



## **2022 Annual Operations and Accomplishments Report**

### **Organization**

- EDC Warren County (hereby referred to as EDC) acts as the primary entity responsible for economic development for the County. The organization utilizes a team of economic development professionals in a variety of roles and manages multiple key area forums and processes designed to attract, maintain, and grow the county's long term, sustainable economy.

### **Programmatic**

#### **Organizational Goals and Investment Areas**

- **ADJUSTING OUR FOCUS** - Given the ongoing and dynamic needs of the community brought on by the pandemic, EDC has expanded its organizational goals and resources beyond the traditional support of attracting, retaining, and growing the areas business base. The new areas of resource allocation include (but are not limited to) pandemic response and support, broadband expansion both in county and regional, professional relocation, workforce development and housing.
- **ONGOING BUSINESS ASSISTANCE & SUPPORT** -Traditional business inquiries and project support continue with a focus on collaboration with other area resources such as the Warren Washington County IDA, Warren County Local Development Corporation (LDC), The Lake Champlain Lake George Regional Planning Board, the Center for Economic Growth (CEG), multiple area Chamber of Commerce's, neighboring economic development entities and a variety of local, state, and national organizations including New York State's Empire State Development group. During 2022, EDC managed and/or collaborated on over 25 ongoing active business assistance prospects & projects in varying stages of engagement. 2022 projects included the following:
  - Buck's County Biscotti, Queensbury/Kingsbury - 4 jobs, \$1.5 million
  - Adirondack Winery, Queensbury - 13 jobs, \$2.6 million
  - Brookfield Renewables, Queensbury - 50 jobs, \$4.5 million
  - ImmunoTek, Queensbury - 45 jobs, \$3.5 million
  - Total - 112 jobs, \$11.9 million

- **ONGOING COMMUNITY SUPPORT** - A key aspect of the EDC is representing the long term, sustainable economy in a variety of area efforts including transportation, housing, relocation, infrastructure development and communications. This occurs in both forums managed by the EDC and by others. We also engage with county municipalities to help them in their planning and development efforts as needed.
- **BROADBAND**-Since 2020, the need for last mile broadband expansion led to the EDC becoming a focal point for broadband support both in Warren County and regionally. The EDC managed the full assessment of broadband in Warren County and continues to lead the North Country Broadband Alliance, a regional workgroup that works on broadband across Northern New York with a consortium of municipalities, carriers, and community organizations. The EDC continues to host the weekly forums around broadband on behalf of the alliance, participates in various regional forums on the topic, coordinates funding opportunities with both federal and NYS sources such as ESD ConnectAll broadband office, coordinated mapping and data updating with FCC & PSC, and helps organize legislative action aimed at expanding broadband in New York.
- **PROFESSIONAL RELOCATION**-Helping the community and area businesses manage the transition to an increasingly remote and independent workforce is a new major area of study and activity for the EDC. Much of this effort is focused on expanding our data around workforce mobility and acting as a communications entry point for those looking to move their professional lives to the area. Post pandemic, EDC focuses on an effort to recruit younger professionals, families, and expatriates seeking to come back to the region.
- **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**-The EDC has always been a member of the area's Workforce Development Board (Saratoga Warren Washington Workforce Board) and continues robust engagement in 2023. Some of these efforts include study and communication of developing trends and information to the community along with deep engagement with local businesses to understand their needs and help respond to this critical issue.
- **GRANTS** – EDC advocated and received two ARPA grants distributed by Warren County through the BOS ARPA Committee. The first grant (\$50,000) will help offset expenses incurred by EDC for Housing data and information research and public engagement. The second grant (\$30,000) will be used to reimburse broadband asset inventory mapping and surveying early in the pandemic.
- **FORUMS & SPECIAL EVENTS** – EDC ramped up topic forums and special events now that pandemic levels have subsided and in person meetings are gradually increasing. EDC launched a senior level executive series designed to communicate the latest data, trends, and market fluctuations. Total Forum in person attendance 120. In June 2022, EDC hosted noted demographic author Dr. Rachel Sederberg who presented findings in a benchmark study entitled The Demographic Drought – total attendance 120. EDC social events totaled 100 attendees.
- **HOUSING**-One of the critical needs of our community, and most, is the need to address the long-term underinvestment in housing and its impact on our economy. EDC is participating on a workgroup in Lake George seeking to develop temporary workforce housing for J1 visa workers as well as temporary workforce populations such as construction, healthcare, and hospitality.

- **INFRASTRUCTURE** - EDC helps municipalities and the county assess the economic value of potential infrastructure investments on the long-term viability and sustainability of the area economy and future. In 2022, EDC participated in the effort to gain a “yes” vote enabling North Creek to establish a new municipal sewer district for the first time in its history.
- **FOCAL POINT** - EDC acts as the conduit for multiple federal, state and organizational programs and resources including NYS Empire State Development (ESD). EDC also acts as a contact point for local, state, and national political figures in their engagement around topics of economic development and investment. EDC also meets regularly with the Warren County Board of Supervisors, primarily through the Economic Growth and Development Committee, to provide updates and share information.