



Moving Fonda > Forward Public Informational Meeting

Saturday, October 18th, 2025 @ 1:00 PM 8 E. Main Street, Fonda (Municipal Building)

NY Forward Grant Application Overview

The Village of Fonda is preparing an application for the **New York State NY Forward Grant Program**, designed to help smaller and rural communities revitalize their downtowns and position themselves for long-term economic growth.

NY Forward builds on the success of the **Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI)** by providing funding to communities like ours that are ready to take the next step in their development.

Our shared vision, **Moving Fonda > Forward**, is to create a vibrant, accessible, and connected downtown that supports local businesses, encourages investment, and enhances the quality of life for residents and visitors alike.

About NY Forward

The NY Forward Program supports **capital projects** that are transformative, catalytic, and community-driven. Projects must align with a **Strategic Investment Plan (SIP)** developed by a Local Planning Committee (LPC) and approved by the State.

Eligible projects must be located **within or near the designated downtown boundary** and demonstrate a realistic timeline for completion—typically within two years of funding.

Projects should contribute to a stronger, more resilient community by improving infrastructure, repurposing buildings, and creating public spaces that draw people to live, work, and visit downtown Fonda.

Examples of Eligible Project Types

Project Type	Description / Examples	Notes / Conditions
Public improvements / infrastructure / streetscape	Sidewalks, lighting, benches, street furniture, signage, wayfinding, decorative paving, traffic calming, pedestrian connectivity, public realm upgrades	These often serve to improve walkability, aesthetics, and connectivity.
Green infrastructure, stormwater, landscaping	Bioswales, rain gardens, tree planting, stormwater management tied to public realm improvements	Adds environmental / resilience value
Plazas, trails, public open space, parks	Creation or improvement of public spaces, pocket parks, riverwalks, plazas, waterfront access, trails	Places for gathering, recreation, or linking destinations
Building rehabilitation / adaptive reuse	Renovating underutilized or historic buildings, converting upper floors to residential or mixed use, façade improvements	Helps increase downtown density and reuse existing assets

Project Type	Description / Examples	Notes / Conditions
New construction / infill / mixed use development	New infill buildings in downtown cores (often mixed use — ground floor commercial + upper floor housing)	Must be compatible with the overall downtown vision
Façade enhancements / small-scale renovations	Exterior improvements to storefronts, signage, window replacement, masonry repair, historically appropriate renovations	Often in the “small project funds” category
Branding, marketing, and placemaking / activation	Downtown branding campaigns, signage / wayfinding systems, public art, murals, cultural programming infrastructure (e.g., staging, small performance elements)	To raise awareness, attract visitors, and reinforce identity
Parking / parking enhancements	Parking infrastructure (if it supports downtown development)	Parking must support the larger revitalization goals, not dominate them
Supportive infrastructure for housing / mixed uses	Utilities, access, pedestrian / bike connections to support new residential / commercial projects	Infrastructure must be tied to a broader catalytic project
Site improvements / site readiness	Site preparation, demolition (in limited cases), environmental remediation (when tied to a redevelopment project)	Demolition alone or land banking may have restrictions

Source: NY Forward Program Overview

Project Eligibility and Considerations

- Projects must align with the **Village’s vision** for revitalization and the forthcoming **Strategic Investment Plan (SIP)**.
- Only **capital investments** (physical improvements) are eligible for funding.
- **Operational or maintenance costs**, such as staffing, programming, or utilities, are not eligible.
- Projects should be **ready to proceed**, with site control, financing, and approvals achievable within two years of award.
- Each project should demonstrate **transformative potential**, meaning it will catalyze additional investment, activity, or redevelopment in the downtown.
- Preference is given to projects that enhance **connectivity, accessibility, sustainability, and community character**.

Community Participation

The success of our NY Forward application depends on community involvement.

Residents, business owners, and property owners are encouraged to share ideas and submit potential project concepts for inclusion in the Village’s NY Forward proposal.

Your input will help shape the **Strategic Investment Plan**, ensuring that the projects selected reflect our community’s priorities and vision for a thriving downtown Fonda.

Join Us in Moving Fonda > Forward & Register to Let Us Know You're Coming!

Together, we can continue the progress already underway and position Fonda for a future of growth, opportunity, and community pride.

For more information, visit the **Village of Fonda website** or contact the **Village Clerk’s Office** at 518-853-4335.

Register Here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ny-forward-application-informational-meeting-tickets-1777733301159?aff=oddtcreator>

