

# Village of Montgomery

NY FORWARD



## Local Planning Committee (LPC)

### Meeting #2

June 10, 2024



NY Forward

A stylized map of a town with a river and a grid of streets. The map is rendered in a light beige color with a teal river winding through it. The streets are shown as thin lines, and buildings are represented by small, light-colored rectangles. The overall style is clean and modern.

# Welcoming Remarks

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# Agenda

## Welcome and Presentation (105 minutes)

- Welcome
- LPC Code of Conduct
- NY Forward Timeline
- Public Engagement Update
- NY Forward Vision and Goals
- Project Development
  - What Makes a Strong Project
  - Successfully Awarded Projects
  - Project Components
- Project Evaluation Criteria
- Open Call for Projects

## Public Comment (15 minutes)

- Next Steps/Thank you

## LPC Code of Conduct

“ “ *Each Local Planning Committee Member is reminded of their obligation to disclose potential conflicts of interest with respect to projects that may be discussed at today’s meeting.*

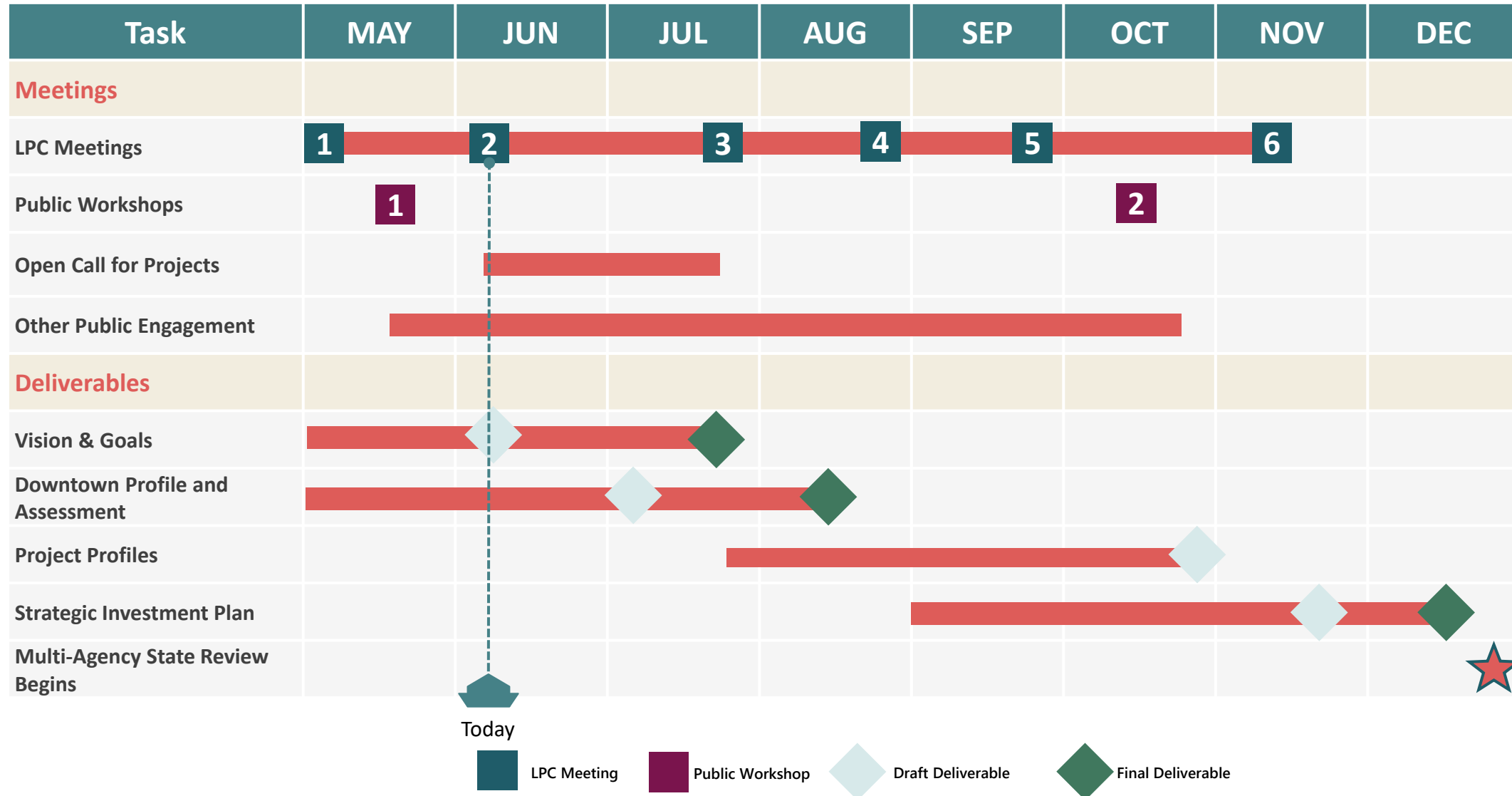
*If you have a potential conflict of interest regarding a project you believe will be discussed during the meeting, please disclose it now and recuse yourself from any discussion or vote on that project.*

*For example, you may state that you, or a family member, have a financial interest in the project, or you are on the board of the organization proposing the project.*

*Do any LPC members need to make a disclosure to the Committee?*

*Please inform the LPC co-chairs during the meeting if the need to disclose a conflict arises unexpectedly, and then recuse yourself from discussion or voting on the project.*

# NY Forward Timeline



A stylized map of a town with a river and a grid of streets. The river is a prominent teal-colored feature winding through the upper portion of the map. The streets are represented by thin, light brown lines forming a grid. Buildings are depicted as small, light brown rectangles scattered throughout the town. The overall color palette is muted and earthy.

# Public Engagement Update

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## Public Workshop No. 1

- Held Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 8:00PM at the Senior Center at 36 Bridge Street
- Outreach and advertising included flyers, email blasts, Village Facebook page post, stakeholder emails, signs/banners, reverse 911 robocall
- Approx. 50 people attended
- Topics included:
  - NY Forward Process
  - Call for Projects
  - Feedback on Montgomery's Opportunities and Challenges:
  - Input on Veteran's Memorial Park and Pleasure Ground
  - Complete Streets



# Public Workshop No. 1

- **Feedback on Montgomery's Opportunities and Challenges:**

- When asked about their favorite aspects of downtown Montgomery, stakeholders most often described the area's walkability and mix of local businesses, specifically the restaurants and shops
- Stakeholders also demonstrated an interest in creating a more pedestrian-friendly environment in and around Montgomery through their suggestions to reduce truck traffic, enhance walkability through sidewalk repairs, and improve accessibility to nature trails
- Stakeholders demonstrated a strong interest in making streetscape improvements, including adding and improving crosswalks and sidewalks, building bike lanes and bike infrastructure, and addressing traffic concerns
- Stakeholders were interested in updating existing community spaces (e.g. library, senior center) and developing more public spaces where community gatherings and activities could take place (e.g. arts center, pool, recreation spaces)



# Public Workshop No. 1

- **What folks like about Montgomery:**

- Aesthetics – historic preservation
- Culture – small town charm, people in the streets
- Local businesses – restaurants, shops
- Walkability – close proximity to businesses and parks, compactness

- **Things to improve in the downtown:**

- Accessibility
- Streetscaping – facades, flowers/plants, traffic calming, streetlights
- Community Space – more space for family activities, outdoor gathering spaces, library, public restrooms
- Local businesses – diverse businesses, extended hours for evening & weekend activities, more retail and less restaurants
- Parking
- Walkability – sidewalks, crosswalks

# Public Workshop No. 1

- **Input and feedback on Veteran's Memorial Park:**
  - Better, more defined connectivity through signage and well-defined paths/trails (both inside the park and directing folks outside the park to the park)
  - Enhanced nature trail access
  - Reuse or repurpose flooded ballfields
  - More family and teen activities in a repurposed or expanded Senior Center (or separate structure)
  - Improved access to the river/waterfront
  - Improved/enhanced amenities (public restrooms, benches, lighting, bike racks, etc.)
  - Consolidated, enclosed play area (in the shade)
  - Mixed feedback on parking – Senior Center lot is oversized, but is used for overflow parking during evenings for downtown dining

## Immersive Engagement: Coffee with the Project Team

- Held Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> from 9:00AM to 3:00 PM at the NY Forward Community Center (NYFCC) at 32 Union Street
- Approx. 20 people attended
- Several public, private, and not-for-profit project sponsors. LPC members, and members of the community attended and had their questions answered
- Installed the NY Forward Community Mailbox as a way to submit feedback/input 24/7



# Upcoming Engagement Opportunities

## NY Forward Community Center Open House

- Representatives from the LPC will be at the NYFCC (32 Union Street) Wednesdays 6:00 to 8:00 pm and Saturdays 1:00 to 4:00 pm during the month of June
- Stop by to share any ideas about the future of downtown Montgomery and how to make it a more vibrant and inviting downtown

## Immersive Engagement – June 2024

- Solicit feedback from youth regarding upgrades to the Veterans Memorial Park and Pleasure Ground
- Meeting with key stakeholders regarding park programming and needs

## Public Outreach Activity (General Montgomery Day) – September 7, 2024

- Local outreach to gather community feedback on the list of projects
- Encourage attendance and participation at Public Workshop #2

## Public Workshop #2 – October 16, 2024

- Update on NY Forward planning process
- Update on finalized Vision and Goals
- Key Findings of Downtown Profile and Assessment
- Feedback on the list of projects
- Next steps



# LPC Questions and Answers



# Refined Montgomery NY Forward Vision

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## Montgomery NY Forward Vision Statement (Original)

“*Montgomery is a quaint historic village with a strong sense of community and a picturesque location along the Wallkill River. Our residents cherish our small-town charm and abundance of community-oriented events, as well as our beautiful period architecture.*

*Our vision for the future involves improving and better connecting our downtown parks and green spaces, making our streets and sidewalks safer and more walkable, preserving our history, and enhancing the gateways into our community. We strive to improve our Village in ways that will honor the past while making our community a better place for generations to come.*

## Montgomery NY Forward Vision Statement (Refined)

“*Montgomery is a quaint historic village with a strong sense of community and a picturesque location along the Wallkill River. Residents cherish the small-town charm, collaborative spirit, and abundance of community-oriented events, as well as its beautiful period architecture.*

*Downtown Montgomery will be a connected, safe, and walkable community with inviting parks and green spaces, preserved historic character, and a diverse and thriving business community and amenities for residents and visitors of all ages. The Village will honor its past while making the community a better place for generations to come.*



A stylized map of a town with a river and buildings. The map is rendered in a light beige and teal color palette. A prominent teal river flows through the town, curving from the top left towards the right. The town's layout is shown with a grid of streets and numerous small, light-colored rectangular shapes representing buildings. The overall style is clean and modern.

# *Draft* Montgomery NY Forward Goals

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# Draft Montgomery NY Forward Goals



## ***Enhance Pedestrian Connectivity***

*Foster a walkable, vibrant community that encourages a safe pedestrian experience that builds upon the unique character of Montgomery, while connecting the gateways, the downtown, and the Walkkill River waterfront.*



## ***Strengthen Economic Vitality***

*Build a foundation for Montgomery to become a regional destination by improving the vibrancy of the downtown, capitalizing on existing businesses, and sustainably adding new offerings to encourage spending extended time in the downtown.*



## ***Reimagine Our Parks and Open Space***

*Create and implement a cohesive vision for parks and open space assets in the downtown so that they remain accessible to all users, provide diverse spaces for programming and activities, and meet the needs of current and future generations.*



## ***Capitalize on the Historic and Cultural Assets***

*Expand upon the existing historic and cultural assets to provide additional resources and gathering spaces for community-oriented events for residents and visitors of all age groups.*

A stylized map of a town with a river, overlaid with a semi-transparent teal shape. The map shows a grid of streets and building footprints. A teal river flows through the town, and a larger teal shape is overlaid on the left side of the map.

# Project Development: What Makes a Strong Project?

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## What Makes a Strong NY Forward Project?

- 1) Has gone through or is going through a planning and development process
- 2) Goes beyond the common public improvement projects and deferred maintenance (e.g., streetscape, park enhancements)
- 3) Involves community input
- 4) Addresses multiple challenges or opportunities, for example:
  - Streetscape improvements that also help with stormwater management
  - A building renovation with incubator space for new businesses
  - Repurposing of alleyways into welcoming public spaces
- 5) Recognizes the historic context of the downtown or project location
- 6) Involves synergies between different programs, projects, and stakeholders
- 7) Creates a sense of place that is unique to the community
- 8) Clearly adds activity and foot traffic to downtown, for example:
  - New housing units
  - New commercial businesses
  - New opportunities for visitors
  - New entertainment, leisure, arts, and culture activities



# Project Development: Previously Awarded Project Types

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**Middletown DRI – Façade Fund**



**Olean DRI – Streetscaping**



**Schenectady DRI – Building Renovation**





Peekskill DRI – Pugsley Park



Plattsburgh DRI – Signage





# LPC Questions and Answers



The background is a stylized map with a light beige color palette. A prominent teal-colored river flows from the top left towards the right, curving slightly. Below the river, a grid of thin, light-brown lines represents a street network. Small, light-brown rectangular shapes are scattered across the map, representing buildings or structures. The overall aesthetic is clean and modern.

# Project Development: Project Components

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# Project Eligibility

## Eligible Project Types

- New development and/or rehabilitation of existing downtown buildings
- Public improvement projects
- Small Project Fund
- Branding and marketing

## Ineligible Activities

- Standalone planning activities
- Operations and maintenance
- Pre-award costs
- Property acquisition
- Training and other program expenses

# Project Requirements

- Shovel-ready in 2 years from project award
- Project size/scale
  - Standalone NY Forward projects have a minimum total project cost of \$75,000
  - Projects less than \$75,000 can be considered as a standalone project on a case-by-case basis
- Project sponsor capacity – public, non-profit, private entities
- Financing
- Matching and leverage
  - Private project sponsors are required to contribute a minimum of 25% of the total project cost
  - Public and not-for-profit project sponsors do not currently have a match – should there be one?
- Site control
- Building decarbonization
- Reimbursement

## Strong NY Forward projects are:

- Catalytic
- Transformational
- Able to be implemented in the near-term
- Create synergies between different projects and programs in the downtown

# Located Within the Montgomery NY Forward Boundary



A stylized map of a town with a river and a red horizontal line. The map is rendered in a light beige color with a teal river winding through it. The town's layout is shown with a grid of streets and small rectangular buildings. A solid red horizontal line is drawn across the middle of the map, positioned below the main title.

# Project Evaluation Criteria

## Project Evaluation – Project Profiles

- Project Title, Description, and Location
- Project Sponsor and Partners
- Property Ownership
- Capacity
- Revitalization Strategies (NY Forward Strategies and REDC Strategies) and Project Synergies
- Decarbonization and Environmental Resiliency
- Public Support
- Project Budget (includes total project cost, NY Forward funding request, and other funding sources)
- Project Need and Impact
- Regulatory Requirements
- Images of Current and Proposed Conditions
- Timeframe for Implementation

## Project Evaluation

- In November at LPC Meeting #6, the LPC will be asked to select a slate of potential NY Forward Projects, which will then be submitted to the multi-agency State NY Forward program for final funding decisions
- The State will award up to \$4.5 million in NY Forward funding – and recommends that the LPC selects a slate of projects that totals between \$6 million to \$8 million
- For today's meeting, the LPC will review the draft list of project evaluation criteria and round out the list to be used in analyzing the projects that are submitted through the Call for Projects at the upcoming LPC meetings

# Project Evaluation Process

## LPC Meeting #2 (Today)

- The LPC determines the project evaluation criteria to be used to refine project list

## LPC Meeting #3 (July)

- The project team will present the projects received through the Open Call for Projects

## LPC Meeting #4 (August)

- Projects will be presented by project sponsors. The LPC will use project evaluation criteria to refine the project list

## LPC Meeting #5 (September)

- The project team will present project updates and refined budgets. The LPC will use the project evaluation criteria to refine the project list

## LPC Meeting #6 (November)

- The LPC will determine the final slate of projects to be included in Montgomery's Strategic Investment Plan



# Project Evaluation Criteria

## To be included in the Project Evaluation Criteria:

- **State and Local Goals.** The project should be aligned with State and local goals and demonstrate strong community support
- **Project Readiness.** The project should be well-developed and poised to proceed in the near-term in a way that will jump start the redevelopment of the NY Forward area
- **Catalytic Effect.** The project is likely to have a significant positive impact on the revitalization of the downtown by attracting other investment at a scale appropriate for the community
- **Co-Benefits.** The project will result in benefits to both the community and project developer, such as generating additional economic activity and improving quality of life
- **Cost Effectiveness.** NY Forward investment in a project would represent an effective and efficient use of public resources

# Project Evaluation Criteria – State and Local Goals

## New York State Goals:

- Create an active downtown with a strong sense of place.
- Attract new businesses that create a robust mix of shopping, entertainment, and service options for residents and visitors, and that provide job opportunities for a variety of skills and salaries.
- Enhance public spaces for arts and cultural events that serve the existing members of the community but also draw in visitors from around the region.
- Build a diverse population, with residents and workers supported by complementary diverse housing and employment opportunities.
- Grow the local property tax base.
- Provide amenities that support and enhance downtown living and quality of life.
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support investments that are more resilient to future climate change impacts.

# Project Evaluation Criteria - State and Local Goals

## REDC Goals:

- Set a strong foundation for economic growth by investing in infrastructure, transportation, and housing.
- Incentivize local planning and technical assistance to speed up review times, create shovel-ready development sites, and administer economic development funds.
- Revitalize downtowns and community centers through adaptive reuse and packaged investments in the public realm that will further establish our walkable communities as economic engines for the region.
- Attract new companies and support the growth of existing businesses in the Mid-Hudson region, with a special focus on priority sectors that are likely to stay, expand, and pay a living wage for the region.
- Support the region's workforce by taking steps to attract and retain people, providing them with affordable access to education, training, and wraparound services, and by exposing them to regional workforce opportunities at an earlier age.
- Preserve and create outdoor spaces that make the Mid-Hudson region an attractive place to live and visit. Recognize the imperative need to protect our natural resources from degradation, while also leveraging them for tourism, agriculture, and the development of sustainable businesses.

# Project Evaluation Criteria

## Project Readiness

- Scope of work and project activities are clearly defined
- Capacity to implement the project and manage a state contract
- Ability to begin implementation in the near-term (2 years from award)
- Project has other funding available needed to proceed
- Ability to proceed without any significant regulatory hurdles
- Sponsor can demonstrate site control

# Project Evaluation Criteria

## Catalytic Effect

- Significant and transformative impact on downtown
  - Measured by determining whether or not the project will significantly enhance downtown Montgomery and have long-term impacts
- Potential to attract other investment or create benefit beyond the NY Forward boundary

# Evaluation Criteria

## Establish the Local Evaluation Criteria (Co-Benefits)

- Based on State criteria
- Refined based on local priorities and interests
- Co-benefits from projects result in secondary benefits to the community
- Are there co-benefits that should be prioritized when evaluating projects? Examples include:
  - Public benefit (improves quality of life)
  - Potential to attract regional visitors
  - Increases accessibility and affordability
  - Enhances community connectivity and cohesion
  - Ability to generate additional economic activity, tax revenue, and/or jobs/employment

# Evaluation Criteria

## Cost Effectiveness

- Adequate budget information is provided and reflects a prudent expenditure of NY Forward funds
- Demonstrated need for NY Forward funds
- Ability to leverage other private or non-state investment
- Provides matching funds

# Evaluation Criteria

## Public Support

- Level of support from the public







# LPC Questions and Answers

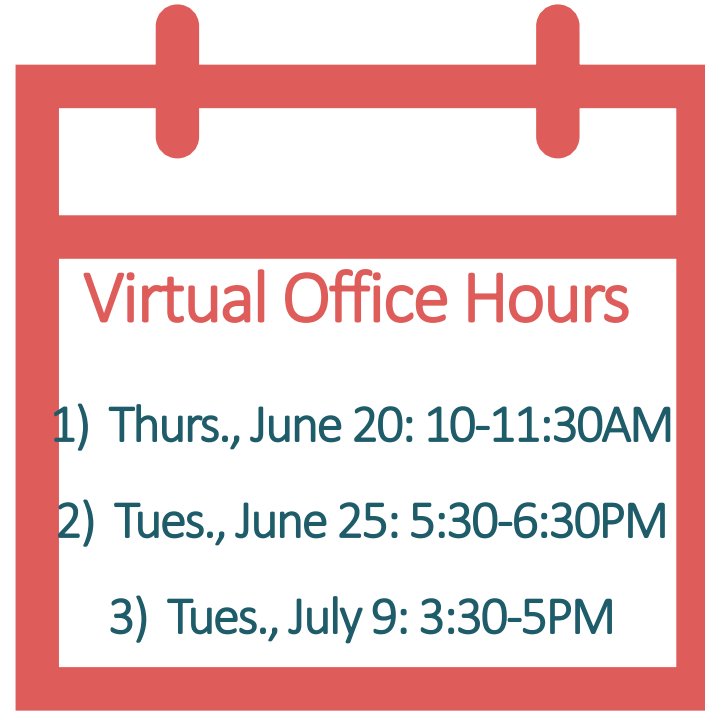
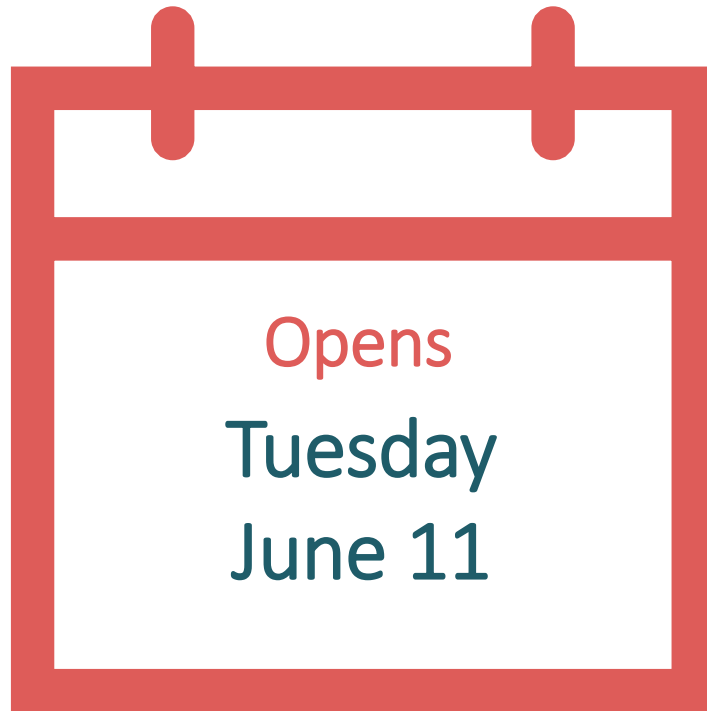
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# Open Call for Projects

## Open Call for Projects

- The Open Call for Projects is an opportunity for stakeholders, community members, and business owners to submit projects for consideration by the LPC for inclusion in the NY Forward Strategic Investment Plan.
- A project form will be made available to prospective project sponsors. The submission period will be open beginning tomorrow, June 11 at 1pm and will close on Monday, July 15 at 5pm.
- All project sponsors, including those for public projects, must complete a form.
- Consultant team will be available to answer questions during the submission period.

## Open Call for Projects



*The submission form will be linked on Montgomery's NY Forward website at [MontgomeryNYF.com](https://MontgomeryNYF.com)*



# LPC Questions and Answers



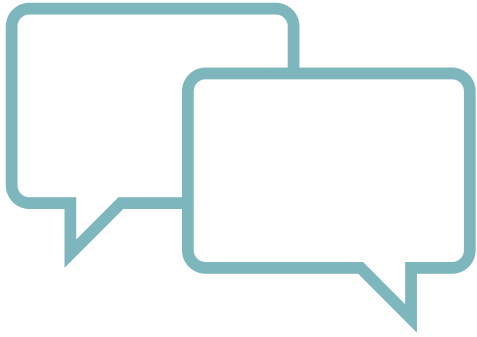
# Public Comment

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A street scene with a clear blue sky and scattered clouds. In the foreground, a white sign for "Antonio's Family Restaurant" is visible, featuring a red rose logo and the text "Eat In & Take Out • 845-769-7761". The background shows a mix of buildings, including a brick one and a white one with a red roof. Power lines and a utility pole are also visible.

## *Next Steps and Important Dates*

- Monthly stakeholder preview newsletter
- Call for Projects will open on **tomorrow, Tuesday, June 11<sup>th</sup>**
- Virtual Office Hours for the Call for Projects will take place on:
  - **Thursday, June 20 from 10-11:30am**
  - **Tuesday, June 25 from 5:30-6:30pm**
  - **Tuesday, July 9 from 3:30-5pm**
- NY Forward Community Center Open House (32 Union Street)
  - **Wednesdays 6:00 to 8:00 pm and Saturdays 1:00 to 4:00 pm during the month of June**
- LPC Meeting #3 will be held on **Wednesday, July 24 from 6-8pm** at the Senior Center (32 Bridge St.)



 [MontgomeryNYF@vhb.com](mailto:MontgomeryNYF@vhb.com)

For Code of Conduct submissions, emails:



Montgomery NY Forward website:

 [MontgomeryNYF.com](http://MontgomeryNYF.com)