

# ORANGE COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

## **2021 CORPORATE MISSION AND GOALS MEASUREMENT REPORT**

**Name of Corporation:** The Orange County Industrial Development Agency (OCIDA)

### **Corporation's Mission Statement:**

"The mission of the Orange County Industrial Development Agency is to promote economic growth through a program of incentives-based allocations that assist in the construction, equipping and maintenance of specific types of projects and facilities. The IDA works to advance the health, prosperity and economic welfare of our County's citizens by retaining and creating jobs and attracting new businesses."

### **List of Performance Goals and Measurement of Progress in Meeting Goals.**

#### **1. Retain 200 jobs**

In 2021, the OCIDA assisted in the retention of up to 200 jobs through a combination of initiatives. Through its Accelerator Without Walls (AWOW) program, the OCIDA supported programs and services that served the needs of existing manufacturers in the County to demonstrate its commitment to keeping such vital businesses in the County. This support aided in the retention of scores of jobs, as well as the creation of new employment opportunities around Orange County. Through its sister agency, the OCFC, the agency also helped retain jobs with small businesses by administering the COVID-19 Resiliency Loan Fund. This program served as a life preserver of sorts for the local businesses who received the loans, allowing them to pay their bills –and retain they key staff –s amidst the challenges, financial and otherwise, of trying to rebuild their businesses as COVID-19 began to dissipate in 2021.

#### **2. Create 150 jobs**

In 2021, the OCIDA incentivized an attraction project for Green Thumb Industries (GTI). GTI received sales tax exemption and a 15-year property tax abatement through the OCIDA because of their commitment to create more than 150 new research and development, management and production

jobs. The OCIDA's \$3.5 million infrastructure investment in the Warwick Valley Office & Technology Corporate Park – a NYS prison site as recently as 2011! – also enabled Orange County to seize upon the opportunity this emerging industry sector can provide for its municipalities and its residents.

### **3. Increase the visibility and viability of The Accelerator.**

Unfortunately, in 2021 it was uncovered by the NYS Comptroller and the Orange County District Attorney that prior OCIDA management were fraudulently using the Accelerator operations as a vehicle through which the former managing director siphoned millions of dollars to his private company. Since these revelations came to light, the Orange County Legislature removed the former board of directors and installed a new slate of volunteer leadership.

While this new leadership, and the management team they hired, continued to support the Accelerator's small business clients throughout 2021, plans were made to deconstruct the program and to re-evaluate the use of OCIDA funds to effectively, and legally, spur economic growth locally.

### **4. Advocate for economic development in Orange County.**

The OCIDA continued its mission to attract and support businesses in Orange County throughout 2021. The OCIDA aggressively marketed the economic, educational and life-style advantages that Orange County offers to business owners and their employees, as well as the agency's economic incentives that help attract such businesses.

Also in 2021, the Orange County Industrial Development Agency and Orange County Funding Corporation continued to administer their aggressive COVID-19 Economic Recovery Program, which was successful in making economic stability and hope possible to more than 50 local small businesses. Through this vital recovery program, the OCIDA/OCFC helped businesses train, rehire and recruit employees; identify and solve supply chain and inventory shortfalls; clean and disinfect their facilities; and apply for federal, state, and local grant/loan applications.

Additionally, the IDA's Accelerator Without Walls program (AWOW) continued to bring onsite services to the support of existing, established manufacturing companies located in Orange County, at no charge to the

businesses. Through AWOW the IDA assisted clients in areas including production and development support, rehabilitation,

recruitment, stress solutions, efficiency evaluation, investment readiness, technology improvement/ installation, promotional assistance and market research. The OCIDA's initiative to leverage connections and partnerships between new and existing Orange County businesses has also continued to enhance the mission of the OCIDA and benefit the business atmosphere of the county.

**Additional questions regarding 2021 measurement of OCIDA progress against mission and performance goals:**

1. Have the Board Members acknowledged that they have read and understood the mission of the corporation?

**YES**

2. Who has the power to appoint the management of the corporation?

**The OCIDA Board appoints its management.**

3. If the Board appoints management, do you have a policy you follow when appointing the management of the corporation?

**The Board seeks the best qualified individuals by conducting a search for such individuals after advertising the available positions in appropriate and cost-effective ways. The OCIDA board conducted a thorough RFP in 2021 to recruit and ultimately appoint a new full-time CEO.**

4. Briefly describe the role of the Board and the role of management in the implementation of the mission.

**The Board of the OCIDA sets policies and overall strategy for the organization, appoints and oversees management and financial operations and controls - all in support of its mission and goals. The management of OCIDA promotes and administers its services, operations, finances, contracts and projects in support of its mission and goals and in accordance with the strategy, direction and policies established by the Board.**

5. Has the Board acknowledged that they have read and understood the responses to each of these questions?

**Yes, the Board has read and understood the responses to each of these**

**questions and has approved them for filing with the ABO.**