

PRESS RELEASE

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Southern Tier West Now Accepting Letters-of-Interest for Appalachian Regional Commission grants

Letter of Interest due Wednesday, March 15, 2023, at 4PM

Salamanca, NY – Southern Tier West Regional Planning and Development Board is now accepting Letters-of-Interest for the Area Development grant program funded by the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). Letters-of-Interest will be for project activities beginning mid-year FY2024. This is a matching grant of at least 50% cash or in-kind match. The deadline for the 2-page Letter-of-Intent is Wednesday, March 15, 2023, 4 PM. Southern Tier West seeks proposals for activities that take place in Allegany, Cattaraugus, or Chautauqua Counties and that strategically advance the mission of the ARC, New York State, as well as local development priorities. The ARC supports a broad range of eligible activities in both programmatic and small-scale construction or related projects including workforce development, economic opportunities, educational opportunities, critical infrastructure, access to healthcare, entrepreneurship, leadership and community capacity, promotion of natural or cultural assets, main street revitalization, as well as planning and assessment. Eligible applicants are municipalities/local governments and incorporated non-for-profit organizations. The maximum ARC grant request historically has been set at \$150,000 per project proposal. However, investment in the region has increased and so has the ask, which is now up to \$250,000.

The Appalachian Regional Commission is a federal-state partnership with the mission to innovate, partner, and invest to build community capacity and strengthen economic growth in 420 counties across the 13 Appalachian states. New York State's Appalachia region consists of 14 counties along its southern tier region, including Allegany, Cattaraugus, and Chautauqua Counties. In partnership with New York State's Dept of State and Local Development District agencies like Southern Tier West, project proposal solicitation and first phase review begin in a decentralized and scaffolded approach at the regional level to target the investment of ARC funds to communities or programs that will provide a sustainable response to a documented need or opportunity and that also demonstrate the potential for additional leveraged private investment. Southern Tier West works closely with applicants in the development of eligible project activities and the preparation of a competitive grant proposal.

The application process occurs over several phases of review at the local, state, and federal levels. It is strongly suggested that interested first-time applicants attend the information session on Wednesday, February 15th at 10 AM before scheduling the required pre-application discussion with the program manager. All applicants are required to schedule a meeting with STW staff to review the grant making criteria and to determine project eligibility. Meetings can take place over the phone, in-person, or video conference program. Please contact Dr. Fileve Palmer to arrange your meeting or find out more. The deadline for submission of the Letter-of-Intent is Wednesday March 15, 2023, at 4 PM. Information about Appalachian Regional Commission, Southern Tier West, documents and links related to the Area Development Program grant are available at <https://www.southerntierwest.org/>

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