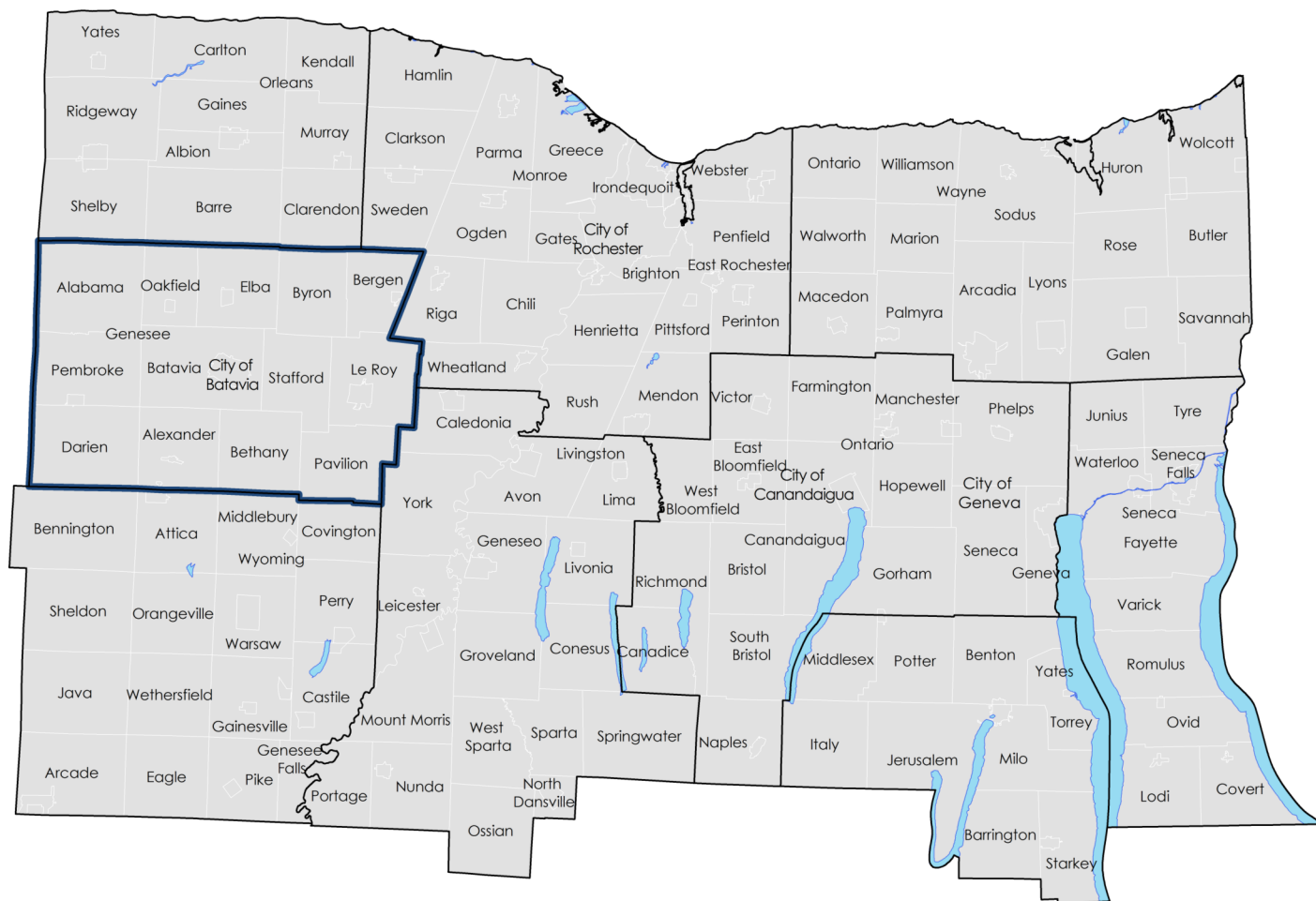


# Regional Engagement Revitalization Opportunity Report

## Genesee County



This report was prepared for the Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council and the New York State Department of State with state funds provided through the Brownfield Opportunity Area Program



# Regional Engagement Revitalization Opportunity Report

Genesee County  
November 2016



Prepared by the  
Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council  
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## **Mission Statement**

*The Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council (G/FLRPC) will identify, define, and inform its member counties of issues and opportunities critical to the physical, economic, and social health of the region. G/FLRPC provides forums for discussion, debate, and consensus building, and develops and implements a focused action plan with clearly defined outcomes, which include programs, personnel, and funding.*

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# Genesee County

*This report was prepared for the Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council and the New York State Department of State with state funds provided through the Brownfield Opportunity Area Program*

## Executive Summary

The Genesee County Revitalization Opportunity Report includes an outline of the demographic and economic conditions within Genesee County along with a detailed overview of economic development; community development; and land use through the lens of 11 different subject areas. These subject areas include: Land Use; Brownfields; Economic Distress; Downtowns; Tourism and Recreation; Waterfronts; Environmental, Water Resources, and Natural Resources; Energy; Buildings and Housing; Infrastructure; and Preservation/Cultural.

Demographic and economic indicators include population change; employment; unemployment; race; age; vacancy; education; income; poverty; and economic distress. These indicators along with previously completed plans on the municipal, county, and regional level covering each of the above subject areas listed above, served as the starting point for stakeholder discussions at the October, 2015 Sub-Regional Forum. The stakeholder input provided at the Sub-Regional Forum, during the follow up webinar held on December 7, 2015; and the Genesee County Forum, held on March 1, 2016; along with the information gathered from existing plans, shaped development of the Genesee County Recommendations, Goals and Objectives, and priority projects.

## Genesee County Step-2 Recommendations

Key project recommendations for Genesee County include development of the Western New York Science and Technology Advanced Manufacturing Park (STAMP); revitalization of downtown Batavia; implementation of the Batavia Opportunity Area Nomination Study; development and implementation of the Green Genesee/Smart Genesee Project; and advancing targeted economic development growth areas including: Buffalo East, Genesee Valley Agribusiness Park, LeRoy Food & Technology Park, and the Upstate Med-Tech Project. The focus area for economic distress within Genesee County is the City of Batavia.

## Goals and Objectives

Economic and community development revitalization efforts will depend upon the successful implementation of the goals and objectives of each subject area outlined below. Many of these goals and objectives cut across multiple subject areas and illustrate the collaboration and coordination that is needed across multiple communities and multiple organizations for implementation. While some of goals and objectives listed below are more critical than others they are all listed to show the role that each subject area can play in advancing Genesee County. The goals and objectives listed below were identified through the Sub-Regional Forum; follow-up webinar; County Forum; and existing local, county, and regional plans.

## Land Use

1. Focus county resources to support economic development opportunities in the most promising locations
2. Encourage revitalization of existing industrial areas, business districts, and residential neighborhoods in the City of Batavia and development village areas
3. Protect farmland and the rural character of the countryside
4. Preserve agricultural land resources
5. Direct development away from farming areas
6. Support the economic contributions of agriculture and related businesses

## Brownfields

1. Revitalize brownfield properties for new uses in a new economy
2. Complete Phase II site assessments on identified brownfield properties
3. Identify and implement the capital improvement and zoning changes that are needed to redevelop targeted brownfield areas

## Economic Development/Economic Distress

1. Eliminate economic distress within City of Batavia
2. Improve infrastructure and advance shovel ready sites
3. Advance entrepreneurship and innovation
4. Support existing businesses and the retention of jobs
5. Advance the Upstate Revitalization Initiative identified growth pillars of Optics, Photonics, and Imaging; Agriculture and Food Production; and Next Generation Manufacturing

6. Improve connections between workforce development and education

### **Downtowns**

1. Fill vacant storefronts
2. Maintain and preserve historic downtowns
3. Implement building and façade renovations
4. Renovate and reuse vacant upper floors
5. Redevelop/remediate brownfield properties
6. Promote smart growth and in-fill development

### **Tourism and Recreation**

1. Create network of advocates for the Finger Lakes Region lifestyle
2. Invest in the development, promotion, and preservation of cultural, artistic, and historic assets of the Region
3. Promote the Region's growing wine, culinary, and agricultural enterprises
4. Strengthen and support the Region's diverse water resources and recreational tourism opportunities
5. Expand agri-tourism within Genesee County
6. Improve recreational opportunities within Genesee County, including expanding the number of kayak launch points in the County.
7. Expand trail connections to recreational opportunities

### **Waterfronts**

1. Restore severe streambank segments using ecologically-based stream restoration
2. Create green infrastructure standards and integrate into site plan review criteria
3. Complete a characterization of waste water treatment plant effluent to assess levels of contaminants that are discharged

### **Environmental/Water Resources/Natural Resources**

1. Ensure long-term preservation of surface and groundwater resources
2. Preserve natural resources
3. Continue efforts to remediate eroded streambanks and educate property owners on methods of resiliency
4. Enforce floodplain development regulations
5. Pursue opportunities to leverage community rating system programs to help mitigate flood insurance costs

### **Energy**

1. Develop/embrace renewable energy resources
2. Remove energy roadblocks that are limiting economic development opportunities
3. Identify, connect, and promote energy assets for successful attraction of companies

### **Buildings/Housing**

1. Address vacant properties/zombie properties
2. Continue to promote and implement senior housing/aging in place programs
3. Plan for and implement new housing developments that are consistent with the Genesee County Smart Growth Plan
4. Continue to preserve historic and culturally significant assets within Genesee County

### **Infrastructure**

1. Improve sewer/water, telecommunications, and transportation infrastructure in targeted growth areas
2. Complete infrastructure inventory and analysis to determine the capacity and location of existing infrastructure
3. Continue to monitor traffic counts and conditions of bridges

### **Preservation/Cultural**

1. Encourage communities to develop and enforce design guidelines and zoning regulations
2. Connect developers and municipalities with federal and state preservation and rehabilitation programs to encourage Main Street redevelopment
3. Support historic preservation efforts throughout Genesee County

### **Projects**

The Genesee County Revitalization Opportunity Report includes a table of specific priority projects that will advance the identified goals and objectives. Projects were identified through the Sub-Regional Forum; follow-up webinar; County Forum; and existing local, county, and regional plans; and the regional engagement project capture form.



# Genesee County

## Existing Conditions Introduction

The Background/Existing Conditions section below outlines the demographic and economic conditions within Genesee County utilizing available data from a variety of sources including, but not limited to the U.S. Census Bureau; New York State Department of Labor; and Bureau of Labor Statistics. These demographic and economic indicators include population change; employment; unemployment; race; age; vacancy; education; income; poverty; and economic distress. Through these indicators this section helps to identify the challenges faced by Genesee County and identifies the municipalities with the greatest need for economic development and community development revitalization efforts. The complete data tables are available in Appendix A.

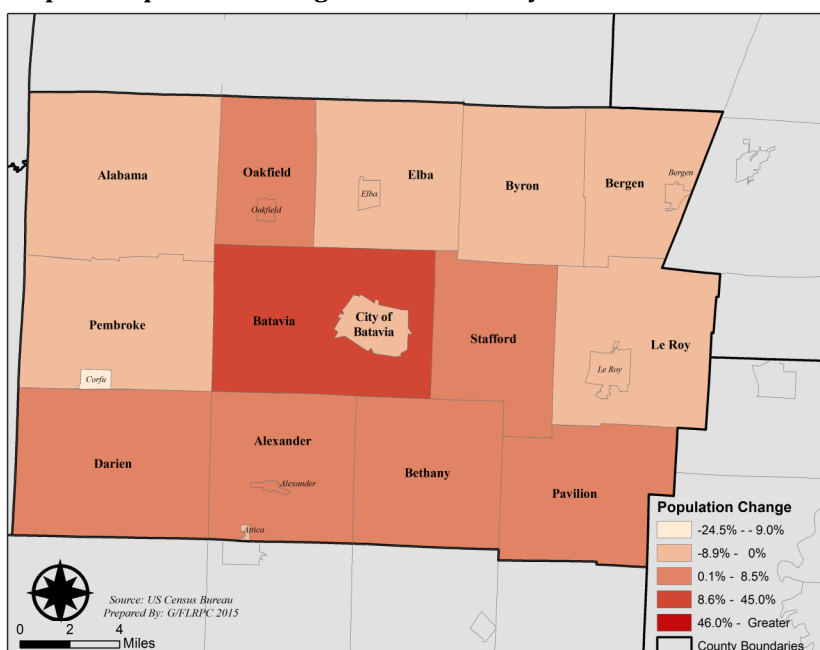
These revitalization efforts are focused on areas with high levels of poverty and economic distress building upon other Finger Lakes Region plans, including the Upstate Revitalization Initiative Plan titled *Finger Lakes Forward: United for Success* and the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council Strategic Plan titled *Accelerating our Transformation*, which identifies the reduction of poverty within the Region as a critical goal. These plans, along with many other regional and local plans, are further leveraged within the goals and objectives and project sections of this revitalization strategy.

## Profile of Existing Conditions

Genesee County consists of 493 square miles<sup>1</sup> of area located in the west-central portion of the nine-county Genesee-Finger Lakes Region. Genesee County is bordered to the east by Livingston and Monroe Counties; to the North by Orleans and Monroe Counties; to the South by Wyoming County; and to the West by Erie and Niagara Counties.

Between the years 2000 and 2010 Genesee County's population decreased by 0.5% to 60,079 people.<sup>2</sup> During this same period New York State experienced a population increase of 2.1% and the United States saw growth of 9.7%.<sup>3</sup> Based upon quarterly census of employment and wages (QCEW) data, which notably excludes agricultural workers on small farms<sup>4</sup>, within Genesee County much of the population is employed in the industry sectors of government, including local, state, and federal government; manufacturing, including machinery manufacturing, food manufacturing,

Map 15: Population Change Genesee County 2000-2010



and fabricated metal product manufacturing; retail trade, including general merchandise stores and food and beverage stores; health care and social assistance, including ambulatory health care services and nursing home facilities; and accommodation and food services<sup>5</sup>. The largest employers in the County include: Genesee County Government; United Memorial Medical Center; O-At-Ka Milk Products; Graham Manufacturing; Genesee Valley Educational Partnership; Genesee Community College; and Darien Lake Theme Park<sup>6</sup>. The unemployment rate for Genesee County as of November 2015 was 4.6%, in line with the New York State unemployment rate of 4.7%<sup>7</sup>, and lower than the national unemployment rate of 5.0%.<sup>8</sup> Table 3 illustrates Genesee County Employment.

Table 3: Genesee County Employment 2012

Industry Sector	Avg. Annual Employment
Total, All Government	5,523
Manufacturing	2,959
Retail Trade	2,688
Health Care and Social Assistance	2,512
Accommodation and Food Services	1,858

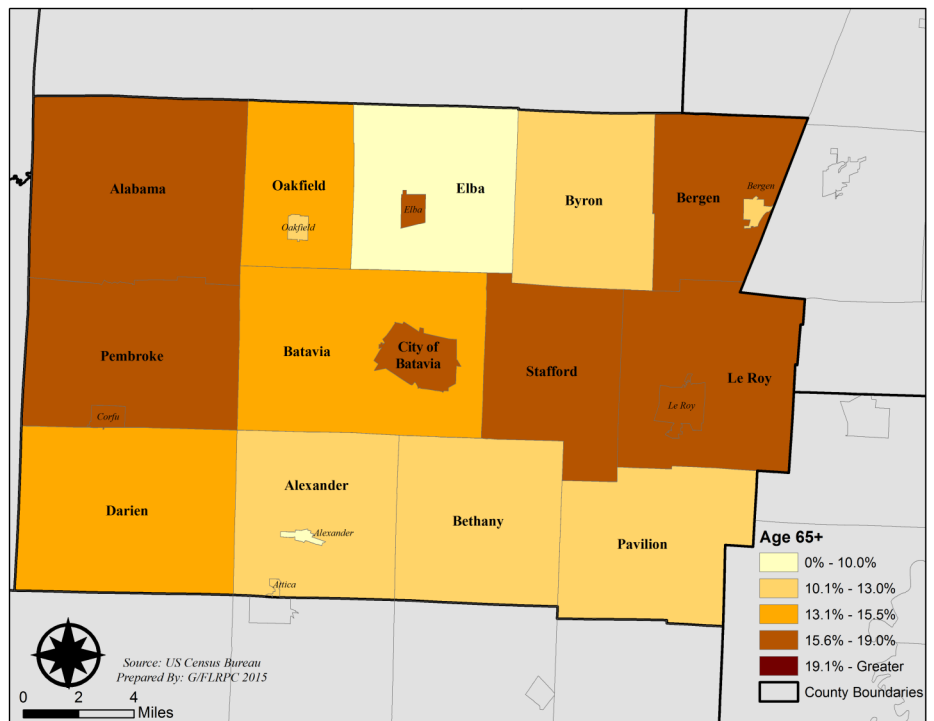
Genesee County is predominately white (92.9%)<sup>9</sup> and has an aging population, with approximately 15.6% of the County population aged 65 or older, greater than the 13.6% of the population aged 65 or older in New York State and the 13.2% of the population aged 65 or older in the United States. Several Genesee County municipalities have an even larger percentage of their population aged 65 or older, with the highest percentages located within the Town of Stafford (18.7%) and the City of Batavia (18.1%). The Village of Alexander and Town of Pavilion have the largest percentages of their population under the age of 18 with 34.7% and 26.4% respectively<sup>10</sup>.

Vacancy is not a huge concern within Genesee County as a whole with only 5.3% of the structures within the County classified as vacant compared to 7.2% vacancy rate in New York State and 8.7% vacancy rate in the Nation. There are however some pockets of vacancy within Genesee County in the Town of Alabama and the City of Batavia with 8.8% and 7.7%<sup>11</sup> vacancy rates respectively.

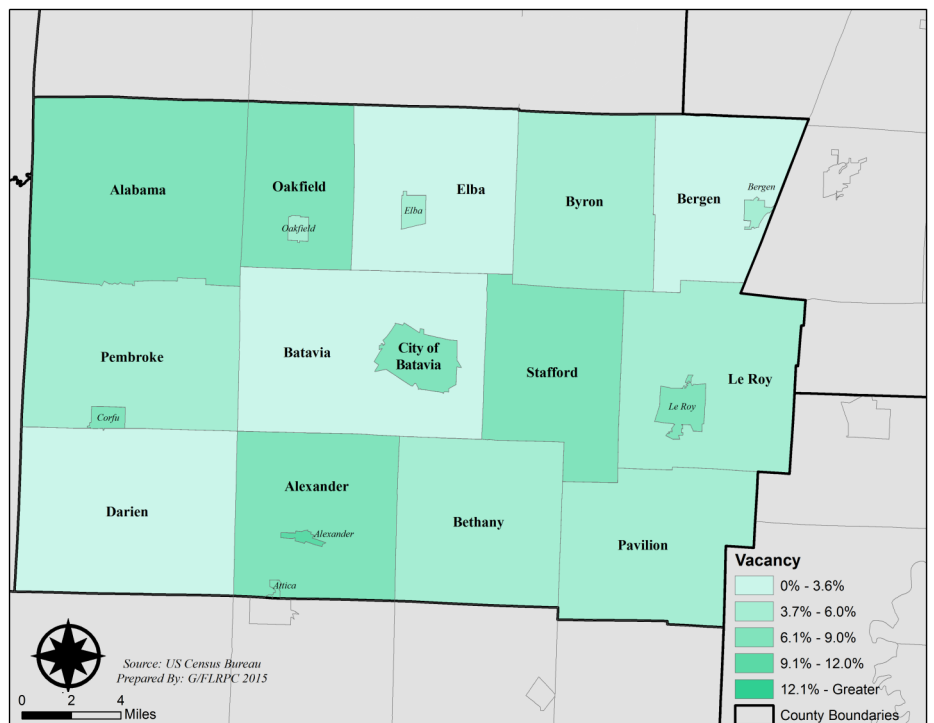
Approximately 90.6% of Genesee County population 25 years old or older has at least a high school diploma or equivalency with 20.6% of the County having a bachelor's degree, graduate degree, or professional degree and approximately 33.9% having an educational attainment of an associate's degree or higher. Within New York State approximately 84.9% of the population aged 25 or older has at least a high school diploma with 32.8% having a bachelor's degree or greater in education and 41.1% having an associate's degree or greater.

Within Genesee County, the Town of Elba has the highest percentage of residents aged 25 or older with an educational attainment of at least a bachelor's degree (25.5%) along with an additional 11.4% of its population with an associate's degree. The Towns of Le Roy and Batavia also have a large percentage of their population aged 25 or older with a bachelor's degree, graduate degree, or professional degree, 24.3%, and 22.4% of their residents respectively<sup>12</sup>.

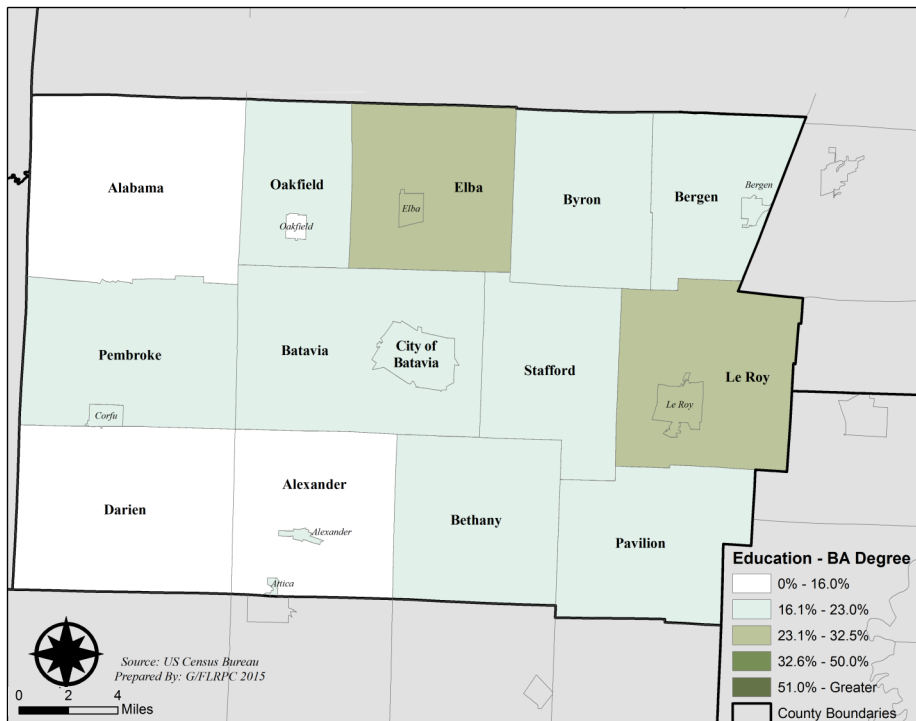
**Map 16: Population Aged 65 and Older Genesee County 2012**



**Map 17: Vacancy Genesee County 2012**



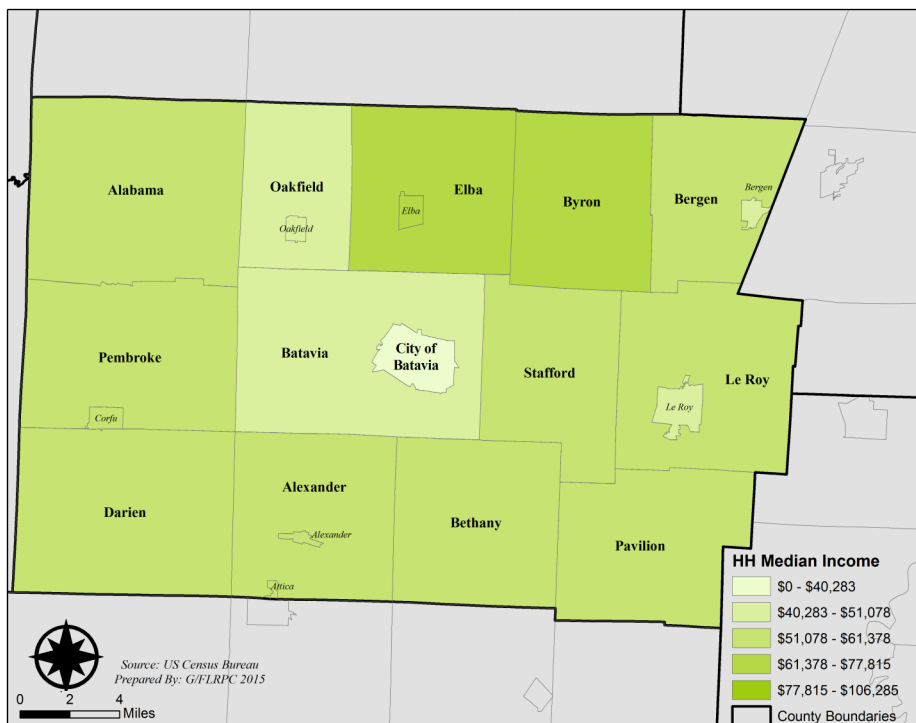
Median household income for Genesee County as a whole in 2012 was \$51,734, with the highest median household income within the Towns of Byron (\$70,972) and Elba (\$66,964) and Bergen (\$60,485). The lowest median household income was within the City of Batavia (\$38,011) and the Towns of Oakfield

**Map 18: Educational Attainment Genesee County 2012**

20.8% for those under the age of 18. The highest municipal poverty rates are within the City of Batavia, 20.8% of the total population and 32.3% of residents under the age of 18 living below the poverty line; the Town of Pavilion, 12.9% of the total population and 18.7% of residents under the age of 18 living below the poverty line, and Town of Bethany 11.2% of the total population and 21.7% of residents under the age of 18 living below the poverty line<sup>14</sup>.

### Economic Distress

Economic distress can be measured using a variety of data, such as unemployment rates, income levels, vacancy rates, or poverty status. These indicators alone however fail to capture positive trends that may help to reduce economic distress such as a growing population or a highly educated workforce. In order to account for all of these variables, Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council developed an economic distress index which includes the following data: median family income; employment rate; non-poverty rate; educational attainment; occupancy rate; and population change. Each of these data components were standardized into a z-score, which accounts for standard deviation amongst each category and sets 0 as the average. The z-scores for each data category were then summed to determine the economic distress index value for each municipality. Positive numbers indicate a higher than average level of economic distress. It is important to note that the economic distress index is a snapshot based upon the currently available data and the index will continually evolve as economic conditions fluctuate and new data is released. It is also important to note that since the economic distress index relies

**Map 19: Median Household Income Genesee County 2012**

(\$45,656) and Batavia (\$51,078)<sup>13</sup>. Median household income for New York State in 2012 was \$57,683 with the United States median household income for 2012 being \$53,046.

Approximately 11.8% of the county population and 15.8% of residents under the age of 18 are living below the poverty level, lower than the national poverty rate of 14.9% and the national rate of poverty of

upon estimated Census American Community Survey data there is a margin of error within the reported numbers.

For the nine-county Finger Lakes Region as a whole the Economic Distress z-scores ranged from -12.9 (least distressed) to 9.6 (most distressed). Within Genesee County the Economic Distress z-scores ranged from -3.8, Town of Elba, to 4.1, City of Batavia<sup>15</sup>. The

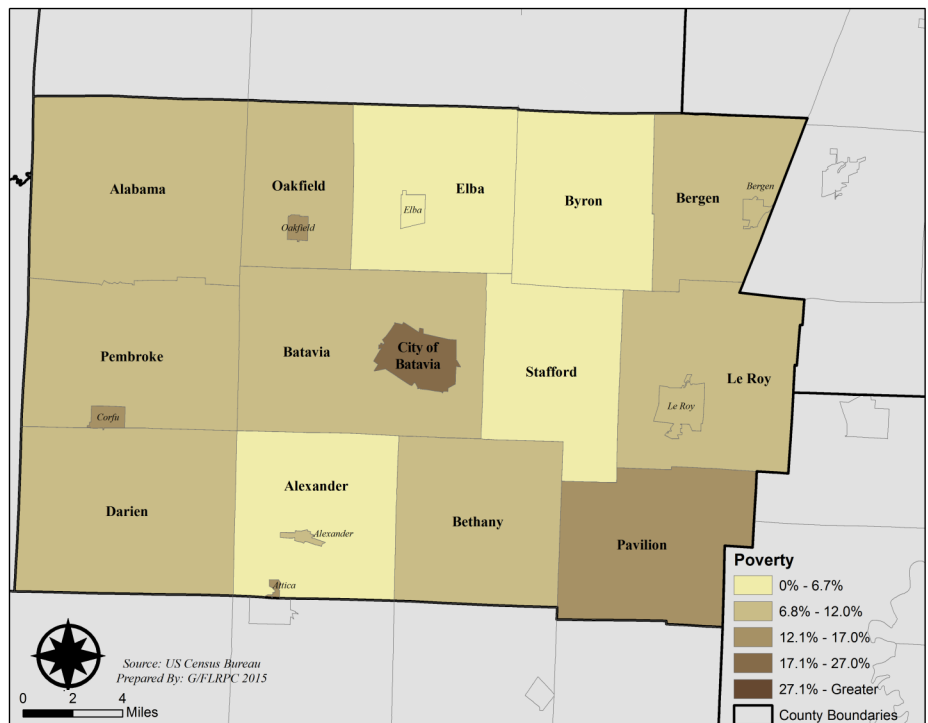
City of Batavia had the highest z-score in Genesee County largely due to its 20.8% poverty rate, higher than the 11.9% regional average, and its median family income of \$38,011, lower than the regional averages of \$53,143.

### Strategies

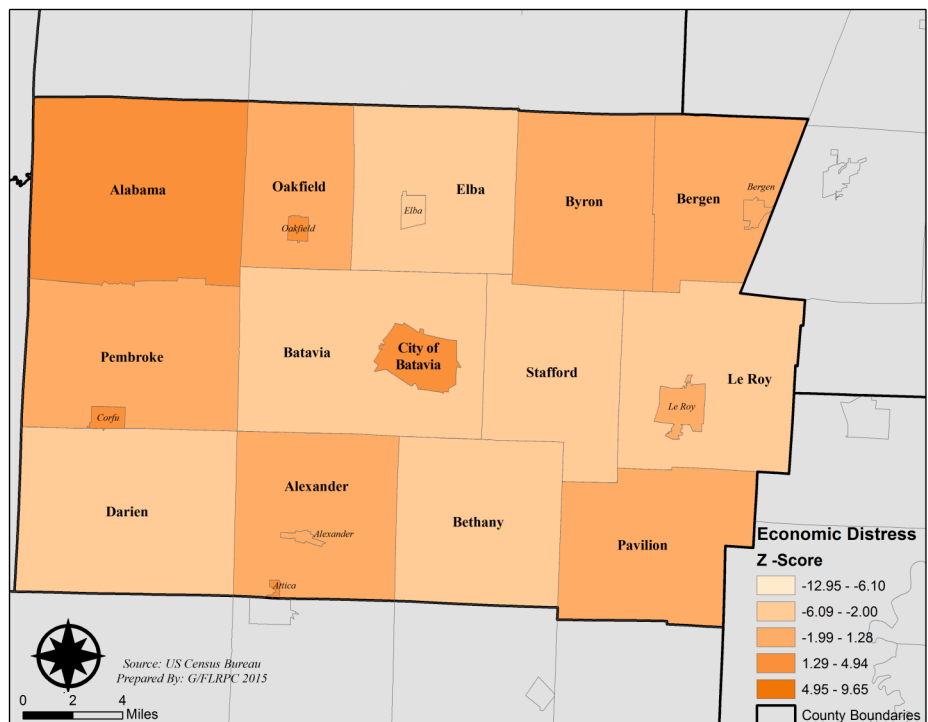
The background/existing conditions section above provides a snapshot of current demographic and economic data for Genesee County. It does not, however, provide a detailed glimpse of the economic development; community development; and land use challenges that the County is facing. In order to explore these areas in more detail Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council (G/FLRPC) identified 11 subject areas to explore in greater length. These subject areas are: Land Use; Brownfields; Economic Distress; Downtowns; Tourism and Recreation; Waterfronts; Environmental, Water Resources, and Natural Resources; Energy; Buildings and Housing; Infrastructure; and Preservation/Cultural.

Previously completed plans on the municipal, county, and regional level covering each of the above subject areas listed above, were reviewed by G/FLRPC in order to capture the identified goals/objectives/strategies that remain relevant today. These existing plans and the identified subject areas served as the starting point for stakeholder discussions at the October, 2015 Sub-Regional Forum. The stakeholder input provided at the Sub-Regional Forum; during the follow up webinar, held on December 7, 2015; and County Forum, held on March 1, 2016; along with the information gathered from existing plans formed much of the subject information below.

**Map 20: Poverty Rate Genesee County 2012**



**Map 21: Economic Distress Genesee County 2012**





## Land Use

Based upon an analysis of building permit data for Genesee County since 1998, the municipalities with the most residential building permits issued are the City of Batavia (222); Town of Batavia (185); and the Town of Darien (105)<sup>16</sup>. This data merely identifies the number of permits granted and does not mean the proposed development was actually completed, but it does help to show the areas within Genesee County which are likely experiencing the most residential growth. Table 4 illustrates the Genesee County municipalities with the most residential building permits during the years 1998-2014.

Smart growth and the protection of farmland are criti-

**Table 4: Residential Building Permits Genesee County**

<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Residential Building Permits 1998-2014</b>
City of Batavia	222
Town of Batavia	185
Town of Darien	105
Town of Pembroke	94
Town of LeRoy	91

cal land use goals for Genesee County. Genesee County developed the Genesee County Smart Growth Plan in 2001 and has since completed regular updates to the Plan. The Plan has three goals: focus county resources to support economic development opportunities in the most promising locations; encourage the revitalization of existing industrial areas, business districts, and residential neighborhoods in the City of Batavia and developed village areas; and protect farmland the rural character of the countryside, and maintain the viability of agriculture<sup>17</sup>.

In addition to the Genesee County Smart Growth Plan, the County also developed the Genesee County, New York Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan in 2001, which is intended to preserve agricultural land resources, direct development away from farming areas, and support the economic contributions of agriculture and related businesses<sup>18</sup>. Both the Genesee County Smart Growth Plan and the Farmland Protection Plan are scheduled to be updated in 2016.

Several municipalities within the County, including the City of Batavia, are also currently in the process of updating their comprehensive plans, which serve to outline the vision and goals for community development and land use within their municipality.

## Brownfields

There are a number of properties within Genesee County classified as brownfield sites, which based up-

on the Environmental Protection Agency definition means that the “expansion, redevelopment, or reuse (of the property) may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.”<sup>19</sup> There are a total of 22 brownfield sites currently being addressed, or that have previously been addressed, under of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Division of Environmental Remediation programs. These programs include the New York State Superfund Program; Resource Conservation and Recovery program; Brownfield Cleanup program; Environmental Restoration program; and the Voluntary Cleanup program. Each of these programs works to identify and address environmental contamination within New York State with the goal of returning each site back to active and productive use.

The 22 brownfield sites within Genesee County that are being addressed, or that have been addressed, under the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Division of Environmental Remediation programs include sites within 7 different municipalities, though many are concentrated within the City of Batavia. Additional brownfield sites were also identified within the recently completed Batavia Opportunity Area Nomination Study, which outlined several strategic brownfield sites within the City of Batavia for redevelopment. These areas include: City Centre; Downtown Medical Corridor; Harvester Center; the former Della Penna Site; and the Creek Park Area. Each of these areas is currently underutilized and will help to revitalize the downtown area and improve the sustainability of the City of Batavia should they be successfully redeveloped<sup>20</sup>.

The City Centre includes a 15 acre site in the center of downtown Batavia which includes the City Centre commercial site with approximately 150,000 sq. ft. of commercial space and 50,000 sq. ft. of office space. The Downtown Medical Corridor is east of the City Centre site and includes hospital offices, private medical offices, and a 37 unit senior housing facility. The Harvester Center site is a 23 acre site that includes 850,000 sq. ft. of industrial space. The former Della Penna Site is a 1.7 acre parcel along Ellicott Street in downtown Batavia. The Creek Park area includes 13 acres of publicly owned properties that could be connected with private property to form an opportunity for strategic development<sup>21</sup>.

The Batavia Development Corporation (BDC) and the Genesee County Economic Development Center (GCEDC) have also been working with the City of Batavia, Genesee County, and the Batavia City School District to create a strategy to address poverty and

blight and address the impact of brownfields within the City of Batavia. The collaboration has yielded a strategy to create a new PILOT Increment Financing (PIF) fund, by diverting 50% of new project PILOT payments. The fund, termed the Batavia Pathways to Prosperity, will be used to motivate development within the Batavia Brownfield Opportunity Area with the goal of reducing blight, and creating economic opportunities for residents. The PIF district, will all taxing jurisdiction contributing, is the first in New York State.

### Economic Development

The identified economic development needs for Genesee County include: improving infrastructure and advancing shovel ready sites; advancing entrepreneurship and innovation; supporting existing businesses and the retention of jobs; and workforce development/education.

Improving infrastructure, such as water, sewer, and roads, is needed throughout Genesee County to support industrial parks and business parks positioning these areas to attract businesses. These targeted areas for business growth include: the Western New York Science and Technology Advanced Manufacturing Park (STAMP); the Genesee Valley Agri-business Park; LeRoy Food and Technology Park; Buffalo East Technology Park; Apple Tree Acres; Gateway II Corporate Park; and the Upstate Med and Tech Park. These industrial and business parks are located throughout Genesee County and positioned to attract a variety of industries including: agri-business and food processing; life sciences and medical device; advanced manufacturing and nanotechnology; and warehouse and distribution<sup>22</sup>. These industrial and business parks can also be leveraged to support the identified Upstate Revitalization Initiative growth pillars of Optics, Photonics, and Imaging; Agriculture and Food Production; and Next Generation Manufacturing and Technology<sup>23</sup>.

One regional program that can help advance agri-business and food processing within Genesee County is the recently approved Growing the Agriculture Industry Now! (GAIN!) RLF fund. The fund will provide Genesee County, along with the Finger Lakes Region, access to low interest loan funds to provide assistance to agricultural related businesses such as farmers and food processors. These businesses can utilize these funds to advance projects that will help to create and retain jobs within Genesee County.

The focal point for economic development efforts within Genesee County is the STAMP site in the Town of Alabama 5 miles north of the New York

State Thruway. The site consists of 1,250 acres designed for nanotech-oriented manufacturing, advanced manufacturing, and large scale bio-manufacturing projects<sup>24</sup>. STAMP has been identified as a regional priority by the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council and has significant support within Genesee County and the Region. The first STAMP tenant, 1366 Technologies, was announced in 2015 and plans to invest \$728 million and create 1,000 jobs over the next 5-years. The company develops and manufactures high performance silicon wafers for use in solar panels<sup>25</sup>.

Another key economic development goal for Genesee County is the advancement of entrepreneurship and innovation. One approach is through working with existing partners to emphasize entrepreneurship in K-12 education, colleges, and BOCES programs and to connect entrepreneurs with the resources needed to establish a business plan and create and grow their business within Genesee County. Genesee County Community College has been active in advancing entrepreneurship offering both a degree and certificate program in entrepreneurship and leveraging other resources to support entrepreneurship including the Business and Employee Skills Training (BEST) Center.

Entrepreneurship and innovation is also a key component of several regional strategies. The Upstate Revitalization Initiative identifies one of its goals to strategically invest in small businesses to “ensure access to capital, facilities, and support” which will allow the Region to “catalyze growth across targeted URI sectors”.<sup>26</sup> Within the Finger Lakes Economic Development Council Strategic plan one of the strategies towards optimizing business creation, retention and expansion was to “increase the number of entrepreneurs through education/training programs and recruitment, particularly those with domain experience in key sectors.”<sup>27</sup>

Workforce development is also a key need for Genesee County in order to develop the skilled workers needed to fill available positions within the County. Partnerships with K-12 education, community colleges, colleges and universities and the business community continue to improve to help address this workforce development concern. The Genesee Livingston Orleans Wyoming Workforce Investment Board (GLOW WIB) is also actively working to assist businesses and job seekers through a variety of programs including: assistance with designing and funding training programs; custom training packages; job fairs; job search assistance; job readiness assessment; and career planning.<sup>28</sup>

## Downtowns

Identified goals and objectives to advance downtowns within Genesee County include improving Main Streets; filling vacant storefronts; renovation of buildings including façade renovation projects; and reusing vacant upper floors. The primary focus area for downtown development in Genesee County is the City of Batavia, but downtown revitalization efforts are also a priority in many other municipalities including the Village of LeRoy; Village of Bergen; Village of Alexander; Village of Corfu; Village of Elba; and the Village of Oakfield.

Within the City of Batavia the Batavia Business Improvement District is one of the key drivers of community development with its mission to finance improvements and services beyond those that are provided by the City. Efforts are geared to address economic, promotional, and preservation issues facing the district with programs to provide advertising savings in local media; façade grants; streetscape improvements, such as hanging flower baskets; and sponsoring events to bring visitors downtown.<sup>29</sup>

Additional downtown revitalization efforts in the downtown area of the City of Batavia include the redevelopment of the Brownfield Opportunity Area strategic sites: City Centre, Downtown Medical Corridor, Harvester Center, the former Della Penna Site, and the Creek Park Area; and improvements to the Jackson Square area and the Batavia City Centre Mall. Improving the Batavia Public Market and making it permanent is also a goal that will help to strengthen Downtown Batavia.

Infill development is another key strategy within the County to address vacant parcels and improve downtowns. Redevelopment loan funds and microenterprise loan programs are also available to Genesee County businesses to help spur investment and reduce vacancy within downtowns.

## Tourism and Recreation

Genesee County has many important tourism and recreation attractions including: Darien Lake State Park; Darien Lake Amusement Park; the Holland Land Museum; Jell-O Museum; agri-tourism throughout the County; and the many historic villages and districts within the County. The importance of these tourism and recreational opportunities extends beyond the financial benefit of bringing visitors into the County, estimated at 1.5 billion in 2013 for the Finger Lakes Region<sup>30</sup>. These attractions and activities also help to improve the quality of life for existing Genesee County residents, which contributes towards attracting and maintaining the workforce needed for business attrac-

tion and retention efforts. To help promote these attractions development of a Genesee County Visitors Center was recently approved. The Visitors Center will be located on Park Road in the City of Batavia

Tourism and the Arts is a key part of the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council strategic plan which emphasizes the sectors of *sports recreation, waterways and entertainment; arts, culture and history; and culinary and beverage*; as key assets to help produce jobs, improve economic development, and increase the quality of life for the Finger Lakes Region. Identified regional strategies towards achieving these goals include: creation of a network of advocates for the Finger Lakes Region lifestyle; investment in the development, promotion and preservation of the cultural, artistic and historic assets of the Region; promotion of the Region's growing wine, culinary, and agricultural enterprises; and strengthening and supporting the Region's diverse water resources and recreational tourism opportunities<sup>31</sup>. Agri-tourism is also specifically identified within the Upstate Revitalization Initiative as a key component of the Agriculture & Food Production pillar. With many farms and agri-tourism activities already underway Genesee County is well positioned to grow in this area in the future.

Additional identified tourism and recreation projects for Genesee County include the establishment of a connection between Kiwanis Park, located along Main Street in the Town of Batavia, and the downtown area of the City of Batavia. The Town of Batavia and City of Batavia are also collaborating on the development of the Ellicott Trail bicycle and walking path. Expanding the number of kayak launch points located in the County and connecting Genesee Community College students with recreational opportunities within the City of Batavia are also key Genesee County recreational goals.

## Waterfronts

Genesee County is home to major streams, but has no major lakes or rivers and as a result traditional waterfront redevelopment is not a top priority. The County however has been funded in the past through the new York State Department of State Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP). The program helped advance the Intermunicipal Planning for Black Creek and Oatka Creek project, which developed the Black Creek Watershed Management Plan, and the Oatka Creek Watershed Management Plan. Each of these plans was developed to identify recommendations and priority projects to improve and protect the water quality of Oatka Creek and Black Creek and their tributaries. Recommendations include the following: create green infrastructure standards and integrate into

site plan review criteria; restore severe streambank segments using ecologically-based stream restoration; complete a characterization of waste water treatment plant effluent to assess levels of contaminants that are discharged; and enforce floodplain development regulations.<sup>32</sup>

### Environmental/Water Resources/Natural Resources

Sustainable development is a key area of focus for the Finger Lakes Region as well as Genesee County with several strategies and projects underway to enhance the environment and preserve the quality of life within the County.

Green Genesee/Smart Genesee, a sustainable land use planning project, is actively underway in Genesee County and is designed to help “secure a resilient natural environment, a vibrant economic, and a high quality of life for our children today and their children tomorrow.”<sup>33</sup> The project was funded under phase II of the Cleaner Greener Communities program, to help implement the Finger Lakes Regional Sustainability Plan. The Green Genesee/Smart Genesee project developed 6 key steps towards establishing a sustainable future. These steps include: setting goals, what do we value most?; reviewing data, what do we know and what do we need to know?; developing asset maps; assessing risks, what will be lost if no action is taken?; determining opportunities for partnerships and priorities; and implementation of a road map and action plan.<sup>34</sup>

In addition, development of the Finger Lakes Regional Sustainability Plan, helped to outline a variety of strategies in order for Genesee County and the Region to ensure a sustainable future. Specifically, the Finger Lakes Regional Sustainability Plan’s subject area goal for Water Management which was to *improve and protect the water environment with respect to quality, quantity, and availability; promote and understand the value of our water reservoirs, watercourses, and built infrastructure; maximize the social, economic, and ecological potential of our water resources toward equitable sharing of their benefits for both the short and long terms.*<sup>35</sup>

Additionally, Genesee County environmental/water resources goals are shaped by the Oak Orchard Watershed State of the Basin Report, which laid the foundation for a future Oak Orchard Watershed Plan to propose methods for improving water quality in the watershed to ensure its long-term health and sustainability of its resources.<sup>36</sup>

Specific Genesee County environmental/water re-

source goals also include the protection and restoration of water quality throughout the County; continuation of efforts to remediate eroded streambanks and educate property owners on methods of resiliency; the development and advancement of the Genesee/Wyoming Counties Tonawanda Creek waterfront revitalization project; and pursuing opportunities to leverage CRS programs to help mitigate flood insurance costs.

Genesee County also has a variety of natural and environmental resources including: Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge; Bergen Swamp; John White Wildlife Management Area; Darien Lakes State Park; and other state and local parks, the preservation of each of which is critical for a sustainable Genesee County.

### Energy

The Finger Lakes Regional Sustainability Plan outlines a variety of energy strategies in order to help Genesee County and the Region ensure a sustainable future. The Finger Lakes Regional Sustainability Plan’s subject area goal for Energy is to “increase the generation and distribution of regional renewable energies, while using energy efficient and alternative energy resources, along with conservation methods, to decrease the reliance on fossil fuels and nonrenewable outside energy sources and to become a self-sustainable region.”<sup>37</sup>

The Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council’s strategic plan built upon the Regional Sustainability Plan and identified additional energy strategies for the Region including: removing energy roadblocks that are limiting opportunities for companies that want to move to the area and limiting expansion opportunities for companies located in the Finger Lakes; and identifying, connecting, and promoting the assets and sites for successful attraction of companies.<sup>38</sup> Energy innovation and energy storage technologies were also identified within the FLREDC Strategic Plan as areas of focus for funding.

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) helps to promote energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources throughout New York State, including Genesee County. To achieve these goals NYSERDA works to: “attract the private sector capital investment needed to expand New York’s clean energy economy; overcome barriers to using clean energy at a large scale in New York; and enable New York’s communities and residents to benefit from energy efficiency and renewable energy.”<sup>39</sup> To help connect communities with NYSERDA programs the New York State Community Partnership program (NYSCP) was developed as a



“unified approach to driving clean energy action and energy literacy in local governments and communities across the state.” Resources will be provided through the NYSCP to help identify the “impact certain actions have on economic development; greenhouse gas emissions reductions; and energy cost savings.”<sup>40</sup>

In line with the above identified regional energy strategies, Genesee County is working towards increasing energy capacity and developing and embracing renewable energy resources. Several Genesee County business parks, including the Buffalo East Technology Park and the Western New York Science and Technology Advanced Manufacturing Park (STAMP), also are within the Niagara Falls Hydropower Zone, which provide qualifying businesses with electricity at reduced rates. Additionally several energy strategic plans have been developed within Genesee County, the implementation of which will further advance the regional energy initiatives and the efforts of NYSER-DA.

### **Buildings/Housing**

Two critical building/housing goals for Genesee County are to improve the quality of the housing stock and reduce commercial vacancy. Genesee County is faced with an aging housing stock, 41.0% of its structures were built before 1939<sup>41</sup>; an aging population, 15.8% of its population aged 65 or older<sup>42</sup>; along with development pressures on the horizon increasing the demand for new housing.

To help address vacancy and blighted property the City of Batavia is supporting the passing of the new New York State Abandoned Property Neighborhood Relief Act of 2015, which requires “mortgagees and loan service agents to periodically inspect residential real property to determine if properties with delinquent mortgages are currently occupied” and requires the New York State Attorney General to establish and maintain a “Vacant and Abandoned Property Registry.” The City of Batavia is also working to pass a Residential Redevelopment Inhibited Property Exemption that will provide a property-tax exemption for residents purchasing blighted homes and zombie properties and renovating them.

There are many agencies within Genesee County actively involved in housing that are administering programs or working on efforts to address these issues, including Genesee County Office for the Aging; Genesee County Planning; PathStone; Community Action of Orleans & Genesee; and many others. The Genesee County Office for the Aging provides information, support, advocacy, and a variety of assistance programs for Genesee County residents aged 60 or older

with the aim to promote independence and improve quality of life. Programs include: in-home care; housing referrals; legal assistance for housing problems due to negligent landlords; repair and rehabilitation and accessibility modifications.<sup>43</sup>

Genesee County Planning works to provide technical assistance on housing topics including zoning, subdivision, mobile home regulations; flood insurance mapping; and wetland and land use determinations. PathStone administers several housing programs for Genesee County including a rental assistance program; first time home buyers program; housing rehabilitation program; a handyman repair program; and a foreclosure prevention program (counseling). In line with these programs are those offered through Community Action of Orleans & Genesee, which administers programs for both Orleans and Genesee Counties. These programs include: a weatherization and energy services program and a home rehabilitation program, which provides funding for health and safety repairs and energy efficiency upgrades.<sup>44</sup>

Efforts of the above agencies, and the many others within Genesee County, are helping to keep the aging population in their current homes and providing additional opportunities for aging Genesee County residents to continue to reside in Genesee County. The development of the Western New York Science and Technology Advanced Manufacturing Park (STAMP) in the Town of Alabama, with the potential for up to 10,000 jobs at full build-out<sup>45</sup>, will require new housing to be developed to accommodate the increased workforce and new residents that will be locating to Genesee County.

All of these buildings/housing concerns will also need to be addressed in context with the need for new infrastructure, be consistent with the Genesee County Smart Growth Plan, and align with the preservation of the many historic homes and historic districts within Genesee County.

### **Infrastructure**

Infrastructure is a top priority for Genesee County and has also been identified by the Upstate Revitalization Initiative, Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council Strategic Plan, and Genesee-Finger Lakes Economic Development District Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) as a top priority of the Finger Lakes Region as well.

Within Genesee County infrastructure needs include water; sewer; telecommunications; and transportation needs throughout the County. Many of these infrastructure improvements are needed to support key economic development priority projects such as Western

New York STAMP; Genesee Valley Agribusiness Park; LeRoy Food and Technology Park; Upstate Med Tech; and Buffalo East Technology Park, each of which were identified as priority projects for Genesee County in the 2014-2015 CEDS.<sup>46</sup>

Wi-Fi and telecommunication infrastructure is also needed in many areas of Genesee County, specifically for school districts, as many students do not have internet access at home. The recently announced New NY Broadband Grant Program aims to improve telecommunications, within unserved or underserved areas of New York State, by providing funding to establish and expand broadband. The program may be able to assist Genesee County in providing last mile connections and improving access to high speed internet.

Water and sewer infrastructure is also limiting development in certain areas of the County where existing infrastructure is unable to support any additional growth. This issue is exacerbated by the fact that many municipalities are unaware of their true infrastructure capacity. As businesses look to expand or locate to the County the ability for the existing infrastructure to handle their needs is not known. While the Genesee County Smart Growth Plan is instrumental in balancing infrastructure needs with sustainability throughout the County, a detailed infrastructure inventory and analysis is needed to accurately understand the limitations of existing infrastructure.

Many Genesee County infrastructure projects have been funded through the New York State Consolidated Funding Application process in recent years. These projects include: installation of new waterlines in the Town of Alabama to support the STAMP site; infrastructure development for the LeRoy Food and Technology Park; and extension of infrastructure in the Genesee Valley Agri-business park.<sup>47</sup>

Analysis of traffic counts and bridge conditions in Genesee County did not identify any significant concerns. State routes within Genesee County are currently adequately handling existing traffic levels, which are highest in parts of the City of Batavia, Village of Oakfield, and Village of Bergen. The latest New York State Department of Transportation traffic counts show that the highest traffic within Genesee County, excluding the portion of the New York State Thruway running through Genesee County, is along Route 5 in the City of Batavia, which averaged 33,831 cars per day; US Route 63 in the Village of Oakfield, which averaged 7,297 cars per day; and Route 19 in the Village of Bergen, which averaged 6,433 cars per day.<sup>48</sup>

The New York State Thruway and I-490 also contrib-

ute a significant amount of traffic to the corridors identified above. The development of new emergency detour routes for the New York State Thruway system may lead to increased traffic onto local routes during extreme weather events and other emergency incidents. Within Genesee County the emergency detour routes will utilize Routes 33, 5, and 77.

Bridge inspections are regularly conducted by the New York State Department of Transportation for all publically owned highway bridges in New York State, 169 of which are located within Genesee County.

These inspections include a New York State Condition Rating (ranging from 1-7) and an associated classification rating of “structurally deficient”, “functionally obsolete”, or “neither”. A classification of “structurally deficient” is used for bridges with “significant load carrying elements are found to be in poor or worse condition due to deterioration and/or damage, the bridge has inadequate load capacity, or repeated bridge flooding causes traffic delays”<sup>49</sup>. A bridge classified as “structurally deficient” does not imply that it is unsafe or likely to collapse. A classification as “functionally obsolete” is used for bridges with an “inability to meet current standards for managing the volume of traffic it carries, not its structural integrity.” This includes bridges with narrow lanes, no shoulders, or low clearances.<sup>50</sup>

For Genesee County, the analysis of the 169 highway bridges, rated 112 as being neither functionally obsolete nor structurally deficient; 28 as being structurally deficient; and 29 as being functionally obsolete. All of these bridges will continue to be monitored at least every two years, with any unsafe bridges being closed.

### **Preservation/Cultural**

There are 22 sites within Genesee County listed on the National Register of Historic Places, including 3 historic districts: Genesee County Courthouse Historic District in the City of Batavia, Lake Street Historic District in the Village of Bergen and the Stafford Village Four Corners Historic District in the Town of Stafford. The remaining sites include historic homes; schools; cemeteries; and churches throughout all of Genesee County.

Preservation efforts are also focused on the many other historic places throughout Genesee County that are not listed on the National Register, but still contribute to the history and sense of place of each community. Some of these efforts include the rehabilitation of downtown areas within the historic villages and hamlets throughout the County. Additionally Genesee County has an aging housing stock with 41.0% of its

structures built before 1939<sup>51</sup>, many of which have significant historic characteristics that further the sense of place of the County.

Historic preservation is also a key goal of the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Strategic Plan, which identified the strategy to “reinforce the identity, sense of place, and character of the area through downtown redevelopment, adaptive reuse of existing buildings and infrastructure, and historic preservation.”<sup>52</sup> Main Street Redevelopment and Historic Preservation are also key components of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy with a specific Goal outlined to “Encourage Main Street Revitalization and Historic Preservation” along with several strategies for the Region including: encouraging communities to develop and enforce design guidelines and zoning regulations; working to link developers and municipalities with federal and state preservation and rehabilitation programs to help encourage Main Street redevelopment; and supporting historic preservation efforts throughout the Region.<sup>53</sup>

New York State offers a historic homeownership rehabilitation credit for rehabilitation of a qualified historic home or purchase of a rehabilitation qualified historic home in New York State. To qualify the historic home must be owner-occupied residential listed on the State or National Register of Historic Places or be located in a state or national registered historic district. Additionally the home must be located in a qualified census tract or area of chronic economic distress.<sup>54</sup>

Cultural attractions within Genesee County include the Genesee Chorale; Genesee Symphony Orchestra; the Batavia Players, Inc./Harvester 56 Theater and the Genesee-Orleans Regional Arts Council. The Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional Inventory of Culturally Significant Areas also identified eight cultural landscapes from Genesee County. These included: Oatka Creek at New York State Route 5; Elba Muck Fields; Batavia Veteran’s Administration Medical Center and Redfield Parkway; New York State School for the Blind, Centennial Park, and Ellicott Avenue; Genesee County Infirmary; Genesee County Park and Forest; Old Town Hall and Bethany Center Baptist Churchyard; and the Grand View Cemetery in the Town of Batavia.<sup>55</sup>

### Department of State Programs

New York State Department of State offers, or previously offered, a number of programs to assist municipalities, counties, and regions within New York State. These programs include the Local Government Efficiency Program; Local Waterfront Revitalization Program; and the Brownfield Opportunity Area program.

Additionally, Department of State also administers the Community Services Block Grant program throughout New York State.

The Local Government Efficiency (LGE) Program provides assistance and grants to local governments for projects that will achieve savings and improve efficiency. Potential projects include shared services, cooperative agreements, mergers, consolidations, and dissolutions.<sup>56</sup> Genesee County has been the recipient of many LGE grants over the past few years including the following: assistance to the City of Batavia and Town of Batavia to study the consolidation of services and potential merging of the municipalities into a single entity; assistance to the Village of LeRoy, Town of LeRoy, and Town of Stafford to construct athletic facilities; assistance to the City of Batavia and Town of Batavia to prepare a new City Charter; assistance to the Pavilion Central School District and Wyoming Central School District to study potential reorganization and merger of the districts; assistance to the City of Batavia and Genesee County to merge the police information system; assistance to the Village of LeRoy to consolidate its police information system with the Genesee County Sheriff’s office; and assistance to the Alexander Central School District and Town and Village of Alexander to assess the feasibility of shared services.<sup>57</sup>

The Brownfield Opportunity Area program helps provide communities assistance and funding to develop revitalization strategies to return vacant and blighted parcels into productive properties improving economic and community development.<sup>58</sup> The City of Batavia received funding under the Brownfield Opportunity Area program to complete a Nomination Study for a 250 acre area in the City’s central corridor. Revitalization objectives include: cleaning up and redeveloping underutilized, vacant and brownfield properties with appropriate uses; stabilizing existing neighborhoods; and continuing the revitalization of the downtown business district.<sup>59</sup>

The Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) provides assistance to communities to prepare a planning document “addressing all issues that are impacting a community’s entire waterfront or addressing the most critical issues that facing a significant portion of its waterfront.”<sup>60</sup> The Village of LeRoy was awarded \$20,000 from New York State Department of State to develop a waterfront and downtown revitalization strategy, focused on development of a unified vision for economic growth, through the LWRP program.<sup>61</sup> Additionally within Genesee County, the Intermunicipal Planning for Black Creek and Oatka Creek project, which developed the Black Creek Watershed Manage-

ment Plan and Oatka Creek Watershed Management Plan, were funded by New York State Department of State through the LWRP program.

New York State Department of State is also responsible for administration of the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Program which supports a variety of programs aimed at reducing and eliminating poverty. For Genesee County funding under the CSBG program is provided to Community Action of Orleans and Genesee County, Inc., which provides assistance to Genesee County and Orleans County residents through a variety of programs including: head start; family development; home rehabilitation and weatherization; amongst others.<sup>62</sup>

### **Genesee County Step-2 Recommendations**

Genesee County has a number of key project recommendations, many of which can leverage the funding programs outlined in the section below, including New York State Department of State and other state and federal programs.

Key project recommendations for Genesee County include development of the Western New York Science and Technology Advanced Manufacturing Park; revitalization of downtown Batavia; implementation of the Batavia Opportunity Area Nomination Study; development and implementation of the Green Genesee/Smart Genesee Project; and advancing targeted economic development growth areas including: Buffalo East, Genesee Valley Agribusiness Park, LeRoy Food & Technology Park, and the Upstate Med-Tech Project. The focus area for economic distress within Genesee County is the City of Batavia.

The projects identified above are in variety of stages of completion with several projects previously receiving funding through the New York State Consolidating Funding Application process, from Upstate Revitalization Initiative awards, or from other local or federal funding sources and other projects that have yet to pursue funding (or have not been awarded funding). Even projects which have received awards may still need additional funding as the funding may only cover one phase of a multi-phase project.

The full list of Genesee County priority projects is outlined in the table below and includes the priority projects identified above along with other key projects that were identified through the Sub-Regional Forum; follow-up webinar; County Forum; existing local, county, and regional plans; and the regional engagement project capture form.

### **Genesee County Next Steps/Status**

The Genesee County Economic Development Center is leading implementation efforts on the Western New York STAMP project, which is also a key priority of the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council Strategic Plan and the Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development District Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). STAMP was awarded \$500,000 from New York State to complete engineering of the site and \$1,500,000 to install new water lines in the Town of Alabama to support the site. Efforts to date have helped secure an investment from 1366 Technologies to locate production at the site with plans to invest over \$700 million and create over 1,000 jobs. The 1366 Technologies investment will occupy approximately 10% of the STAMP site with additional work needed to develop additional areas of the site for business attraction and investment.

The City of Batavia, Batavia Business Improvement District, and the Batavia Development Corporation continue implementation efforts to advance revitalization of the City of Batavia and implementation of the Batavia Opportunity Area Nomination Study. Targeted areas for development include: City Centre; Downtown Medical Corridor; Harvester Center; the former Della Penna Site; and the Creek Park Area. The Batavia Development Corporation was awarded \$15,000 from Empire State Development to complete a feasibility study on the Harvester property. Additional investment will be needed to realize full revitalization of the Harvester property and the other targeted revitalization areas within Downtown Batavia.

Development of the Green Genesee/Smart Genesee Project is ongoing with a variety of components already completed. The project was funded by NYSEERDA to help facilitate energy savings and efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, once the strategy is in place implementation of the plan will be vital in order for Genesee County to advance sustainability. Partners include: Towns of Alabama, Batavia, Oakfield; Village of Oakfield; Genesee County Economic Development Center; Genesee County Planning; Genesee County Soil & Water Conservation District; New York Green; NYSEERDA; and G/FLRPC.

Additional Genesee County priorities being led by the Genesee County Economic Development Center and other municipal and county stakeholders include Buffalo East; Genesee Valley Agribusiness Park, the Upstate Med-Tech Project and the LeRoy Food and Technology Park. Each of these projects is identified with the Genesee-Finger Lakes Economic Development District CEDS and several have previously re-



ceived funding to begin implementation. The LeRoy Food and Technology Park received funding from New York State for land acquisition and development of infrastructure and the Genesee-Valley Agri-Business Park received funding from the Economic Development Administration for water infrastructure and funding from New York State for water lines, sewer lines and sewer pump station. Even with these investments and the work that has been previously completed at the sites, additional work is needed for each of these targeted growth areas to reach their development potential.

### Goals and Objectives

Successful revitalization of Genesee County cannot occur within the silo of any single subject area described above. Economic and community development revitalization efforts will depend upon the successful implementation of the goals and objectives of each subject area outlined below. Many of these goals and objectives cut across multiple subject areas and illustrate the collaboration and coordination that is needed across multiple communities and multiple organizations for implementation. While some of goals and objectives listed below are more critical than others they are all listed to show the role that each subject area can play in advancing Genesee County. The goals and objectives listed below were identified through the Sub-Regional Forum; follow-up webinar; County Forum; and existing local, county, and regional plans.

### Land Use

1. Focus county resources to support economic development opportunities in the most promising locations
2. Encourage revitalization of existing industrial areas, business districts, and residential neighborhoods in the City of Batavia and development village areas
3. Protect farmland and the rural character of the countryside
4. Preserve agricultural land resources
5. Direct development away from farming areas
6. Support the economic contributions of agriculture and related businesses

### Brownfields

1. Revitalize brownfield properties for new uses in a new economy
2. Complete Phase II site assessments on identified brownfield properties
3. Identify and implement the capital improvement and zoning changes that are needed to redevelop targeted brownfield areas

### Economic Development/Economic Distress

1. Eliminate economic distress within City of Batavia
2. Improve infrastructure and advance shovel ready sites
3. Advance entrepreneurship and innovation
4. Support existing businesses and the retention of jobs
5. Advance the Upstate Revitalization Initiative identified growth pillars of Optics, Photonics, and Imaging; Agriculture and Food Production; and Next Generation Manufacturing
6. Improve connections between workforce development and education

### Downtowns

1. Fill vacant storefronts
2. Maintain and preserve historic downtowns
3. Implement building and façade renovations
4. Renovate and reuse vacant upper floors
5. Redevelop/remediate brownfield properties
6. Promote smart growth and in-fill development

### Tourism and Recreation

1. Create network of advocates for the Finger Lakes Region lifestyle
2. Invest in the development, promotion, and preservation of cultural, artistic, and historic assets of the Region
3. Promote the Region's growing wine, culinary, and agricultural enterprises
4. Strengthen and support the Region's diverse water resources and recreational tourism opportunities
5. Expand agri-tourism within Genesee County
6. Improve recreational opportunities within Genesee County, including expanding the number of kayak launch points in the County.
7. Expand trail connections to recreational opportunities

### Waterfronts

1. Restore severe streambank segments using ecologically-based stream restoration
2. Create green infrastructure standards and integrate into site plan review criteria
3. Complete a characterization of waste water treatment plant effluent to assess levels of contaminants that are discharged

### Environmental/Water Resources/Natural Resources

1. Ensure long-term preservation of surface and groundwater resources
2. Preserve natural resources
3. Continue efforts to remediate eroded streambanks

and educate property owners on methods of resiliency

4. Enforce floodplain development regulations
5. Pursue opportunities to leverage community rating system programs to help mitigate flood insurance costs

### **Energy**

1. Develop/embrace renewable energy resources
2. Remove energy roadblocks that are limiting economic development opportunities
3. Identify, connect, and promote energy assets for successful attraction of companies

### **Buildings/Housing**

1. Address vacant properties/zombie properties
2. Continue to promote and implement senior housing/aging in place programs
3. Plan for and implement new housing developments that are consistent with the Genesee County Smart Growth Plan
4. Continue to preserve historic and culturally significant assets within Genesee County

### **Infrastructure**

1. Improve sewer/water, telecommunications, and transportation infrastructure in targeted growth areas
2. Complete infrastructure inventory and analysis to determine the capacity and location of existing infrastructure
3. Continue to monitor traffic counts and conditions of bridges

### **Preservation/Cultural**

1. Encourage communities to develop and enforce design guidelines and zoning regulations
2. Connect developers and municipalities with federal and state preservation and rehabilitation programs to encourage Main Street redevelopment
3. Support historic preservation efforts throughout Genesee County

### **Projects**

Projects listed below were identified through the Sub-Regional Forum; follow-up webinar; County Forum; and existing local, county, and regional plans; and the regional engagement project capture form. Projects are listed with a brief description, along with their corresponding subject area or areas, and potential funding sources. Additional information about potential funding sources is available in Appendix B.

## Genesee County Priority Projects

Project Name	Project Description	Subject Area	Agency/Organization Responsible for Implementation	Potential Funding Organization/Program
Redevelop City Center Site in the City of Batavia	Implementation of Batavia Opportunity Area Plan: advance development in Downtown Batavia.	Brownfields/Economic Development/Downtowns	Batavia Development Corporation; GCEDC/GGLDC	DOS Brownfield Opportunity Area Program; EPA Brownfield Cleanup Grant
Redevelop Downtown Medical Corridor in the City of Batavia	Implementation of Batavia Opportunity Area Plan: advance development in Downtown Batavia.	Brownfields/Economic Development/Downtowns	Batavia Development Corporation; GCEDC/GGLDC	DOS Brownfield Opportunity Area Program; EPA Brownfield Cleanup Grant
Redevelop the Ellicott Station Site within the City of Batavia	Implementation of Batavia Opportunity Area Plan: advance development in Downtown Batavia.	Brownfields/Economic Development/Downtowns	Batavia Development Corporation; GCEDC/GGLDC	DOS Brownfield Opportunity Area Program; EPA Brownfield Cleanup Grant
Redevelop the Creek Park Area of the City of Batavia	Implementation of Batavia Opportunity Area Plan: advance development in Downtown Batavia.	Brownfields/Economic Development/Downtowns	Batavia Development Corporation; GCEDC/GGLDC	DOS Brownfield Opportunity Area Program; EPA Brownfield Cleanup Grant
Harvester Park Feasibility Study/ Redevelop Harvester Center in the City of Batavia	Implementation of Batavia Opportunity Area Plan: advance development in Downtown Batavia. Feasibility study will assist in the transformation of the site into a central corridor mixed-use business park.	Brownfields/Economic Development/Downtowns	Batavia Development Corporation; GCEDC/GGLDC	DOS Brownfield Opportunity Area Program; EPA Brownfield Cleanup Grant
GENESEE RESTORE 2011	Project will rehabilitate homes and provide grants for emergency housing repair to elderly homeowners in Genesee County.	Buildings/Housing	Community Action of Orleans and Genesee, Inc.	New York State Division of Homes and Community Renewal
Batavia New York Main Street Program	Completion of projects to rehabilitate Main Street, address housing issues; and improve quality of life in Genesee County.	Buildings/Housing; Economic Development	GCEDC/GGLDC	New York State Office of Community Renewal Main Street Program
Genesee Valley Mushroom Inc.	Assistance to the start-up of Genesee Valley Mushroom, Inc. in Genesee County.	Economic Development	Genesee County, New York State Division of Homes and Community Renewal	New York State Division of Homes and Community Renewal

**Genesee County Regional Engagement Revitalization Opportunity Report Projects**

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Subject Area</b>	<b>Agency/Organization Responsible for Implementation</b>	<b>Potential Funding Organization/Program</b>
New York Craft Malt	Support for New York Craft Malt to operate a commercial malting facility that will use locally grown food grade barley in Genesee County.	Economic Development	Genesee County IDA	New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets
Genesee-Orleans Employment Support Project	The Genesee/Orleans Employment Training and Support Project will prepare unskilled individuals to qualify for, and obtain, employment in high occupational areas.	Economic Development	Community Action of Orleans and Genesee Inc.	Community Development Block Grant Program
Develop Lower Cost of Power Solution(s): Cogeneration, Alternative Energy to lower power costs businesses	Development of alternative energy to support needs of existing businesses.	Economic Development/Energy	GCEDC/GGLDC	New York State Energy Research and Development Authority-Industrial and Process Efficiency Program
Genesee Biogas	Genesee Biogas will design, build and operate a biogas plant to support the Genesee Valley Agri-Business Park in Batavia (Ag Park), Genesee County, NY.	Economic Development/Energy	NYSERDA	New York State Energy Research and Development Authority; Upstate Revitalization Initiative
Science and Technology Advanced Manufacturing Park (STAMP)	Acquisition of land and development of infrastructure in support of the STAMP project.	Economic Development/Infrastructure	GCEDC/GGLDC	Empire State Development Grant Funds; Economic Development Administration Public Works Program; Upstate Revitalization Initiative
Buffalo East Technology Park	Development of infrastructure in support of the Buffalo East Technology Park.	Economic Development/Infrastructure	GCEDC/GGLDC	Empire State Development Grant Funds; Economic Development Administration Public Works Program
The Upstate Med-Tech Project: Develop a Regional Med-Tech Business Park (34 acres) and Commercialization Center (Accelerator facility)	Development of infrastructure in support of the Upstate Med-Tech project and establishment of a commercialization center.	Economic Development/Infrastructure	GCEDC/GGLDC	Empire State Development Grant Funds; Economic Development Administration Public Works Program



Genesee County Regional Engagement Revitalization Opportunity Report Projects

Project Name	Project Description	Subject Area	Agency/Organization Responsible for Implementation	Potential Funding Organization/Program
Genesee Valley Agribusiness Park (250 acres)	Development of infrastructure in support of the Genesee Valley Agribusiness Park.	Economic Development/Infrastructure	GCEDC/GGLDC	Empire State Development Grant Funds; Economic Development Administration Public Works Program; Upstate Revitalization Initiative
LeRoy Food & Technology Park	Development of infrastructure in support of the LeRoy Food & Technology Park.	Economic Development/Infrastructure	GCEDC; Town of LeRoy; Village of LeRoy	Empire State Development Grant Funds; Economic Development Administration Public Works Program; Upstate Revitalization Initiative
Finger Lakes Regional Milk Production Growth Incentive Program	Address capital needs of dairy farmers looking to expand operations.	Economic Development/Land Use	Farm Credit East	New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets
Batavia Community Hydroelectric Microgrid	Provide renewable electricity to fire department and ice arena in the City of Batavia.	Energy	City of Batavia	New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
Village of LeRoy Waterfront Revitalization Program Strategy	Development and implementation of the Village of LeRoy Waterfront and Downtown Revitalization Strategy, focused on development of a unified vision for economic growth.	Environmental/Water Resources	Village of LeRoy; New York State Department of State	DOS Local Waterfront Revitalization Program
Village of Oakfield Sanitary Sewer Evaluation	The Village of Oakfield will complete an engineering report to identify inflow and infiltration locations within the existing wastewater collection system.	Environmental/Water Resources	Village of Oakfield	New York State DEC Wastewater Infrastructure Engineering Planning Grant
Town of Batavia Sanitary Sewer Capacity Upgrade Alternative Analysis	The Town of Batavia will complete an engineering report to evaluate the capacity of the existing wastewater collection system.	Environmental/Water Resources	Town of Batavia	New York State DEC Wastewater Infrastructure Engineering Planning Grant
Town of Batavia West Main Street Sewer District	Creation of the West Main Street Sewer District in the Town of Batavia.	Environmental/Water Resources	Town of Batavia	New York State Division of Homes and Community Renewal

Genesee County Regional Engagement Revitalization Opportunity Report Projects

Project Name	Project Description	Subject Area	Agency/Organization Responsible for Implementation	Potential Funding Organization/Program
Smart Genesee Zoning Reform Pilot Project	This pilot project would fund comprehensive planning and the development of form-based land use regulation codes for communities that might experience development pressure as a result of the STAMP project.	Land Use	Genesee County	New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
Downtown Batavia Revitalization Program	Improve commercial and residential mixed-use buildings in the City of Batavia and enhancing streetscapes.	Land Use	City of Batavia; Batavia Business Improvement District	New York Main Street Program
Green Genesee/Smart Genesee Project	Sustainable growth strategy for Genesee County helping to facilitate energy savings; reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; and integration of environmental resiliency into comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances of four municipalities.	Land Use	Genesee County	New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
Trail Connection-Kiwanis Park-City of Batavia	Establishing a trail connection between Kiwanis Park in the Town of Batavia and Downtown in the City of Batavia.	Tourism and Recreation	Town of Batavia; City of Batavia	Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation Recreational Trail Program
Genesee-Orleans Regional Arts Council	Creation of full-time program director at the Genesee-Orleans Regional Arts Council.	Tourism and Recreation	Genesee-Orleans Regional Arts Council	New York State Council on the Arts- Workforce Investment Program
Batavia Downtown Market	Improving/expanding Batavia Public Market within the City of Batavia downtown.	Tourism and Recreation	Batavia Business Improvement District	Empire State Development Grant Program

## End Notes

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