of Kirkland and the Village of Clinton. From a modest start, the fund has grown to over \$1.7 million, and earlier this year we reached a milestone - \$1 million in grants given to dozen of local organizations.

While these numbers may be impressive, the community would be greatly enhanced if it were the recipient of the DRI grant. The Town of Kirkland and the Village of Clinton would be able to complete a number of projects that would benefit the entire community.

On behalf of my colleagues on the Board, I encourage a favorable outcome for our wonderful town and village and wish you well with this important initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AG Goodfriend', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Amy Goodfriend



September 20, 2022

TO: Robert Meelan, Town of Kirkland Supervisor  
Elizabeth Tantillo, Mayor, Village of Clinton  
FROM: Kirkland Art Center Board of Directors  
RE: Downtown Revitalization Initiative

**Board of Directors**  
Damhnait McHugh  
*President*

Jon Hysell  
*Vice-President*

John Powell  
*Secretary/Treasurer*

Jennifer Potter Hayes

Sharry Whitney

Cate Reynolds

Louise Trevillyan

Melinda Karastury

Steve Lockwood Esq.

Kino Ruth

Ernest Williams

Dear Robert and Elizabeth,

We are delighted to provide this letter of support for the DRI proposal. DRI funding will greatly improve the quality of life for everyone in our town and those who visit, it will have a positive economic impact for new and established businesses, and it will enhance energy efficiency in our community. As the arts center – the cultural anchor – in our community, we are proud of the role we play in the proposed plans.

The work proposed for the Kirkland Art Center complements well the other proposed projects. Having successfully raised most of our \$500,000 capital campaign goal for the roof replacement, including a large award from NYSCA, we are confident that we can match DRI funds too. We see great value in enhancing the energy efficiency of our 12,000 sq. ft. facility through window replacement and full HVAC upgrade, and we are eager to serve diverse members of our community through our new Culinary Arts Studio and improved access to our facility. With DRI support we can strengthen our mission to educate children and adults, to advocate for artists and the arts, and to engage the community in a range of cultural experiences and opportunities.

On behalf of the Kirkland Art Center Board of Directors and all our members, thank you for facilitating a productive collaboration among all community stakeholders in developing such a strong proposal. We look forward to exciting times ahead and to future collaborations in developing our village and town.

Sincerely,

Damhnait McHugh  
Board President

9½ EAST PARK ROW CLINTON NY 13323 315.853.8871 • WWW.KACNY.ORG

*The Kirkland Art Center is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization EIN 15-0618473 and your donations are tax deductible as provided by law.*



# Kirkland Town Library

55/12 College Street  
Clinton, New York 13323

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September 6, 2022

Mr. Robert Meelan, Town of Kirkland Supervisor  
Mrs. Elizabeth Tantillo, Village of Clinton Mayor  
Downtown Revitalization Initiative Grant  
3699 Route 12 B  
Clinton, NY 13323

Dear Bob and Elizabeth,

On behalf of those associated with The Kirkland Town Library, I am excited about the many benefits that would accrue to our community, as well as to Oneida County and to the region, proposed in the application for a New York State Downtown Revitalization Initiative grant. As an organization that strives to actively increase the overall quality of life for residents of Clinton and Kirkland, we wholeheartedly support your efforts.

Furthermore, the library will continue to foster an environment where lifelong learning can occur, offer vibrant and dynamic programming and seek out collaboration that build a stronger community; efforts that dovetail with and support the goals of the grant.

Thank you for undertaking this initiative to enhance our community's future.

Sincerely,

Anne M. Debraggio  
Director  
Kirkland Town Library

## KT 2022 DRI Letter of Support

Kirkland Trails is an enthusiastic participant in and supporter of the Clinton/Kirkland DRI Proposal again in 2022. While much of our current trail development is centered outside the DRI zone, our long-term goals include extending our keystone Chenango Canal Trail through the center of the village and linking it to neighboring communities and to sidewalks and bike routes within the village. We believe these goals fit perfectly with the five project categories in the 2022 DRI submission.

New sidewalks and a trailhead park in the village center along our proposed trail route are of particular interest to us. They are part of our vision of "... safe routes for recreation and transportation and the opportunity to learn about local history and the environment".

We believe there will be significant synergy between trails and sidewalks and local businesses and cultural institutions and events. By advancing trails and sidewalks, the DRI Grant will improve safe, healthy and sustainable access to the community's businesses and attractions, thus helping the local economy. By enhancing those businesses and attractions, the DRI Grant will in-turn contribute to increased use and development of trails.

We applaud the continued collaboration of the Town of Kirkland and Village of Clinton in developing their joint proposal, and we fervently hope that the proposal will be approved this year.



BRIAN D. MILLER  
Assemblyman 101<sup>st</sup> District

THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER  
Real Property Taxation Committee

COMMITTEES  
Agriculture  
Consumer Affairs & Protection  
Environmental Conservation  
Transportation

September 14, 2022

Mr. Michael Reese  
Regional Director  
Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council  
207 Genesee St. #1604  
Utica, NY 13501

**RE: Town of Kirkland / Village of Clinton Downtown Revitalization Initiative Grant Application**

Dear Mr. Reese,

I am pleased to lend my support for the Town of Kirkland and Village of Clinton's joint application for the New York State Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) Grant. The DRI funding would greatly contribute to the community's commitment to enhance the economic, environmental, educational and cultural quality of life for all residents.

The Town of Kirkland and Village of Clinton's application consists of several projects to be completed with DRI funding. The funding will be used for projects to improve infrastructure, housing, the arts, culture and tourism. The main project would be a 70 room franchised hotel that will provide much needed hotel space for those that come to visit the area. This project is of particular importance as Hamilton College, a nationally ranked college, is located within the municipalities and is a huge economic driver for the region. Currently, there is no hotel space for those visiting Hamilton College or various attractions in the area to stay. The hotel would contribute to an increase in economic activity across all sectors by allowing the area to become a multi-day destination versus one day destination.

The Town of Kirkland and Village of Clinton are poised to build upon the momentum of recent private and public investments and further leverage the DRI award to develop a vibrant and sustainable downtown economy. The funding will be used for projects to improve infrastructure, the arts and culture. The continued revitalization is critical to the area's economic success, as it will enhance the attraction and retention of residents and employers.



BRIAN D. MILLER  
Assemblyman 101<sup>st</sup> District

THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER  
Real Property Taxation Committee

COMMITTEES  
Agriculture  
Consumer Affairs & Protection  
Environmental Conservation  
Transportation

Funding for projects to address building rehabilitation, increased recreational opportunities, adaptive reuse of historic buildings, greenspace, housing, streetscape and placemaking are components that will capitalize on these communities' assets, inspiration, and potential. I commend the municipalities for their continuing efforts on behalf of their residents to provide the needed funding to help strengthen their community. Thank you in advance for your strong consideration of the Town of Kirkland / Village of Clinton's application for the DRI Award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian D. Miller".

Brian D. Miller  
NYS Assemblyman  
101st Assembly District

September 5, 2022

Mr. Robert Meelan, Town of Kirkland Supervisor  
Ms. Elizabeth Tantillo, Mayor of Clinton  
3699 Route 12B  
Clinton, NY, 13323  
ckic13323@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Meelan and Ms. Tantillo:

Being inclusive- and community-oriented, the Clinton Area Ministerium, and the individual churches, welcome and support efforts that would enhance the community and infrastructure and offers this Letter of Support for the application the Town of Kirkland and Village of Clinton are submitting for the state's Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) grant. We believe this would greatly enhance our community and the region in many ways.

The Ministerium is group of the area religious leaders who regularly meet for discussion and planning ecumenical services and activities. In addition to our open services on the Village Green for Easter and Labor Day weekend, we seek to work through the life of the community. This includes our annual Community Collection Day held on the Village Green, whose purpose is to collect food for the Country Pantry, but also provide recycling services, and in previous years we held Rise Against Hunger at Clinton High School where we packed about 40,000 meals for communities abroad.

Indeed, our churches are also individually very active in the community. The Clinton United Methodist Church has been hosting blood drives for 40 years and has an active pre-school program as does St. James. Stone Church has its Building Stones Fair Trade Shop, one of the largest all-volunteer ones in the country, supporting farmers and artisans around the country and the world. And we work with the chaplaincies at Hamilton College and LutheranCare as well.

The people of the Town of Kirkland and the Village of Clinton have consistently demonstrated their charity and volunteerism and striving to make the community not only better for themselves, but others in need and at the margins of society. The Ministerium supports the town and village with the DRI to seek additional investment to achieve those goals.

Respectfully,



Scott Leonard, Secretary/Treasurer  
Clinton Area Ministerium

September 5, 2022

Mr. Robert Meelan, Town of Kirkland Supervisor  
Ms. Elizabeth Tantillo, Mayor of Clinton  
3699 Route 12B  
Clinton, NY, 13323  
ckick13323@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Meelan and Ms. Tantillo:

The Stone Presbyterian Church offers this Letter of Support for the application the Town of Kirkland and Village of Clinton are submitting for the state's Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) grant. We believe this would greatly enhance our community in many ways as well as provide added benefits to Oneida County and the region.

Stone Church continues to be and sits in the very heart of the village. Our congregation dates to the very founding of Clinton itself in 1787 and has long historical ties as well to Hamilton College up on the hill. Indeed, in the first 100 years Hamilton College presidents were ordained ministers and graduations were held at our church. Stone Church continues to house the village clock that the village still maintains. Also, the Village Green was part of Stone Church until this century when we quick-deeded it to village. Of the original three churches on the Village Green only Stone remains a church.

Being inclusive- and community-oriented, Stone Church welcomes and supports efforts that would enhance the community and infrastructure. As a 144-year-old structure, Stone Church itself needs updating. In 2009 we had a successful community-wide campaign to raise funds to make major repairs on our clock tower and now are starting a capital campaign to repair our roof. We desire to continue to work with the community to make our building more open to the community, including redoing our sanctuary to make it multi-purpose for community events and expanding its use as we have with the Building Stones Fair Trade Shop we house, which is staffed with unpaid volunteers and sells Fair Trade products from around the world.

The people of the Town of Kirkland and the Village of Clinton have consistently demonstrated their charity and volunteerism and striving to make the community not only better for themselves, but others in need and at the margins of society, which we at Stone Church do as well. Stone Church supports and seeks to work with the town and village with the DRI to seek additional investment to achieve those goals.

Respectfully,



Scott Leonard, Pastor  
Stone Presbyterian Church



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-3222

August 25, 2022

The Honorable Robert Meelan  
Supervisor, Town of Kirkland

The Honorable Elizabeth Tantillo  
Mayor, Village of Clinton

3699 Route 12B  
Clinton, NY 13323

Dear Supervisor Meelan and Mayor Tantillo:

I am writing today in strong support of application by the Town of Kirkland and Village of Clinton for the state's Downtown Revitalization Initiative grant. I firmly believe this would greatly enhance our community in numerous ways and help create growth and prosperity within Oneida County.

The Village of Clinton and Town of Kirkland applied for the DRI grant in 2019 and 2021, but were unsuccessful in attaining funding. Each year the Village and Town only strengthen their position following feedback from their applications. This past year the volunteers who started the process formed the Clinton Kirkland Improvement Corporation, a 501(c)3 aimed at supporting the downtown development of the Village and Town.

The DRI funds communities around the state with \$10 million to improve business structure, housing stock and quality of life for residents and visitors. In this year's application, the municipalities main project will be a 70-room franchised hotel that will provide a nearby stay for those visiting Hamilton College, a bustling University in the town, and increase visits to the downtown area.

The municipalities also plan to expand the historic Clinton Arena, which hosted the famous "Hockeyville" game in 2018 that brought an NHL game to Clinton, a New York State hockey museum, and expansions and renovations to a number of small businesses and municipal facilities. With Hamilton College just up the hill from the village, the possibilities on economic development for both the village and the town are limitless. After a difficult year of COVID-19, these communities are ready to get right back to it and deliver economic progress that will last for years to come.



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-3222

For these reasons I fully support the application by the Town of Kirkland and the Village of Clinton. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me at my Utica District Office, 315-732-0713.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Claudia Tenney".

CLAUDIA TENNEY  
Member of Congress