

Projects Undertaken by OCFC in 2017:

In order to strengthen economic development in Orange County, in 2017 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 2015 \$200,000 award by the Orange County Funding Corp., renovations of the Armory garage was undertaken to create an additional six classrooms. These classrooms were completed in early 2016 and are used for after-school and summer programs. With the success of the remodeled area and the continued attraction of students, Armory management partnered with the Newburgh City School District and IBM to create a coding school. With this new undertaking, the OCFC authorized an additional \$175,000 to renovate the unused portion of the Armory basement for classrooms for the coding and robotics school. This project was concluded in 2017.
- The OCFC authorized a \$25,000 project expenditure in 2017 for the Orange County Triathlon. The Newburgh Unity Armory Center, Inc., in conjunction with Wilkinson Enterprises, Inc. organized and have conducted the Orange County Triathlon in the City of Newburgh since 2013 with each successive year attracting more participants and spectators to the event. The Triathlon increases trade and recreational opportunities for the residents of Orange County and provides an increase in tourism in the County by attracting out-of-state competitors and their families and friends. The event serves to improve the quality of life in the City by boosting economic development in the City and County and attracting thousands of visitors and tourists. In 2015, 2016 and 2017 successful Triathlons were also held in the City of Port Jervis that attracted participants and visitors from the New Jersey/Pennsylvania area. The OCFC authorized the expenditure to purchase watercraft to ensure the safety of the competitors swimming in the Hudson and Delaware Rivers.
- The OCFC extended its 2015 authorization of \$50,000 to the CCE for architectural and engineering services to directly support the development of the education and job training center at the CCE's Education Center and 4-H Park. CCE plans to utilize the funds and begin construction in 2018.

- The OCFC authorized \$52,000 to support the Village of Greenwood Lake and the Town of Warwick in their construction and development of a boat launch and a passive recreational park. The construction of the boat launch and park aims to increase trade and recreational opportunities for local and County residents and will increase tourism by attracting out-of-state boating enthusiasts to this spectacular natural resource. The construction was completed in 2017.
- The Village of Goshen, the County Seat, undertook a community visioning process to identify the future path for the Village which has resulted in the "Goshen 2020 Vision." The Village has undertaken over \$150,000 in projects to make its downtown business district more walkable, more community-centric and more business-friendly. The Village requested the OCFC to assist in its "Vision" through a project expenditure for repairs to a bus shelter, installation of new street and directional signs and the purchase and placement of street furniture and landscaping features. The OCFC determined that it would support this project in the amount of \$20,000 as a means of fostering economic development, enhancing tourism and recreation opportunities in the County Seat. Construction is expected to begin in 2018.