

VILLAGE OF ADAMS

NEW YORK FORWARD

DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION INITIATIVE

ROUND 4

The Arbor Day Village

Rooted in Community, Growing Strong for the Future

November 7, 2025

Put round 4 next to NYF
Put round 9 next to DRI

09-29-2025

DRAFT

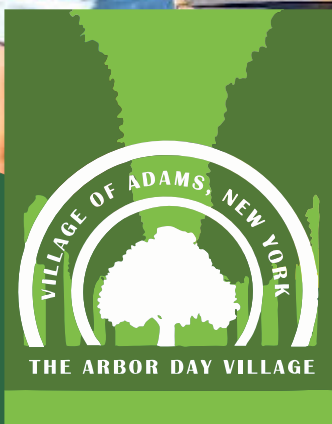


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LETTER FROM THE MAYOR

I am writing to submit this letter as the Mayor of the Village of Adams and, first and foremost, allow me to express my gratitude for considering our application for the NY Forward and Downtown Revitalization Initiative Grant Opportunities.

We are delighted to present this application on behalf of our residents, commercial entities, and local community. The Village of Adams and its project partners have been successful in securing numerous grant opportunities in recent years to support our infrastructure needs and recreational opportunities. These projects enhance the quality of life for our residents and maintain our infrastructure in good working condition. Most recently, we completed Phase 1 of our Community Park Project (playground) in Spring/Summer 2024. Through these programs, capital investments, and projects, the Village has created various temporary (construction) and permanent jobs for Jefferson County residents.

A long-standing, missing component in our project/community is the opportunity to provide additional recreational opportunities and support for the community through Public-Private Partnerships, specifically in our historic downtown. The Village strongly encourages public support, comments, and involvement in this Grant Application. A revitalized downtown area and additional recreational opportunities for families in the Village of Adams will foster further business growth and prosperity locally. Local job creation, increased tax revenues, and an improved quality of life will enhance the economic feasibility of residents and enable the Village of Adams to provide additional services and opportunities.

As you will see, we have several positive projects that enjoy enthusiastic support from the local community. The Village of Adams firmly believes that with the support of this grant opportunity, our residents will thrive economically, socially, and recreationally. Once again, thank you for considering our application. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at your earliest convenience.

Regards,
Kreg Davis
Mayor
Village of Adams

GEOGRAPHIC AREA & JUSTIFICATION

Nestled in the heart of Upstate New York, the Village of Adams is a distinctive rural community with a rich cultural heritage, a strong sense of place, and a tight-knit population of approximately [insert population]. Its vibrant downtown, recently designated as a State and National Historic District, serves as the hub for community life and economic activity. Known for signature events such as the Adams Cheddar Cheese Festival and seasonal parades, the Village draws visitors from across Jefferson County and beyond, supporting local businesses and fostering civic pride.

Adams benefits from a strategic location near Interstate-81, providing convenient access for commuters, visitors, and regional economic partners. Its proximity to key employment centers, including Micron and Fort Drum, positions the Village to capture spillover workforce and housing demand while serving as a gateway for regional tourism and recreational activity. The Village's small-scale, walkable settlement pattern, combined with natural assets like Sandy Creek, enhances its charm and supports a range of active transportation and recreational opportunities.

With a commitment to inclusivity, local entrepreneurship, and high-quality public spaces, the Village of Adams envisions a future where its downtown and surrounding neighborhoods thrive as a vibrant destination for families, businesses, and visitors alike.

To further enhance and develop Adams as a preferred destination for families in Upstate New York, the Village of Adams plans to:

- 1** *Improve the quality of services and leadership provided, through cost effective, efficient, and innovative ideas.*
- 2** *Hire local residents to provide these services, both as direct employees of the Village and through contracts to provide other services.*
- 3** *Listen to, communicate with, and engage our community during all development and policy decisions.*
- 4** *Enhance the quality of life through partnerships, grant opportunities and capital investments.*
- 5** *Attract families and commercial businesses to continue to live and conduct business in the Village.*
- 6** *Develop greenspaces, parks, and other recreational opportunities with a focus on environmental assets in the Village.*



In recent years, the Village of Adams has seen significant public and private investments that reflect its commitment to enhancing the quality of life for residents and making the downtown area more inviting for visitors. *The newly updated Community Park stands as a testament to this dedication, providing a vibrant space for recreation and gatherings, which contributes to the Village's lively cultural scene filled with festivals and events.* With historic landmarks and natural resources like Sandy Creek enriching its landscape, Adams showcases its rich heritage while preserving its unique charm. The cultural vibrancy of the Village of Adams is showcased through various events such as the Adams Cheddar Cheese Festival, the Halloween Parade & Festival, and the Christmas Parade & Festival, which draw tourists and strengthen the community's identity.

Recognized as the Arbor Day Village, Adams is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for its entire community by providing a wide range of recreational opportunities and park amenities that serve residents of all ages and abilities, fostering inclusivity and engagement. Looking ahead, Adams is focused on continuing its revitalization efforts, aiming to establish itself as a cultural hub that celebrates community spirit and attracts tourists to experience its vibrant atmosphere and historical significance.

The Village of Adams offers a wide array of diverse employment opportunities and actively supports local entrepreneurs and businesses, fostering a thriving economic environment that benefits the entire community and promotes sustainable growth. *The Village is actively planning for the future of its downtown core with a vision that aims to support local businesses by creating a diverse array of options, including shops, restaurants, cafes, and bakeries, enhancing the shopping and dining experience for residents while attracting newcomers seeking a vibrant community atmosphere.* By embracing new businesses, providing affordable housing, and fostering a collaborative environment, Adams is committed to cultivating a thriving downtown that encourages local entrepreneurship and promotes economic growth.

Straddling the beautiful Sandy Creek, Adams is a thriving village where natural beauty supports economic vitality. Downtown improvements will celebrate Adams' historic character while creating safe, vibrant spaces for families, visitors, and businesses. With fresh investments in parks and public spaces, new and improved housing options, and charming business renovations, the village will honor its legacy as New York's first Arbor Day community and emerge as a model of resilience and small-town vitality, serving as the cultural and recreational heart of South Jefferson.

Strategic investment will connect small-town character with new opportunities from local employers and major regional development. Revitalized parks and gathering places will support families and community pride, while industrial anchors provide stability. Adams will demonstrate how tradition and innovation combine to create a resilient, prosperous hub at the center of South Jefferson.

- Village of Adams Vision Statement

VISION STATEMENT & GOALS

The Village of Adams has evolved from its historic roots as a sawmill community into a forward-thinking village that cultivates economic, educational, and recreational opportunities for residents and families of all ages. Covering 1.5 square miles and bordered by the Town of Adams, the Village values its historic character, with its downtown recently designated as a historic district on both the State and National Registers. The presence of the South Jefferson School District, the vibrant downtown core, and convenient access to Interstate-81 have catalyzed economic growth and positioned Adams as a hub for community activity. The Village's compact, walkable settlement pattern is complemented by natural assets such as Sandy Creek, providing environmental, recreational, and aesthetic benefits. Through collaboration with residents and partners, Adams continues to preserve its heritage while implementing transformative projects—from accessible parks and trails to downtown façade enhancements and public art—that enhance quality of life, strengthen economic vitality, and ensure a thriving, inclusive community for current and future generations.

PAST INVESTMENT & FUTURE POTENTIAL

Should include a table here

The Village of Adams consistently demonstrates its proficiency in overseeing and implementing large-scale capital projects that significantly contribute to the health, welfare, and quality of life of the entire community. Key projects include the \$450,000 Water Storage Tank Improvements Project, the \$4 million Water System Improvements Project, the \$4.5 million Water Pollution Control Facility and Collection System Improvements Project, and the \$2.5 million Water Source Development and Water Distribution System Upgrades Project, all funded through a combination of local contributions and state support. These critical water system upgrades significantly enhance reliability, quality, and accessibility, ultimately supporting public health, economic growth, and long-term sustainability for residents.

Over the past ten years, the Village has also invested in other infrastructure initiatives, including a \$250,000 sewer relocation, roadway improvements, and a \$1.4 million fire station renovation project. A notable recent accomplishment is the new Playground in Adams Community Park, which features inclusive playground equipment, seating, pathways, shade trees, and other amenities. This project was made possible through \$322,000 in funding from the Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) Environmental Protection Fund, \$160,000 raised locally by the Adams Revitalization Committee, and additional ARPA funds. The Revitalization Committee's continued fundraising efforts for Phase 2 demonstrate strong community engagement and a sustained commitment to creating vibrant, accessible recreational spaces for residents of all ages and abilities.

Building on this momentum, the Village is also upgrading its primary youth baseball field, serving U6 through U12 teams. Improvements include new fencing, upgraded bleachers, expanded parking, a modern scoreboard, and enhanced storage facilities. These upgrades will ensure a safer, more accessible, and enjoyable experience for players, families, and spectators. The project, supported in part by a \$50,000 DASNY grant, strengthens Adams' reputation as a family-friendly community and fosters youth engagement while creating opportunities for tournaments and events that attract regional visitors.

With essential infrastructure upgrades, streetscape improvements, and park enhancements, the Village envisions a downtown that is a lively cultural hub, recognized for community events and its vibrant core. The parade route engages residents and visitors alike, drawing tourists from across Jefferson County. Monthly upgrades to downtown decorations and plantings provide seasonal interest year-round, and memorial banners honor military heroes and veterans. Recent growth in local entrepreneurship has further strengthened Adams' identity as a thriving downtown, featuring shops and eateries such as Stefano's, Belloff's, Adams Cheese Shop, Gram's Diner, Adams Gift Shop, and Camille's Bakery & Cafe.

These past investments, combined with active community involvement, extensive public participation, and preliminary project planning—including discussions with numerous local business owners and the development of project sheets—position the Village of Adams to submit a compelling application for NY Forward Round 4 and DRI Round 9 funding. The Village's proven ability to leverage state and local resources, paired with strong public support and a history of successful project implementation, ensures that proposed initiatives—including parks, downtown revitalization, infrastructure upgrades, and cultural enhancements—will be fully realized and transformative. By building upon these successes, Adams is ready to further enhance its downtown, strengthen economic vitality, and improve quality of life for all residents and visitors alike, with a focus on inclusive and accessible improvements that honor the Village's small-town historic charm.

Show playground completed



RECENT & IMPENDING JOB GROWTH

Add Gram's to the list

The Village of Adams firmly believes that a thriving community depends on robust employment opportunities within and around its historic downtown. The downtown area is home to more than ten active **small businesses**, including **Stefano's Pizzeria** and **Adams Gift Shop**, which collectively provide numerous positions for residents. Additionally, the Village is fortunate to host Great Lakes Cheese, an expansive and growing cheese production facility that employs several hundred individuals directly. Beyond these direct jobs, these businesses generate "spin-off" employment in distribution, raw material sourcing (such as milk for Great Lakes Cheese), and service sectors. To support this economic activity, the Village has proactively added staff in the sewer department and a part-time employee in the Department of Public Works to ensure reliable services for both residents and commercial facilities.

"Arbor Day is not like other holidays. Each of those reposed on the past, while Arbor Day proposed for the future."

- Julius Sterling Morton, founder of Arbor Day

The Village's strategic location along Interstate-81, within 40 minutes of Fort Drum and Syracuse, NY (where the proposed Micron mega-project is planned), positions Adams as an attractive destination for businesses and skilled employees alike. With sufficient capacity in its sewer and water systems, the Village is well-prepared to accommodate industrial, commercial, and mixed-use growth. With the assistance of additional funding through programs like NY Forward Round 4 and Downtown Revitalization Initiative Round 9, Adams envisions the creation of a vibrant commercial hub that draws new businesses, expands employment opportunities, and revitalizes idle commercial spaces in the downtown core. Local business owners are eager to develop and expand but often face financial barriers; grant support could catalyze these projects and unlock additional jobs for residents.



The entrepreneurial spirit of Adams' local businesses reflects the vitality of the community itself. By leveraging state support, the Village aims to enhance the economic landscape, provide quality employment, and ensure that downtown Adams continues to thrive as a hub for commerce, services, and community life. With these businesses, the Village has added additional staff in our sewer department and a part time employee in the DPW to provide quality services for the residents and commercial facilities alike.

The Village of Adams is uniquely situated along Interstate-81 and within 40 minutes of the Fort Drum Military Installation and Syracuse, NY (where the mega project for Micron is proposed). Additionally, the Village of Adams has the capacity in our sewer and water systems to provide additional industrial and commercial growth. We envision, with the assistance of additional funds from programs like NY Forward and the Downtown Revitalization Initiative, and the above-mentioned systems and location, that a commercial hub can be formed and attract a wide array of skilled employees and diverse business to the area.

UPCOMING PROJECTS

The Village of Adams is actively pursuing several community-focused projects in the coming months to enhance public spaces, strengthen downtown vibrancy, and support local economic growth.

Key near-term initiatives include the revitalization of the youth baseball field on Spring Street, where the Village DPW will replace the base pathway with sand, upgrade the pitcher's mound, install new fencing, and improve parking access. These enhancements will create a more accessible, safe, and user-friendly space for residents and visitors, while also improving access to the Sandy Creek Picnic and Fishing Area, further promoting outdoor recreation and tourism. These projects also create short-term employment opportunities for local contractors and DPW staff.

In the downtown core, the Revitalization Committee is procuring new and enhanced Christmas decorations, which the Village DPW will install, and is continuing the "Hometown Heroes" banner program, through which 94 banners honoring local veterans have already been purchased by community members. These initiatives foster civic pride, strengthen community engagement, and create seasonal economic activity by drawing visitors downtown, supporting local businesses, and generating potential part-time employment for installation and maintenance.

Looking toward long-term planning, the Village is developing plans to upgrade the DPW Facility, with conceptual planning, cost estimating, and funding options underway for a projected 2028 groundbreaking. This upgrade will provide improved training, safety, and collaboration space for DPW staff, enhancing the efficiency and quality of municipal services for residents and supporting skilled local employment.

The Village is also moving forward with Phase 2 improvements at the Community Park, building on recently completed Phase 1 investments. This project will expand recreational opportunities for residents of all ages, incorporating inclusive play equipment, accessible pathways connecting to the existing sidewalk network, green infrastructure, native plantings, restrooms, and a rentable pavilion. The park will continue to serve as a central hub for events, strengthen local connections, attract visitors, and create construction and maintenance-related jobs, further supporting economic vitality and reinforcing Adams' reputation as a welcoming, vibrant community.



QUALITY OF LIFE

The Village of Adams offers a vibrant and inclusive quality of life, grounded in its rich history, strong sense of community, and forward-looking vision. Its downtown, designated as a historic district by both the State and National Registries, blends historic charm with modern amenities, providing residents and visitors with a unique and welcoming environment. The Adams Revitalization Committee, made up of dedicated residents and business owners from both the Village and Town of Adams, plays a pivotal role in enhancing the attractiveness of downtown and surrounding areas. Through collaboration, the committee ensures that public spaces, cultural initiatives, and local businesses reflect diverse voices and meet the evolving needs of the community. This approach fosters social engagement, well-being, and a shared sense of pride, making Adams a resilient village that celebrates its heritage while embracing growth and inclusivity.

COMMUNITY-ORIENTED CULTURE

Adams embodies a community-centered ethos that prioritizes well-being and strategic planning for the future. The Revitalization Committee beautifies the Village, creating inviting public spaces, while the Youth and Recreation Committee provides engaging winter and summer programming, promoting healthy development and active lifestyles. The Historical Society preserves Adams' rich heritage through its Antique Museum, festivals, and educational field trips, enriching the cultural fabric of the community. The Chamber of Commerce, through initiatives like the Six Town Event, supports local businesses and strengthens regional connections. Together, these organizations cultivate a collaborative spirit that celebrates Adams' unique character and fosters a vibrant, connected, and engaged community.

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Adams Community Park, covering two acres in the heart of the Village, provides a multifunctional space that addresses the community's recreational, ecological, and social needs. Recent improvements to the park integrate inclusive design, sustainability, and context-sensitive planning, offering multi-generational play opportunities for users of all mobility levels. Features include accessible pathways, diverse play equipment, tree plantings, seating, and other amenities that encourage community gathering, physical activity, and engagement with nature. By investing in recreational infrastructure that serves everyone, Adams strengthens both quality of life and the Village's appeal as a welcoming, family-friendly community.

SUPPORTIVE LOCAL POLICIES

The Village offers a wealth of scenic and recreational opportunities that enrich the community's quality of life. With its beautifully maintained parks, residents can enjoy lush green spaces perfect for picnics, sports, and leisurely strolls. Access to Sandy Creek enhances these offerings, providing a serene backdrop for activities like kayaking, fishing, and nature walks. The combination of vibrant parks and views of Sandy Creek creates an inviting atmosphere where families and friends can gather, fostering a sense of community while promoting a healthy, active lifestyle. Whether it's exploring the trails or simply unwinding by the water, the Village is a haven for outdoor enthusiasts and nature lovers alike.



YEAR-ROUND FESTIVALS & ENTERTAINMENT

Adams is alive with vibrant, year-round festivals and entertainment that define the community's character and foster a strong sense of place. Signature events such as the Cheddar Cheese Festival and Strawberry Festival celebrate local heritage and agriculture, bringing residents and visitors together to enjoy food, music, and family-friendly activities. Holiday parades light up the streets, cultivating camaraderie and joy, while the Summer Concert and Movie Series transform warm evenings into memorable community gatherings. Fireman's Field Days provide thrilling entertainment for all ages, and the Community-wide Yard Sales encourage neighborly interaction and treasure hunting. Even regular events like Bingo foster connection and friendly competition. Collectively, these activities create a rich tapestry of life in Adams, reinforcing local pride and making the Village a lively, welcoming destination throughout the year.

Recognizing the importance of housing to support a thriving community, the Village Board adopted a "Pro-Housing Community" resolution at a 2024 meeting, with official acceptance received in July 2025. The Village is committed to meeting the housing needs of current and prospective residents, balancing growth with thoughtful planning. Adams has consistently supported housing and commercial development through clear and reasonable zoning codes and enforcement. Village Staff and Planning Board Members actively facilitate commercial and residential permitting and approvals, holding meetings as needed to prioritize community development. DPW staff are proactive in assisting prospective residents and commercial entities with sewer, water, and other utility connections to ensure projects move forward smoothly.

The Village Staff and Board take pride in being true partners with local developers, residents, and prospective homeowners. Community feedback is actively welcomed and acted upon, ensuring that improvements reflect both public input and the Village's strategic vision for a vibrant, sustainable, and inclusive community.



ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY

The Village of Adams demonstrates strong administrative capacity to secure, oversee, and execute grant-funded projects that enhance the community's quality of life and downtown vitality. Village staff, including the DPW Superintendent and Village Clerks, are experienced in managing complex capital projects and grant award processes, ensuring transparency, accountability, and compliance. The Village Board consistently ensures projects are "shovel ready," a practice that has enabled the successful pursuit and completion of numerous local, state, and federal funding initiatives.

The Village maintains strong relationships with regional partners, including leadership from the Town of Adams and Jefferson County, and recognizes the value of engaging specialized expertise. A well-respected engineering and consulting firm supports the Village in project design, construction, and grant administration, providing professional oversight and timely execution.

For the NY Forward and Downtown Revitalization Initiative programs, the Village will employ a tiered administrative approach. The Village Board will act as the lead agency, supported by a dedicated “NY Forward and DRI Subcommittee” comprising representatives from Jefferson County (including Ryan Piche, County Administrator, and the County Planning Department), the Town of Adams, and appointed community members. The Downtown Business Fund will operate through a formal RFP process, soliciting project scopes and funding requests for subcommittee review and Village Board approval. Evaluation criteria will emphasize community enrichment, job creation, project readiness, and alignment with the Village’s revitalization goals.



Through this structured and proven approach, the Village of Adams is well-prepared to successfully administer NY Forward and DRI funds, ensuring projects are implemented efficiently and effectively, and contribute meaningfully to the community’s downtown revitalization, infrastructure improvements, and overall quality of life.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A critical part of the Village of Adams’ planning process has been ensuring strong community participation. Village leaders have made it a priority to actively involve residents and stakeholders in shaping the future of downtown through both planning and grant application efforts.

As part of preparing this NY Forward Round 4 and DRI Round 9 application, the Village hosted two well-attended public meetings that drew broad participation and generated valuable input on community priorities. These meetings built upon years of engagement around projects across the Village, such as the playground improvements at Adams Community Park, workshops, open houses, and other local events — all of which have demonstrated the strong public support behind this revitalization effort.



The input gathered has directly informed the vision, goals, and projects reflected in this application. With residents, businesses, and local leaders working together, the Village of Adams is building on its momentum to pursue transformative investments that will strengthen Main Street, enhance public spaces, and create a more vibrant and livable community.

The Adams Revitalization Committee, who has an active presence in the community and on social media, was created over 10 years ago by residents who live and work within the Village and Town to **“improve downtown and surrounding areas and to make Adams and Adams Center more attractive and appealing for businesses; support and encourage business and the local economy; and to provide good quality of life.”**

TRANSFORMATIVE PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES

The Village of Adams is proud to submit a package of transformative projects for this year's NY Forward and Downtown Revitalization Initiative applications—initiatives designed to enhance quality of life, strengthen economic vitality, and celebrate the Village's small-town historic charm. These projects build on years of community engagement, reflect strong public input gathered through surveys and well-attended meetings, and are informed by direct discussions with numerous downtown business owners. The Village has also received preliminary project sheets from stakeholders, ensuring that proposed initiatives are feasible, coordinated, and aligned with local priorities. Combined with recent investments, such as Phase 1 Community Park improvements, these efforts demonstrate a clear, connected, and actionable vision for Adams' future.

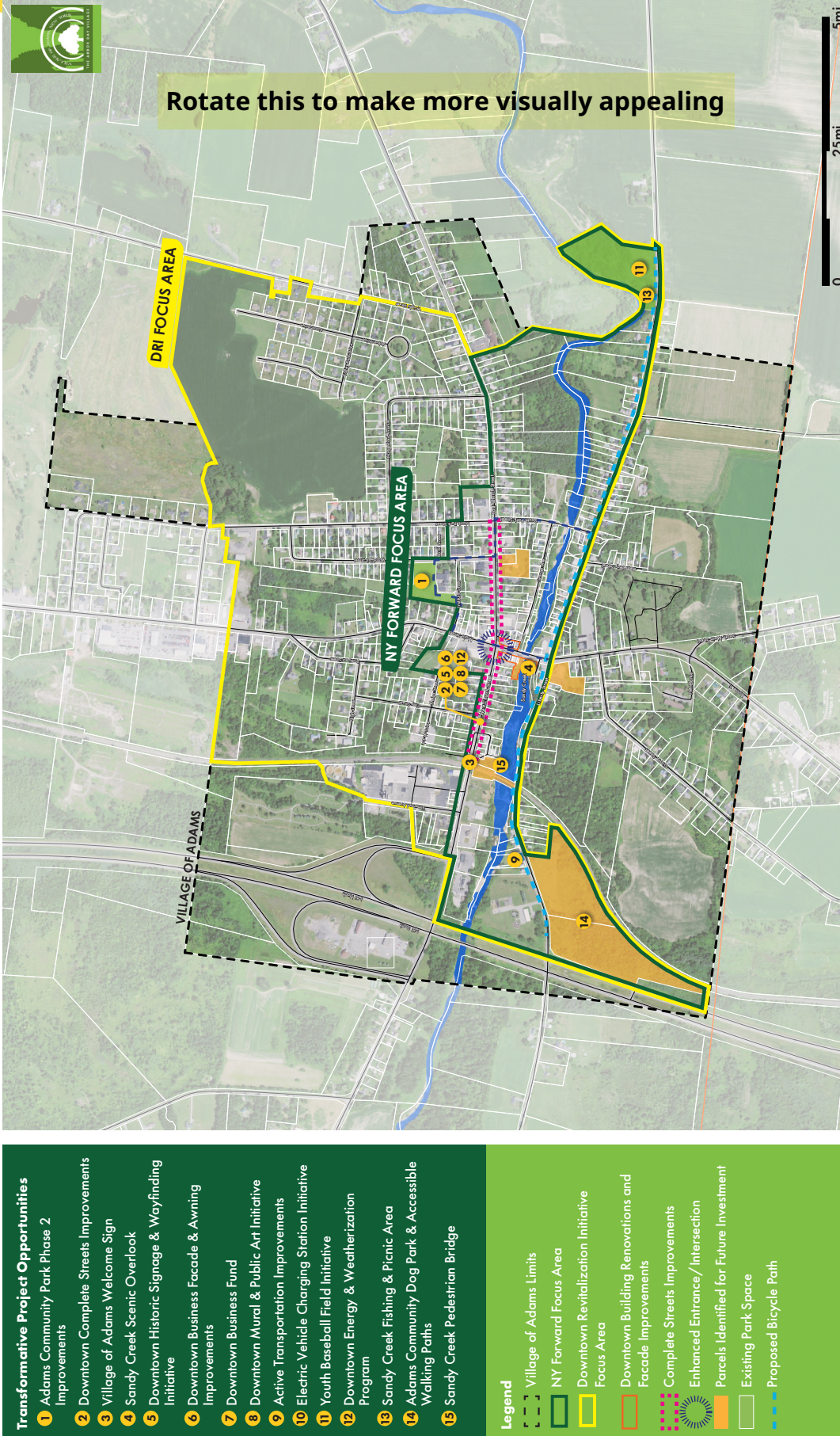
These projects are designed to work together, creating a network of vibrant, inclusive, and accessible spaces throughout the Village. Recreational improvements begin with a new community park featuring fully accessible walking paths, a dog park, and inclusive play areas, which connect seamlessly to the rehabilitated youth baseball field and the Sandy Creek fishing and picnic area with accessible docks. These sites not only provide diverse opportunities for active living but also encourage residents and visitors to explore and engage with downtown, creating a natural flow between recreational, cultural, and commercial spaces.

Downtown enhancements—such as building façade and awning upgrades, historic signage improvements, and a small business fund to support mixed-use redevelopment and entrepreneurship—work hand-in-hand with these recreational spaces, attracting residents and visitors to experience the Village's historic core. Active transportation improvements, including on-street bicycle facilities, trail connections, and a pedestrian bridge across Sandy Creek, tie together neighborhoods, parks, and downtown, ensuring safe, inclusive, and accessible mobility for all.

Public art and a welcoming mural on the CSX bridge will mark key entry points into the Village, while sustainability measures such as energy efficiency programs and EV charging stations advance New York State's climate goals. Enhancements to the parade and festival route will connect downtown events to surrounding community assets, reinforcing Adams' reputation as a regional destination for inclusive celebrations and cultural gatherings.

By integrating recreational, cultural, transportation, and economic initiatives, these projects collectively tell a story of a Village committed to cohesive growth and community well-being. Building on past investments, ongoing public participation, and collaboration with local businesses, Adams is poised to transform its downtown and surrounding areas into a vibrant, interconnected hub that enhances quality of life, strengthens economic vitality, and preserves the Village's historic charm for generations to come.

Village of Adams Focus Areas



1 ADAMS COMMUNITY PARK PHASE 2 IMPROVEMENTS

Type: Recreational

Description: The Village of Adams will expand and enhance the existing Community Park to create a fully inclusive, multi-generational recreational hub. Building upon recently completed Phase 1 improvements—including a playground, accessible loop trail, signage, seating, and native shade trees—Phase 2 will add additional inclusive play equipment, accessible pathway connections to the existing sidewalk along Wardwell Street, green infrastructure, pollinator plantings, restrooms, and a rentable pavilion. A new outdoor pickleball court will also be added, providing a popular, low-cost recreational option that appeals to a wide range of ages. Together, these enhancements will strengthen the park’s role as a central gathering space for residents and visitors, promoting active, healthy lifestyles and community engagement.

Other Considerations: Phase 1 improvements were successfully completed in summer 2024 with grant support and assistance from Village DPW staff. The Village has increased seasonal DPW staffing to maintain the highly used park, and the Revitalization Committee continues to fundraise for Phase 2. The pickleball court complements existing amenities, encourages social interaction, and attracts visitors, further activating the park as a vibrant community destination.

Cost: \$1,925,000

Have image of current space

2 DOWNTOWN COMPLETE STREETS IMPROVEMENTS

Type: Public Realm / Streetscape

Description: The Village of Adams will enhance the downtown streetscape along West Church Street to North Park Street to create a safer, more accessible, and visually appealing corridor for residents and visitors. Improvements will include upgraded sidewalks, curbing, crosswalks, street shade trees, and other streetscape amenities designed to facilitate comfortable access and optimal viewing for parades, festivals, and other community gatherings. These enhancements will not only improve the day-to-day pedestrian experience but also help attract additional attendees to the Village’s numerous events, supporting local businesses and boosting downtown economic vitality

Other Considerations: The Village hosts a variety of parades and festivals throughout the year, including Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Christmas events, the Adams Cheese Festival, and a concert series. Streetscape improvements will prioritize accessibility for all users, safety, and enhanced visibility of events. Phase 1 improvements have already been completed, including removal and replacement of the top and binder course of East Church Street (\$150,000) and LED streetlight upgrades throughout the Village, providing a strong foundation for this project. These enhancements align with the Village’s ongoing commitment to creating an inviting and vibrant downtown that encourages community interaction and supports local economic growth.

Cost: \$1,500,000

I would say 4 or 5 million for this if not MORE!

Have image of current space

3 VILLAGE OF ADAMS WELCOME SIGN

Type: Public Art

Description: The Village of Adams proposes a comprehensive restoration and aesthetic enhancement of the CSX Railroad Bridge, a key entry point into the community. The project will include structural painting, artistic design elements, and welcoming signage to create a visually striking gateway that reflects the Village's character, history, and vibrancy. By transforming this bridge into a memorable entry feature, visitors and residents alike will experience a stronger sense of place and pride in the community.

Other Considerations: The Village has proactively engaged with CSX regarding coordination and safety requirements. This improvement aligns with NY Forward and DRI goals by enhancing placemaking, strengthening the downtown gateway, and supporting economic vitality. It will reinforce Adams as an inviting destination, complement other downtown revitalization efforts, and provide opportunities to incorporate local history, art, and storytelling. Visitors' first impressions of the Village will be elevated, encouraging longer visits, repeat tourism, and stronger support for local businesses.

Cost: \$450,000



4 SANDY CREEK SCENIC OVERLOOK

Type: Recreation & Public Space

Description: This project envisions the creation of a scenic overlook along Sandy Creek within the downtown focus area, providing a safe and inviting platform for residents and visitors to enjoy the Village's natural beauty. The overlook will feature seating, landscaping, and interpretive signage highlighting the history, ecology, and character of Adams. It will serve as both a destination for passive recreation and a gathering space, encouraging social interaction and enhancing downtown vibrancy. By connecting the creek to the heart of the Village, the project strengthens community identity, promotes eco-tourism, and integrates nature into the downtown experience.

Other Considerations: The Sandy Creek overlook enhances walkability and complements planned active transportation and park improvements. It creates a visible connection between downtown and the Village's natural assets, supporting adjacent businesses by attracting visitors and encouraging longer stays. This project aligns with NY Forward and DRI goals by improving public spaces, reinforcing a strong sense of place, and contributing to economic and community vitality.

Cost: \$1,500,000

5 DOWNTOWN HISTORIC SIGNAGE & WAYFINDING INITIATIVE

Type: Public Art / Wayfinding

Description: This project will install approximately ten (10) historical interpretive signs perpendicular to building façades along the downtown streetscape. The signage will provide wayfinding for visitors while celebrating the Village's rich history, connecting historic narratives to current businesses. By being visible from the street rather than mounted on buildings, the signs will enhance downtown legibility, encourage exploration, and create an engaging visitor experience. This project strengthens the downtown's sense of place and highlights Adams' unique heritage as part of a broader revitalization strategy.

Other Considerations: Historical photographs indicate that perpendicular signage and awnings were common features in the Village, making this approach both historically appropriate and visually cohesive. By linking past and present, the project supports local businesses, encourages pedestrian activity, and complements other façade and streetscape improvements.

Cost: \$250,000



6 DOWNTOWN BUSINESS FACADE & AWNING IMPROVEMENTS



Type: Village Downtown / Building Revitalization

Description: This initiative will restore and upgrade building façades, awnings, and storefronts throughout the Village of Adams’ downtown. The project aims to preserve and highlight the historic architectural character while incorporating modern, energy-efficient materials where appropriate. Enhancing façades and storefronts will create a visually cohesive and inviting streetscape that attracts visitors, supports local businesses, encourages upper-story residential occupancy, and increases property values. These improvements contribute to a vibrant, active downtown that reflects the community’s pride and identity.

Other Considerations: Many downtown buildings feature street-level retail with upper-floor apartments, offering opportunities to support mixed-use vibrancy. Local business owners are engaged and eager to participate, providing matching funds for improvements. This initiative complements other planned streetscape, signage, and public space enhancements to strengthen the overall economic and social vitality of the downtown core.

Cost: \$750,000

7 DOWNTOWN BUSINESS FUND



Type: Mixed Use / Economic Development

Description: This initiative will provide targeted funding for projects that support job creation, foster economic growth, and encourage affordable housing options within Adams’ downtown. The focus will be on developing mixed-use spaces with vibrant commercial or retail activity on the first floor and residential apartments above, enhancing downtown vitality and contributing to a more active, walkable community. By leveraging private investment alongside grant funding, these projects will help position Adams as a dynamic destination for residents, visitors, and businesses alike.

Other Considerations: A broad range of committed stakeholders have expressed interest in participating, including Extreme Sports Complex, Belloff’s, the Cleveland Block, Hotel Adams, Adams Cheese Shop, Gram’s Diner, Adams Gift Shop, Camille’s Bakery & Cafe, China Wok, Rhode Center, SJ South Jeff Rescue Squad, Brick Hair Co., Adams Veterinarian Clinic, Stefano’s Pizzeria, L. Rosa Boutique, and the former Redemption Center. The Village has already received preliminary project sheets from these stakeholders, demonstrating strong community support and providing a foundation for developing a competitive application.

Cost: \$600,000

8 DOWNTOWN MURAL & PUBLIC ART INITIATIVE

Type: Place Making & Community Engagement

Description: This initiative will transform underutilized walls and building facades in downtown Adams into vibrant, locally inspired murals and public art installations. Each piece will celebrate the village's rich history, regional culture, and contemporary creativity, creating a visually distinctive downtown that draws visitors, supports local artists, and reinforces community pride. By activating blank walls and overlooked spaces, this project enhances streetscape aesthetics, encourages foot traffic, and strengthens Adams' identity as a welcoming, culturally rich destination.

Other Considerations: This initiative will transform underutilized walls and building facades in downtown Adams into vibrant, locally inspired murals and public art installations. Each piece will celebrate the village's rich history, regional culture, and contemporary creativity, creating a visually distinctive downtown that draws visitors, supports local artists, and reinforces community pride. By activating blank walls and overlooked spaces, this project enhances streetscape aesthetics, encourages foot traffic, and strengthens Adams' identity as a welcoming, culturally rich destination.

Cost: \$375,000



9 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

Type: Recreational Mixed Use

Description: This project will significantly enhance downtown Adams' mobility and connectivity by creating on-street bicycle facilities along 1.5 miles of existing roadways. Improvements include clearly marked bike lanes, pavement symbols, wayfinding signage, and safety features such as high-visibility crosswalks and traffic calming measures. The route will connect downtown to historic sites, parks, and fishing access points, making it easier and safer for residents and visitors to travel without a car. By promoting cycling and walking, this initiative supports sustainable transportation, encourages healthy lifestyles, attracts eco-tourism, and strengthens the village's role as a regional destination.

Other Considerations: Aligned with Adams' Arbor Day Village identity, this project demonstrates a commitment to green infrastructure and climate-conscious planning. Educational and interpretive signage will highlight local history and landmarks, creating a unique cultural and recreational experience. Increased bike and pedestrian traffic will support downtown businesses, foster social engagement, and enhance accessibility for all ages and abilities, contributing to a more vibrant, connected, and resilient community.

Cost: \$500,000

10 ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATION INITIATIVE

Type: Sustainability & Transportation

Description: This initiative will install Level 2 electric vehicle (EV) charging stations in strategic locations throughout downtown Adams, supporting sustainable transportation, attracting eco-conscious visitors, and positioning the village as a forward-thinking destination. Placed near high-traffic businesses, public parking areas, and key attractions, the stations will encourage longer visits, increase foot traffic to local shops and restaurants, and enhance the overall visitor experience. By investing in modern transportation infrastructure, Adams demonstrates its commitment to environmental stewardship, community innovation, and future-ready economic growth.

Other Considerations: This project aligns with New York State's decarbonization and climate action goals while improving downtown accessibility for modern travelers. Partnerships with local businesses will ensure visibility and encourage community engagement. In addition to supporting EV adoption, the initiative will help Adams stand out as a regional hub for sustainable tourism and innovation in small-town infrastructure.

Cost: \$75,000-\$150,000

11 YOUTH BASEBALL FIELD INITIATIVE

Type: Recreation & Youth Development

Description: This project will upgrade the Village's primary youth baseball field, serving U6 through U12 teams, from tee-ball to Little League. Improvements include new fencing, upgraded bleachers, expanded parking, a modern scoreboard, and enhanced storage facilities. These upgrades will ensure a safer, more accessible, and enjoyable experience for players, families, and spectators. By enhancing this central recreational space, the Village strengthens its reputation as a family-friendly community and creates opportunities for tournaments and events that attract visitors and encourage longer stays in Adams.

Other Considerations: The Village has secured a \$50,000 DASNY grant to support the upgrades. This field is a cornerstone of youth engagement and community pride, hosting local leagues, events, and seasonal programs. Investing in its long-term quality aligns with the Village's broader goal of providing inclusive, active, and vibrant recreational spaces that benefit residents and draw regional visitors.

Cost: \$50,000 (funded through DASNY grants) - are there additional costs?

REMOVE DASNY RELATED WORK AS A PROJECT. IS THERE A PHASE 2 TO INCLUDE?

12 DOWNTOWN ENERGY EFFICIENCY & WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM



Type: Sustainability & Energy Efficiency

Description: This initiative will provide free energy audits and weatherization recommendations to downtown businesses in tandem with scheduled façade and signage improvements. Participating business owners will have access to incentives for energy-efficient upgrades, including insulation, air sealing, LED lighting, and smart thermostats. By integrating energy efficiency into revitalization efforts, the Village ensures that improvements are not only visually appealing but also economically and environmentally sustainable, lowering operating costs and strengthening downtown businesses for the long term.

Other Considerations: The Village of Adams will collaborate with NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities Program and local energy providers to secure funding and rebates

for participating businesses. This initiative supports state decarbonization goals, encourages investment in the downtown, and positions Adams as a forward-thinking, sustainable community. By helping businesses reduce energy consumption and expenses, the program also enhances the attractiveness of downtown for new ventures and patrons alike.

Cost: \$250,000

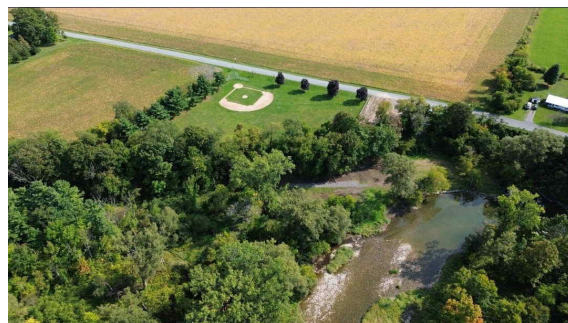
13 SANDY CREEK FISHING & PICNIC AREA

Type: Recreation & Public Space

Description: This project will revitalize the public fishing area adjacent to the Village's baseball field, creating a welcoming, family-friendly space that encourages outdoor recreation. Improvements include a covered pavilion, picnic areas, accessible pathways, and a modern dock on Sandy Creek. These enhancements will provide residents and visitors with opportunities to gather, fish, and enjoy the scenic creek, while connecting to nearby recreational facilities.

Other Considerations: Building on the recently funded \$50,000 baseball field rehabilitation, this project strengthens community engagement, supports youth and family activities, and enhances Adams' reputation as a destination for recreation and eco-tourism. The project also aligns with the Village's broader downtown revitalization efforts by promoting public access to natural assets and increasing local visitation, benefiting nearby businesses.

Cost: \$450,000



14 ADAMS COMMUNITY DOG PARK & ACCESSIBLE WALKING PATHS

Type: Recreation, Connectivity & Public Health

Description: This project will create a new, fully accessible community park in the Village of Adams, featuring a fenced, inclusive dog park and an integrated network of safe walking and jogging paths. The dog park will include separate areas for large and small dogs, waste stations, water fountains, shaded seating, and native landscaping, ensuring a welcoming environment for all users. The accessible walking paths will connect open spaces, streets, and nearby public areas, providing opportunities for recreation, exercise, and social interaction for residents and visitors of all ages. By combining pet-friendly recreation with family-friendly walking and trail amenities, the park will serve as a vibrant community hub that encourages healthy activity, strengthens social connections, and supports exploration of downtown Adams.

Other Considerations: The Village will collaborate with local veterinarians, pet supply businesses, civic groups, and volunteers to fundraise, sponsor park amenities, and ensure responsible use. Community input will guide the design and layout of the park, reflecting the preferences of residents, families, and pet owners. This project builds upon the Village's broader commitment to enhancing public spaces, promoting active lifestyles, and creating inclusive, accessible recreational opportunities. By attracting visitors and encouraging longer stays, the park will also support local businesses and contribute to downtown revitalization.

Cost: \$1,250,000



Have image of current space

15 SANDY CREEK PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

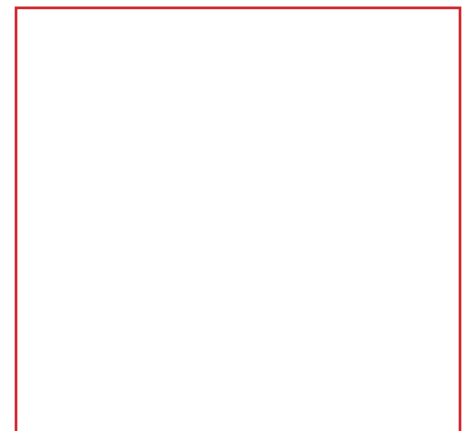
Type: Infrastructure & Connectivity

Description: This project will construct a visually appealing, safe pedestrian bridge spanning Sandy Creek, connecting the downtown improvement area with surrounding neighborhoods, parks, and community assets. The bridge will serve as a key link in Adams' pedestrian network, enhancing walkability, promoting active transportation, and providing residents and visitors with a direct, convenient route between homes, businesses, recreational areas, and cultural sites. Beyond its functional role, the bridge will showcase the scenic beauty of Sandy Creek, creating a memorable gateway experience that highlights the village's natural assets and strengthens the identity of Adams as a connected, vibrant community.

Other Considerations: The pedestrian bridge will remove barriers to movement and foster stronger connections throughout the village, supporting downtown revitalization and local economic activity by encouraging foot traffic to nearby shops and services. It aligns with broader NY Forward and DRI goals by promoting sustainable transportation, improving public access to key destinations, and enhancing the overall quality of life for residents and visitors. Community input and engagement will help inform bridge design features, ensuring the project reflects local preferences while complementing the village's historic and natural character.

Cost: \$775,000

This will likely be \$2 Million



Have image of current space

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

The Village of Adams has received an overwhelming show of support for its submission to the NY Forward and Downtown Revitalization Initiative programs, underscoring the community's deep commitment to shaping a stronger future for its historic downtown. Letters of support from residents, business owners, and regional partners reflect a unified vision: investing in projects that will strengthen Adams as a place where families want to live, businesses can thrive, and visitors are drawn to return. Building on the village's already well-loved festivals, parades, and community traditions, these initiatives will expand opportunities for connection, economic growth, and pride of place. With strong public backing and a clear plan for transformative change, Adams is ready to seize this opportunity and position itself as a vibrant hub in the North Country for generations to come.

By investing in the downtown area, Adams is not only preserving its rich heritage but also ensuring a bright, thriving future that resonates with both residents and visitors alike.



The Village of Adams is dedicated to revitalizing its historic downtown to create a vibrant, community-focused hub that enriches the lives of future generations while preserving its unique heritage.

NEW YORK
STATE
SENATE

ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247



SENATOR MARK C. WALCZYK
49TH SENATE DISTRICT

ALBANY OFFICE
302 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BLDG.
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247
TEL (518) 455-3438
FAX (518) 426-6740

DISTRICT OFFICE
317 WASHINGTON ST., RM. 418
WATERTOWN, NEW YORK 13601
TEL (315) 782-3418
FAX (315) 782-6357

FULTON COUNTY SATELLITE OFFICE
223 WEST MAIN ST., SUITE B10
JOHNSTOWN, NY 12095
TEL (518) 762-3733

E-MAIL: WALCZYK@NYSENATE.GOV

July 23, 2024

Ms. Kisha Santiago
Secretary of State
Office of Planning & Community Infrastructure
99 Washington Avenue, Suite 1010
Albany NY, 12231

Dear Secretary Santiago,

Downtown Adams is a quant community-orientated area that has experienced some strenuous times. Local oversight and coordination of downtown projects is vital to the overall future success of the Village of Adams. Therefore, the Village of Adams is applying for the New York Forward 2024 grant application in the amount of \$4.5 million dollars for an overall more efficient and effective downtown for residents, business owners and visitors.

Through this funding, a better quality of life is anticipated through a private-public partnership conjecture with local businesses downtown. Tax dollars will be allocated to be directly invested into the diverse downtown area across all businesses, with a match from businesses, if this grant is obtained. Funds will create a streetscape project associated with potential future parade routes and avenues for festival areas, funneling monies back into the economy. During Phase 2 of this downtown revitalization further enhancement of recreational facilities for young children and families will be attainable with the community. Reconstruction of a failing infrastructure ballpark will promote youth sports and other opportunities to enhance the village.

Again, I strongly support the grant application through the New York Forward 2024 grant application for the Village of Adams, for it will help identify, develop and refine proposed projects for the Village of Adams to invest in Downtown Revitalization. If you have any questions, I am just a phone call away.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Schenk", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael J. Schenk
Chief of Staff
Office of Senator Mark Walczyk

MS/af



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

September 17, 2024

Mr. James McKenna and Dr. Kathryn Morris
Regional Co-Chairs
North Country REDC
Dulles State Office Building
Watertown, NY 13601

Re: Village of Adams, NY 2025 NY Forward/Downtown Revitalization Initiative Grant Application

Dear Mr. McKenna and Dr. Morris,

I am pleased to write to you today to express support for the Village of Adams and its Downtown Revitalization and its application to the NY Forward Program. The Village of Adams is located in Northern New York about 50 miles north of Syracuse and 50 miles south of the Canadian border along the I-81 corridor. The downtown area has been designated as a historic district by the State and National Registry making it a prime area for revitalization and to become a vibrant place to live in Jefferson County and New York's 24th Congressional District.

The Village of Adams intends to use funds from the NY Forward Program to revitalize both its community attractions and business districts. The village has extensive plans to grow and improve its parks, scenic overlooks, and event spaces to allow residents and visitors to enjoy downtown. The village will also use funds to improve facades, downtown signage, and repurpose buildings in an effort to boost business activity. Many of the downtown businesses have recently invested monies and will continue to do so with funds from the NY Forward Program.

The Village of Adams is a quaint, community orientated area that has experienced some difficult times like many New York's 24th Congressional District. The Downtown Revitalization Project is expected to bring more job creation, extended stays by visitors to many festivals, and overall, more efficient and effective downtown for residents, business owners, and visitors alike.

I commend the Village of Adams

for their efforts to secure funds through the NY Forward Program, I offer my full support to their application within all applicable rules and regulations. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact my Lockport office at 716-514-5130.

Sincerely,


CLAUDIA TENNEY
Member of Congress

Adams Village Baptist Church
24 East Church Street
Adams, NY 13605

RECEIVED
SEP 22 2025
VILLAGE OF ADAMS

September 11, 2025

Dear Mayor Davis and Members of the Village Board,

On behalf of the Adams Village Baptist Church, I am writing to express our strong support for the Village of Adams' application to the New York Forward and Downtown Revitalization Initiative grant programs.

Our church has been serving the Adams community for over 175 years. Our faithful and committed congregation finds renewal and revitalization in God's word and actively seeks ways to share His love in our local area, the state and across the globe through missions giving and service projects. Adams is a great community and we feel the village's intention to invest in it through these grant programs would not only strengthen downtown businesses and attract new ones but also enhance the quality of life for residents of Adams and the surrounding area by enriching civic and cultural resources.

Recent revitalization projects such as the creation of the greenspace near the intersection downtown, the refurbishing of store fronts on Main St. and the building of the beautiful community playground (which our church heartily supported) have provided a much needed facelift for our community. But, there is so much more that can be done to improve our little town! Upgraded infrastructure, safety enhancements (such as crosswalks with lights, new sidewalks), small business incentives, bathrooms and a concert pavilion at the community playground, additional senior housing and bus service to shopping and churches in Adams and Watertown would further enhance this wonderful little community that we love.

The Adams Village Baptist Church fully supports the village's revitalization efforts; efforts that will make Adams safer, stronger, more beautiful and more connected. We urge the State to give this application serious consideration; New York Forward and Downtown Revitalization Initiative grants would go a long way towards making Adams, NY the gem of southern Jefferson County.

Sincerely,



Mary Beth Denny
Adams Village Baptist Church
Church Council Chairperson



September 22, 2025

Village of Adams Board of Trustees
3 S. Main Street
Adams, NY 13605

Dear Mayor Davis and Members of the Village of Adams Board of Trustees,

Stewart's Shops is writing to express our support for the Village of Adams' application to the New York Forward and Downtown Revitalization Initiative grant programs.

These programs represent an exciting opportunity to strengthen Adams' downtown by encouraging outside investment. We have every confidence the village is committed to improving the quality of life for residents and visitors by creating a plan that will enhance public spaces and improve the streetscape, ultimately leading to a more vibrant and attractive community.

Stewart's Shops had the opportunity to work closely with village officials a few years ago when we expanded and renovated our shop. The process was streamlined and easy to understand. We have no doubt the village's revitalization strategy will use a similar approach.

The Village of Adams is a well-deserving candidate for state revitalization funding and we are confident their efforts will ensure the long-term success of the community.

For these reasons, we strongly support the village's application and encourage the state to give it full consideration.

Sincerely,


Robin Cooper

Public relations manager

Stewart's Shops Corp.

From: Diane Petrowski [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 9:12:16 AM
To: Kreg Davis [REDACTED]
Subject: Re:

Cody Scott Enterprises, LLC aka Diane Petrowski and Austin Key
11 East Church St
Adams, NY 13605

Village of Adams Board of Trustees
3 S. Main Street
Adams, NY 13605

Dear Mayor Davis and Members of the Village of Adams Board of Trustees,
On behalf of Cody Scott, LLC, I am writing to express my support for the Village of Adams' application to the New York Forward and Downtown Revitalization Initiative grant programs.
These programs represent an exciting opportunity to strengthen Adams' downtown, encourage economic development, and improve quality of life for residents and visitors. Investments in projects such as sidewalk repair, enhanced green spaces, broadband, downtown events for families, a seasonal farmers market will directly benefit my business and help create a stronger environment for all businesses in the village.

We believe that revitalization funding will make Adams more vibrant, attract more visitors, and ensure long-term success for the community. For these reasons, I strongly support the Village's application and urge the State to give it full consideration.
Sincerely,

Diane Petrowski, DVM
President: Cody Scott Enterprises, LLC
[REDACTED]

