DRI Overview
Governor Andrew M. Cuomo’s $100 million Downtown Revitalization Initiative (the “DRI”) will invest $10 million in each of 10 community downtowns to transform them into vibrant places where people will want to live, work and raise families. The program is a comprehensive and coordinated multi-agency approach to downtown revitalization that will build upon growth spurred by the Governor’s Regional Economic Development Councils (REDCs).

The DRI will create downtowns with:

- A strong sense of place
- Diverse new businesses, high-paying jobs, and skilled workers
- Arts and cultural attractions
- A diverse population, with residents and workers supported by affordable housing and employment opportunities
- Enhanced local property tax base
- Amenities to support and enhance downtown living and quality of life

Each REDC nominated one downtown per region. The REDCs used a template to nominate downtowns best positioned to take advantage of the DRI. Each REDC utilized their own structure to review applications. In some cases the REDC used an existing subcommittee or, in others, formed a specific subcommittee to advance this project. When reviewing applications and nominating their downtown, each REDC used, at a minimum, the following criteria when reviewing applications and nominating their downtown:

1) Downtowns should be compact, with well-defined boundaries. There is no minimum or maximum size for downtowns. Downtowns can range from a corridor or block(s) of a neighborhood to the municipality’s traditional central business district. However, core neighborhoods beyond the central business district are also eligible. For example, an arts or entertainment district could be the focus of the DRI, however, it should be shown how these areas complement existing downtowns.

2) The municipality, or the downtown’s catchment area, should be of a size sufficient to support a vibrant, year-round downtown. In analyzing this, REDCs should consider whether there is a sizeable existing or increasing population within easy reach for whom this would be the primary downtown destination.

3) Downtowns should be selected that are able to capitalize on prior, or catalyze future, private and public investment in the neighborhood and its surrounding areas. When evaluating a downtown for nomination, the REDCs should consider:
   - The presence of nearby investments planned or undertaken through the REDCs or with other public or private funding;
○ Continuity with the REDC's previously articulated vision for the area/region and consistency with recent planning efforts for the area;
○ The existence of developable properties within the downtown, including properties that can be utilized for affordable housing;
○ The growth potential and community involvement of anchor institutions in or near the downtown;
○ The municipality's current investment commitment to the downtown, including through business improvement districts or partnerships with non-profits;
○ The ability of existing infrastructure to support development of the downtown, and the potential to maximize recent infrastructure upgrades;
○ Application of Smart Growth principles; and
○ Investments in arts and cultural institutions and activities.

4) A crucial part of the selection of a downtown is the recent or impending job growth within, or in close proximity to, the downtown. The attraction of professionals to an active life in the downtown will support redevelopment and make growth sustainable in the long-term. In evaluating job growth near the downtown, REDCs should consider:
○ The presence of major job-creating projects and initiatives near the downtown;
○ The existence of new and expanding employers;
○ Whether new and existing jobs are accessible from the downtown by foot or via public transit; and
○ The diversity in area job opportunities, with different salaries/entry levels and potential for mobility between jobs.

5) The downtown must be an attractive and livable community for diverse populations of all ages, including millennials and skilled workers. In evaluating this, REDCs should consider whether the downtown contains, or could contain, the following physical properties and characteristics:
○ Developable mixed-use spaces;
○ Housing at different levels of affordability and type;
○ Commercial and retail main street businesses;
○ Multi-modal transit;
○ Walkability and bikeability, within the downtown and connecting the downtown to surrounding open space networks and regional destinations;
○ Accessible recreation amenities, parks and gathering spaces;
○ Access to health care facilities;
○ Cultural and entertainment amenities; and
○ Broadband accessibility.

6) The downtown should already embrace or have the ability to create and implement policies that increase livability and quality of life, including through:
○ Downtown plans;
○ Modern zoning and parking standards;
○ Management structure, such as a Downtown Manager or Downtown Business Improvement District;
○ Complete Streets plans and laws;
○ Transit-oriented development;
○ Land banks;
- Energy-efficiency;
- Smart Cities innovation; and
- An inclusive environment for New Americans.

7) Downtowns must have sufficient local community and public official support in order to develop and implement their Strategic Investment Plan. Local leaders and stakeholders who are committed to working together on a plan and the initial local lead should be identified.

The following Downtowns were nominated by the REDCs and accepted by New York State to be part of the DRI:

City of Gloversville - Capital Region
City of Oswego - Central NY
City of Geneva - Finger Lakes
Village of Westbury - Long Island
City of Middletown - Mid-Hudson Valley
City of Oneonta - Mohawk Valley
Jamaica, Queens - New York City
City of Plattsburgh - North Country
City of Elmira - Southern Tier
City of Jamestown - Western NY

These communities are receiving technical support from both state and private sector planning experts and a locally established DRI Local Planning Committee to produce a Strategic Investment Plan. Private sector planning experts are being paid out of the $10 million awards (up to $300,000 per community), with the remainder of the award utilized to implement the plan.

The Local Planning Committee will submit a Strategic Investment Plan for the Downtown by the end of February 2017 to New York State. This Plan will identify projects which will be considered for funding from the DRI award or other funding sources. Projects for DRI funds will be submitted by the DRI community as funding applications to the State. New York State will select projects that will receive DRI awards and assign the appropriate state agency to manage implementation of the projects. This review and evaluation process, outlined below, will allow for transparency and justification as to why and how DRI Projects are selected within in each region’s DRI community.

The DRI Local Planning Committee
In each selected DRI community, a DRI Local Planning Committee (LPC) oversees work on the Strategic Investment Plans. This committee includes representatives from a number of the following interest groups and organizations:

- Local and regional government officials;
- Neighborhood associations, homeowners, and renters;
- Property owners, local developers, and realtors;
- Chambers of commerce, local business associations, and business owners;
- Community foundations and community loan funds;
- Local development corporations, housing corporations, Industrial Development Agencies, and business improvement districts;
- Cultural and educational institutions, including museums, universities, historic sites, etc.;
- Local non-profit and advocacy organizations that address quality of life (i.e. bicycle coalitions, park conservancies, arts organizations, YMCA, etc.);
- Social and public service organizations (local police, health care providers, etc.); and
- Faith-based organizations.

LPC members have agreed to a Code of Conduct as a reminder that they must always act in the public interest in their role as LPC members.

The LPC will work with the Consulting Team, State Planners, and key municipal representatives to:

- Engage the public in the planning process.
- Create a profile of the downtown.
- Establish a vision for revitalizing downtown that builds on previous work and considers fundamental goals established by the DRI program.
- Develop strategies and identify methods to achieve the downtown vision.
- Select projects key to overall downtown revitalization.
- Develop and adopt a Downtown Revitalization Initiative Plan.

The LPC may form work groups led by members of the LPC to provide an opportunity to dig deeper into an issue with the help of non-committee members, such as local business persons, labor specialists, academic experts, and neighborhood activists. Work groups provide an opportunity for brainstorming, for building a sense of community spirit and buy-in of the plan, and allow for better time management at LPC meetings. Work groups could be developed around any issue, such as developing a public engagement strategy, business development, identification of projects and actions, and implementation of the plan.

The Strategic Investment Plan
Building from and advancing on information provided in the initial DRI application and existing plans and studies, the Strategic Investment Plans will examine local assets and opportunities to build a vision for revitalization that is unique to each downtown. Creative and ambitious strategies will be considered to achieve the downtown vision and direct future development and investment in the downtown. The plans will include identification of economic development, transportation, housing, and community projects and initiatives that achieve that vision and can be leveraged for additional investment. Full plans will be approved by LPCs in February 2017.

The Strategic Investment Plans will include a detailed implementation strategy to guide and direct implementation of the plan and its proposed redevelopment projects and initiatives. The Strategic Investment Plans will not be limited to just $10 million in proposed DRI funding but should outline opportunities to seek and leverage additional financial resources and mechanisms to fund public and private redevelopment projects. It is also expected that the projects for consideration for DRI funding will exceed $10 million to allow for flexibility in funding choices as the plans are implemented.

The Strategic Investment Plans will identify:

- projects and initiatives for DRI funding
- projects and initiatives that could seek funds through the CFA or other state or federal resources
• projects and initiatives that are not currently ready to go and require additional work to become project ready
• locally funded projects and initiatives
• private or nonprofit sector opportunities and actions leveraging or complementing DRI funding or other local, state or federal funding
• private or nonprofit sector opportunities and actions independent of any local, state or federal funding

The Strategic Investment Plan will also examine local capacity and describe how the implementation of the proposed projects and initiatives will be managed and sustained. The Plan will identify an existing or propose a new management structure to guide downtown revitalization in a fiscally sustainable manner and will identify where there is a need to create or enhance local capacity to support ongoing implementation of the DRI Strategic Investment Plan.

Project definition
“Projects and initiatives” for the purposes of advancing the DRI Strategic Investment Plan may include:
• Development or redevelopment of real property including predevelopment or pre-construction activities, land acquisition, construction, and environmental review
• Public infrastructure such as water supply, wastewater, stormwater, green infrastructure, streetscape improvements, transportation, parking, open space improvement, access and trail connections
• Broadband or other communications connectivity
• Direct grants or revolving loan programs for activities such as façade improvements on downtown buildings, minor residential improvements, sidewalk improvements, small business loans, physical improvement to existing and/or vacant commercial space, e.g. tenant fit-up, and other similar activities. These examples may also be individual projects in their own right.
• Development or rehabilitation of downtown buildings to provide mixed housing choices including affordable, market-rate, workforce, etc.
• Programs or services to promote business recruitment or retention, including workforce development programs
• Branding and marketing of the downtown to the public, including residents, investors, developers, tourists, and visitors
• Arts or cultural programming and creation of new, or improvements to existing facilities
• Capital improvements to existing, or creation of new, community facilities
• Tourism development and promotion
• Programs or projects related to historic preservation
• Access to healthy and affordable food markets
• Targeted plans and strategies to further develop the vision, strategies and goals for the Strategic Investment Plan and identify additional actions and projects for future phases of the community’s downtown revitalization efforts
• Actions and programs needed to ensure effective implementation of DRI goals, such as the establishment of governance structures, zoning updates and revisions and other local law changes, enhancement of public or non-profit organizational capacity to establish and oversee DRI projects or programs.

All of these project types are viewed as eligible for DRI funding awards. Please discuss with your lead planner any additional project types that might emerge that do not appear to fall within these definitions. Innovative ideas directly related to advancing the Strategic Investment Plan are encouraged.
Identification and Prioritization of Projects and Initiatives

The Planning Team, consisting of the Consulting Planning Firm and state agency partners, will support the LPCs in prioritizing the projects identified for inclusion in the Strategic Investment Plan. The LPC will determine which of these should be considered for submission for full or partial DRI funding and which should be advanced by other means. The prioritization and selection process will proceed as follows:

- **Preliminary Project List**: The Planning Team will present the LPC with a broad and inclusive list of potential projects and initiatives in support of the revitalization strategies identified by the LPC. This preliminary project list should be developed based on recommendations drawn from past planning efforts and new ideas generated from the LPCs initial work. The Team will facilitate a discussion with the LPC to determine if other projects and initiatives should be added to the list. Project and initiative ideas will continue to be developed and revised as more information is gathered during the development of the Strategic Investment Plan. In selecting and revising preliminary projects, the LPC will place an emphasis on projects that provide broad public benefit and support the community as a whole. Community members may propose additional projects or provide input on potential projects during the public comment portion of an LPC meeting, at public engagement sessions and/or through online opportunities to comment. The LPC may consider any suggestions received and may subsequently direct the Team to add such proposals to the preliminary project list for review.

- **Project Review**: The Planning Team will present preliminary findings on each potential project and initiative identified on the Preliminary Project List to the LPC. The Team will identify responsible party, order of magnitude costs, potential economic and other benefits and impacts, phasing, funding sources and other relevant information. The Team will review with the LPC a preliminary evaluation of potential projects based on prioritization criteria (see below) and refine the Preliminary Project List. Based on the level of detail available about each project and initiative, the Team will work with the Co-Chairs to determine whether individual projects and initiatives that support the community’s revitalization strategies, and are consistent with past planning efforts, merit deeper discussion with external parties to inform the LPC recommendations. The process for refining the preliminary project list will be determined by the LPC Co-Chairs and the Planning Team and may vary in each DRI. The process will focus on those projects and initiatives that best meet the prioritization criteria, along with other projects and initiatives that generate strong support within the LPC and advance the DRI strategies set forth in the Strategic Investment Plan.

- **Final Project List**: Based on findings from the project review, the Planning Team will present a final project and initiatives list to the LPC for inclusion in the Strategic Investment Plan. Together, the Planning Team and LPC will determine which of these should be considered for submission for full or partial DRI funding and which are best advanced by other means. Following input from public engagement, the LPC will finalize the project list for inclusion in the Strategic Investment Plan. Details for each of the projects and initiatives in the Plan will be provided using the project profile template presented below and provided as an appendix to this Guidance Document. The Strategic Investment Plans will not be limited to just $10 million in proposed DRI funding but should outline opportunities to seek and leverage additional financial resources and mechanisms to fund public and private redevelopment projects. It is also expected that the projects for consideration for DRI funding will exceed $10 million to allow for flexibility in funding choices as the plans are implemented.
**Project Selection and Prioritization Criteria**

Each LPC is tasked with reviewing the projects and initiatives within the context of how well they advance the DRI strategies set forth in the Strategic Investment Plan. LPCs will seek to maximize the impact of DRI investment by advancing projects and initiatives through the DRI award that have the greatest public benefit, are primed for implementation, and enjoy broad stakeholder support. LPCs should look to prioritize catalytic projects that present the strongest likelihood of jump-starting or continuing downtown revitalization and investment in the community.

For each project and initiative, LPCs will consider the following criteria when determining relative priority for funding through the DRI award:

- Alignment with DRI strategic goals for the downtown
- Alignment with existing local and regional plans
- Alignment with ongoing activities
- Transformative potential - elements that fundamentally change the downtown and how it is perceived
- Catalytic potential - the ability to make other things happen
- Market demand and economic feasibility
- Ability to provide a sustainable impact in the downtown
- Estimated project costs including cost to public and private sector partners and long term operating or maintenance cost implications
- Estimated impacts on tax revenue
- Potential to leverage additional private and/or public funds
- Anticipated community and economic benefits
- Estimated job growth and retention
- Employment and workforce development potential
- Public support
- Need for DRI funds to make the project feasible
- Availability of alternative funding sources that are more appropriate than the DRI award
- Project readiness and anticipated timeframe for implementation
- Site control issues and potential for resolution
- Any regulatory challenges that may hinder implementation and need to be addressed
- Capacity of responsible parties to implement the project or initiative
- Extent to which ongoing maintenance or management is needed and can be realistically addressed Existing local capacity to sustain the implementation of projects and initiatives

As LPCs evaluate the full list of identified projects and initiatives, LPCs should also consider how those identified projects and initiatives are aligned with and advance the revitalization strategies identified in the Strategic Investment Plan. The LPC will be looking to determine whether the candidate projects and initiatives create or improve the following elements of a vibrant downtown:

- An active, desirable downtown with a strong sense of place
- Density and diversity in the downtown - with a mix of land uses
- New businesses, high-paying jobs, and skilled workers
- Other types of new employment opportunities or retained existing jobs where relevant
- A diverse population, with residents and workers supported by complementary housing and employment opportunities
• A mix of downtown housing types, accommodating affordable, worker, and market rate housing development and support
• An inclusive environment for New Americans
• Reliable public transit providing service between daily destinations (particularly jobs and housing)
• Parks, public gathering spaces, and entertainment amenities
• Walkability and bikeability within the downtown and connecting to park and trail networks and regional destinations
• Attractive and well-functioning streets
• Transit-oriented development
• Arts and cultural attractions
• Sustainable, energy-efficient development
• Anchor institutions in or near the downtown, and collaboration with such institutions
• Access to healthy and affordable food markets

Project Profile Template
The LPC will develop project profiles for all projects and initiatives included in the Strategic Investment Plan. The profile will present the project or initiative in the context of the overall revitalization plan, describe the relationship to other projects and initiatives proposed in the Strategic Investment Plan, and describe the catalytic impact of the project. The Planning Team will use the project profile template appended at the end of this guidance.

The project profile template will be used for all projects in the Strategic investment Plan with lesser detail needed if the project or initiative has not been proposed for DRI funding. It is not expected that project profile templates will be prepared for preliminary projects/initiatives that are identified but do not become part of the Strategic Investment Plan.

The project profile will clearly identify whether or not the project or initiative is recommended for funding through the DRI award. It will include a recommended funding level to be requested in a DRI funding application. The Strategic Investment Plan will also include project profiles that provide details on how other projects and initiatives will be advanced outside of DRI funding.

Projects and initiatives proposed for DRI funding must be supported by cost-benefit analyses, pro forma, targeted economic assessments, market studies, or other analyses as appropriate to demonstrate the feasibility and potential impact of the project or initiative on the overall economic health of the downtown area and the surrounding region.

Application Process
Following completion of the Strategic Investment Plans, individual DRI Project Applications will be submitted to the state. Using the completed project profiles, DRI Project Applications must be submitted through the New York State Consolidated Funding Application for projects proposed for DRI funding in the Strategic Investment Plan. Each DRI Project Application must be submitted by the local municipality on behalf of the responsible party. Applications shall be comprised of completed Project Profile Templates along with any supporting materials.
Internal State Review, Project Award and Project Oversight

A “DRI Interagency Review Panel” ("the Panel") selected from various state agencies will review and evaluate each DRI Project Application that is submitted for funding consideration through the community’s DRI award. The Panel will be overseen by NYS DOS and HCR, and will consist of staff from various state agencies that have expertise in downtown revitalization and project review.

The Panel will consider the REDC DRI selection criteria and the project selection/prioritization criteria outlined in the preceding text when reviewing applications. The timeframe for this review and award recommendation will be shorter than the regular CFA award process.

Following review of the DRI Project Applications, recommendations will be made by the Panel about which projects will move forward into the contract phase and be issued a DRI funding award. Awards are targeted for the summer of 2017.

A DRI funding award letter will be sent to the project applicant and responsible party from the state and will identify the state agency that will manage and advance that project or initiative. Determination of the appropriate state agency will be based on the relationship of that project or initiative and how it aligns with the mission of that state agency. This agency will manage and monitor implementation of the project and manage disbursements according to their normal award and contracting practices. Full details of these requirements will be on a case by case basis depending on the nature of the project and the agency practices.

APPENDIX – Project Profile Template
DRI Project Profiles will be developed for all project/initiatives in the Strategic investment Plan using this Project Profile Template. The Template presents the sequence in which necessary project information must be provided. Lesser detail may be provided if the project/initiative has not been proposed for DRI funding. *NOTE: It is not expected that project profile templates will be prepared for preliminary projects/initiatives that are identified but do not become part of the Strategic Investment Plan.*

DRI Project Profiles must include:

1) **Project Title** - present as an action-oriented statement (e.g. Renovate Smith Building for Mixed Uses; Install LED Lighting on Main Street).

2) **DRI Funding** - clearly identify if the project or initiative is being recommended for funding through the DRI award and the amount that will be requested.

3) **Summary Description** - include a concise description of the project/initiative (5-7 sentences).

4) **Location** - include the street address of the project/initiative or area of coverage and a locator map that includes spatial relationships to other projects/initiatives.

5) **Identification of the responsible parties** - identify the entity(ies) responsible for development, management and long term sustainability of project or initiative. Identify a responsible contracting entity. *NOTE: Questions on who may be an appropriate contracting entity eligibility should be referred to lead DOS planner as project and funding details emerge.*

6) **Capacity** - address the capacity of the responsible party(ies) to implement and sustain the project/initiative, including a reference to any other DRI project profiles that the entity(ies) is/are involved with.

7) **Project Partners** - include a list of the key public, non-profit, and private entities or organizations needed to implement the project/initiative and their role.

8) **Strategies** - list the DRI strategies that the project/initiative addresses; identify alignment with REDC strategies, and other existing local plans or initiatives.

9) **Description** - identify the project/initiative type (e.g., public improvements or services, acquisition, housing, economic development, local zoning, other); describe how the project/initiative advances the project selection/prioritization criteria; identify the catalytic/transformative nature of the project/initiative; identify the implementation actions needed; identify project/initiative challenges or obstacles; identify maintenance or management arrangements; identify any relationship to other proposed projects/initiatives. Photographic images of the site and surrounding area may also be provided as appropriate.
10) **Renderings, Site Plan, and Graphics** - for capital improvement projects, provide appropriate illustrations of the site and/or project, including existing and proposed conditions, site plans and project illustrations, renderings or appropriate design imagery.

11) **Estimated Costs** - break down costs by elements in actual dollar amounts; include operating and maintenance costs for municipal projects; “soft costs” should be identified and included within the cost estimate. The anticipated costs to sustain the project/initiative should also be included. (See notes below on Cost and Budget Evaluation). **NOTE:** Cost estimates may be less precise if the project/initiatives has not been proposed for DRI funding.

12) **Funding sources** - identify committed funds and potential funding sources from public and/or private sources; clearly identify if and to what level the project or initiative is being recommended for funding through the DRI award; or otherwise clearly identify availability of alternative funding sources that are more appropriate than the DRI award e.g. CFA funds, federal funds, private funds; describe how funds will be leveraged.

13) **Site ownership/legal jurisdiction** - identify site ownership/jurisdiction over the project/initiative; identify any site control issues and proposed resolutions.

14) **Regulatory Requirements** - identify review, approvals, and/or permits related to the project/initiative (local, State, federal), as applicable.

15) **Public Support** - indicate and describe the level of public support for the project/initiative; refer to any specific outreach over and above that documented for the DRI Strategic Investment Plan.

16) **Anticipated Revitalization Benefits** - describe benefits associated with the project/initiative in the short, middle and long terms; identify co-benefits of the overall project/initiative including the economic, environmental, health, and social benefits, as applicable, of undertaking the project/initiative.

17) **Beneficiaries** - describe the groups of people that benefit from the project/initiative (e.g., community residents, commuters, seniors, youth, families, low- to moderate-income persons, tenants or renters, home owners, small business owners, job seekers, New Americans, etc.).

18) **Cost-Benefit Analysis** - **Projects proposed for DRI funding must be supported**, as appropriate, by cost-benefit analyses, pro forma, targeted economic assessments, market studies, and/or other analyses as appropriate to demonstrate the feasibility and characterize potential impact of the project on the overall economic health of the downtown area and surrounding region. Include a cost benefit analysis of undertaking a project/initiative, a summary of the findings on estimated project costs and anticipated financial and other benefits. **NOTE:** a cost benefits analysis is not required if the project/initiative has not been proposed for DRI funding.

19) **Jobs Created** - provide the number of full time or full time equivalent jobs created by this project/initiative (if applicable). Do not include construction jobs required to build the project.

20) **Timeframe for Implementation and Project readiness** - include a general timeframe and phasing for implementation with milestones and deliverables, with immediate next steps expressed in number of months. (e.g., prepare engineering design document (2 months), permit
submissions, review and approval (3 months), etc.). Where appropriate, describe any preliminary work that is needed to advance the proposed project/initiatives and indicate whether any of this work has been completed or what parts of this work remains to be completed (for example, if a construction project, designs have been prepared, permits and/or other approvals obtained, or at least submitted, to facilitate construction). Provide any known or anticipated start and completion dates. If precise dates are not available, provision of a general timeframe with milestones is acceptable.

21) **Project Metrics** - describe how the project/initiative will be monitored during and after implementation for progress (including expenditures and schedule), performance, and impact on downtown revitalization.

**SUMMARY TABLE**

A summary table shall be prepared that reflects all projects/initiatives developed by the LPC and included in the Strategic Investment Plan. The table should be sorted to show the projects/initiatives proposed for funding from the DRI award first. Projects should not be prioritized but shown in descending order of cost. The table should be located as an appendix in the Strategic Investment Plan. The table shall be formatted as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Responsible Party</th>
<th>Estimated Cost</th>
<th>Funding Sources</th>
<th>Proposed Start Date</th>
<th>Anticipated Completion Date</th>
<th>Jobs Created</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTES**

**Cost and Budget Evaluation**

In finalizing the project profile templates be aware that budget and cost details of the profile will be evaluated as part of the application and review process to assess the degree to which they meet the elements of each criterion below.

- Project profile describes and documents how the budget and cost were determined. The person(s) responsible for compiling the budget including relevant experience and background of all parties and the method/approach used to arrive at estimates should be identified either in the Project Profile or included as a general statement in the DRI plan narrative.

- Costs meet eligibility requirements of the program. **NOTE: Questions on eligibility should be referred to the DOS Lead Planner as project and funding details emerge.**

- Project profile clearly demonstrates what leveraged funds will be provided, if appropriate.
• Costs clearly relate to and support activities in the proposed project/initiative. Project profile demonstrates logical justification for all expenses proposed.

• Project profile includes adequate detail for all project components involved, is cost-effective, presents necessary and realistic costs, and does not contain extraneous or ineligible expenses. Costs are accurate and thorough. Project profile includes an explanation for the estimate of and clearly supports the applicant’s need for financial resources requested to achieve project outcome. Project profile describes how the grant recipient will monitor expenditures during the life of the project to ensure that the project stays on schedule and within budget.

**New York State Smart Growth Public Infrastructure Policy Act**

In finalizing the project profiles be aware that DRI awards shall be consistent with the State’s Smart Growth Public Infrastructure Policy Act (Environmental Conservation Law, Article 6), where applicable. Smart Growth encourages community planning and development in priority economic growth areas where water and sewer infrastructure is available; encourages redevelopment of existing community centers; and protects important natural and historic resources, including water quality. The text in the project profiles should be crafted to address smart growth principles.

The State Smart Growth Public Infrastructure Policy Act identifies that State Infrastructure Agencies that approve and fund public infrastructure are responsible for implementation of the Infrastructure Act. A state infrastructure agency shall not approve, undertake, support or finance a public infrastructure project, including providing grants, awards, loans or assistance programs, unless it is consistent with the smart growth principles. Each applicable project profile will be reviewed by the appropriate funding agency and will adhere to the following Smart Growth criteria:

• The infrastructure component advances projects for the use, maintenance or improvement of existing infrastructure;

• The infrastructure component advances projects located in municipal centers;

• The infrastructure component advances projects in developed areas or areas designated for concentrated infill development in a municipally approved comprehensive land use plan, local waterfront revitalization plan and/or brownfield opportunity area plan;

• The infrastructure component protects, preserves, and enhances New York State’s resources, including agricultural land, forests, surface and groundwater, air quality, recreation and open space, scenic areas, and significant historic and archeological resources;

• The infrastructure component fosters mixed land uses and compact development, downtown revitalization, brownfield redevelopment, the enhancement of beauty in public spaces, the diversity and affordability of housing in proximity to places of employment, recreation and commercial development and the integration of all income and age groups;

• The infrastructure component provides mobility through transportation choices including improved public transportation and reduced automobile dependency;
• The infrastructure component coordinates between state and local government and intermunicipal and regional planning;

• The infrastructure component participates in community-based planning and collaboration;

• The infrastructure component ensures predictability in building and land use codes; and

• The infrastructure component promotes sustainability by strengthening existing and creating new communities which reduces greenhouse gas emissions and does not compromise the needs of future generations, by among other means encouraging broad-based public involvement in developing and implementing a community plan and ensuring the governance structure is adequate to sustain its implementation.

**Community Resilience - Mitigate Future Physical Climate Risks**

Climate change, sea level rise, increased frequency and intensity of storms and the resultant flooding from these weather related changes, challenge communities and impact services on which residents and tourists depend. The health of communities rests on their ability to reduce or avoid harm and rebound from storm impacts when they occur. Communities can move forward successfully only when they are prepared to respond quickly and strategically to changing conditions. An emphasis should be placed in the project profiles on describing how the project mitigates any risks and impacts.