



Date: MAY 24, 2016

To: TRUSTEES

From: THE PRESIDENT and CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Subject: **Award of Fund Benefits from the Western New York Economic Development Fund Recommended by the Western New York Power Proceeds Allocation Board**

SUMMARY

The Trustees are requested to accept the recommendations of the Western New York Power Proceeds Allocation Board (the "Allocation Board" or "WNYPPAB") and make awards of Fund Benefits from the Western New York Economic Development Fund to the eligible applicants listed in Exhibit "A" in the amounts indicated on Exhibit "A" as discussed in more detail below, and authorize the other actions described herein with respect to such applicants and recommended awards.

BACKGROUND

1. **Western New York Power Proceeds Allocation Act**

On March 30, 2012, Governor Cuomo signed into law the Western New York Power Proceeds Allocation Act (the "Act"). The Act provides for the creation, by the Authority, of the Western New York Economic Development Fund. The Fund consists of the aggregate excess of revenues received by the Authority from the sale of Expansion Power ("EP") and Replacement Power ("RP") produced at the Niagara Power Project that was sold in the wholesale energy market over what revenues would have been received had such energy been sold on a firm basis to an eligible EP or RP customer under the applicable tariff or contract.

Under the Act, an "eligible applicant" is a private business, including a not-for-profit corporation. "Eligible projects" is defined to mean "economic development projects by eligible applicants that are physically located within the State of New York within a thirty-mile radius of the Niagara power project located in Lewiston, New York that will support the growth of business in the state and thereby lead to the creation or maintenance of jobs and tax revenues for the state and local governments." Eligible projects include, for example, capital investments in buildings, equipment, and associated infrastructure owned by an eligible applicant for fund benefits; transportation projects under state or federally approved plans; the acquisition of land needed for infrastructure; research and development where the results of such research and development will directly benefit New York state; support for tourism and marketing and advertising efforts for western New York state tourism and business; and energy-related projects.

Eligible projects do not include public interest advertising or advocacy; lobbying; the support or opposition of any candidate for public office; the support or opposition to any public issue; legal fees related to litigation of any kind; expenses related to administrative proceedings before state or local agencies; or retail businesses as defined by the board, including without

limitation, sports venues, gaming and gambling or entertainment-related establishments, residential properties, or places of overnight accommodation.

Fund Benefits have been provided to successful eligible applicants in the form of grants. Generally, Fund Benefits are disbursed as reimbursement for expenses incurred by an Eligible Applicant for an Eligible Project. Occasionally, Fund Benefits are disbursed in advance for proposed eligible expenditures to be incurred by the Eligible Applicant for an Eligible Project when NYPA determines this approach is appropriate for a project, NYPA has authorized the approach in advance, and proposed expenses can be appropriately documented.

At least 15 percent of Fund Benefits must be dedicated to eligible projects which are “energy-related projects, programs and services,” which is “energy efficiency projects and services, clean energy technology projects and services, and high performance and sustainable building programs and services, and the construction, installation and/or operation of facilities or equipment done in connection with any such projects, programs or services.”

Allocations of Fund Benefits may only be made on the basis of moneys that have been deposited in the Fund. No award may encumber future funds that have been received but not deposited in the Fund.

2. Western New York Power Proceeds Allocation Board

Under the Act, the Allocation Board is charged with soliciting applications for Fund Benefits, reviewing applications, making eligibility determinations, and evaluating the merits of applications for Fund Benefits. The Allocation Board uses the criteria applicable to EP, RP and PP, and for revitalization of industry as provided in Public Authorities Law §1005. Additionally, the Allocation Board is authorized to consider the extent to which an award of Fund Benefits is consistent with the strategies and priorities of the Regional Economic Development Council having responsibility for the region in which an eligible project is proposed. A copy of these criteria (collectively, “Program Criteria”), adapted from the Allocation Board’s “Procedures for the Review of Applications for Fund Benefits,” is attached as Exhibit “B.”

The Allocation Board met on March 4, 2013 and, in accordance with the Act, adopted by-laws, operating procedures, guidelines related to the application, and a form of application. At that time, the Allocation Board defined “retail business” to mean a business that is primarily used in making retail sales of goods or services to customers who personally visit such facilities to obtain goods or services.

The Allocation Board also designated the Western New York Regional Director of Empire State Development Corporation (“ESD”) to be its designee (“Designee”) to act on its behalf on all administrative matters. Among other things, the Designee was authorized to perform analyses of the applications for Fund Benefits and make recommendations to the Allocation Board on the applications.

Under the Act, a recommendation for Fund Benefits by the Allocation Board is a prerequisite to an award of Fund Benefits by the Authority, and the Act authorizes the Authority to award Fund Benefits to an applicant upon a recommendation of the Allocation Board. Upon a showing of good cause, the Authority has discretion as to whether to adopt the Allocation Board’s recommendation, or to award benefits in a different amount or on different terms and conditions than proposed by the Allocation Board. In addition, the Authority is authorized to include within the contract covering an award (“Award Contract”) such other terms and conditions the Authority deems appropriate.

3. Application Process

In an effort to provide for the efficient review of applications and disbursement of Fund Benefits, the Allocation Board established a schedule of dates through the end of 2016 on which the Allocation Board would meet to consider applications. At this time, applications are being accepted on a rolling basis. In addition, the application process was promoted through a media release and with assistance from state and local entities, including the Western New York and Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Councils, the Empire State Development Corporation and other local and regional economic development organizations within the State. A webpage was created that is hosted on WWW.NYPA.GOV/WNYPPAB with application instructions, a link to the approved application form and other program details including a contact phone number and email address staffed by the Western New York Empire State Development regional office.

DISCUSSION

At its April 25, 2016 meeting, the Allocation Board considered applications from (1) Niagara University (“NU”) seeking \$637,096 in Fund Benefits and (2) Niagara Falls International Airport Stakeholders Group (“NFIASG”) seeking \$90,000. The Allocation Board’s staff analyzed the applications and made recommendations to the Allocation Board based on eligibility requirements and Program Criteria. Copies of the recommendation memoranda provided to the Allocation Board for NU and NFIASG are attached as Exhibits “C-1” and “C-2,” respectively. The applications themselves have also been made available to the Trustees for review. The Allocation Board has recommended that these applicants receive awards in the amounts indicated on Exhibit “A”.

Based on information provided in the applications before the Trustees, the proposed projects currently before the Trustees would support approximately \$1 million in new investments.

Given the nascent stage of the proposed projects, it was not possible at this time to identify all of the terms and conditions that would be applicable to the award and memorialized in an Award Contract between the Authority and successful applicants. With the Trustees’ authorization, it is anticipated that the Authority, in consultation with ESD, will negotiate final terms and conditions with the successful applicants after receipt of more detailed information concerning the projects and proposed schedules. Award Contracts may include scheduled payments keyed to commitment milestones, such as employment creation and retention. In addition, staff anticipates that Award Contracts will contain provisions for periodic audits of the successful applicants for the purpose of determining contract and program compliance and, where appropriate, terms providing for the partial or complete recapture of Fund Benefits disbursements if an applicant fails to maintain agreed-upon commitments, relating to, among other things, employment levels and/or project element due dates.

RECOMMENDATION

The Vice President – Marketing recommends that:

- (1) the Trustees accept the recommendations of the Allocation Board and make awards of Fund Benefits to the applicants in the amounts identified in Exhibit “A,” conditioned upon an agreement to be negotiated with each applicant on the final terms and conditions that would be applicable to the awards to be contained in an Award Contract approved by the President and Chief Executive Officer, or his designee,

and approved by the Executive Vice President and General Counsel, or his designee, as to form;

- (2) the Senior Vice President – Economic Development and Energy Efficiency, or his designee, be authorized to negotiate with the applicants concerning such final terms and conditions that will be applicable to the awards, and be authorized to consult with ESD concerning the foregoing; and
- (3) the Senior Vice President – Economic Development and Energy Efficiency, or his designee, be authorized to execute on behalf of the Authority an Award Contract for each award listed on Exhibit “A” subject to the foregoing conditions.

For the reasons stated, I recommend the approval of the above-requested actions by adoption of the resolution below.

Gil C. Quiniones
President and Chief Executive Officer

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Western New York Power Proceeds Allocation Board (“Allocation Board”) has recommended that the Authority make awards of Fund Benefits from the Western New York Economic Development Fund (“Fund”) to the eligible applicants listed in Exhibit “A” in the amounts indicated;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Authority hereby accepts the recommendations of the Allocation Board and authorizes awards of Fund Benefits to the applicants listed in Exhibit “A” in the amounts indicated, conditioned upon an agreement between the Authority and each applicant on the final terms and conditions that would be applicable to the awards and set forth in written award contracts (“Award Contracts”) between the Authority and the applicants, approved by the President and Chief Executive Officer, or his designee, and approved by the Executive Vice President and General Counsel. or his designee, as to form; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Senior Vice President – Economic Development and Energy Efficiency, or his designee, is authorized to negotiate with the applicants concerning such final terms and conditions that will be applicable to the awards, and is authorized to consult with Empire State Development Corporation (“ESD”) concerning the foregoing; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Senior Vice President – Economic Development and Energy Efficiency, or his designee, is authorized to execute on behalf of the Authority an Award Contract for each of the awards listed on Exhibit “A” subject to the forgoing conditions; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Chairman, the Vice Chairman, the President and Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Operating Officer and all other officers of the Authority are, and each of them hereby is, authorized on behalf of the Authority to do any and all things, take any and all actions and execute and deliver any and all agreements, certificates and other documents to effectuate the foregoing resolution, subject to the approval of the form thereof by the Executive Vice President and General Counsel.

Western NY Power Proceeds Allocation Board

Exhibit "A"
May 24, 2016

Applicants Recommended for an Award of Fund Benefits

Line	Business	City	County	Economic Development Region	Project Description	Project Type	Recommended Award Amount	Total Project Cost	Jobs Retained	Jobs Created
1	Niagara University	Niagara Falls	Niagara	Western NY	Phase 2 - Implementation plan related to the Niagara Global Tourism Institute	Tourism Marketing	\$500,000	\$891,325	-	-
2	Niagara Falls International Stakeholders Group	Niagara Falls	Niagara	Western NY	Implementation plan to support development of an Airport Business District Fiber Optic Network	Infrastructure/Downtown Investment	\$90,000	\$180,000	-	-

Total: **\$590,000** **\$1,071,325** - -
Total Jobs Created & Retained: -

**Western NY Power Proceeds Allocation Board
Exhibit “B”**

Criteria adapted from the Western NY Power Proceeds Allocation Board’s
“Procedures for the Review of Applications for Fund Benefits”

1. The extent to which an award of Fund Benefits would be consistent with the strategies and priorities of the Regional Economic Development Council (“REDC”) having responsibility for the region in which an Eligible Project is located.¹ The Western New York Regional Economic Development Council which is responsible for Eligible Projects in Erie and Niagara Counties Strategies & Priorities are:

- Promote “Smart Growth” by investing in areas that infrastructure already exists and achieves certain goals, such as: preserving historic buildings; reviving downtowns; reviving main streets; investing in existing neighborhoods; and investing in former industrial sites. A project consistent with Smart Growth will also focus on: enhancing walkability; enhancing multiple modes of transportation; connecting disadvantaged communities to employment clusters; spurring mixed-use private investment in existing communities and preserving/enhancing natural lands and or resources.
- Promote workforce development by increasing diversity in the labor force, developing and cultivating that includes workers with advancement potential, underemployed, unemployed and special population; align education and skills training to job market for current and future industry needs.
- Foster entrepreneurship and new business formation and growth. Designing a plan that brings new technologies and/or products to the marketplace, increases new start ups in strategic industries and facilitates the commercialization of products that can lead to job growth in the Region.
- Increase the industry profile of agriculture in WNY by: creating better access to markets; creating new products; creating new more efficient processes; creating strong regional brands; creating programs that promote careers in agriculture.
- Utilize Western New York’s proximity to Canadian and U.S. population centers to advance economic development in WNY. Bi-national projects will: utilize cross-border planning to create transportation and logistical infrastructure; improve

¹ As provided for in EDL § 189-c(4), criteria 2-15 are adapted from the criteria for eligibility for Expansion Power, Replacement Power and Preservation Power under Public Authorities Law § 1005. The specific criteria identified in PAL § 1005(13)(b)(4)-(5) are relevant to power allocations under these programs but do not have any logical application to allocations of Fund Benefits. Therefore, the Board does not expect to use these criteria to evaluate applications for Fund Benefits. Additionally, in accordance with PAL § 1005(13), criteria 13-15 listed herein will only be used in the case of Eligible Projects which are proposed by Applicants as, and determined by the Board to be, “revitalization” projects.

operational relationships; promote the attractiveness of WNY as a hub for global trade.

- Position the WNY region as a global energy hub through new sources of clean energy, energy efficiency and energy efficient transportation.
- Support growth of advanced manufacturing by making research more available to manufacturers to help them innovate.
- Spur growth in the health and life sciences industry through improved commercialization, recruit high profile research talent and reducing the cost burden of healthcare while improving health outcomes.
- Expand the scope of higher education by increasing accessibility to Higher Education for communities that currently have limited access to educational opportunities; better aligning education with the industry needs and creating support structures for start-ups which will assist start-ups with commercialization, business planning, workforce preparation, facilities, etc.
- Grow visitors and visitor spending by raising the profile of WNY as a national and international destination; connect multiple tourist destinations in WNY; improve the profile of the WNY Gateway to the United States.

For more information on the Western New York Regional Economic Development Council please go to <http://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/content/western-new-york>.

2. The extent to which an award of Fund Benefits would be consistent with the strategies and priorities of the Regional Economic Development Council (“REDC”) having responsibility for the region in which an Eligible Project is located.² The Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council which is responsible for Eligible Projects in Orleans and Genesee Counties Strategies & Priorities can be found at: <http://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/content/finger-lakes>.
3. The number of jobs that would be created as a result of an award of Fund Benefits.
4. The applicant’s long term commitment to the region as evidenced the current and/or planned capital investment in applicant’s facilities in the region.
5. The ratio of the number of jobs to be created to the amount of Fund Benefits requested.
6. The types of jobs that would be created, as measured by wage and benefit levels, security and stability of employment.
7. The amount of capital investment, including the type and cost of buildings, equipment and facilities, proposed to be constructed, enlarged or installed.
8. The extent to which an award of Fund Benefits would affect the overall productivity or competitiveness of the applicant and its existing employment.

² As provided for in EDL § 189-c(4), criteria 2-15 are adapted from the criteria for eligibility for Expansion Power, Replacement Power and Preservation Power under Public Authorities Law § 1005. The specific criteria identified in PAL § 1005(13)(b)(4)-(5) are relevant to power allocations under these programs but do not have any logical application to allocations of Fund Benefits. Therefore, the Board does not expect to use these criteria to evaluate applications for Fund Benefits. Additionally, in accordance with PAL § 1005(13), criteria 13-15 listed herein will only be used in the case of Eligible Projects which are proposed by Applicants as, and determined by the Board to be, “revitalization” projects.

9. The extent to which an award of Fund Benefits may result in a competitive disadvantage for other business in the State.
 10. The growth potential of the applicant's facilities and the contribution of economic strength to the area in which the applicant's facilities are or would be located.
 11. The extent of the applicant's willingness to satisfy affirmative action goals.
 12. The extent to which an award of Fund Benefits is consistent with state, regional and local economic development strategies and priorities and supported by local units of government in the area in which the business is located.
 13. The impact of an award of Fund Benefits on the operation of any other facilities of the applicant, and on other businesses within the region.
 14. That the business is likely to close, partially close or relocate resulting in the loss of a substantial number of jobs.
 15. That the applicant is an important employer in the community and efforts to revitalize the business are in long-term interests of both employers and the community.
 16. That a reasonable prospect exists that the proposed award of Fund Benefits will enable the applicant to remain competitive and become profitable and preserve jobs for a substantial period of time.
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Western NY Power Proceeds Allocation Board

Western New York Economic Development Fund Recommendation Memo

EXHIBIT C-1

Applicant Name:	Niagara University (“NU”)	REDC Region:	Western New York
Project Type:	Tourism/Marketing	County:	Niagara
Industry:	Not for Profit	Locality:	Niagara Falls
Amount Requested:	\$637,096	Start Date:	June 2015
		Finish Date:	May 2017
RECOMMENDED OFFER			
Recommended Total Award:	\$500,000		
Total Project Cost:	\$891,325		
% of Project Cost Recommended:	56%		
PROJECT BUDGET (Proposed by Applicant)			
Use of funds	Amount	Source of Funds	Amount
Salaries and Wages	\$478,340	WNY EDF	\$637,096
Rent/Lease/Utilities	\$158,750	Committed: Niagara University	\$254,229
Supplies and Materials	\$ 1,700		
Training, Research, Conferences	\$ 10,500		
Wi Fi Feasibility Study/VCA	\$100,000		
Leasehold Improvements	\$ 20,000		
Administrative Overhead	\$ 23,112		
Sub-Committee Meeting Costs	\$ 6,000		
Local Travel	\$ 3,000		
2 nd Project Outcomes – Web/database	\$ 20,000		
Disney Institute Program Related	\$ 69,923		
Total:	\$891,325	Total:	\$891,325
REGIONAL IMPACT MEASUREMENTS			
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		



Western NY Power Proceeds Allocation Board

Western New York Economic Development Fund Recommendation Memo

EXHIBIT C-1

PROJECT DESCRIPTION (Adapted from Application)

The applicant is seeking funding to support a project (the “Second Project”) which builds off an initial project funded through the WNY Economic Development Fund (the “First Project”) that established the Niagara Global Tourism Institute (“NGTI”) in the City of Niagara Falls, NY. The Second Project will focus on implementing the following initiatives designed by each of the four sub-committees established under the First Project:

- Research Sub-Committee:
 - Assist current stakeholders in making informed investment decisions;
 - Assist potential stakeholders in assessing the market for new ventures;
 - Provide critical data to monitor performance of the tourism sector.
- Skills Development Sub-Committee:
 - Create a tourism workforce and awareness campaign to engage the community and promote career opportunities in tourism/hospitality;
 - Develop executive and professional training programs aimed at industry professionals and corporate partners and focused on both tourism technology and traditional areas of tourism and hospitality;
 - Address gaps in the tourism workforce and develop programming aimed at improving skills and converting unemployed individuals into qualified personnel through sector needs-based training.
- Technology Sub-Committee:
 - Commission a feasibility study to identify infrastructure needs and costs associated with creating a Wi-Fi network. NGTI will partner with Niagara Tourism and Convention Corporation to offer its new tourism platform to individuals using the Wi-Fi network.
- Business Incubation Sub-Committee:
 - Offer incubation space to support small business ventures in the tourism sector. Location within the NGTI allows for direct connections between small business entrepreneurs and NU faculty and students engaged in research and innovation;
 - Attract new investment in downtown Niagara Falls.

OTHER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BENEFITS RECEIVED

ESD:	N/A	NYEDP/DASNY:	N/A
NYS EPF:	N/A	Other:	\$

PREVIOUS STATE ASSISTANCE OFFERED OR PROVIDED

TYPE	AMOUNT	STATUS
WNYPPAB	\$250,000	Complete Funding for First Project
Niagara County	N/A	



Western NY Power Proceeds Allocation Board

Western New York Economic Development Fund Recommendation Memo

EXHIBIT C-1

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The applicant indicates that NGTI's objectives and tourism focus are of great importance to the region and a natural extension of NU's long term strategy to lead in global tourism education and research. This was substantiated by an independent study performed by Millier Dickenson Blais that helped determine methods in which NU could successfully contribute to the enhancement of the regional tourism industry. These objectives align with WNY Regional Economic Development Council strategies and Governor Cuomo's goal to revitalize the Niagara Falls, NY region.

NGTI recently hired Mr. Patrick Whalen as the organization's interim director. Mr. Whalen is noted for his economic development experience and contacts with specific expertise in business incubation, supply chain management and international trade. He brings a wealth of experience to NGTI including:

- A seven-year tenure with the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus;
- President/owner of PJW Transition Services;
- Division manager at UPS Supply Chain Solutions;
- Owner/president of Fulfillment Systems International;
- Founder/co-founder of more than 20 entrepreneurial ventures; and
- Professional leadership positions for several organizations, including the Buffalo Niagara World Trade Center, the Buffalo Niagara Partnership's Logistics Council and the New York State Business Incubation Association.

Funding this project would provide NGTI more time to create a sustainable organization under new leadership.

POSSIBLE FUND BENEFIT USES AND DISBURSEMENT TERMS

Disburse Fund Benefits periodically in arrears on a cost-sharing basis for a portion of eligible expenses presented as part of an acceptable project budget when Applicant meets prescribed milestones.



Western NY Power Proceeds Allocation Board

Western New York Economic Development Fund Recommendation Memo

EXHIBIT C-2

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
RECOMMENDED OFFER			
Recommended Total Award:	\$90,000		
Total Project Cost:	\$180,000		
% of Project Cost Recommended:	50%		
PROJECT BUDGET (Proposed by Applicant)			
Use of funds	Amount	Source of Funds	Amount
F.O. Network Feasibility Study	\$48,000	WNY EDF	\$90,000
F.O. Network Design/Eng.	\$24,000	Committed: 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		
Total:	\$180,000	Total:	\$180,000
REGIONAL IMPACT MEASUREMENTS			
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		



Western NY Power Proceeds Allocation Board

Western New York Economic Development Fund Recommendation Memo

EXHIBIT C-2

PROJECT DESCRIPTION (Adapted from Application)			
<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"> • Niagara Falls International Airport; • Former Niagara Falls U.S. Army Reserve Site; • Calspan Corporation; • Niagara Industrial Suites; • Rainbow Industrial Center; and • Wheatfield Business Park. <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>			
OTHER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BENEFITS RECEIVED			
ESD:	N/A	NYEDP/DASNY:	N/A
NYS EPF:	N/A	Other: National Grid	\$90,000
PREVIOUS STATE ASSISTANCE OFFERED OR PROVIDED			
TYPE	AMOUNT	STATUS	
WNYPPAB	\$125,000	NFIASG only spent \$24,750 of the \$125,000 to complete the original assessment.	



Western NY Power Proceeds Allocation Board

Western New York Economic Development Fund Recommendation Memo

EXHIBIT C-2

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.