

**CDRPC**

**May 29, 2019**

# **Funding for Infrastructure & Public Facilities**

## ***Playing to Win the Grants Game***

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**Jim Thatcher**

**Manager, Community Development**

**C.T. Male Associates**

# Introduction

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- Jim Thatcher / [j.thatcher@ctmale.com](mailto:j.thatcher@ctmale.com)
- Manager of Community Development – 2015
- Funding Consultant for 20 Years
- Upstate NY since 1977
- 45 Communities / \$50 Million in Funding

***Find and Get Money /  
Help You Spend it Right!***



# Why Now?

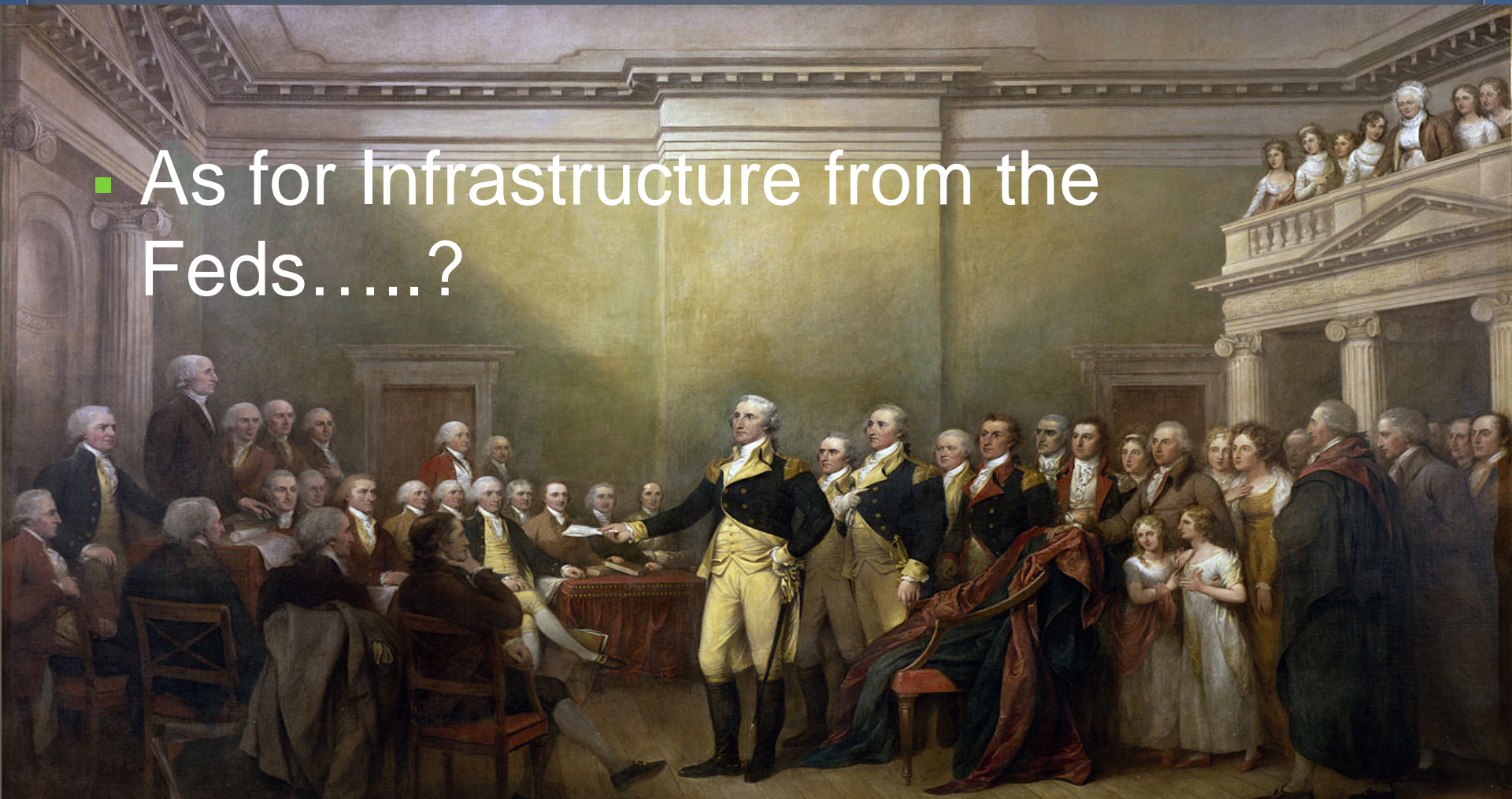
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- NYS: **\$2.5 Billion** / Clean Water and Sewer
- As Fed Rate goes up, State loan rates better
- Flood and Disaster Resiliency
- Capacity to support JOBS and Housing
- Energy Conservation / Green Practices



# Why Now?

- As for Infrastructure from the Feds.....?



# Project Planning

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- What do we *WANT* to do?
- What do we *HAVE* to do?
- What are we starting with?
- When can be ready?



# Getting Ready

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- Prioritize *needs and capacity*
- Identify the desired solution and alternatives
- Work with Engineers on probable costs
- Funding options / Application eligibility and thresholds, district formation, financing plans
- *Committing to a Project and Local Financing*



# Knowledge is Power

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## Engineering Reports & Cost Estimates

- There is GRANT funding for Engineering Plans
- EFC / NYS CDBG Program
- Competitive / Could set project schedule back
- Can you fund technical reports and capital plans locally to avoid delays – **TIP:** *Focus on entire system as an infrastructure master plan to carve out phased projects in more specific areas*



# Must Haves to Pass Go

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- District formation - (new systems / extensions)
- Engineering Report and Cost Estimates
  - *Varies in detail and up-front work*
- Plan of Finance – *How to pay?*
- SEQR / SHPO
- When will you need the funds?



# Plan of Finance

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- Don't count on 100% GRANT funds
- Short-term BANs to cover ALL costs
- Plenty of Federal / State loans
- Market rates vs. subsidized loans + fees
- Submit ***Hardship Application*** early



# Readiness

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- Application threshold **OR** points?
- Bond Resolution for State funding - *intent*
- What work can you front load?
  - Project Boundaries / Map Plan & Report
  - Income Survey / EDU count
  - Archaeology – *talk to SHPO early*
  - Financing Info to EFC - *to determine Hardship*



# Basic Services



# Planning Money

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- **Environmental Planning Grant Program – (EFC)**
  - Engineering studies of WWTP and Collection (I&I)
  - Muni with certain MHI / \$30k to \$100k with 20% Match
- **NYS Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program**
  - Planning Grant / \$50,000 with 5% CASH Match
  - Engineering plans and initial design work
  - Intent is to prepare a Project for a future CDBG Application
  - Benefit to low and moderate income residents / district



# Design / Build Funding

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## NYS Water Grants Program (WIIA)

- NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC)
- Drinking Water (60%) / Wastewater (25%)
- Finance remainder with State loan or Local Bonds
- WIIA is **NET** any other Grants
- Comply with State Revolving Fund (SRF) Rules

***Early Fall 2019 - Generally Annual Funding Cycles***



# Design / Build Funding

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## NYS Water Grants Program – (WIIA)

- Scoring by the DEC (for Sewer) / DOH for Water
- Hardship Criteria - 0% Loan for remainder of Project
- Bond Resolution or other funds to show *readiness*
- Engineering Report with the grant application
- SEQR / SHPO finished when you apply

*Up front work....But more plentiful funding*



# Design / Build Funding

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## Water Quality Improvement Program (WQIP)

- Wastewater Treatment / Conveyance
- Municipalities, MS4s, Soil & Water Conservation Districts
- Annual funding cycle through the CFA
- Focus on local and regional **water quality** problems
- 25% to 75% of hard construction costs
- Funding maximums generally < \$5 Million

***Be mindful of annual priorities and scoring factors***



# Design / Build Funding

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## NYS Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

- **Infrastructure** — Water, Sewer, Storm-water
- **Public Facilities** — Senior / Youth Centers
- **Microenterprise Assistance** — Start-ups and Businesses with five (5) or fewer employees
- **Planning** — Engineering / Needs Assessments for Public Infrastructure / Facilities such as Senior Centers



# CDBG Program

- \$20-\$25 Million Annual
- Municipalities - (only)
- Counties - (Non-HUD Entitlement)
- Joint Muni Applications
- Co-Funding of Infrastructure Projects is Encouraged – (if other funds are *committed*)

## *The Skinny*

- Highly Competitive
- Income Targeted
- 100% Grant (generally)
- Why NOT other funds?
- Meets local priorities
- Prep Time (months)



# CDBG Program

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- Up to \$750k for Water, Sewer, Storm Drainage Projects
- Up to \$1 Million if the Project is “Co-Funded” with other Federal or State grant and/or loan programs - **awarded**
- Benefit to Low and Moderate Income persons - **Income Survey of Project Area or community might be required**
  - *Is not acceptable to pull Census data and assume*
- **Preliminary** Engineering Report submitted w/ Application
- Must seek other funds **first**; Awards based on **NEED**



# CDBG Infrastructure Grant

## Village of Fort Edward



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**Town of AuSable  
CDBG Planning Grant – 2015  
Public Facility Grant - 2018**



Reuse of the former  
**Keeseville Civic Center**



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# CDBG Public Facility

City of Little Falls



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# Don't Overlook These

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## “Niche” Infrastructure Programs

- **Emerging Contaminants Project Planning Grant Program – (EFC and DOH)**
  - Engineering studies for Water Systems with known emerging contaminants – (PFOA, PFOS, 1,4-dioxane)
- **Inter-Municipal Grant Program – (EFC)**
  - **Similar to WIIA** / 40% of Project Costs / Shared Municipal Systems
  - SEQR / SHPO and Bond Resolution at Application



# Could Be Worth a Shot

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## Economic Development Purpose

- **Empire State Development Corp. (ESD)**
  - Demolition, construction, water and sewer mains
  - Treatment facilities to sustain or increase capacity
  - Annual CFA or discuss with regional offices
  - Typically 20% of Project Costs

***Project must attract companies and JOBS***





# It's Nice to be Green

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## Consider **GREEN** Project Components

- **Green Innovation Grant Program – (EFC)**
  - Implement “green” measures to reduce runoff / eliminate CSOs
  - Porous pavement / rain gardens / roof drains / stream day-lighting
  - Innovative and regionally important projects
- **Integrated Solutions Construction Grant - (EFC)**
  - Grant funding added to an existing EFC Project
  - Covers up to 50% of the cost associated with “green” solutions



# Other Federal Options

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## Could Match Primary State Funds

- **USDA – Rural Development**
  - Population under 10,000
  - Limited GRANT funds / Must take their Loan deal
  - Based on MHI and target service charges
  - Low-interest financing for up to 38-40 years
  
- **Northern Border Regional Commission**
  - Certain counties / Up to \$500,000 in GRANT / 80% of Costs
  - Regional Importance / Economic Development Impact



# Year Long Process

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- Consolidated Funding Application – *July*
  - Env. Planning Grant / CDBG / WQIP / GIGP
- WIIA – Annual / *Typically Early Fall*
- USDA / Empire State Development - *Rolling*
- Northern Border – *April / May* (*depends on Feds*)

***Plan Early – Know the Thresholds***



# 2019 CFA & WIIA – *Right Now*

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- Review Program Guidelines for eligibility
- Attend the REDC / EFC workshops & webinars
- Pick *feasible* and *phased* Projects
- Watch the threshold criteria *just to apply*
- *Use planning grants to get started*
- Talk to **C.T. Male** – *We are a funding resource*



# Additional Tidbits

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## Other Types of “Infrastructure” (All CFA)

- **Municipal Parks and Recreation**
  - 50 / 50 or 75 / 25 Grant Program via the CFA
- **Local Waterfront Revitalization**
  - 75 / 25 for Planning and Implementation
  - Recommendations from your adopted LWRP (Plan)
- **Historic Preservation Grant Program**
  - Municipal or Non-Profit facilities listed on Register



# Parks and Recreation

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## Parks Grant Program

- Municipalities
- Non Profits
- Planning and Design
- Land Acquisition
- Construction /  
Renovation
- Various Facilities
- Park Infrastructure

## The Skinny

- 50% Matching
- 75% High Poverty CTs
- \$600k Max Request
- Parkland in  
Perpetuity
- Regional Impact
- M/WBE Goals



# Veterans Memorial Park

City of Little Falls

\$484,000 Parks

\$162,000 City In-Kind

Electrical, Courts, Bathrooms



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# Infrastructure Morsels

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## Additional GRANT Opportunities

- **NYS Council on the Arts**
  - Bricks and mortar for muni or non-profit facilities
- **Recreational Trails Program – OPRHP**
  - < \$2 million / Lots of trail categories / 20% match
- **Canalway Grant Program – NYS Canal Corp.**
  - \$1 million / 50% match / Facilities, trails, infrastructure



# Take Away

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## Funding Opportunities ► *Challenges*

- Bonds – **Great Rates** ► Political / Local Borrowing Limits
- SRF – **Available Funds / Hardship** ► Loans / Extra Fees
- NYS Water Grants - **GRANTS** ► Low % Total Cost / Eligibility
- CDBG – **GRANTS** ► Limited Funding / Income / Competition
- USDA – **Available Loan Funds / 30+ Year Terms** ► Small Grants / Long Processing Times / Paperwork
- WQIP – **Grants** ► Need impaired water body / Consent Order / Not a drinking water program



# Grant Consulting Services

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## More Than Just GRANT *Writing*

- Identify grants and check your eligibility
- Project design / Income Surveys
- Prepare applications / Attend public hearings
- Engineering Reports / Cost Estimates

*Funding “roadmap” - Target easiest grants first*



A scenic view of a river with rapids, industrial buildings, and a bridge under a dramatic sky. The river flows from the background towards the foreground, with white water rapids in the middle ground. On the left bank, there are several industrial buildings, including a large red one and a stone building with a clock tower. A stone bridge with an arch is visible on the right bank. The sky is filled with large, dramatic clouds, with some light breaking through near the horizon.

# Thank You

## Questions / Comments

Jim Thatcher, C.T. Male Associates  
[j.thatcher@ctmale.com](mailto:j.thatcher@ctmale.com) / 518-786-7652



C.T. Male Associates