



# Western NY Power Proceeds Allocation Board

May 24, 2016  
EXHIBIT 4b-C-2

## Western New York Economic Development Fund Recommendation Memo

Applicant Name:	NFIA Stakeholders Group, Inc. ("NFIASG")	REDC Region:	Western New York
Project Type:	Infrastructure/Downtown Investment	County:	Niagara
Industry:	Not for Profit	Locality:	Niagara Falls
Amount Requested:	\$90,000	Start Date:	June 2016
		Finish Date:	June 2017
<b>RECOMMENDED OFFER</b>			
Recommended Total Award:	\$90,000		
Total Project Cost:	\$180,000		
% of Project Cost Recommended:	50%		
<b>PROJECT BUDGET (Proposed by Applicant)</b>			
<b>Use of funds</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Source of Funds</b>	<b>Amount</b>
F.O. Network Feasibility Study	\$48,000	WNY EDF	\$90,000
F.O. Network Design/Eng.	\$24,000	<b>Committed:</b> National Grid	\$90,000
Governance Structure/Org. Capacity	\$18,000		
Broadband Public Policy Program	\$36,000		
Framework to Scale Broadband Inv.	\$27,000		
Project Mgt./Oversight	\$27,000		
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$180,000</b>	<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$180,000</b>
<b>REGIONAL IMPACT MEASUREMENTS</b>			
Job Commitments:	The Funding Track under which the application was submitted does not require job-related commitments.		
Average Salary of Jobs:	N/A		
Indirect Jobs Created	N/A		
Other Impact	None		



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<b>PROJECT DESCRIPTION (Adapted from Application)</b>			
<p>The applicant seeks funding to develop the “NFIA Business District Fiber Optic Network Implementation Plan” (the “Plan”), the second phase of an initiative to assess and develop the fiber optic infrastructure feeding the Niagara Falls International Airport and surrounding businesses.</p> <p>Phase 2 will provide the supporting information necessary to plan for, deploy, and operate a state-of-the-art fiber-optic network in the southern portion of the Airport Focus Area, which includes the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Niagara Falls International Airport;</li> <li>• Former Niagara Falls U.S. Army Reserve Site;</li> <li>• Calspan Corporation;</li> <li>• Niagara Industrial Suites;</li> <li>• Rainbow Industrial Center; and</li> <li>• Wheatfield Business Park.</li> </ul> <p>The objective of the initiative is to provide access to affordable, high speed fiber optic broadband service to existing businesses in the Airport Focus Area and make a direct investment in the fiber-optic broadband infrastructure to facilitate business attraction efforts.</p>			
<b>OTHER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BENEFITS RECEIVED</b>			
ESD:	N/A	NYEDP/DASNY:	N/A
NYS EPF:	N/A	Other: National Grid	\$90,000
<b>PREVIOUS STATE ASSISTANCE OFFERED OR PROVIDED</b>			
<b>TYPE</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	
WNYPPAB	\$125,000	NFIASG only spent \$24,750 of the \$125,000 to complete the original assessment.	



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### **BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

The Plan is intended to promote investments in infrastructure necessary to attract high-tech industries and information technology companies, which are growing sectors of the local, regional, and national economy. Investments in fiber optic infrastructure have the potential to create new job opportunities in these key industry sectors for Niagara County.

The Plan is also intended to maximize capabilities at the Niagara Falls Airport terminal, thus supporting existing and future air carrier service and strengthening the viability of the airport, which is critical to continued tourism development in the Buffalo Niagara region. In addition, the project is expected to support existing businesses such as Calspan and those located at the Niagara Industrial Suites, Rainbow Industrial Center, and Wheatfield Business Park (i.e. Lockheed Martin, Matrix Imaging, Felton Machine, Nuttall Gear, Precision Process Equipment, Delfingen, and others). Lastly, the Plan will indirectly benefit operations at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station (NFARS), which is Niagara County's largest employer with nearly 3,000 jobs and an economic impact of \$200 million annually. The base has been targeted for closure on two separate occasions, but saved through community efforts. Coalescing additional investments in fiber optic infrastructure within the Airport Focus Area could help support existing and new missions, especially high-tech missions that rely on high-speed communications like the new Remotely Piloted Aircraft mission and future missions such as cyber defense. Retention of the NFARS is critical as it shares in the operation and maintenance of the airfield with the Niagara Frontier.

### **POSSIBLE FUND BENEFIT USES AND DISBURSEMENT TERMS**

Use Fund Benefits to reimburse applicant for a portion of the costs associated with development of the Plan. An option is to disburse Fund Benefits in a lump sum upon project completion, as evidenced by such documentation NYPA may require verifying project completion and applicant expenditures of approximately \$180,000.