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**NEWS RELEASE**

**ST. LAWRENCE RIVER VALLEY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY AND THE ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION APPROVE AWARDS TOTALING \$444,640 FOR 7 PROJECTS FROM THE 2016 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT FUND.**

This year, applicants requested over \$1.3 million in assistance for projects totaling over \$28 million. Applications were accepted from February until mid-April. Eligible applicants include communities and not-for-profit organizations in St. Lawrence County that are planning to undertake a project that will provide a clear and demonstrable economic, community or environmental benefit.

This year’s awards include:

Business Development Corporation of Massena	<b>Award: \$66,250.00 Loan.</b> A continuation of the Massena Industrial Park Rail Access project, expanding the rail spur trans load pad and paving a portion of the pad with heavy duty concrete pavement. Companies have expressed interest in utilizing the spur to its fullest if equipped with a stable, concrete platform.
Clarkson University	<b>Award: \$93,000.00 Property Investment.</b> Transform currently unusable space into a premium manufacturing environment for start-up companies to drive employment and economic growth.
St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce	<b>Award: \$34,390.00 Grant.</b> To launch an interactive, dynamic four-season trail mapping website, mobile app and marketing materials to promote the Adirondack Seaway Trails. The marketing tools will provide descriptive information on trailheads, boat launches, facilities available and way-finding instruction so that residents and visitors can access, enjoy and respect the environment by remaining on the established trails.
Town of Louisville	<b>Award: \$49,000.00 Grant.</b> Replace 30-35 year old playground equipment at the Community Center, which hosts many events throughout the year, attended by many local families and visitors. Also, the Town will conduct a formal engineering study to determine if a large parcel of land located on the St. Lawrence River should be converted into a Town owned and operated campground, allowing for the Town to become fiscally independent and potentially creating jobs.
Town of Waddington	<b>Award: \$77,000.00 Grant.</b> Improve and enable adaptive reuse of the old town hall, whereby the community will ensure public access and maximize useful space of this historic downtown structure.
Village of Massena	<b>Award: \$75,000.00 Grant.</b> Establish a downtown revitalization fund called Heart of the Community. The fund will be used to assist and incentivize the attraction, retention and expansion of businesses downtown.
Village of Potsdam	<b>Award: \$50,000.00 Grant.</b> Renovations to the Cross-Town Canal, a century-old component of the Village’s storm water sewer system. The proposed project will accomplish several important goals, including the Cross Town Canal’s capacity to efficiently hold and carry storm water will be increased through the elimination of impediments to the flow of run-off.

“There were many good project application’s submitted, but these were the very best based on our guidelines”.  
 St. Lawrence River Valley Redevelopment Agency Chairman Robert McNeil.