

H. SCIDA – Hillside Children’s Center (T203)

October 22, 2009

- Grantee:** Seneca County Industrial Development Agency (“SCIDA”)
- ESD Investment:** A grant of up to \$100,000 to be used for facility improvements and the purchase of a phone system at the Hillside Children’s Center (“Hillside”) Varick campus.
- Project Location:** Former Seneca Army Depot (the “Depot”), Town of Varick, Seneca County
- NYS Empire Zone:** N/A
- Project Completion:** December 2007
- Grantee Contact:** Patricia Jones, Deputy Director
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- Project Team:** Project Management Edward Muszynski
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Project Description:

Background

The SCIDA is a public benefit corporation created by the New York State legislature in 1973, to promote economic development in Seneca County that results in the creation of employment opportunities, enhancement of the quality of life and general prosperity. SCIDA has also been focused on the former Seneca Army Depot, working with its affiliate organization, the Seneca County Economic Development Corporation, to assist existing and prospective businesses interested in locating at the Depot, a 10,600-acre former military facility that has been converted to civilian use. Targeted uses at the Depot include institutional, industrial, commercial, warehousing, technology, and green energy.

Since 1998, ESD has approved approximately \$4.2 million for Depot-related improvements (excluding Restore New York funds). These include two training grants totaling \$500,000 and a \$275,000 infrastructure grant, both from the Community Projects Fund to KidsPeace, and a \$1,000,000 capital grant from the Urban and Community Development Program, also to KidsPeace. In 2004, after KidsPeace suddenly announced that it would close its four-year-old campus for at-risk children, the facility and operations were assumed by Hillside. The renamed Hillside Varick Campus has played an integral role in improving the lives of at-risk children. ESD also made a \$350,000 capital grant from the JOBS Now program to attract The Advantage Group from Maryland to the Depot. All of the above-referenced

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grants were disbursed. In 2006, ESD approved a \$97,500 Build Now New York grant to a company at the Depot to create a shovel ready site. That grant has been partially disbursed. In 2008, ESD approved three separate Community Projects Fund grants that included \$1,000,000 for Hillside. These encompassed renovations to Building 752, a children’s residential unit that was in disrepair, and improvements to roadways and the swimming pool. Additional components of these three grants included \$500,000 for Depot airfield improvements and \$500,000 for private sector companies that were locating at the Depot. All but \$203,616 of the 2008 grants has been disbursed.

Finally, the Restore New York program has committed a total of \$2,856,000 in grant funds to the Town of Romulus to assist companies that have agreed to locate at the Depot. To date, \$1,000,000 in Restore funds, encompassing rounds 1 and 2, have been disbursed.

The Project

Hillside made repairs to Building 703, a children’s residence, which included replacement of a leaky roof and painting of an interior water-damaged area. Additionally, Hillside installed a children’s playground (covering 4,725 square feet), since there was none on the campus, and replaced its obsolete telephone system with a new PBX switch. All of the work has been completed.

The roof repair was done by Real Roofing Innovations, based in Batavia, NY, which was selected through competitive bidding. The playground was built by R.M. Lyons, Inc., of Lyons, NY, who was hired as a result of favorable experience with construction of playgrounds at other Hillside facilities. The phone was purchased from Rel Comm, Inc., of Rochester, an approved federal E-rate vendor. The interior painting was done by a Rochester firm, Craftsmen Unlimited, which Hillside uses to supplement its paid staff.

Financing Uses	Amount	Financing Sources	Amount
Roof Repair and Repainting to Building 703	\$59,000	ESD Grant	\$100,000
Playground Installation	\$32,000	Federal Communications Commission E-rate Program Grant*	\$102,000
New Phone System	114,000	Hillside Children's Center Contribution	\$3,000
Total Project Costs	\$205,000	Total Project Financing	\$205,000

*Provides grants to eligible schools and libraries for telecommunications equipment.

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Environmental Review:

ESD staff has determined that, although the funding of this project by ESD may constitute an “action” as defined by the State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”), the project itself has been previously completed. ESD’s action in the funding decision will not alter the adverse environmental impacts, if any, of the project as completed. ESD staff accordingly believes that funding the completed project will not have any significant adverse impacts on the environment.

Statutory Basis – Local Assistance:

The project is reappropriated in the 2009-2010 New York State budget. No residential relocation is required, as the project does not impact the children’s residence facilities at Hillside.

Disclosure and Accountability Certifications:

The Grantee has provided ESD with the required Disclosure and Accountability Certifications. Grantee’s certifications indicating that Grantee has no conflict of interest or good standing violations and, therefore, staff recommends that the Corporation authorize the grants to the Grantee as described in these materials.