

# CITY OF OGDENSBURG, NEW YORK

CITY HALL • 330 FORD STREET • OGDENSBURG, NY 13669 • (315) 393-6100



Office of the Interim City Manager

**TO:** City Council

**SUBJECT:** Council Update

**DATE:** January 20, 2023

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## **Grant Updates**

### **Upcoming Submissions and Deadlines**

- **USDA Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program**
  - Eligible Communities: Rural areas including cities, villages, townships, and towns including Federally recognized Tribal lands with no more than 20,000 residents according to the latest U.S. Decennial Census.
  - Purpose: The Community Facilities (CF) Direct Loan Program provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities. An essential community facility is defined as a facility that provides an essential service to the local community.
  - Funds can be used to purchase, construct, and/or improve essential community facilities, purchase equipment and pay related project expenses.
    - This funding opportunity is being reviewed to help offset costs associated with the necessary roof replacement at City Hall.
    - USDA CF Fact Sheet Attached.
- **January 27, 2023 – NYS Restore NY 7**
  - Requesting up to \$2,000,000 for the demolition & redevelopment of 30 Main Street properties.
  - All projects require no less than ten (10%) percent of the aggregated award amount in matching contributions.
  - Public hearing on this grant proposal will be January 23, 2023 at 6:00 PM
- **FEMA Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG) opened**
  - Deadline to submit: February 10, 2023
  - Objective: The objectives of the AFG Program are to provide critically needed resources that equip and train emergency personnel to recognized standards, enhance operational efficiencies, foster interoperability, and support community resilience.
  - Ogdensburg qualifies for 95% federal share/5% local matching funds
  - An application seeking funds for a new generator and hose maintenance equipment will be considered at the upcoming Council meeting.
  - The full Notification of Available Funds (NOFA) can be viewed here: [https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema\\_fy-22-afg-nofo.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_fy-22-afg-nofo.pdf)
- **FEMA SAFER grant**
  - The Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants (SAFER) was created to provide funding directly to fire departments and volunteer firefighter interest

organizations to help them increase or maintain the number of trained, "front line" firefighters available in their communities.

- The FY2022 Round of funds has not yet opened, but is anticipated in early February.
- A resolution of support to submit a FY2022 SAFER grant will be presented at the January 23, 2023 City Council meeting.

### **Project Updates**

**Surplus Property** – City Council will be presented with a list of 31 parcels to be declared surplus at the upcoming City Council meeting on January 23, 2023. While some of these parcels have been auction in the past, as recently as August 2, 2022, the bulk of the parcels were acquired through property tax foreclosure in November 2021 and June 2022. Several of the properties included on this list were recently improved through this summer's *demolition of condemned structures project*.

The tentative auction date will be Thursday, March 2, 2023 at City Hall.

**Snow Removal Reminder** – In the wake of recent winter storms please be reminded that there are specific local ordinances prescribing standards for snow removal and overnight parking. The Office of Code Enforcement published a press release earlier today providing greater detail and helpful tips to encourage compliance.

### **Personnel**

**City Historian** – Attached with this update is a monthly report from City Historian Julie Madlin.

A recent video on the history of the Ogdensburg Street railway was debuted by Ms. Madlin earlier this week. The 6-minute video can be seen here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pdooKxKFwBE>.

### **Sales Tax**

- A comprehensive update on sales tax will be provided by Comptroller, Angela Gray at the January 23, 2023 City Council Meeting. Of note, the average monthly collection of sales tax revenue since pre-emption is \$199,509. This is down from where the city needs to be to achieve the 2023 budgeted sales tax revenue of \$2.6 million.

# Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant

## What does this program do?

**This program provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas. An essential community facility is defined as a facility that provides an essential service to the local community for the orderly development of the community in a primarily rural area, and does not include private, commercial, or business undertakings.**

## Who may apply for this program?

### Eligible borrowers include:

- **Public bodies**
- **Community-based nonprofit corporations**
- **Federally recognized Tribes**

### What is an eligible area?

Rural areas including cities, villages, townships, and towns including Federally recognized Tribal lands with no more than 20,000 residents according to the latest [U.S. Census Data](#) are eligible for this program.

### How may funds be used?

Funds can be used to purchase, construct, and/or improve essential community facilities, to purchase equipment, and to pay related project expenses.

Examples of essential community facilities include:

- Healthcare facilities such as hospitals, medical clinics, dental clinics, nursing homes, or assisted living facilities
- Public facilities such as town halls, courthouses, airport hangars, or street improvements
- Community support services such as child care centers, community centers, fairgrounds, or transitional housing
- Public safety services such as fire departments, police stations, prisons, police vehicles, fire trucks, public works vehicles, or equipment
- Educational services such as museums, libraries, or private schools
- Utility services such as telemedicine or distance learning equipment

- Local food systems such as community gardens, food pantries, community kitchens, food banks, food hubs, or greenhouses

For a complete list see Code of Federal Regulations 7 CFR, Part 1942.17(d) for loans; [7 CFR, Part 3570.62](#) for grants.

### What kinds of funding are available?

- Low interest direct loans
- Grants
- A combination of the two above, as well as our [loan guarantee program](#). These may be combined with commercial financing to finance one project if all eligibility and feasibility requirements are met.

### What are the funding priorities?

- Priority point system based on population, median household income
- Small communities with a population of 5,500 or less
  - Low-income communities having a median household income below 80% of the state nonmetropolitan median household income.

## What are the terms?

Funding is provided through a competitive process.

### Direct Loan:

- Loan repayment terms may not be longer than the useful life of the facility, state statutes, the applicants authority, or a maximum of 40 years, whichever is less.
- Interest rates are set by Rural Development, contact us for details and current rates.
- Once the loan is approved, the interest rate is fixed for the entire term of the loan, and is determined by the median household income of the service area.
- There are no pre-payment penalties.
- Contact us for details and current interest rates applicable for your project.

### Grant Approval:

Grant funds must be available. Applicant must be eligible for grant assistance, which is provided on a graduated scale with smaller communities with the lowest median household income being eligible for projects with a higher proportion of grant funds. Grant assistance is limited to the following percentages of eligible project costs:

Maximum of 75 percent when the proposed project is:

- Located in a rural community having a population of 5,000 or fewer; and
- The median household income of the proposed service area is below the higher of the poverty line or 60 percent of the State nonmetropolitan median household income.

Maximum of 55 percent when the proposed project is:

- Located in a rural community having a population of 12,000 or fewer; and
- The median household income of the proposed service area is below the higher of the poverty line or 70 percent of the State nonmetropolitan median household income.

Maximum of 35 percent when the proposed project is:

- Located in a rural community having a population of 20,000 or fewer; and
- The median household income of the proposed service area is below the higher of the poverty line or 80 percent of the State nonmetropolitan median household income.

Maximum of 15 percent when the proposed project is:

- Located in a rural community having a population of 20,000 or fewer; and
- The median household income of the proposed service area is below the higher of the poverty line or 90 percent of the State nonmetropolitan median household income. The proposed project must meet both percentage criteria. Grants are further limited.

## Are there additional requirements?

- Applicants must have legal authority to borrow money, obtain security, repay loans, construct, operate, and maintain the proposed facilities
- Applicants must be unable to finance the project from their own resources and/or through commercial credit at reasonable rates and terms
- Facilities must serve rural area where they are/will be located
- Project must demonstrate substantial community support
- Environmental review must be completed/acceptable

## How do we get started?

Contact your [local RD office](#) to discuss your specific project. Applications are accepted year round.

## Who can answer questions?

Contact your [local RD office](#).

## What governs this program?

- Direct Loan: 7 CFR Part 1942, Subpart A
- Grant: 7 CFR Part 3570, Subpart A

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**NOTE: Because citations and other information may be subject to change, please always consult the program instructions listed in the section above titled “What Governs This Program?” You may also contact your local office for assistance. You will find additional forms, resources, and program information at [rd.usda.gov](http://rd.usda.gov). USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.**

January 2023

City Historian Report

Task	Status
Virtual APHNYS trustee meeting	Elected First Vice President
Image of Ogdensburg Railroad Depot	In progress
Marion Sanger Frank bio and image	Sent to County Historian and TAUNY
Met with County Historian	Completed
Attended MANC meeting, Potsdam	Networked with county museums and historians
Met with NYSCHE virtually	Discussed use of city urban renewal records for national study
Annual State Report	Sent to County Historian, State Historian and A. Smith
Historical Commission	Prepared agenda and held meeting
Working on year 6 of NNYCF "Take a Walk Through History" grant <b>Ford Street Walking Tour</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. City Hall</li><li>ii. W.J. Averell House</li><li>iii. Dr. H.S. Stillwell House</li><li>iv. Street Trolley</li><li>v. Silk Mill</li><li>vi. Cigar Making</li><li>vii. Dow Photography</li></ul>	Street Trolley, Silk Mill, Cigar making completed  Stillwell House in progress
Heritage Festival	Contacted Frederic Remington Art Museum to schedule
Location of Eagle Hall and buildings still standing from War of 1812	Completed
Origin of the name Ogdensburg	Completed
Community outreach through Ogdensburg History site on Facebook	The site has 7,989 members with 73,612 views.

Respectfully submitted by:

Julie Madlin, Registered Historian

City of Ogdensburg Historian