



Department of State
Downtown Revitalization
Initiative & NY Forward

OPEN CALL INFO SESSION

STAMFORD | NY FORWARD

JULY 23, 2026



WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS



STATE AGENCY TEAM

Department of State

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Sub-Consultants:

RES Group (Demographics and Economic Development)

EDR (Planning & Public Realm)

KB Engineering (Infrastructure, Cost Estimating)

Kevin Dwarka (Project Profiles)

LOCAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

LPC Co-Chairs

Robert Schneider, Mayor of Stamford

Peg Ellsworth, REDC

Members

Antonia Besculides, WCCRC

Salvatore Fabbella, Catskill Outpost

Linda Stratigos, Stamford Village Library

Cathy McKenna, Stamford Wellness Center

Patricia Heath, Stamford Village Improvement Association

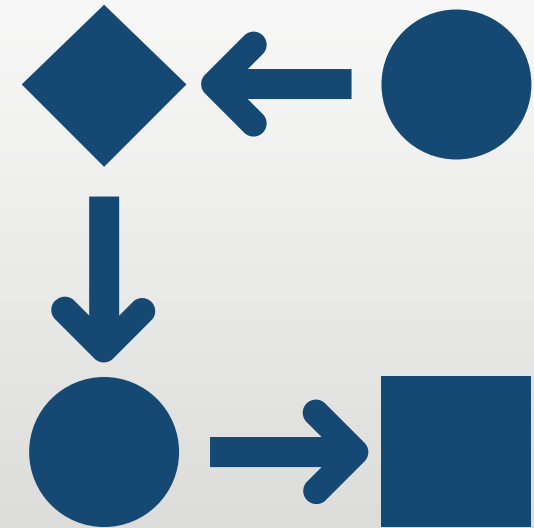
Hannah Bradfield, T.P.'s Café

Letty Karlsen, Delaware County Department of Planning

Patrick Barnes, Roxbury Arts Group

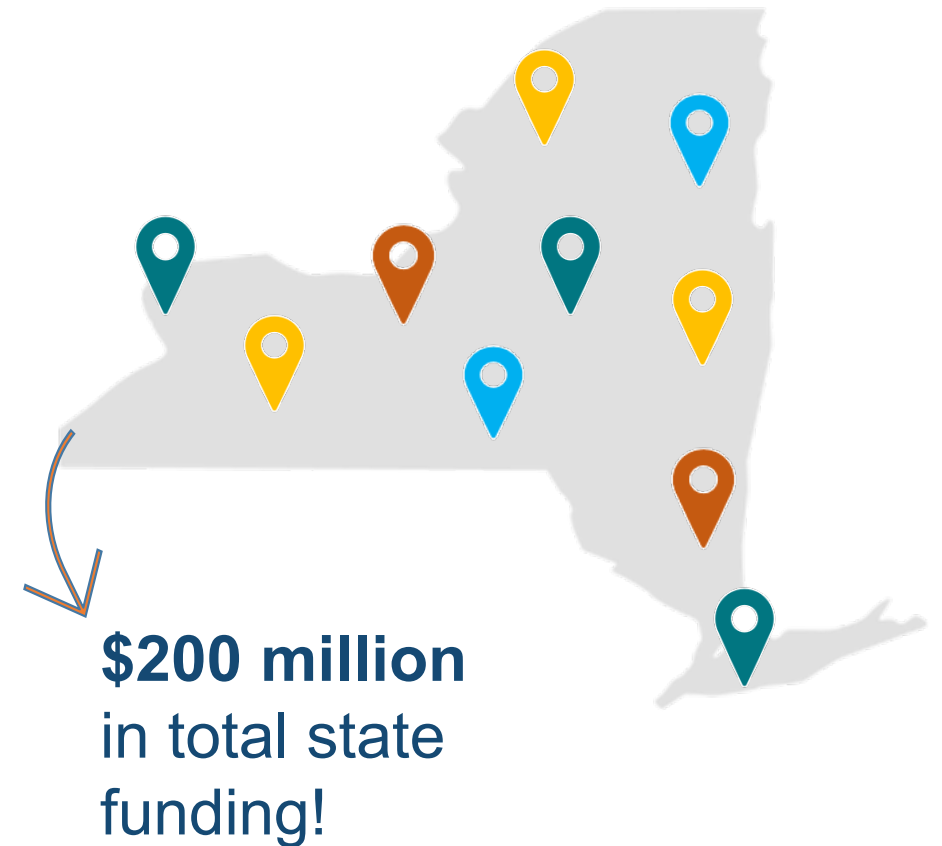
Mary Skinner, Village of Stamford Planning Board

PLANNING PROCESS



WHAT IS THE DRI & NY FORWARD?

- Two complementary programs with common goals
- State-wide investment to reinvigorate local and regional economies by revitalizing downtowns
- Programs recognize the differences in size and unique qualities of communities throughout the State



DRI & NY FORWARD GOALS



**Enhance downtown
living and quality of life**



**Provide enhanced
public spaces that serve
those of all ages and
abilities**



**Create an
active downtown
with a mix of uses**



**Create diverse
housing options for
all income levels**



**Provide diverse employment
opportunities for a variety of
skill sets and salary levels**



**Grow the local
property tax base**



**Encourage the
reduction
of greenhouse gas
emissions**

DRI & NY FORWARD PROGRAM – START TO FINISH



APPLICATION + SELECTION

Fall - Spring

- Communities prepared and submitted applications to REDCs
- REDCs nominated communities
- State announced winners



PLANNING

8-9 months

- Local Planning Committees (LPCs) are established
- Community vision and goals are refined
- Projects are identified + developed
- LPC recommends projects to State
- LPC assists with the preparation of the Strategic Investment Plan

YOUR FOCUS IS HERE!



IMPLEMENTATION

5-year timeframe

- Final Strategic Investment Plan is submitted to the State
- Projects are selected and awarded

SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS IN OUR REGION



Gateway signage and recreation improvements in Watkins Glen (2017 DRI)

Source: LaBella Associates



Local businesses that opened with support of DRI funding in Owego (2018 DRI)

Sources: Owego Pennysaver, Binghamton Homepage

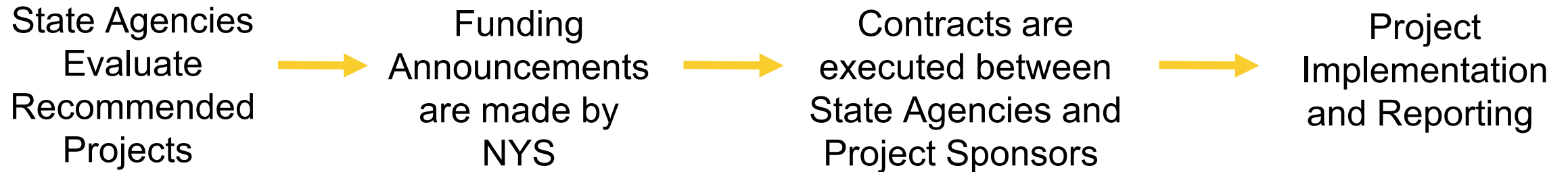
SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS IN OUR REGION



NY FORWARD TIMELINE

Month	Task
July 2026	• LPC Meeting #1 • Begin work on Downtown Assessment • Launch Open Call for Projects
August 2026	• Public Workshop #1 on August 10, 2026 • Open Call for Projects
August/September 2026	• LPC Meeting #2 on September 17, 2026 • Open Call for Projects
September/October 2026	• LPC Meeting #3 on October 15, 2026 • Begin project development with sponsors • Downtown Assessment finalized
November 2026	• LPC Meeting #4 • Public engagement to receive feedback on projects and gauge support
December 2026	• LPC Meeting #5 • Development of project profiles and SIP
January 2027	• LPC Meeting #6 • Vote on final slate of projects
March/April 2027	• Final SIP due to DOS
Summer/Fall 2027	• Announcement of NY Forward awards

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE PLANNING PROCESS IS OVER



- Announcements are typically made in the spring following submission of the Strategic Investment Plan
- Projects begin implementation as soon as is feasible

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

- All awards are provided as a reimbursement grant – project sponsors must complete work before monies are provided.
- Project sponsors will likely need to secure bridge financing to cover costs while project is being completed.
- All awards are subject to State requirements, including Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) goals, competitive procurement, etc.

PROJECT EVALUATION



ELIGIBLE PROJECT TYPES FOR OPEN CALL



Public Improvement Projects

Streetscape and transportation improvements, recreational trails, new and upgraded parks, plazas, public art, green infrastructure and other public realm projects.



New Development and/or Rehabilitation of Existing Downtown Buildings

Development and redevelopment of real property for mixed-use, commercial, residential, not-for-profit or public uses. Development/redevelopment should result in employment opportunities, housing choices or other community services.



Small Project Grant Fund

A locally managed matching small project fund (up to \$300,000-600,000) for small downtown projects, such as façade improvements, building renovations, business assistance or public art.



Branding and Marketing

Downtown branding and marketing projects that target residents, tourists, investors, developers and visitors.

INELIGIBLE PROJECT ACTIVITIES FOR OPEN CALL

- **Planning Activities:** All NY Forward funds must be used to implement projects.
- **Operations and Maintenance:** Funds cannot be used for on-going or routine expenses, such as staff salaries and wages, rent, utilities, and property up-keep.
- **Pre-award Costs:** Reimbursement for costs incurred before the completion of the Strategic Investment Plan and the announcement of funding awards is not permitted.
- **Property Acquisition:** NY Forward funds cannot be used for property acquisition.
- **Training and Other Program Expenses:** NY Forward funds cannot be used to cover continuous costs, such as training costs and expenses related to existing programs.
- **Expenses related to Existing Programs:** NY Forward funds cannot supplement existing programs or replace existing resources.

SMALL PROJECT FUND

- Locally managed matching small project fund (up to \$300,000-600,000) for small downtown projects.
- For the Small Project Fund to be included in the slate of proposed NY Forward projects submitted to the State, it is important to document interest in it.
- The Village of Stamford's LPC is seeking letters of interest from business and/or property owners to show that there are property and/or business owners interested in participating in this program.

SMALL PROJECT FUND

- **Eligible Activities**

- Interior and exterior building renovations for commercial and mixed-use spaces
- HVAC, mechanical, electrical, or plumbing, and other permanent building improvements
- Upper-story residential improvements
- Business assistance / permanent commercial machinery and equipment
- Soft costs - architecture, engineering, and environmental reviews related to the improvement
- Public art

- **Ineligible activities include:**

- Property acquisition
- Deferred maintenance or general repairs
- Working capital
- Landscaping
- Improvements to municipally owned or operated buildings
- Participant, participant's family, or participant's staff labor

HOW ARE PROJECTS EVALUATED BY THE STATE?



Eligible Project: Projects must be one of the eligible project types.



Alignment with Local and State Goals: Projects must advance the goals established by the LPC for the NY Forward community and the State's overall program goals.



Catalytic Effect: Projects must have a significant positive impact on the revitalization of downtown.



Project Readiness: Projects should be well-developed and ready to proceed as soon as possible upon the funding announcement.



Cost Effectiveness: Projects must represent an effective and efficient use of public resources.



Co-Benefits: Projects must result in benefits to the community, beyond just the project developer, such as: additional economic activity and improved quality of life.

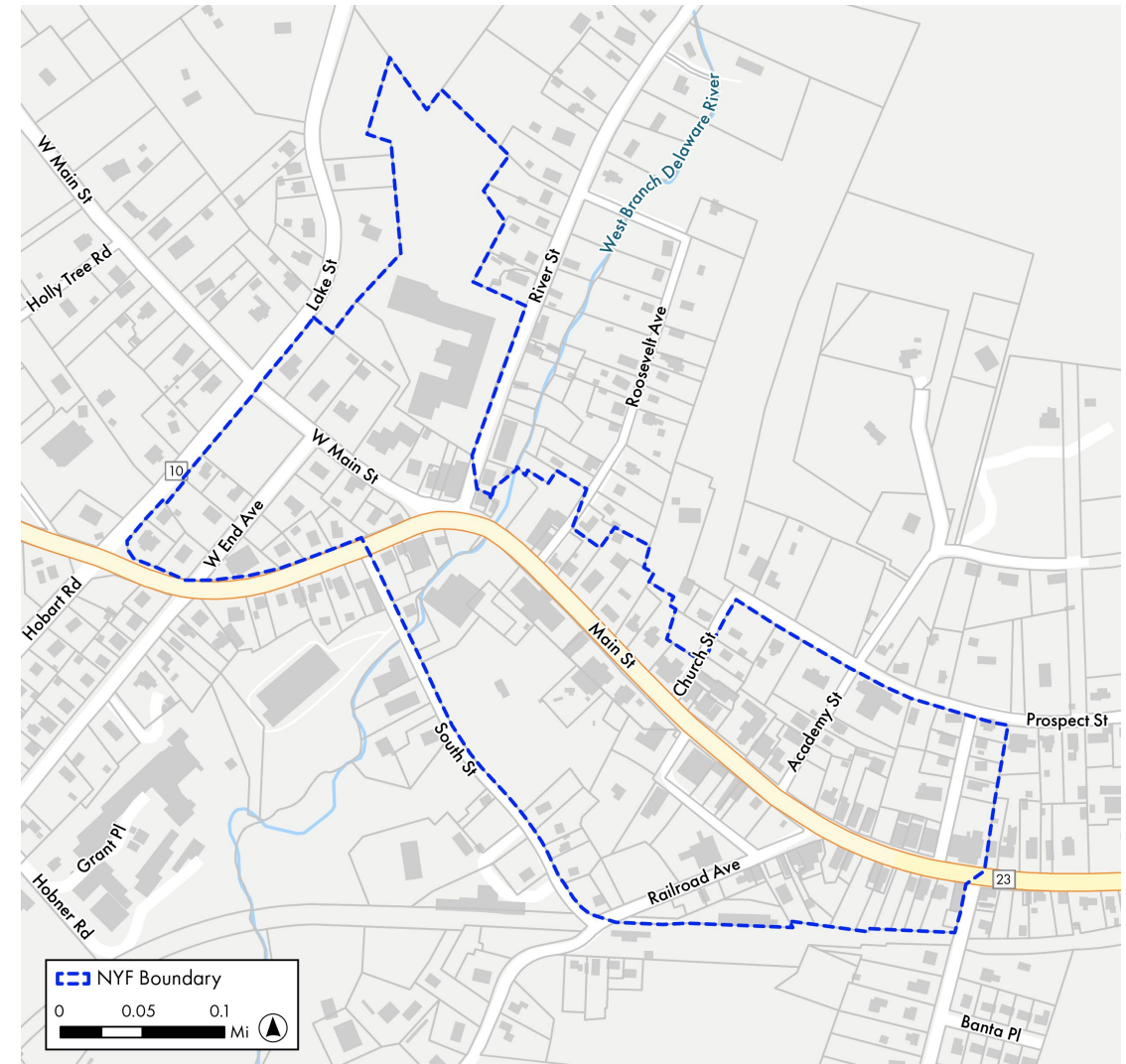
OPEN CALL FOR PROJECTS



DRAFT NY FORWARD BOUNDARY

- The NY Forward Boundary encompasses the Main Street commercial corridor (NY-23) from the intersection of North Delaware Street west to South Street, including one block north and south of Main Street to capture key civic, cultural, and residential anchors.
- The boundary also includes Indian Trail Park, the Robinson Broadhurst Memorial Pool, and Stamford Central School, recognizing their integral roles in downtown life, recreation, and community identity.

The LPC can vote to change the boundary. All potential applicants are encouraged to apply!



PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

- The Village developed a NY Forward Application where some public project ideas were identified.
- **The Open Call for Projects is the main tool to solicit projects from public, non-profit and private project sponsors.**
 - All potential project sponsors should submit through the Open Call.
 - It provides an open, fair, and transparent process for the LPC to vet projects.
 - Submission of an Open Call form does not guarantee inclusion in the final plan.

***Open Call period is scheduled for
July 16 – August 28, 2026***

OPEN CALL FORM VS. SMALL PROJECT INTEREST FORM

OPEN CALL FORM

- Minimum total project cost of \$75,000
- 25% minimum match requirement for private projects
- No minimum match for public or non-profit projects
- Larger development projects may be subject to building decarbonization requirements

SMALL PROJECT INTEREST FORM

- Interest forms are used to demonstrate demand for a Small Project Fund
- 25% minimum match requirement
- Project awards are generally between \$25,000 and \$150,000 each
- Up to \$200,000 can be requested if the project includes directly improving or creating at least 2 residential units

THE OPEN CALL FOR PROJECTS IS OPEN!

Village of Stamford NY Forward



Stamford has been awarded **\$4.5 million** toward projects that will transform the downtown area and support a vibrant local economy.

OPEN CALL FOR PROJECTS

DO YOU OWN A BUSINESS OR PROPERTY IN STAMFORD? SUBMIT A PROJECT!

We are seeking project proposals from the public to be considered for New York State funding.



Fill out the Open Call Form by August 28, 2026: stamfordnyforward.com

Download the Open Call and Small Project Interest Forms:

stamfordnyforward.com

Email address for questions and project submissions:

stamfordnyforward@gmail.com

OPEN CALL PROJECT FORM

Village of Stamford

NY Forward Project Form

The Village of Stamford has been awarded funds through the New York State NY Forward program to fund catalytic projects in the NY Forward boundary to spur revitalization. The Local Planning Committee (LPC) is seeking project proposals from the public for potential projects to be included in the Village of Stamford's Strategic Investment Plan. Projects included in the Strategic Investment Plan will be reviewed by New York State and may receive funding from a total allocation of \$4.5 million.

Project proposals must be received by:

Friday, August 28, 2026 at 6 PM

Visit the project website for more information:
www.stamfordnyforward.com

How to Submit Your Project

- 1 Review the Eligibility Criteria and Project Requirements**
on pages 3-5 to learn about requirements for projects and to make sure your project is eligible to be considered for NY Forward funding.
- 2 Review the Local Vision, Goals, and Evaluation Criteria**
on pages 6-7 to learn about the vision and goals for the Village of Stamford's downtown and about how the Local Planning Committee (LPC) and State will evaluate projects. Stay up to date with the process and refer to the draft and final vision and goals on the website to ensure your project is consistent with the vision for downtown.
- 3 Consider consulting with an Architect/Engineer/General Contractor/ Vendor**
to help define the project scope of work, review the existing conditions, code requirements, and design feasibility, and develop realistic budgets.
- 4 Attend Open Call Information Session, Office Hours, or Other Opportunities to Meet with the Consultant Team**
to learn more about the process and project requirements. Check the website for information about how to attend or sign up.
- 5 Fill out the Project Form**
on pages 8-17. Address each topic thoroughly and completely. The LPC will use this information to consider projects to be included in the Village of Stamford's Strategic Investment Plan.
- 6 Submit your Completed Application**
Submit your completed application (and any supplemental materials) either electronically, in-person, or by mail no later than **Friday, August 28, 2026 at 6 PM**

→ To submit online:

Go to
www.stamfordnyforward.com

→ To submit via email:

Email your completed application and any supplemental materials to stamfordnyforward@gmail.com

→ To submit a hard copy, mail or hand-deliver:

Village Hall
84 Main St,
Stamford, NY 12167

NY Forward Project Form

Please complete this form in order for your project to be considered for LPC and potential NY Forward funding. Please address each topic thoroughly and completely. The LPC will use this information to consider projects to be included in the Village of Stamford's Strategic Investment Plan. Project sponsors are expected to provide timely responses to requests for any additional information from New York State and/or the NY Forward consultant.

- 1 Project Type**
Please indicate your project type:
 - ☐ Public Improvement
 - ☐ New Development
 - ☐ Redevelopment and/or Renovation of an Existing Building(s)
Small Project (Less than \$75,000 in Total Cost)
*If you are interested in submitting a Small Project, do not complete this form; instead, please use the Small Project Fund Interest Form, which can be found at stamfordnyforward.com
 - ☐ Branding and Marketing
- 2 Project Sponsor**
Provide the contact information for the project sponsor, which is the entity proposing to implement the project. The project sponsor can be different from the property owner.
Name:
Sponsor business or organization (if applicable):
Title (if applicable):
Mailing Address:
Phone:
Email:
NYS Tax ID/EIN: **NYS Vendor ID (if applicable):**

SMALL PROJECT INTEREST FORM

Village of Stamford

Small Project Fund Interest Form

Do you own a business or property in the Village of Stamford's NY Forward boundary (below)?

Do you have a building or business in need of smaller-scale improvements such as interior and exterior renovations or permanent equipment acquisition?

The Small Project Fund is a type of NY Forward project that could help fund a range of improvements in a downtown, such as building improvements (e.g., facades, interior fit-out, HVAC, etc.), business assistance (e.g., permanent equipment acquisition), or public art.

For the Small Project Fund to be included in the slate of proposed NY Forward projects submitted to the State, it is important to document interest in it. The Village of Stamford's Local Planning Committee is seeking letters of interest from business and/or property owners to show that there are property and/or business owners interested in participating in this program.

However, submitting a letter of interest does not guarantee that a community will apply for a Small Project Fund as part of NY Forward. The project sponsor (e.g., the municipality or business improvement district) will also have to demonstrate interest and capacity to implement a Small Project Fund. Additional information about eligibility and requirements for the Small Project Fund can be found on Page 1.



A letter of interest (pages 2-3) must be submitted to the project team at stamfordnyforward@gmail.com by

Friday, August 28, 2026 at 6 PM

Letter of Interest

To the Village of Stamford Local Planning Committee,
I am writing to confirm my interest in participating in the Village of Stamford's Small Project Fund.

I own or lease the property located at

I am interested in making improvements to my property/business, which would contribute to the revitalization of not only my property, but also the NY Forward Area. The scope of my proposed project includes the following:

I understand the submittal of this letter of interest does not guarantee funding, and I will be required to submit an application to the administering entity of the Fund, if the project is selected for funding through NY Forward.

I anticipate the total project cost to be approximately \$, for which I understand I would be eligible for a maximum reimbursement of up to 75% of the total eligible costs. I understand that deferred maintenance and general repairs are not eligible improvements. Additionally, if awarded, I understand that upon completion of the proposed scope of work, this project will result in a finished space ready for occupancy. I also understand that this is a reimbursement program, meaning I must complete all the work in the approved project scope, pay all contractors in full, and submit invoices and proof of payment before receiving the grant.

My project includes the following activities/improvements and associated estimated costs:

Activity / Improvement	Cost
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
Total project cost	\$
Total NY Forward funding request	\$

Without the reimbursement to defray 75% of the project cost, I will be unable to permanently commit this amount of money toward the costs of these improvements.

I realize that to be eligible for these funds, I will need to undertake these improvements in cooperation with the Village of Stamford's design guidelines and building and zoning codes, as applicable, State procurement and environmental requirements, and complete the work in a timely manner, within 36 months of the State's grant announcement.

Name:

Address:

Signature: _____

→ To submit via email:

Email your completed application and any supplemental materials to the project team at stamfordnyforward@gmail.com

→ To submit a hard copy, mail or hand-deliver to:

Village Hall
84 Main St, Stamford, NY 12167

Deadline for Submission:

Friday, August 28, 2026 at 6 PM

Questions or comments?

Would you like to schedule a virtual appointment to discuss a potential project in more detail?



Visit the project website:

stamfordnyforward.com



Email the project team:

stamfordnyforward@gmail.com

**Thank You for Your
Interest in the Stamford
NY Forward!**



Department of State
Downtown Revitalization
Initiative & NY Forward