

## Vision


The residents of Tioga County will create change in order to improve their community and quality of life.

## Mission

It is the mission of the Tioga County REAP Board to develop a citizen-built strategic plan which will:

- Enhance economic viability, diversity, and competitiveness of the local economy and
- Assist communities to develop cooperative strategies that will maintain and expand essential community functions, basic infrastructure, education, health care, housing and telecommunications with attention to families in crisis, and with sensitivity toward protecting our quality of life and our natural environment.

## Get In Touch

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 [tiogacountyny.gov/programs-agencies/tioga-county-reap-zone](http://tiogacountyny.gov/programs-agencies/tioga-county-reap-zone)

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**Established 1999**

## Tioga County Rural Economic Area Partnership (REAP)



***You can make a difference...***

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## History

In 1999, U.S. Rep. Maurice Hinchey announced that the USDA was launching an economic development pilot project designed to mitigate the effects of job losses to rural communities and create an environment for long-term economic growth.

Congressman Hinchey negotiated a Memorandum of Agreement with the USDA to establish its rural development initiative in the region.

The Tioga County REAP, along with another REAP project in Sullivan County, NY were the first pilot programs of their kind and were meant to serve as a national model for flexible rural development around the country. The pilot set up a collaborative and citizen-led effort to enhance economic development. Eventually there were five designated REAP zones in the United States.

## What Does REAP Do?

### REAP Board

Each of Tioga County's fifteen municipalities may appoint a REAP representative to serve on the REAP Board. The Board can also include six members-at-large who represent broader county-wide issues.

### County-Wide Initiatives

REAP has partnered in several studies to benefit Tioga County (TC) as a whole, including the:

- 2018 Tioga County Housing Strategy Action Plan
- TC Code Enforcement Feasibility Study
- TC 2020-2025 Tioga County Workforce Development Pipeline Strategy

### Community Partnerships

To accomplish its mission, REAP has worked to build strong partnerships with area municipalities as well as agencies such as Tioga County Economic Development & Planning, Tioga Opportunities, the Tioga County Industrial Development Agency, and Southern Tier 8.

## USDA RD Grant Opportunities

### Community Facilities

This program provides grants, loans, or a combination of both to develop essential community facilities in rural areas. Priority point system based on population, median household income

### RBDG

The Rural Business Development Block Grant program promotes economic development and job creation projects through the awarding of grant funds to eligible entities. Applications will compete in two separate categories, business opportunity grants and business enterprise grants, for use in funding various business and community projects that serve rural areas.

### Water & Waste Disposal

This program provides loans or a grant/loan combination for clean and reliable drinking water systems, sanitary sewage disposal, sanitary solid waste disposal, and storm water drainage to households and businesses in eligible rural areas.