

Project: Townwide Development Readiness and Indoor Recreation Study

State program: Empire State Development Strategic Planning and Feasibility Studies Program

Project goal

Give the Town reliable information before major infrastructure or development decisions are made. The study will identify and compare development opportunities throughout the Town and evaluate whether a privately developed, owned, and operated year-round indoor sports, recreation, entertainment, and events facility is supported by the market and local infrastructure.

Objectives

- Create a townwide inventory of sites and areas with realistic development potential.
- Review zoning, transportation, water and wastewater, electricity, broadband, environmental constraints, and other readiness factors.
- Identify priority opportunities and the public or private actions needed to make them more development-ready.
- Test market demand, operating assumptions, financial feasibility, and economic effects for a possible indoor recreation and events destination.
- Prepare a phased strategy for infrastructure funding, partnerships, and responsible developer outreach.

What the grant would support

Site and infrastructure inventory, mapping, screening, and comparative readiness analysis; utility, access, land-use, environmental, market, and economic-development review; stakeholder interviews; comparable-facility research; market analysis; financial modeling; economic-impact analysis; and a final implementation report.

Proposed budget

Total project: \$85,000 | State request: \$42,500 | Town share: \$42,500

The current local-share proposal includes \$8,500 in Town cash and \$34,000 in documented Town personnel services.

Public benefit

- A clearer pipeline of sites that may support housing, business growth, services, tourism, or other appropriate development.
- Better information for prioritizing water, sewer, transportation, energy, broadband, and other infrastructure investments.
- Independent evidence about whether an indoor recreation and events destination is realistic and sustainable.
- Lower risk of pursuing sites or concepts that are not supported by market or infrastructure conditions.

Partners, status, and Board action

The Town has support from Otsego Now, the Destination Marketing Corporation, Cooperstown All Star Village, Otsego County Planning, Congressman Riley, Assemblymember Brian D. Miller, and Rep Hinchey. Board authorization would permit application submission; it would not select a site, developer, or operator or commit the Town to build, own, finance, or operate a facility.