



**Western New York
Downtown Revitalization Initiative
and Smart Growth Community Fund**

APPLICATION

Applications for the Downtown Revitalization Initiative will be received by the Regional Councils. Applicant responses for each section should be as complete and succinct as possible. Applications should be submitted as Word documents and must be received by WNY Regional Council (WNY REDC) by 4:00 PM on June 1, 2018 at the email address provided at the end of this application. Application guidance is provided in the *Downtown Revitalization Initiative Guidebook* found on the WNY REDC website at www.regionalcouncils.ny.gov/western-new-york

BASIC INFORMATION

Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) Region: Western New York

Municipality Name: Sinclairville

Downtown Name: Main Street

County Name: Chautauqua

Vision for Downtown. Provide a brief statement of the municipality’s vision for downtown revitalization.

To revitalize the aging historic buildings along Main Street and to add new construction for Health Care, Senior Services and Education.

JUSTIFICATION

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

The downtown area consists mostly of century old buildings that have been utilized for today’s needs. Many of them need to be rehabilitated and put back into use, others need repairs to remain usable. The community also needs a health care center to serve an aging population as well as a garage to house the Meals on Wheels program and a library expansion to provide a meeting location for educational activities.

DOWNTOWN IDENTIFICATION

This section should be filled out with reference to the list of desired attributes for participation in the DRI as set forth in the *Downtown Revitalization Initiative Guidebook*.

- 1) Boundaries of the proposed DRI area.** Detail the boundaries of the targeted neighborhood, keeping in mind that there is no minimum or maximum size, but that the neighborhood should be concentrated and well-defined. Neighborhoods beyond a traditional downtown or central business district are eligible, if they can meet other criteria making them ripe for investment. Attach a map that clearly delineates the area to be included in the downtown revitalization area.

The boundaries of the targeted neighborhood are Main street from west of Jamestown street and heading east going up East Avenue to include the 1845 church building housing Samaritan House. The targeted area also includes Church Street east of Mitchell Street to include the 1800's historical cider mill.

- 2) Description of catchment area.** Outline why the proposed DRI area, or its catchment area, is of a size sufficient to support a vibrant, year-round downtown, with consideration of whether there is a sizeable existing or increasing population within easy reach for whom this would be the primary downtown destination.

This area is the entire downtown that serves not only the Village but all the residents of the Town of Charlotte and much of the Town of Gerry as well as other adjoining towns.

- 3) Past Investment, future investment potential.** Describe how this DRI area will be able to capitalize on prior private and public investment, or catalyze future investments in the neighborhood and its surrounding areas.

Much investment has already been made in seven of the targeted buildings and retail expansion will be achieved by investment in two others. Interest has been voiced by UPMC to place a medical center in the village and the village is much in need of a larger gathering venue for social and educational purposes that can be achieved by an addition to the library. The Meals on Wheels program is in need of a garage to protect the delivery vans from the weather.

- 4) Recent or impending job growth.** Describe how recent or impending job growth within or near the DRI area will attract professionals to an active life in the downtown, support redevelopment, and make growth sustainable in the long-term.

The village store/restaurant has expanded and added employment and has plans for future expansion with help from this program.

- 5) Attractiveness of physical environment.** Identify the properties or characteristics that the DRI area possesses that contribute, or could contribute if enhanced, to the attractiveness and livability of the downtown for a diverse population of varying ages, income, gender identity, ability, mobility, and cultural background. Consider, for example, the presence of developable mixed-use spaces, varied housing types at different levels of affordability, walkability and bikeability, healthy and affordable food markets, and public parks and gathering spaces.

Most of the identified area is made up of structures built 1845 – 1880. As we lose historical structures throughout the area we have the ability with this grant to refurbish and save many historical structures.

6) Quality of Life policies. Articulate the policies in place that increase the livability and quality of life of the downtown. Examples include the use of local land banks, modern zoning codes, comprehensive plans, complete streets plan, transit-oriented development, non-discrimination laws, age-friendly policies, and a downtown management structure. If policies achieving this goal are not currently in place, describe the ability of the municipality to create and implement such policies.

The designated area is all located within the Village of Sinclairville limits. Any of these policies needed to obtain the grant can be placed into law by the village board.

7) Public Support. Describe the public participation and engagement process conducted to develop the DRI application, and the support of local leaders and stakeholders for pursuing a vision of downtown revitalization. Describe the commitment among local leaders and stakeholders to preparing and implementing a strategic investment plan. Identify an initial local lead for the program that will work with outside experts to convene a DRI Local Planning Committee to oversee the plan.

The local lead would be the Village mayor, James Kianos.

8) Project List to Demonstrate Readiness: Describe opportunities to build on the strengths described above by providing a list of transformative projects that will be ready for implementation with an infusion of DRI funds within the first one to two years (depending on the scope and complexity of the project) and which may leverage DRI funding with private investment or other funds. Such projects could address economic development, transportation, housing, and community development needs. While such projects should have demonstrated public support, it is recognized that projects will ultimately be vetted by the Local Planning Committee and the State. Explain how most projects proposed for DRI funding demonstrate their readiness for implementation.

The following is a list of projects. Once funding is in place the village board and planning committee would get together to begin these projects as soon as possible.

1. 2400 square foot addition to library that will serve as a community meeting center for local organizations and educational purposes.
2. 2400 square foot medical center to serve the medical needs of the community. We have two senior living centers in the village.
3. Garage to house and service the Meals on Wheels vans
4. Paved parking for approximately 36 vehicles to serve the needs of the library and medical center.
5. The property needed for the location of 1-4 above is currently privately owned and contains three buildings in dilapidated condition in need of demolition and property cleanup.
6. Painting of 150 year old building formerly used as a store.
7. Repairs to foundation and exterior of historic cider mill to be used as a museum to attract people to the village
8. Congregational church building now used as center to help the needy throughout the county. Building constructed in 1845 needs a new roof and repairs to the steeple.
9. Valley Historical Society museum building built in 1845 is the oldest commercial brick building remaining in the county. The museum needs a new roof and some exterior repairs.

10. Former drug store building, circa 1850, needs repairs to roof and exterior. Store next door would have plans to expand its business into this building with repairs to make the expansion viable.
11. Former restaurant has had doors and windows replaced and been weatherproofed. Building needs exterior repairs to attract a business owner or tenant.
12. The former bank building, circa 1880, has been in deteriorating condition for years. Currently it is a residence. The village would purchase the building and restore the structure. Repairs are needed to the roof and exterior and the building could be used either as a retail space or as an art center.

9) Administrative Capacity. Describe the extent of the existing local administrative capacity to manage this initiative, including potential oversight of concurrent contracts once projects are selected for award.

The village board has the ability and authority to administer this project.

10) Other. Provide any other information that informs the nomination of this downtown for a DRI award.

Sinclairville is a proud old village dating back to 1809. It was the first interior settlement in Chautauqua county. Much like other small towns it has diminished by the advent of larger cities and being taken off the main highway that was once the life blood of the village. We are asking for your help to stop the downward slope that we are on and help us return to a portion of our proud and prosperous past. Thousands of local residents count on Sinclairville for a good portion of their daily lives. Help us to continue to expand on this need.

*Don't forget to attach a map that clearly delineates the proposed DRI Area. (See item 1.)

EMAIL SUBMISSION ADDRESS

Please submit your application as a Word Document to the Regional Council for your region.

Western New York NYS-WNY-REDC@esd.ny.gov
