

Projects Undertaken by OCFC in 2014:

In order to strengthen economic development in Orange County, in 2014 the OCFC undertook the following:

- In 2011, the IDA authorized a \$500,000 project expenditure over five years to the Newburgh Armory Unity Center, Inc. for restoring and improving the former Newburgh Armory, which was deeded in 2010 for \$1.00 from the State to the City of Newburgh. The Armory is worth several million dollars, but the City did not have the funds to restore and improve it as an asset. The IDA funds have been matched by the Kaplan Foundation. The Armory's submission to the IDA estimated that the reconstituted Armory will draw 15,000 to 25,000 tourists to Newburgh during its first year of operation after renovation. Even before renovations were completed, 5,000 persons took advantage of Armory activities. In 2014, approximately 40,000 people were positively impacted by the Armory programs. The huge drill hall and the basketball court have hosted athletic events, trade shows, conventions, festivals, competitions, and games from the entire tri-State area. The many offices are being used by area clubs, adult education, literacy and ESL classes and by government and charitable service organizations. Aside from tourism-related activities, there is another huge factor that the Newburgh Armory funds will contribute to economic development in the City, that is, crime reduction. The City needs recreation facilities such as the Armory to offset gang violence, drug use, teen pregnancy, and unemployment among the City's surging youth population. In 2012, the renovations moved at such a rapid pace that the IDA amended its authorization to allow the funds to be disbursed as needed and not over five years as originally intended. In 2013, the funds were exhausted, and the Armory expanded its reach to include an advanced manufacturing training center. The Center for Global Advanced Manufacturing partnered with the Armory and set out to create a training curriculum. Working with local colleges – SUNY Orange and MSMC – the Center for Global Advanced Manufacturing applied for CFA funding, in addition to an IDA \$750,000 Project Expenditure for the renovation of the building and equipping of the classrooms. In 2014, the first advanced manufacturing class of 20 graduated from the program and 18 of the graduates were immediately placed in jobs by local manufacturers. The participation in the Armory programs has been so high that additional classrooms were needed. With a \$200,000 award by the Orange County Funding Corp., renovations of the Armory garage are underway to create an additional six classrooms.
- The Minisink Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution had received assistance from the IDA for renovations to the Old Stone Schoolhouse, the oldest schoolhouse in the State of New York in 2013. In 2014, the OCFC awarded the DAR \$10,000 to further assist in the renovations so as to make the site a viable tourist attraction for this historic destination.
- The OCFC authorized a \$250,000 Project Expenditure to the Purple Heart Hall of Honor for the expansion and enhancement of the facility to better represent all of the branches of the armed forces and thereby to increase the attraction of more visitors to the site.
- The OCFC authorized a two year, \$60,000 project expenditure to The Center for Global Advanced Manufacturing and The Solar Energy Consortium to help secure a \$1.38 million Federal grant designed to target/attract manufacturers to re-shore their operations to the City of Newburgh.
- The IDA authorized a two year, \$25,000 per year project expenditure to Orange County Triathlon. The Newburgh Unity Armory Center, Inc., in conjunction with Wilkinson Enterprises, Inc. organized and conducted the Orange County Triathlon in the City of Newburgh in 2013 and did so again in 2014. The 2014 event surpassed the 2013 Triathlon in the number of participants and the number of people who watched the event. The Triathlon increased trade and recreational opportunities for the residents of Orange County and provided an increase in tourism in the County by attracting out-of-state competitors and their families and friends. The event served to improve the quality of life in the City by boosting

economic development in the City and County and attracted thousands of visitors and tourists. Initial discussions have been undertaken with the event organizers and the OCFC for funding in 2015.