

SMALL COMMUNITIES / BIG PROBLEMS II

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



Laberge
ENGINEERING
ARCHITECTURE



Group
SURVEYING
PLANNING



AOT ANNUAL MEETING & TRAINING SCHOOL
FEBRUARY 2026

SHARING MUNICIPAL PROJECT FUNDING EXPERTISE



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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
HALF A BILLION DOLLARS
SECURED SINCE 2000.

SUCCESS STORIES: CREATING YOUR AWARD-WINNING FUNDING QUILT



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BIG PROBLEMS FACING SMALL COMMUNITIES The Usual Suspects / Major Infrastructure Needs



WATER



STORMWATER



WASTEWATER



**ROADS /
SIDEWALKS**

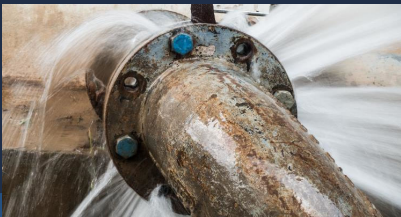
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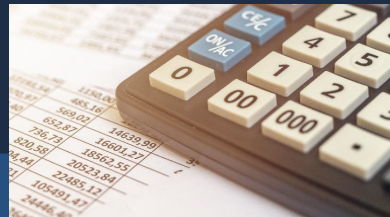
BIG PROBLEMS FACING SMALL COMMUNITIES

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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PRESENTATION OUTLINE



- What funds are available
- How to raise and manage your funds for projects
- Documentation
- Success stories

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LET'S HAVE A REAL AND FRANK CONVERSATION



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ARE YOU READY TO FINANCIALLY COMMIT?



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STATE / FEDERAL / COUNTY FUNDS TO THE RESCUE?



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IF YOU'RE NOT READY TO FUND PART OF THE PROJECT



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PROJECT PLAN OF FINANCE

- Municipal Finance - 101
 - Bond (Long term financing)
 - BAN (Short term financing)
 - Grant
 - Loans
- Capital Reserve Accounts = Money on hand

Smaller projects may only require a resolution to commit a local match (i.e. Parks, playgrounds, trees)

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MUNICIPAL FINANCING – 101 BUILDING A HOUSE

House = \$ 400,000

- Contingency Funds \$ 50,000
- Total Amount Needed \$ 450,000

- Trust \$ 200,000
- Wedding gift fund \$ 100,000

\$ 350,000

Amount to Finance = \$ 150,000

Construction Loan Needed = \$ 450,000

Pre-Approval Requested = \$ 500,000



- Municipal Finance - 101
 - Bond is your pre-approval
 - BAN is short term loan i.e. construction loan
 - Grants are your wedding and trust funds

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MUNICIPAL FINANCING – 101 INFRASTRUCTURE

Sewer = \$ 2,680,000

- Contingency Funds \$ 720,000
- Total Amount Needed \$ 3,400,000

• USDA	\$ 500,000
• CDBG	\$ 2,000,000
	<u>\$ 2,500,000</u>

Amount to Finance \$ 900,000

BAN \$ 1,000,000

Bond Requested \$ 3,400,000



- Municipal Finance - 101
- Bond is your pre-approval
- BAN is short term loan i.e. construction loan
- Grants are reimbursable

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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, including your Bond resolution.

Dot the i's
and cross
the t's

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LET'S TALK ABOUT CONTINGENCY

2 Parts:

- Flat rate contingency
35%, 25%, 10% depending on the program
- Cost escalation contingency
Based on the year being built, on top of your contingency
In addition, include a BAN / short term finance interest charge

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PROJECT TIMELINES ARE CRITICAL



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 either preliminary or final design completed
- **WIIA**
 - Engineering report
 - Bond resolution
 - SEQR
 - District formation
- **CDBG**
 - Contracts within 30 days
 - Environmental review done in 45 days
 - First drawdown in 180 days
 - Construction completed within 24 months elongated to 36 with pre-approval

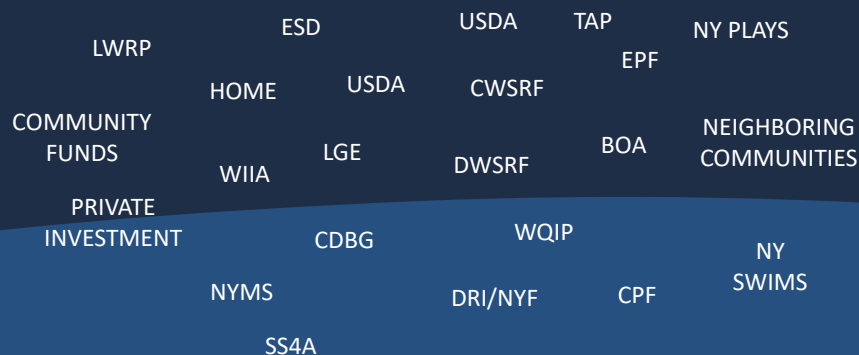
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LEVERAGING FUNDING FROM MULTIPLE SOURCES

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



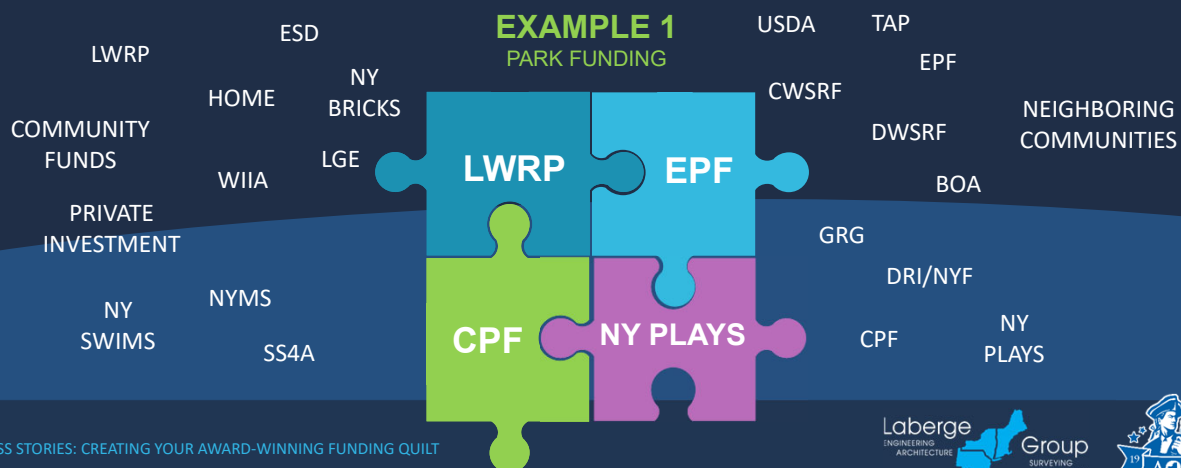
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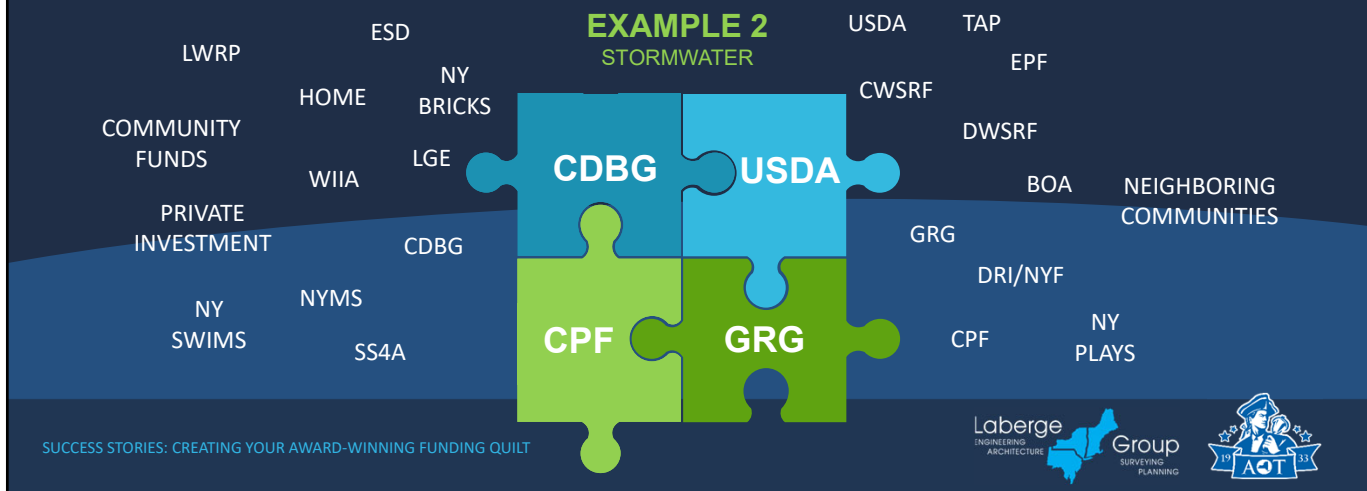


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LEVERAGING FUNDING FROM MULTIPLE SOURCES

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EXAMPLE 2 STORMWATER

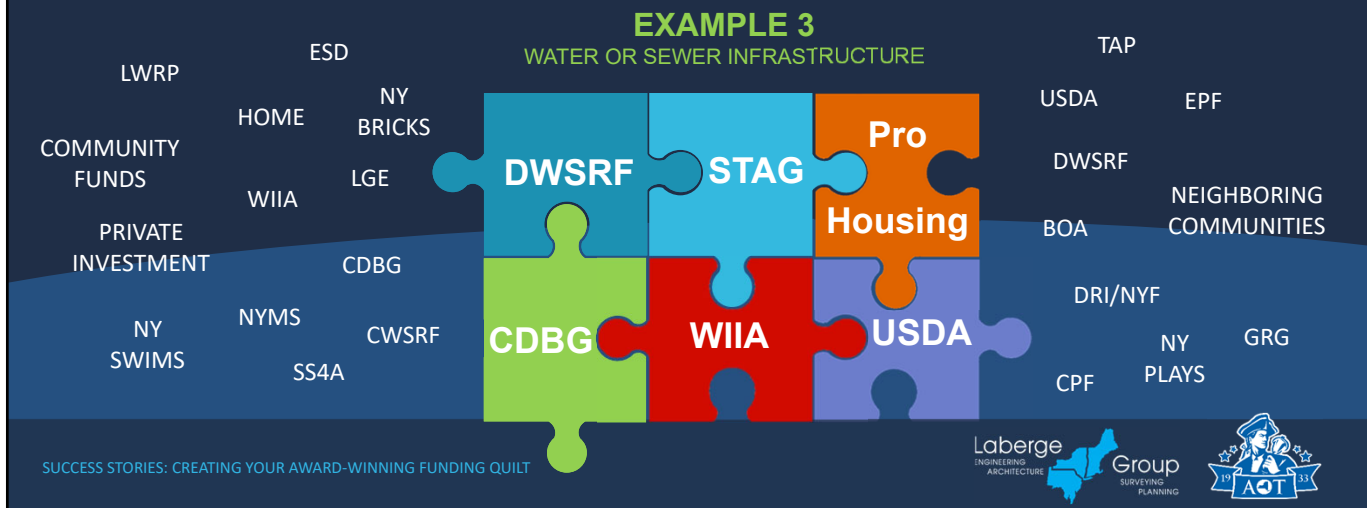


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LEVERAGING FUNDING FROM MULTIPLE SOURCES

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and be interwoven to accomplish an objective.

EXAMPLE 3 WATER OR SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE



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CASE STUDIES



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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 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



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CASE STUDIES

POESTENKILL, NY

WATER DISTRICT NO. 2

FUNDABLE PROJECT

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



SUCCESS STORIES: CREATING YOUR AWARD-WINNING FUNDING QUILT



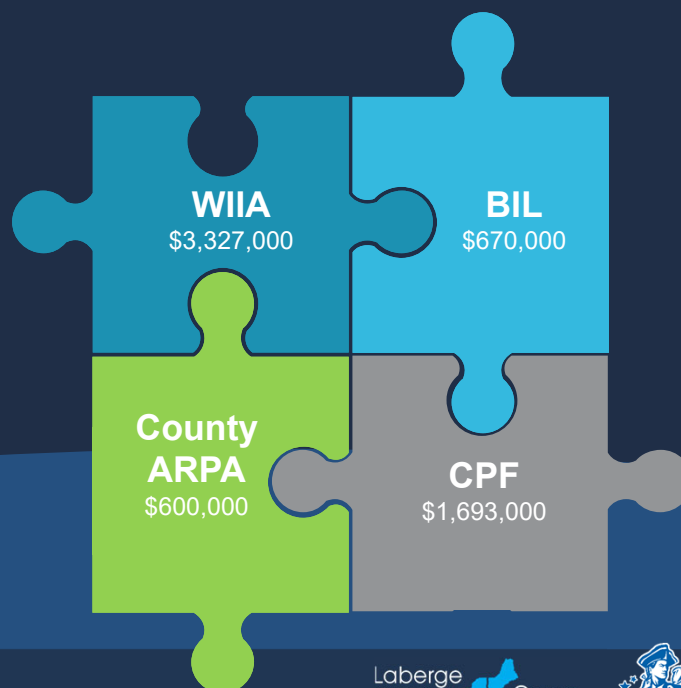
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CASE STUDIES

POESTENKILL, NY

WATER DISTRICT NO. 2

TOTAL FUNDING SECURED
Up to \$6,290,000



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CASE STUDIES

SCHUYLER FALLS, NY

(POPULATION 4,830 – 313 EDUs)

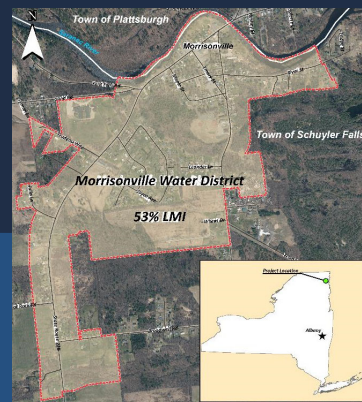
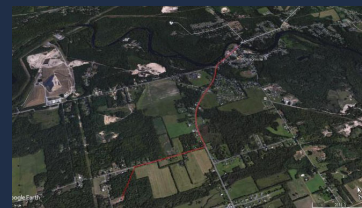
MORRISONVILLE WATER DISTRICT

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

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

FUNDABLE PROJECT



SUCCESS STORIES: CREATING YOUR AWARD-WINNING FUNDING QUILT

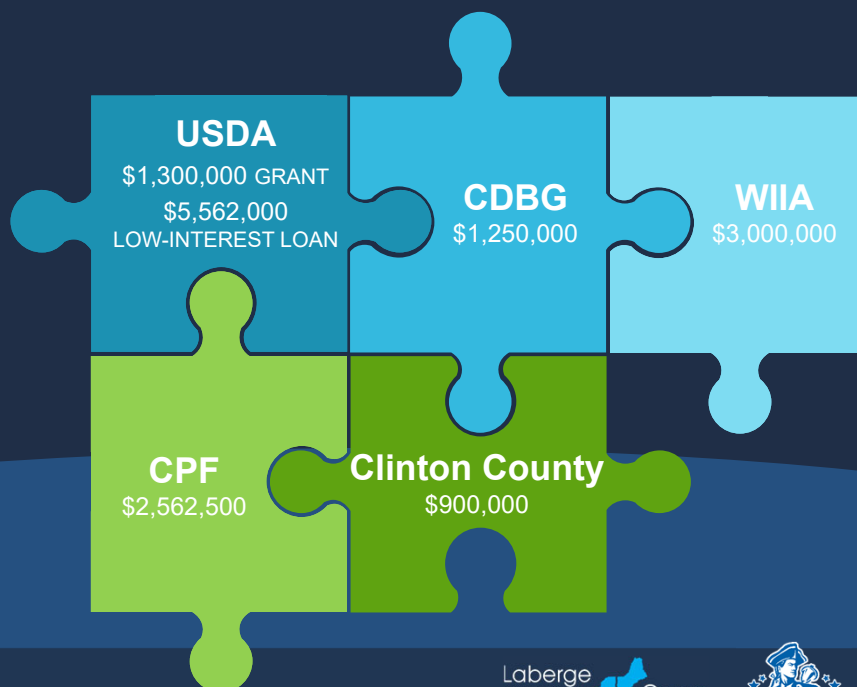


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CASE STUDY

SCHUYLER FALLS, NY MORRISONVILLE WATER DISTRICT

TOTAL FUNDING SECURED
\$14,574,500



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CASE STUDIES

SCHODACK, NY

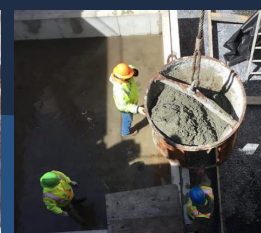
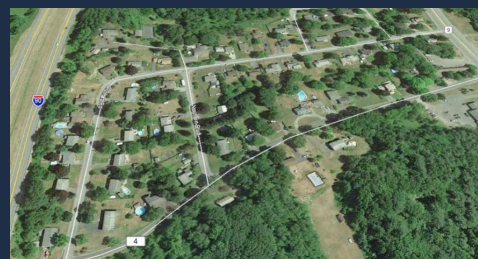
(POPULATION 12,965 – 58 EDUs)
BATTISTI WATER DISTRICT

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



SUCCESS STORIES: CREATING YOUR AWARD-WINNING FUNDING QUILT



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CASE STUDIES

SCHODACK, NY 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

FUNDABLE PROJECT



SUCCESS STORIES: CREATING YOUR AWARD-WINNING FUNDING QUILT



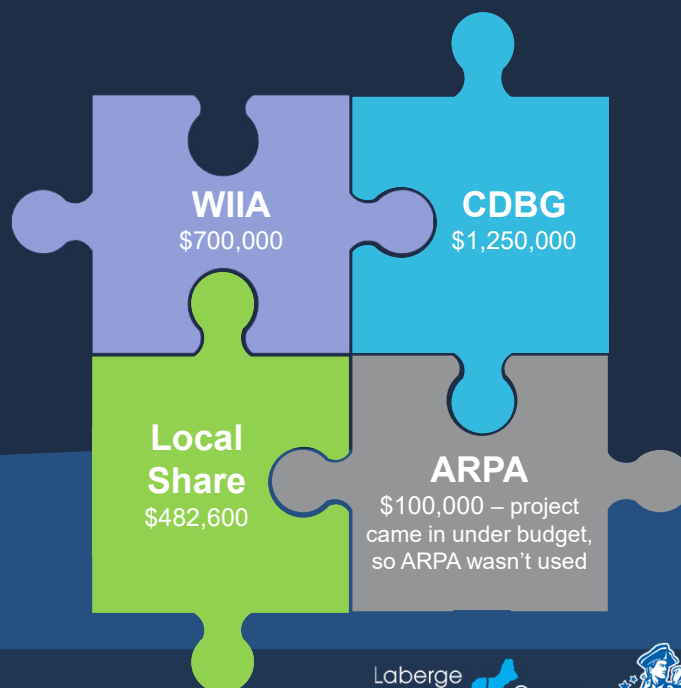
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CASE STUDY

SCHODACK, NY BATTISTI WATER DISTRICT

FUNDING QUILT

TOTAL FUNDING SECURED
\$2,432,600



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CASE STUDIES

BROOKHAVEN

(POPULATION 488,497)

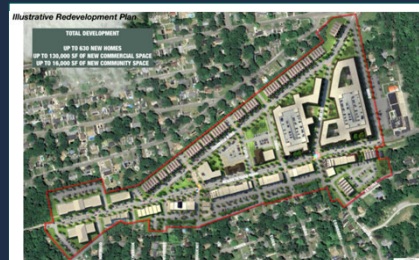
MASTIC BEACH SEWER DISTRICT PROJECT

CHALLENGE

- Designated blight area with investor interest to transform the area into a revitalized downtown area.
- Lack of sanitary sewer capacity to support proposed redevelopment.

SOLUTION

- Establish new sewer district to unlock tremendous redevelopment potential.



SUCCESS STORIES: CREATING YOUR AWARD-WINNING FUNDING QUILT



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CASE STUDIES

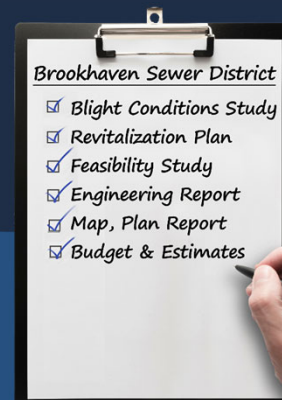
BROOKHAVEN

MASTIC BEACH SEWER DISTRICT PROJECT

CRAFTING A FUNDABLE PROJECT / MOLDING A COMPETITIVE APPLICATION

- Blight Conditions Study
- Neighborhood Road Revitalization Area Urban Renewal Plan
- Wastewater Treatment Feasibility Study
- Preliminary Engineering Report
- Map, Plan and Report

FUNDABLE PROJECT



SUCCESS STORIES: CREATING YOUR AWARD-WINNING FUNDING QUILT



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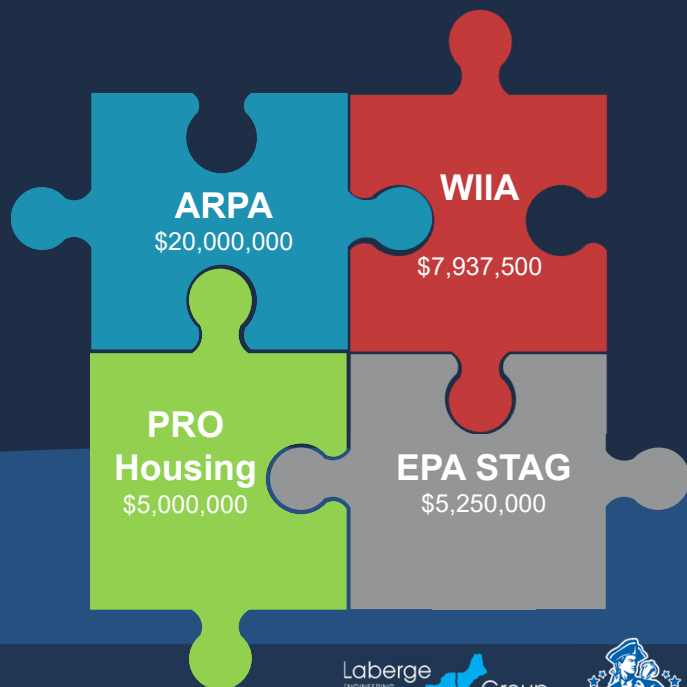
CASE STUDY

BROOKHAVEN MASTIC BEACH SEWER DISTRICT PROJECT

TOTAL FUNDING SECURED

Up to \$38,187,500

Total Project Cost = \$ 42,000,000



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CASE STUDIES VILLAGE OF HEMPSTEAD, NY

CHALLENGE

- Largest municipality in State with projected population growth.
- Critical safety & capacity improvements needed for water/wastewater infrastructure.
- Limited park/green space for year-round & all age recreation.
- Poised for economic & housing development, but must improve infrastructure to support, attract and sustain development.
- 45% of households earn below County's poverty threshold.

SOLUTION

- Strategic planning between Village officials, grant team, and project/community partners: Ex. Phase planning, grant matrix.
- Document need and project scope with necessary reports, studies and plans to get projects grant ready.
- Leverage funding



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CASE STUDIES

(POPULATION 59,918)

VILLAGE OF HEMPSTEAD, NY

CRAFTING A FUNDABLE PROJECT / MOLDING COMPETITIVE APPLICATIONS

- Preliminary Engineering Reports.
- 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 the County.
- Leverage WIIA Funding in Subsequent Applications.

FUNDABLE PROJECT



SUCCESS STORIES: CREATING YOUR AWARD-WINNING FUNDING QUILT



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CASE STUDY VILLAGE OF HEMPSTEAD, NY

TOTAL SECURED



SUCCESS STORIES: CREATING YOUR AWARD-WINNING FUNDING QUILT



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REFERENCE

- Water / Wastewater
- Stormwater
- Parks
- Municipal Facilities
- Transportation
- Other

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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

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REFERENCE STORMWATER

- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-PI)
- New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC)
- Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA)
- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- Green Resiliency Grants
- Green Innovation Grant Program
- Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS)
- Community Project Funding (CPF)
- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)
- Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP)

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REFERENCE PARKS

- Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP)
- Environmental Protection Fund (EPF)
- Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS)
- Community Project Funding (CPF)
- New York PLAYS
- New York SWIMS
- New York BRICKS
- State and Municipal (SAM) Facilities Grant
- Community Resiliency, Economic Sustainability, and Technology (CREST)
- Hudson River

SUCCESS STORIES: CREATING YOUR AWARD-WINNING FUNDING QUILT

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

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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
- New York BRICKS
- 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)

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

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REFERENCE

TRANSPORTATION

SIDEWALKS – BRIDGES – CULVERTS

- NY Bridge & Culvert Program
- Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)
- 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)

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QUESTIONS



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