

## Downtown Revitalization Initiative

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### Application Template

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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 must be received by the Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council by **4:00 PM on June 14, 2017**. Submit your application as a Word Document to [NYS-MidHudson@esd.ny.gov](mailto:NYS-MidHudson@esd.ny.gov).

#### **BASIC INFORMATION**

Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) Region: Mid-Hudson

Municipality Name: Village of Washingtonville

Downtown Name: Village of Washingtonville

County: Orange

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

Justification. Provide an overview of the downtown, 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 Village of Washingtonville Downtown is the perfect candidate for selection as the Mid-Hudson Region's Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) nominee. Village of Washingtonville is in the midst of a renaissance, with the village government coming together with all businesses, Taft Elementary, Washingtonville Middle School and Washingtonville Senior High School. The Moffitt Library will be completing its historic rebuilding after the floods of Hurricane Irene. The Brotherhood Winery, which lies within walking distance of our downtown is continuing to grow at a record pace. Both institutions are listed on the National Landmark registry. The business community, our Place making Initiative, as well as our Village Board all working as a whole tom transforming the Village of Washingtonville into a vibrant, year-round downtown that serves all residents of the Village and the surrounding region. Our Village is poised for success. Much has already been started.

#### **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 DRI program description.

- 1) Boundaries of the Downtown Neighborhood.** 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. Core 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 downtown neighborhood.

The Village of Washingtonville's downtown is defined by the boundaries of both State highways Route 208 and State Highway 94. The Villages business district has been in existence since 1996 and is well recognized throughout the community. In our new comprehensive plan, we are planning to enlarge our district. Our plans are to make it our Village highly walkable and easily accessible on foot, by bicycle, and by car to neighborhoods and employment centers in the Village and the surrounding region.

- 2) Catchment area.** Outline why the downtown, 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.

Downtown Village of Washingtonville contains a mixture of commercial, residential, civic, cultural, and educational and recreation uses in a compact, walkable area. It is surrounded by residential neighborhoods and is in close proximity to agricultural areas. The Village of Washingtonville population is currently over 8000 residents, and many more from surrounding Towns and Hamlets that consider the Village of Washingtonville downtown, their primary downtown. As the Village has begun its revitalization, it will continue to improve with a growing population, diverse employment opportunities, and expand educational and cultural opportunities around the Village, Washingtonville is well-positioned to support a vibrant, year-round downtown.

Importantly, the compact size of Downtown Washingtonville is well suited to the Governor's Downtown Revitalization Initiative. With the ground work that is and has already be laid by the Village and its partners (described in the responses below), an infusion of \$10 million in technical assistance and project funding from New York State can have a profound, visible, and immediate impact here in the Village of Washingtonville.

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

The Village of Washingtonville and the surrounding area have been the focus of a tremendous amount of public and private sector investment in recent years. The Village has capitalized on these investments and continues to advance a pipeline of catalyst projects that are in the planning, pre-construction, and construction phases of development, and that will stimulate additional investment downtown in the coming years. Prominent examples include a parking lot where the Old Village Hall was taken down due to Hurricane Irene. This area will become a metered parking area for both students in our senior high school and businesses. Adjacent to the parking lot, we have a new community park in the planning stages. This area lies across the street from Washingtonville Middle School along State Route 94 and along the Moodna Creek. Planned for this park will be an outdoor band platform, game tables, benches, learning circles, shuffleboard and bocce ball courts. Within our downtown district we also have the restoration of the historic Moffat Library and Carriage House seated directly at the crossroads of our Village Center. The Library will be completed in September of 2017 and will provide the village and surrounding areas with a true community center fully supported by the latest in technology. Within the Village we have three schools,

Senior High School, Middle School and Taft Elementary School. Both the High School and Middle School along with our Central School Administration and Transportation Garage sit directly on Main Street, AKA: State Highway 94. The Middle School are housed in 1800's building that have been maintained over the years to provide the technology and standards of today. Behind the high school, middle school are where the athletic fields are located and behind our transportation garage is another field resting along the Moodna Creek. Our school building are presently under construction and modernization. Over the past years our school have upgraded the following, football, soccer and softball facilities. Our high school received a new upgrade of its track facilities. New tennis courts have been installed as well as outdoor basketball courts have been resurfaced.

Our infrastructure issues are now being addressed. We are in the process of securing a 13.2 million dollars bond for our new upgrade and expansion of our waste water facilities plant. Our wastewater water facilities plant has been in disarray for years, failing at times. Our new plant will be under construction later this year. Once completed our new Waste Water Facilities Plant will have a positive impact on the community and efficiencies and will have less impact on the environment.

Washingtonville downtown revitalization efforts are consistent with the MHREDC's vision for the Mid-Hudson Region and

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

There is a great deal of recent or impending job growth within, or in close proximity to the Village of Washingtonville. In addition to the central district that current employs 1000 people plus, there have been a number of jobs proposed by Betty's Country Kitchen, Brotherhood Winery, Department Works Department, Village Police Department, Moffitt Library, ICDI Corp.

- 5) Attractiveness of physical environment.** Identify the properties or characteristics that the downtown 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 bike ability, healthy and affordable food markets, and public parks and gathering spaces.

The Village of Washingtonville already contains, or will contain soon, all of the physical properties and characteristics that make a downtown an attractive and livable community for diverse populations of all ages, including millennials and skilled workers.

The Village currently has four parks, including a girls' softball facility, a sports complex of 3 baseball fields that is also accessible via footbridge from our municipal parking area. We are currently planning our fifth park which will be across State Highway 94 from our Middle and High School. This park will contain an outdoor band stand learning circles, shuffleboard and bocce ball courts, along with nature trails.

- 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 plans, 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 Village of Washingtonville already embraces numerous policies that increase the livability and quality of life in the Village. We are currently looking into solar farms. The village residents will receive the opportunity for discounted rates.

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- 7) Support for the local vision.** Describe the public participation and engagement process conducted to support 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 local DRI Planning Committee to oversee the plan.

Mayor Joseph Bucco, with the assistance of the Village Board and all of the Village Employees are unified in support for the revitalization of Downtown Village of Washingtonville.

- 8) Readiness:** Describe opportunities to build on the strengths described above, including a range 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 the majority of projects proposed for DRI funding demonstrate their readiness for implementation.

The Village of Washingtonville has remained poised for years waiting for the Village of Washingtonville to start its renaissance. It has now begun.

- 9) Administrative Capacity.** Describe the extent of the existing local administrative capacity to manage this initiative, including potential oversight of concurrent contracts.

The Village of Washingtonville Mayor and Board of Trustees are committed to work hand in hand along with all the departments and residents to see our Village become the greatest Village in New York State.

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

There is an additional piece of information that should be considered with the nomination of Downtown Village of Washingtonville for a DRI award. The first is leadership. Nothing is more predictive of the potential success of community revitalization efforts than good, sustained leadership. Washingtonville has waited years for great leadership. It has finally arrived.

\*Don't forget to attach a map that clearly delineates the downtown neighborhood. (See item 1.)