SMALL COMMUNITIES / BIG PROBLEMS

Small Community Success Stories: How to Design and Implement a ‘Funding Quilt for Public Infrastructure’




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AOT ANNUAL MEETING & TRAINING SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 2024

SHARING
MUNICIPAL PROJECT FUNDING EXPERTISE

BEN SYDEN, AICP

VICE PRESIDENT

LABERGE GROUP

NICOLE ALLEN, AICP

DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

LABERGE GROUP

Multi-disciplinary engineering and planning firm.

Specialty in grant writing and development.

Engineers and development team collaborate to design ***implementable*** projects that not only serve the needs of the community, but also match the priorities of funding entities.

MORE THAN

$425 MILLION

SECURED SINCE 2000.

SMALL COMMUNITIES / BIG PROBLEMS

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BIG PROBLEMS FACING SMALL COMMUNITIES

GREAT BIG PROBLEMS

$8 Million

to replace failing water infrastructure

SMALL TAX LEVY

$900,000

total tax levy for all costs and services

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BIG PROBLEMS FACING SMALL COMMUNITIES

The Usual Suspects / Major Infrastructure Needs

WATER

STORMWATER

WASTEWATER

ROADS / SIDEWALKS

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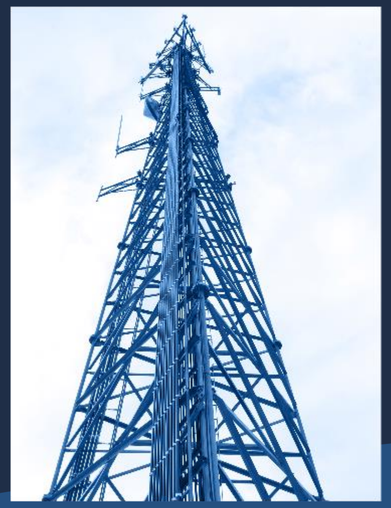
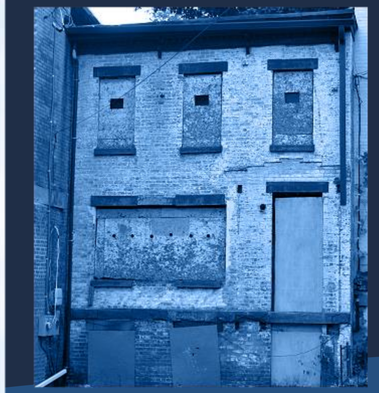
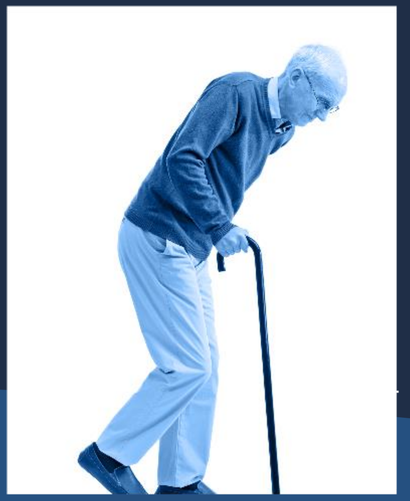
BIG PROBLEMS FACING SMALL COMMUNITIES

Communities Must Also Balance Additional Needs

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STATE / FEDERAL / COUNTY FUNDS TO THE RESCUE?

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COMMON OBJECTIONS
(and misconceptions)

Our community is too small.

We can't afford a match.

We're too rural.

It's not politically realistic.

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CRAFT AND MOLD FUNDABLE PROJECTS

- Target potential funding sources, then review and understand their priorities ***at the outset of project planning***
- Review successful applications for targeted grant to confirm a match
- Craft and mold the project so that it ***both*** meets the needs of your community ***and*** is aligned with the goals and vision of the targeted funding agency

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CRAFT AND MOLD FUNDABLE PROJECTS

- Comprehensive Plan
- Demonstrate Adequate Funding and Realistic Budget
- Financing Plan
- Leverage Other Resources
  - Partners: Local, State, Federal, Not For Profit, Volunteer
- Income Survey
- Engineering Reports
- Environmental Reviews (SEQR)
- Documentation of Problems: DEC/DOH Violations or Concerns
- Bond Resolutions
- District Formation
- Demonstrate Administrative Capacity
- Show Public Participation and Community Interest
- Secure commitment of other funds

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DEMONSTRATE FUNDING VIABILITY

- Demonstrate adequate funding and a realistic and consistent budget.
- Ensure that budget narratives match budget tables and that the budget presented is feasible.
- Identify each cost, the source of the funds, and the proposed use of funding.
- Ensure that funding amounts proposed are within eligible limits.
- Include program delivery, administration, and other costs.
- Secure commitment of other funds and supply commitment documentation. Co-funding is KEY to project implementation.

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PUTTING MONEY TO WORK RIGHT AWAY

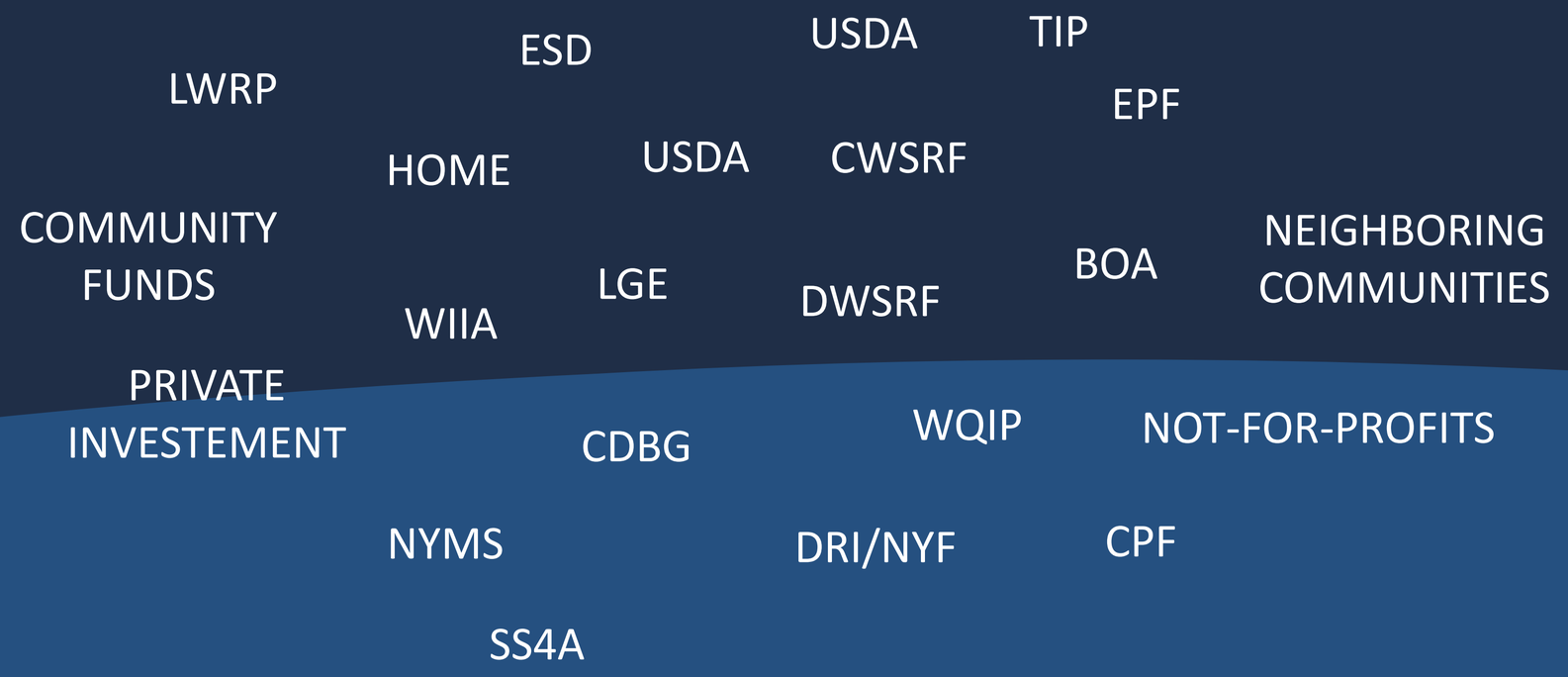
Shovel ready – now more than ever

- No one is going to tell you that you have to have a project designed
- Yet, in order to meet project milestones, you may need to have the project designed

- **WIIA**
  - Engineering report
  - Bond resolution
  - SEQR
  - District formation
- **CDBG**
  - Contracts within 30 days
  - Environmental review done in 45 days
  - First drawdown in 180 days

LEVERAGING FUNDING FROM MULTIPLE SOURCES

*The **"Funding Quilt"***
links the resources that must come together
and be interwoven to accomplish an objective.



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LEVERAGING FUNDING FROM MULTIPLE SOURCES

*The **"Funding Quilt"***
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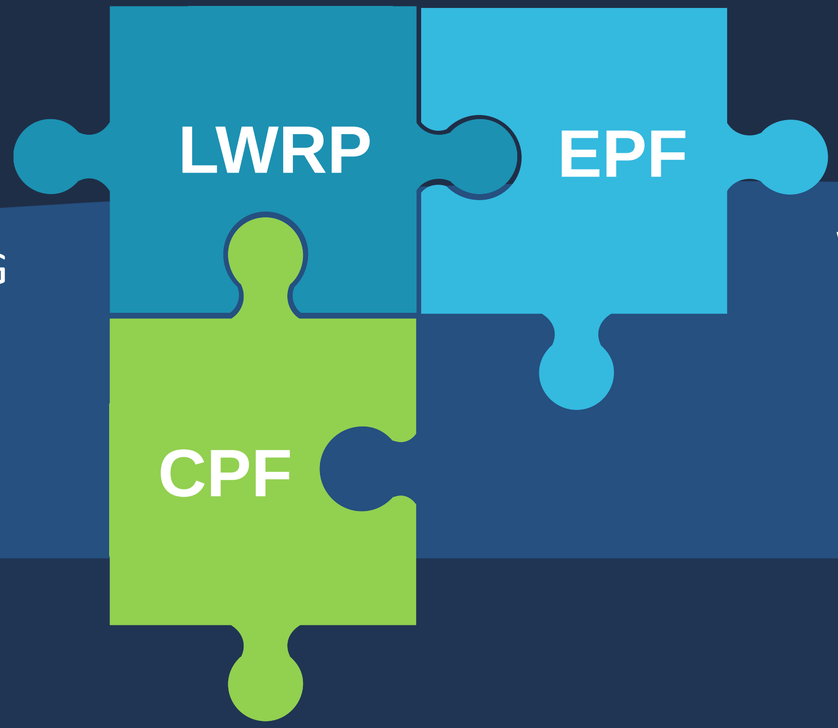
and be interwoven to accomplish an objective.

EXAMPLE 1
PARK FUNDING



LWRP
ESD
HOME
USDA
COMMUNITY FUNDS
LGE
WIIA
PRIVATE INVESTEMENT
CDBG
NYMS
SS4A

USDA
TIP
EPF
CWSRF
DWSRF
NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES
BOA
NOT-FOR-PROFITS
WQIP
DRI/NYF
CPF

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LEVERAGING FUNDING FROM MULTIPLE SOURCES

*The **"Funding Quilt"***
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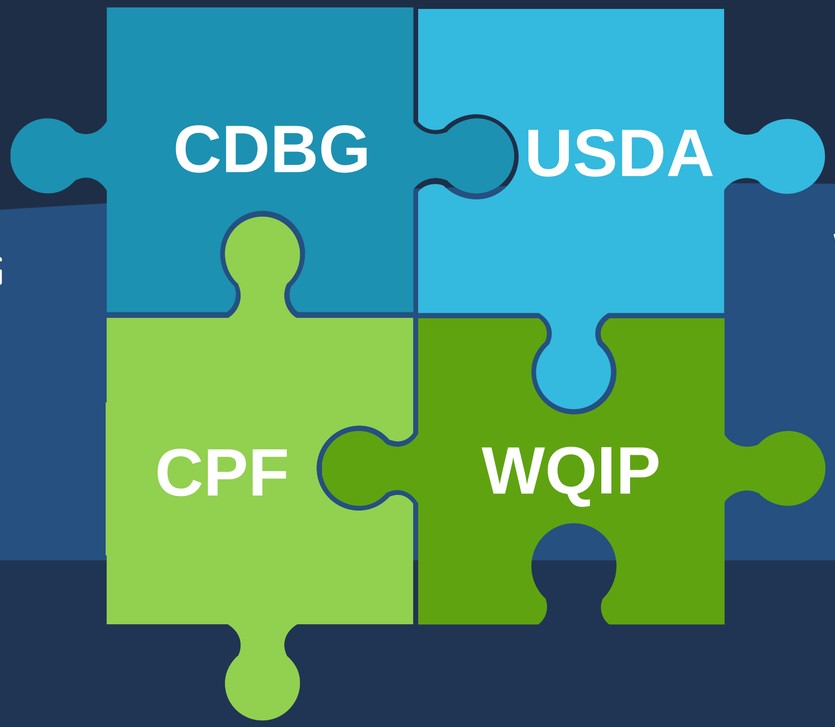
EXAMPLE 2
STORMWATER



LWRP
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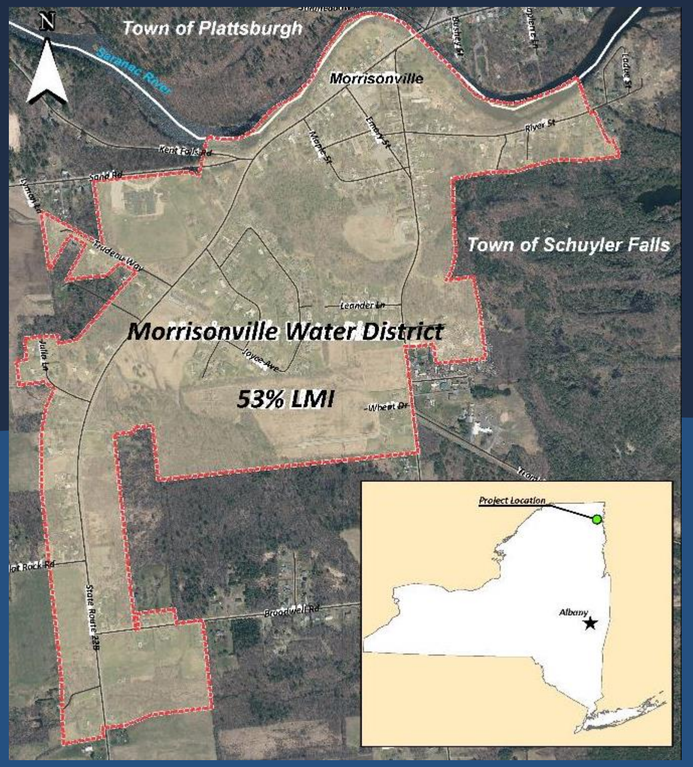
CASE STUDIES



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CASE STUDIES

SCHUYLER FALLS, NY

(POPULATION 4,830 – 313 EDUs)

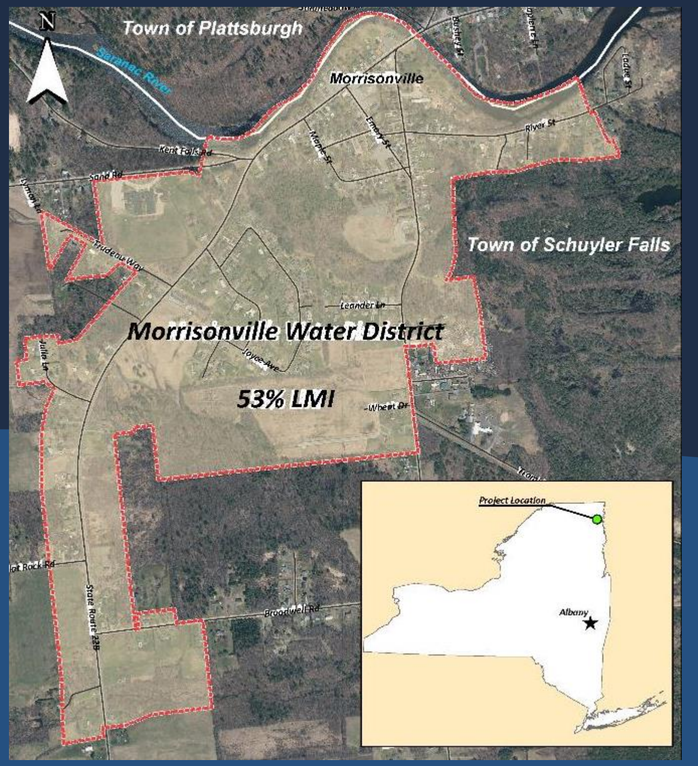
MORRISONVILLE WATER DISTRICT

CHALLENGE

- Water distribution system installed in the ’50s – nearing the end of its useful life
- Asbestos cement pipe
- Sections prone to freezing due to inadequate cover
- Significant increase in watermain breaks
- Inadequate flow for fire hydrants

SOLUTION

- Replace existing watermains
- Approximately 29,000 linear feet of pipe



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CASE STUDIES

SCHUYLER FALLS, NY

(POPULATION 4,830 - 313 EDUs)

MORRISONVILLE WATER DISTRICT

CRAFTING A FUNDABLE PROJECT / MOLDING A COMPETITIVE APPLICATION

- Preliminary Engineering Report
  - Determined issues
  - Identified preferred solution
- Income Survey – 53% of households characterized as low- and moderate-income
- Demonstrate savings in not having to run water from a hydrant continuously during cold periods to protect the main from freezing (water purchased from neighboring Town)
- Comprehensive Plan identifying water infrastructure issues as an issue that must be remedied in order to realize economic development goals
- Project readiness – SEQR and detailed project schedule prepared

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CASE STUDY

SCHUYLER FALLS, NY

(POPULATION 4,830 - 313 EDUs)

MORRISONVILLE WATER DISTRICT

2020 Northern Regional Border Commission

$0

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CASE STUDY

SCHUYLER FALLS, NY

(POPULATION 4,830 - 313 EDUs)

MORRISONVILLE WATER DISTRICT

2020 Northern Regional Border Commission

$0

2021 WIIA

$0

TOTAL FUNDING SECURED

$0

EXPECT

A MULTI-YEAR PROCESS

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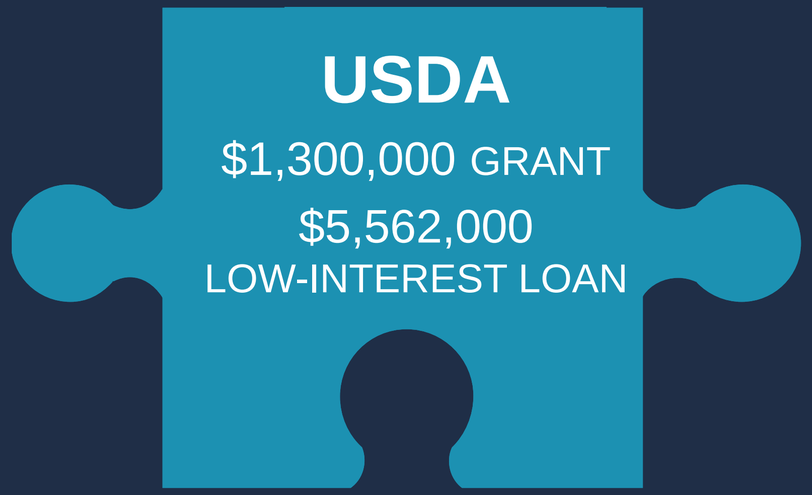
CASE STUDY

SCHUYLER FALLS, NY

(POPULATION 4,830 - 313 EDUs)

MORRISONVILLE WATER DISTRICT



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CASE STUDY

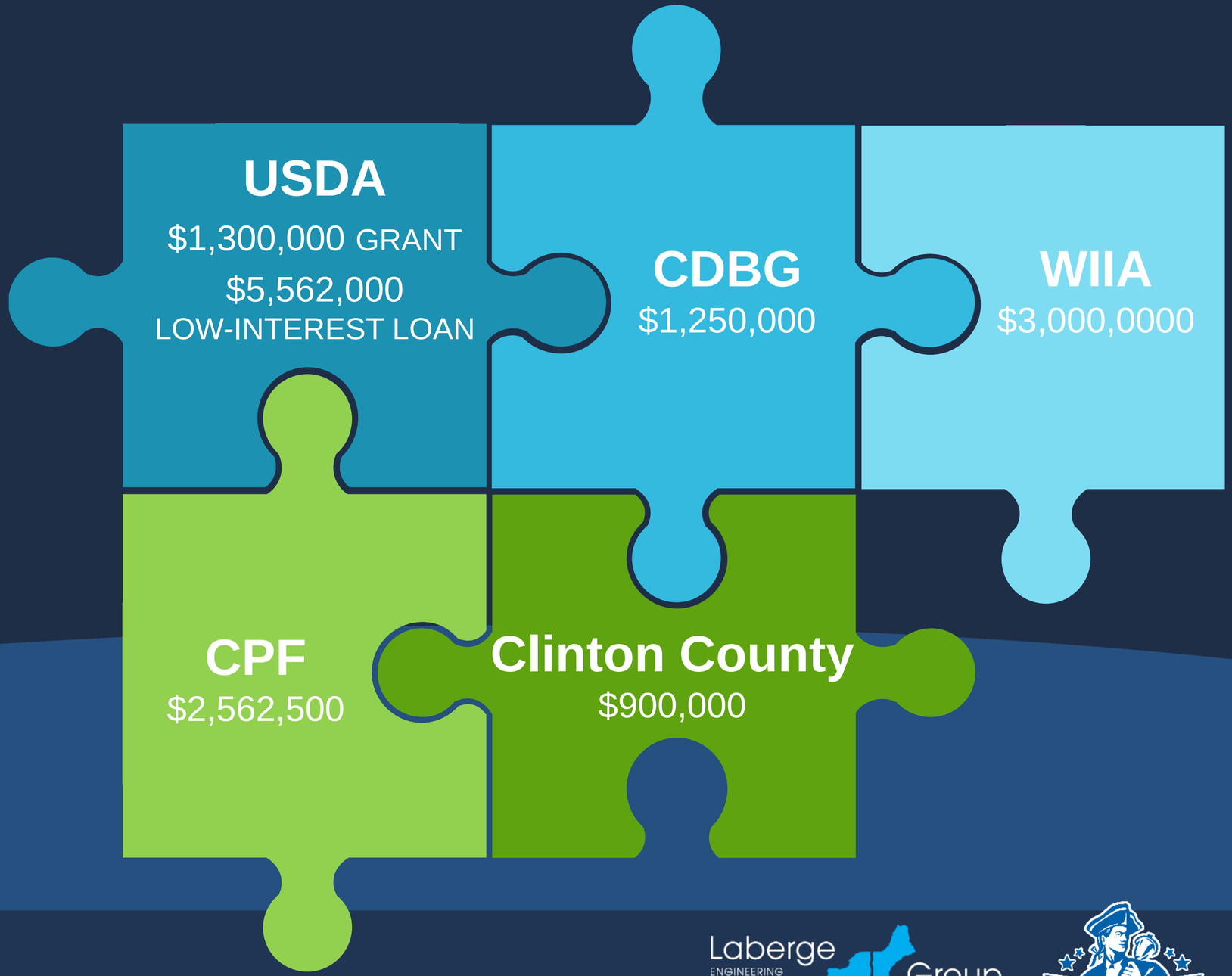
SCHUYLER FALLS, NY

(POPULATION 4,830 - 313 EDUs)

MORRISONVILLE WATER DISTRICT

TOTAL FUNDING SECURED

$14,574,500



SMALL COMMUNITIES / BIG PROBLEMS

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CASE STUDIES

BLACK BROOK, NY

(POPULATION 1,453 – 236 EDUs)

WATER SUPPLY AND STORAGE

CHALLENGE

- Persistent water supply issues
  - Supply from adjacent Town
  - Damaged by past precipitation events
  - Vulnerable to freezing and system failure

SOLUTION

- Stand-alone water infrastructure
- Two wells to supply high-quality water
- 225,000 gallon water storage tank
- Water main connected to existing system

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CASE STUDIES

BLACK BROOK, NY

(POPULATION 1,453 - 236 EDUs)

WATER SUPPLY AND STORAGE

CRAFTING A FUNDABLE PROJECT / MOLDING A COMPETITIVE APPLICATION

- Preliminary Engineering Report
  - Determined issues – identified preferred solution
  - Calculated the cost of proposed improvements to be less than the cost of Black Brook's obligation for neighboring Town's of improvements
  - Determination that the system's vulnerability increased due to climate change made the project eligible for grant funding through the Climate Smart Communities Program
- Under 1,500 residents
- Initial income survey indicated CDBG eligibility

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CASE STUDY

BLACK BROOK, NY

(POPULATION 1,453 - 236 EDUs)

WATER SUPPLY AND STORAGE

FUNDING QUILT

TOTAL FUNDING SECURED

$1,839,000

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CASE STUDIES

SCHODACK, NY

(POPULATION 12,965 – 58 EDUs)

BATTISTI WATER DISTRICT

CHALLENGE

- Abandoned formerly-private water system
  - Deterioration of pipes reaching the end of their lifespan (undersized, duct tape, and glue)
  - Frequent water main breaks
  - Potential for catastrophic system failure
  - Inadequate water pressure for firefighting

SOLUTION

- Create water district
- Replace failing system with adequately sized water lines that are up to Town standards
- Looped system for redundancy

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CASE STUDIES

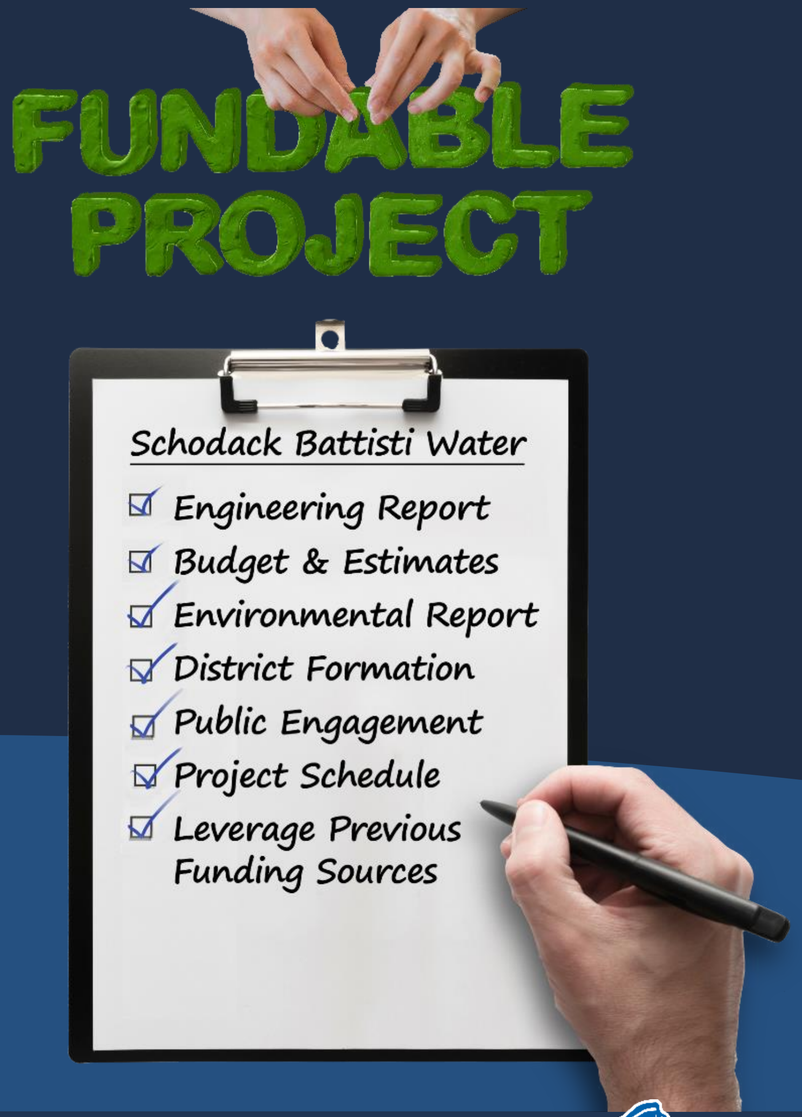
SCHODACK, NY

(POPULATION 12,965 - 58 EDUs)

BATTISTI WATER DISTRICT

CRAFTING A FUNDABLE PROJECT / MOLDING A COMPETITIVE APPLICATION

- Map, Plan and Report required for district formation
- Petition-based district formation – Town decided not to form district and take over the system from the State-appointed temporary operator until funding was in place to bring the system up to Town standards
- Public engagement and buy-in
- Project readiness – SEQR and detailed project schedule prepared



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CASE STUDY

SCHODACK, NY

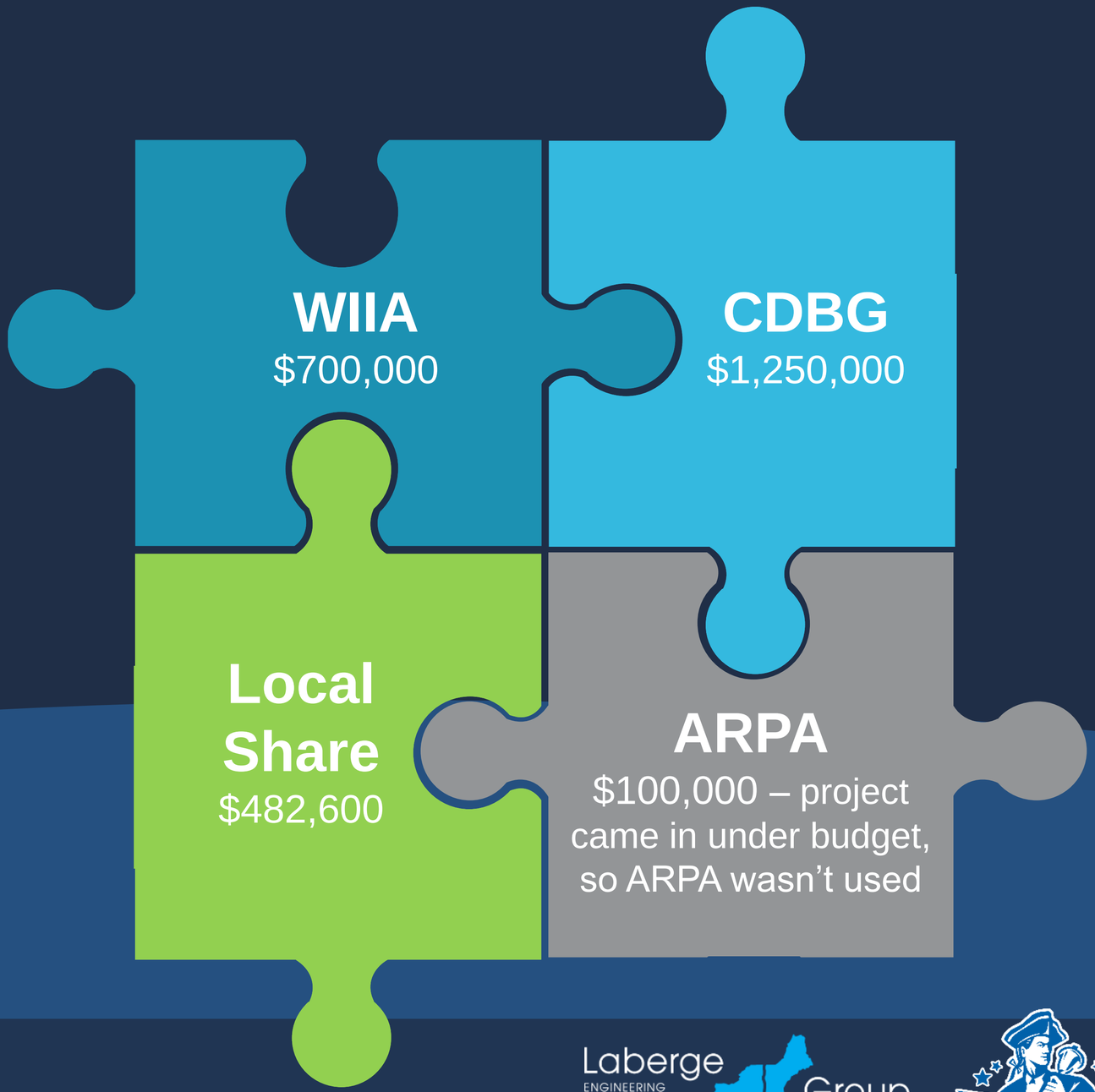
(POPULATION 12,965 - 58 EDUs)

BATTISTI WATER DISTRICT

FUNDING QUILT

TOTAL FUNDING SECURED

$2,432,600



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CASE STUDIES

POESTENKILL, NY

(POPULATION 4,322)

WATER DISTRICT NO. 2

CHALLENGE

- Pressing health issue of a well-based water supply that exceeds State public drinking water standards for PFAS, PFOA, and coliform
- Impacts the middle school / surrounding area

SOLUTION

- Expand water system to provide the area a safe and reliable source of drinking water
- Create water district
- Negotiate with school district for additional resources

CASE STUDIES

POESTENKILL, NY

(POPULATION 4,322)

WATER DISTRICT NO. 2

CRAFTING A FUNDABLE PROJECT / MOLDING A COMPETITIVE APPLICATION

- Map, Plan and Report required for district formation
- District formation
- Well-attended public engagement and community buy-in
- Negotiate water transportation and delivery from surrounding towns
- Project readiness – SEQR, project schedule, project budget, and plan of finance (including resolution to issue a bond upon district formation) prepared

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CASE STUDY

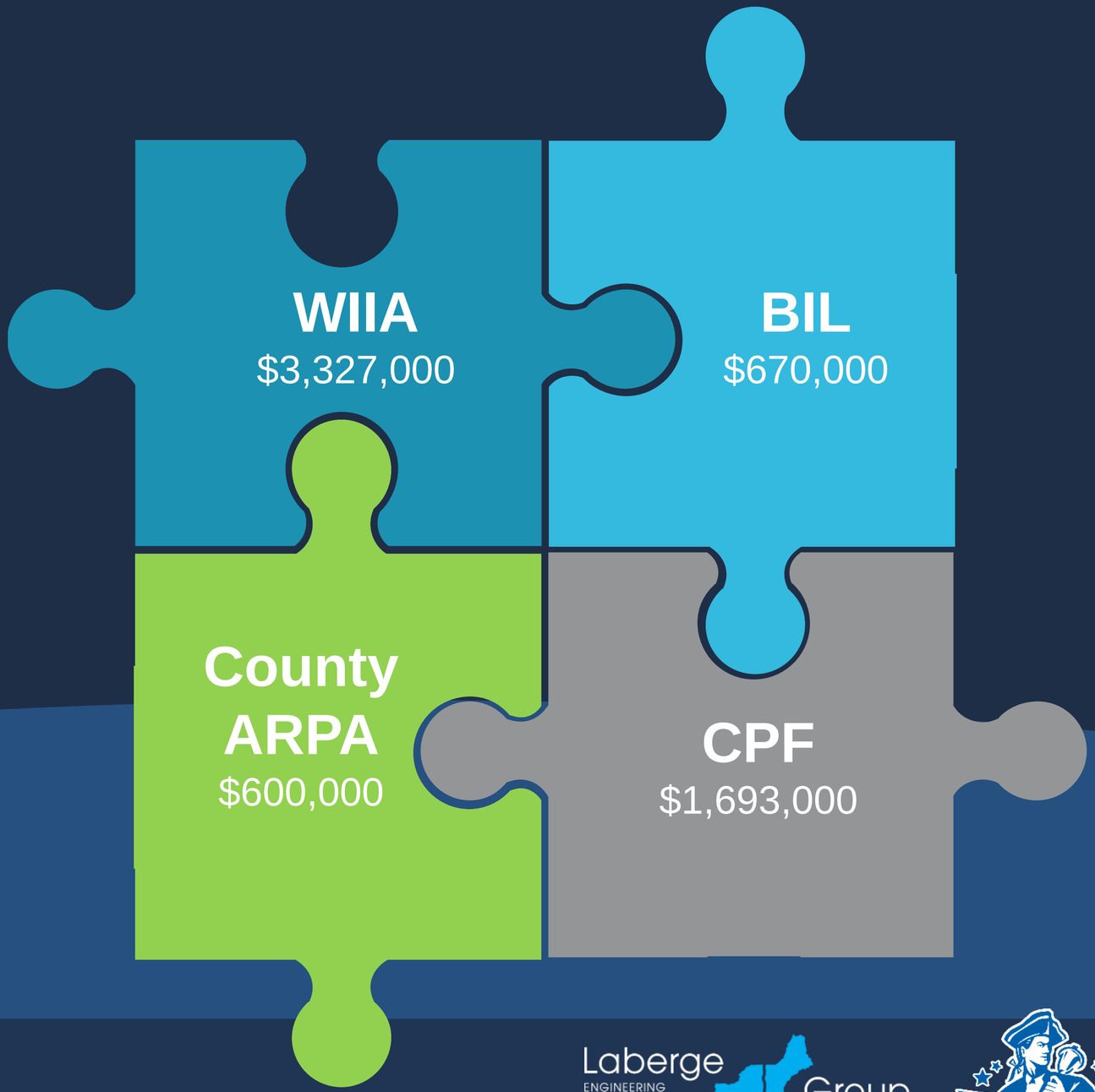
POESTENKILL, NY

(POPULATION 4,322)

WATER DISTRICT NO. 2

TOTAL FUNDING SECURED

$4,597,000



SMALL COMMUNITIES / BIG PROBLEMS

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CASE STUDIES

WURTSBORO, NY

(POPULATION 1,094)

SULLIVAN STREET WATER SYSTEM

CHALLENGE

- Water system along Sullivan Street comprised of aged cast iron pipes
- Frequent leaks
- Effective inside diameter of the pipe severely diminished
- 1950s water tank severely corroded

SOLUTION

- Replace the water main along Sullivan Street
- Reconstruct the existing 300,000-gallon water storage tank

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CASE STUDIES

WURTSBORO, NY

(POPULATION 1,094)

SULLIVAN STREET WATER SYSTEM

CRAFTING A FUNDABLE PROJECT / MOLDING A COMPETITIVE APPLICATION

- Preliminary Engineering Report
- Budget and Estimates
- Income Survey
- Environmental Report Determination
- Bond Resolution
- Leverage WIIA Funding in Subsequent CDBG Application

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CASE STUDY

WURTSBORO, NY

(POPULATION 1,094)

SULLIVAN STREET WATER SYSTEM

LOST – PROJECT ON HOLD

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CASE STUDY

WURTSBORO, NY

(POPULATION 1,094)

SULLIVAN STREET WATER SYSTEM

LOST – PROJECT ON HOLD

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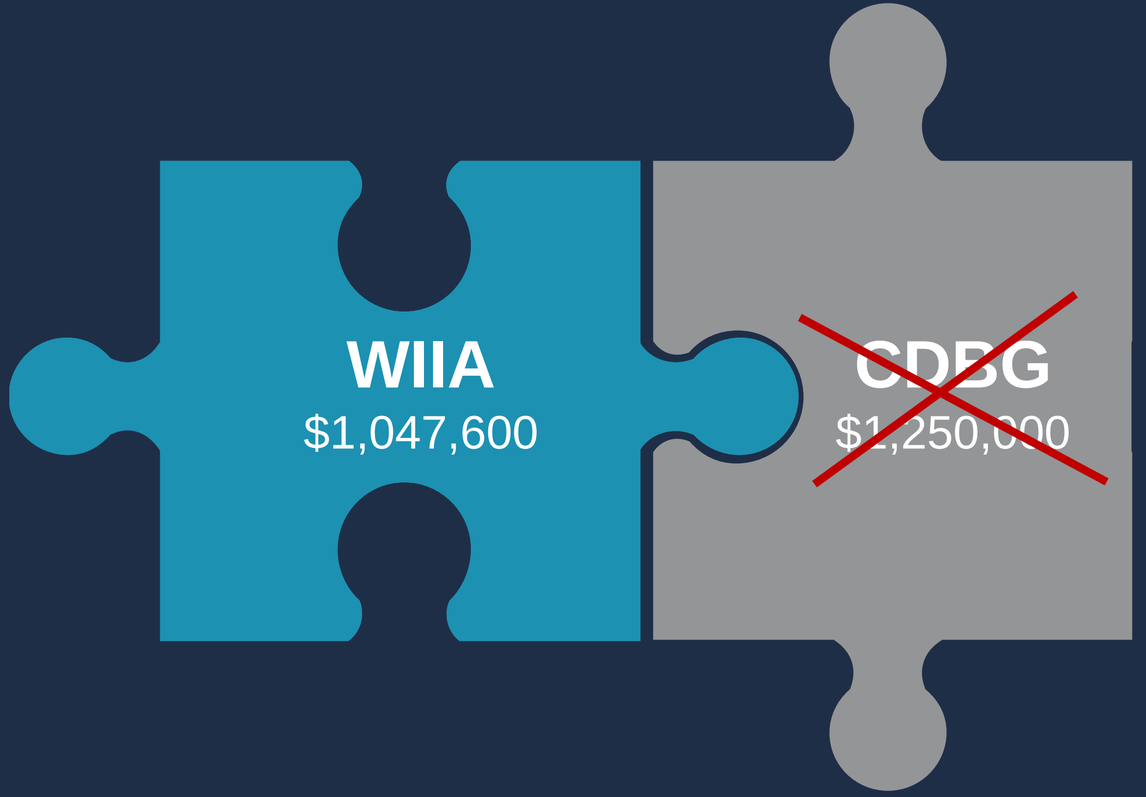
CASE STUDY

WURTSBORO, NY

(POPULATION 1,094)

SULLIVAN STREET WATER SYSTEM



LOST – PROJECT ON HOLD

- Village designed and put out project to bid. Prices too high to proceed with WIIA alone.
- Re-applied for CDBG with project ready to go out to bid – fully designed and approved by DOH.

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CASE STUDY

WURTSBORO, NY

(POPULATION 1,094)

SULLIVAN STREET
WATER SYSTEM

TOTAL FUNDING SECURED

$2,297,600

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CASE STUDIES

OTEGO, NY

(POPULATION 946)

WATER SYSTEM

CHALLENGE

- Undersized asbestos cement watermains
- Frequent breaks and service disruption
- Exposed watermain on the bed of Otsdawa Creek
- Inadequate pressure
- Well house damaged by flood

SOLUTION

- Replace watermains with new, larger pipes
- Install new watermain beneath the Creek
- Replace booster pump station to improve pressure
- Relocate well house out of flood plain

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CASE STUDIES

OTEGO, NY

(POPULATION 946)

WATER SYSTEM

CRAFTING A FUNDABLE PROJECT / MOLDING A COMPETITIVE APPLICATION

- Preliminary Engineering Report
- Project Readiness Including Budget and Estimates, Environmental Report, Bond Resolution, and Executed Engineering Agreement
- Leverage WIIA Funding in Subsequent CDBG Application

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CASE STUDY

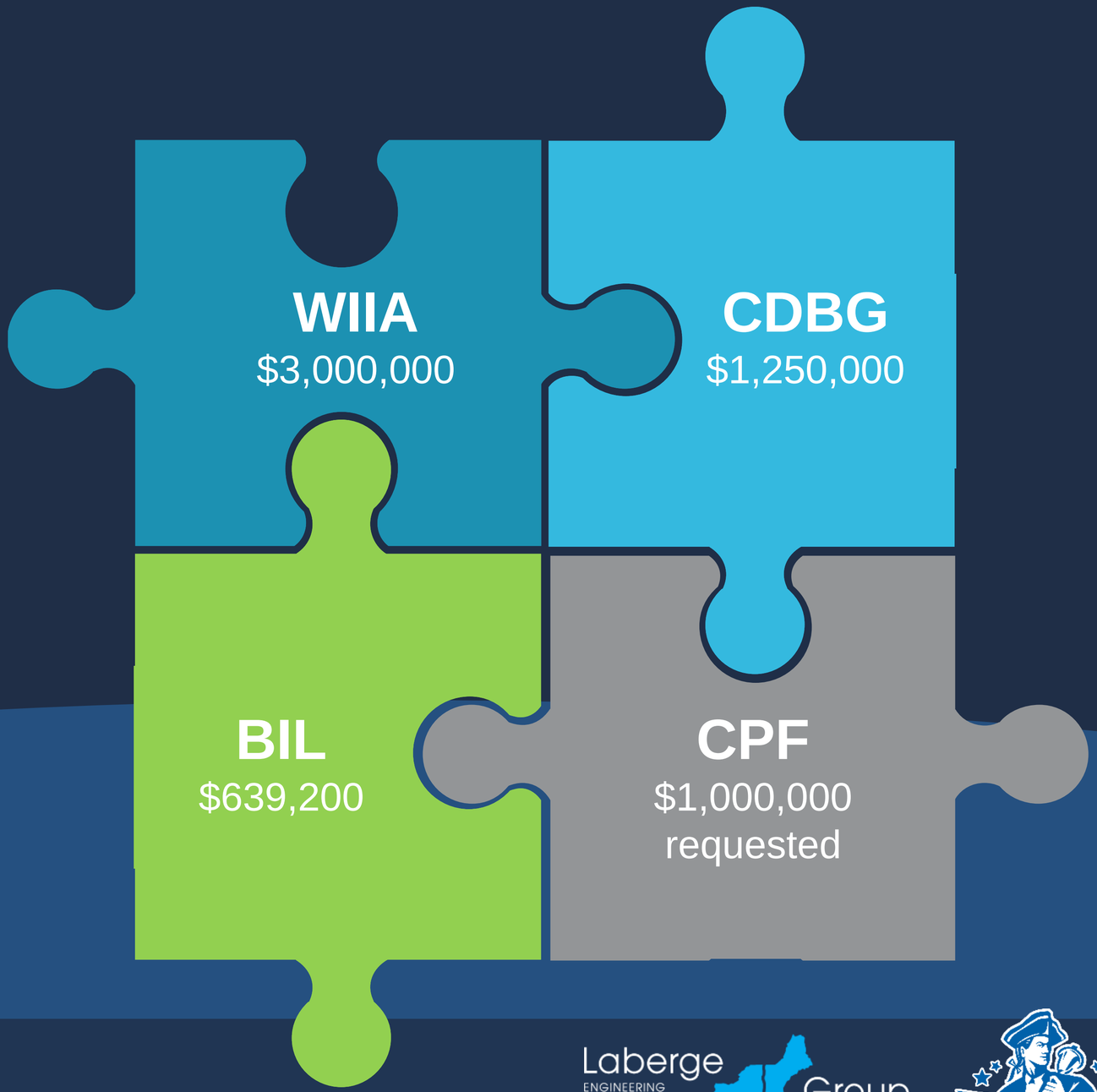
OTEGO, NY

(POPULATION 946)

WATER SYSTEM

TOTAL FUNDING SECURED

$4,889,200



SMALL COMMUNITIES / BIG PROBLEMS

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REFERENCE

- Water / Wastewater
- Parks
- Municipal Facilities
- Other

REFERENCE
WATER / WASTEWATER

- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-PI)
- Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA)
- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS)
- Community Project Funding (CPF)
- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)
- **Water:** Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)
- **Wastewater:** Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)
- **Wastewater:** Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP)
- **Inter-municipal:** All of the above, plus IMG and LGE

REFERENCE
PARKS

- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
- Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP)
- Environmental Protection Fund (EPF)
- Land and Water Conservation Fund
- Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS)
- Community Project Funding (CPF)
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)*
- State and Municipal (SAM) Facilities Grant
- Community Resiliency, Economic Sustainability, and Technology (CREST)
- Not-For-Profits
- Smaller specific project grants:
  - Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Grant

* If you are an entitlement community or part of a county consortium

REFERENCE
MUNICIPAL FACILITIES

- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
- Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) – Salt Sheds
- Climate Smart Communities (CSC) – if in a flood plain
- Justice Court Assistance Program (JCAP)
- SAM/CREST State and Municipal (SAM) Facilities Grant
- New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)
- Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS)
- Community Project Funding (CPF)

REFERENCE

TRANSPORTATION

SIDEWALKS – BRIDGES – CULVERTS

- NY Bridge & Culvert Program
- Transportation Enhancement Program (TEP)
- Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)
- Safe Routes to School (SRTS)
- Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) - sidewalks
- Climate Smart Communities (CSC)
- SAM/CREST State and Municipal (SAM) Facilities Grant
- Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS)
- Community Project Funding (CPF)

THANK YOU

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QUESTIONS

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CASE STUDIES

VILLAGE OF HEMPSTEAD, NY

(POPULATION 59,169)

SEWER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

CHALLENGE

- Outdated sewer mains exceeding 70 years of age.
- Pipes are deteriorating and leaching sewage into the sole source aquifer below.
- Adverse impacts to the health and safety of residents.

SOLUTION

- Install new gravity sewer main and side street laterals.
- The new pipes will direct sewage to a new flow diversion pump station.
- Phase 1 of a multi-phase improvement project for the Village’s entire wastewater system.

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CASE STUDIES

VILLAGE OF HEMPSTEAD, NY

(POPULATION 59,169)

SEWER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

CRAFTING A FUNDABLE PROJECT / MOLDING A COMPETITIVE APPLICATION

- Preliminary Engineering Report.
- Project Readiness Including Budget and Estimates, Environmental Report, Bond Resolution, and Executed Engineering Agreement.
- EJ40, DAC, BOA, and Opportunity Zone area whose minority population is the lowest paid in Nassau County.
- Leverage WIIA Funding in Subsequent CDBG Application.

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CASE STUDY

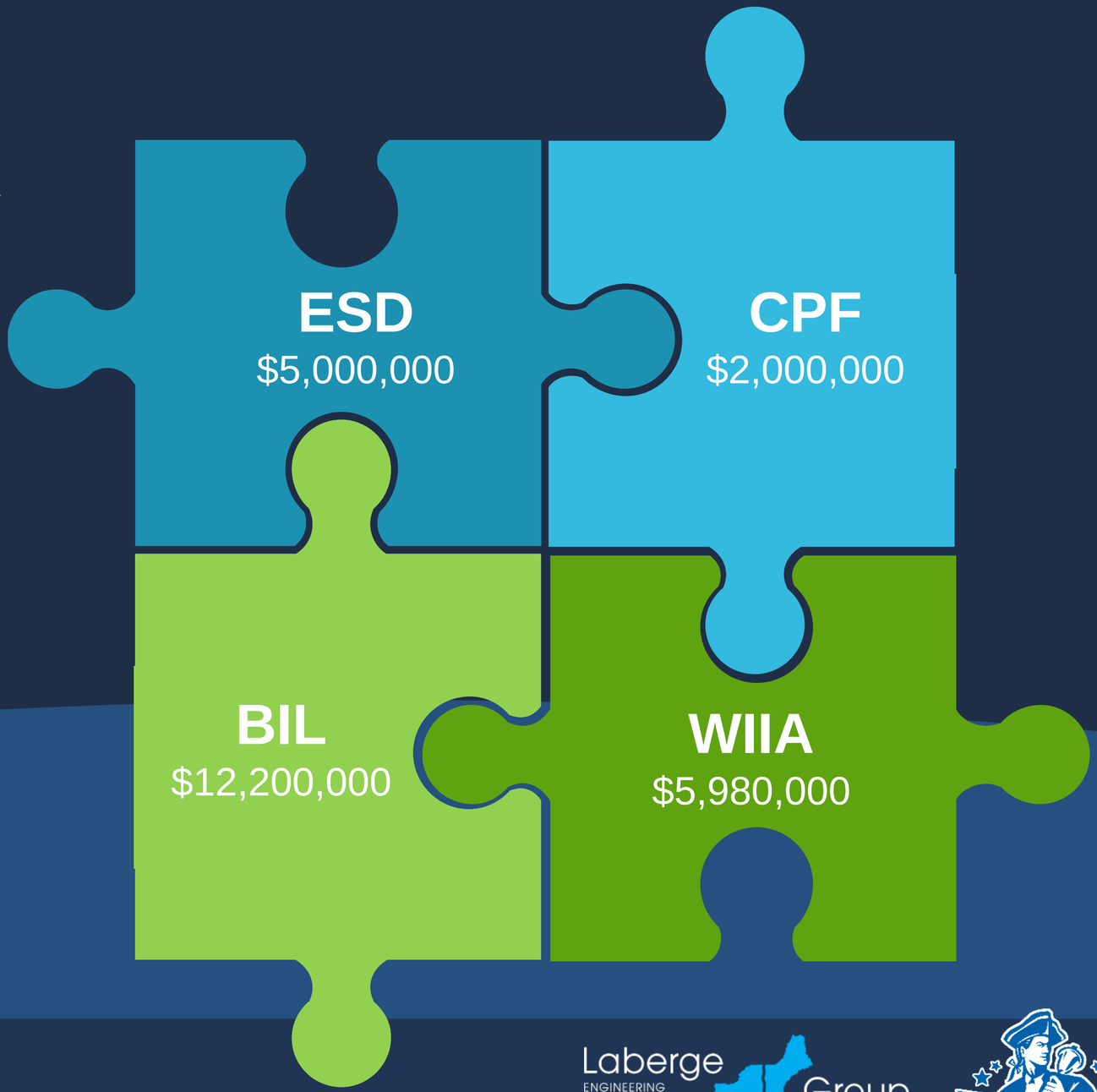
VILLAGE OF HEMPSTEAD, NY

(POPULATION 59,169)

SEWER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

TOTAL FUNDING SECURED

$25,180,000



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