

Empire State Development Yahoo Community Funds for Niagara County Frequently Asked Questions

1. Q - What are the Fund's areas of interest?

A – The Fund will consider proposals that advance one or more of the Western New York Regional Economic Development Council's ("REDC") three core enablers as outlined in the REDC's strategic plan, A Strategy for Prosperity: Implement Smart Growth, Foster a Culture of Entrepreneurship, and Prepare our Workforce and/or support any of the region's target industry sectors.

2. Q – In what geographic areas will the Fund make grants?

A - Projects must be located in or provide services to Niagara County (excluding the Town and City of Lockport as the *Yahoo Community Benefit Fund* gives preference to the Town and City of Lockport).

3. Q – How much money is available for grants each year?

A – Approximately \$230,000.

4. Q – What size grant can I request?

A – There are no restrictions on the size of grant request; however, the grantmaking model preferred by the Fund is to make multiple grants each year.

5. Q – How do I apply?

A – Application guidelines can be found [here](#).

6. Q – When are funds available?

A – Funds are expected to be awarded in summer 2017 and be available fall of 2017.

7. Q – Will the Fund consider a multi-year request?

A – No, multi-year grant requests will not be considered.

8. Q – Does my organization have to be located in Niagara County to be considered for funding?

A – No, however, the project for which funding is requested must serve residents of Niagara County.

9. Q – Does my project have to address all five of the Fund's areas of interest?

A – No, it has to address at least one area.

10. Q – Will requests outside of the Fund's five areas of interest be considered?

A – No.

11. Q – Are there any restrictions or things that the Fund will not support?

A – Yes. The Fund will not consider requests for an organization’s general operating expenses or working capital related to a capital project; recapitalization/refinancing; endowments; religious purposes; attendance at or sponsorship of fundraising events; partisan political activity; and activities that take place before the grant funding period.

12. Q – May I submit more than one grant request?

A – Yes, however it is unlikely that more than one request per organization per year will be funded.

13. Q – Are there any restrictions on the number of active Fund grants that organizations can have?

A – Yes, organizations may only have one active grant at any given time.