



## **Sullivan County**

## **Economic Development Committee Meeting Agenda - Final**

Chairman Matt McPhillips Vice Chairman Brian McPhillips Committee Member Luis Alvarez Committee Member Cat Scott Committee Member Joe Perrello

Thursday, March 6, 2025

9:30 AM

**Government Center** 

## Call To Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

**Comments:** 

### **Reports:**

**Division of Community Resources** 

**ID-7244** 

Workforce Development Monthly Report

March 2025

Attachments: 2025 Economic Dev March Report

**2.** IDA

**ID-7239** 

**Attachments:** IDA Activity Report February 2025.docx

Visitor's Association

**ID-7240** 

Attachments: EDC MarchReport .docx

- 4. **Chamber of Commerce**
- 5. Partnership for Economic Development

#### Discussion:

1. **Tourism Sector Enhancement Grant Program** 

#### **Public Comment**

#### **Resolutions:**

To adopt the Tourism Sector Enhancement Grant Program and Guidelines.

**ID-7216** 

Attachments: Final Tourism Sector Enhancement Grant Program Complete Packet.pdf

2. Resolution introduced by the Economic Development Committee to authorize a Contract Agreement between the County of Sullivan and Bold Gold Media Group to provide services for the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)

**ID-7201** 

Adjourn





# **Sullivan County**

## Legislative Memorandum

**File #:** ID-7244 **Agenda Date:** 3/6/2025 **Agenda #:** 1.

## Division of Community Resources Monthly Report Workforce Development March 2025

## **Workforce Development**

- The Frito-Lay, Inc. plant in Liberty is closing beginning in May 2025. The required Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act or WARN was filed. There are 287 employees that will be impacted.
- Catholic Charities will be closing their outpatient treatment services resulting in the dislocation of 18 employees within 90 days. The CWD will be working to assist these workers in finding new employment. A WARN was not required.
- The Center for Workforce Development (CWD) is currently recruiting for the Electrical program that will run from March 25 through June 2. Classes will be Tuesdays and Thursdays at SUNY Sullivan. The instructor is being provide by BOCES. Recruitment continues.
- The Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) is gearing up with applications being made available March 1st. The program provides six weeks of paid work experience to low income youth aged 14 through 20. The applications can be found on the County website under the Center for Workforce Development youth services. Applications can also be picked up at the CWD office, 50 North Street, Monticello.
- Working with the County's Human Resources department, we are developing job descriptions and protocols for the different CWD programs that have work experience components.
- The NYS Systems Change and Inclusive Opportunities Network (NYSCION) update:
  - ✓ As of January, there are 203 participants who have received services, 150 are enrolled, 4 are active in the Ticket to Work program and 30 individuals with disabilities have gained employment.
  - ✓ Monthly round table meetings continue to expand.

    Participants have started to track individual job
    placements by organizations as to have more accurate

data on how many individuals with disabilities have gained employment.

### • Center Services:

o In House Recruitments for March 2025

Time: 11:00am – 2:00pm Location: Career Center

3/11: Always Compassionate Home Care Catskills Concierge Inc.

3/18: NYS Police NYS Dept. of Corrections Community Supervision NY Army National Guard US Military Branches Delaware Valley Job Corps

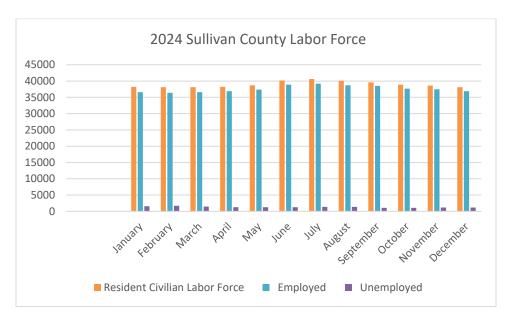
3/25: Adapt of the Hudson Valley
The Smoke Joint

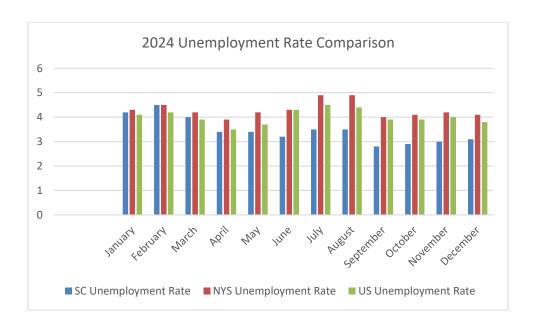
- The monthly recruitment efforts of the Delaware Valley Job Corps and the military branches will be quarterly for 2025.
- The CWD provided services to 8 new business customers and listed 136 jobs in January.
- There were 543 participants that came to the Career Center for services in January.

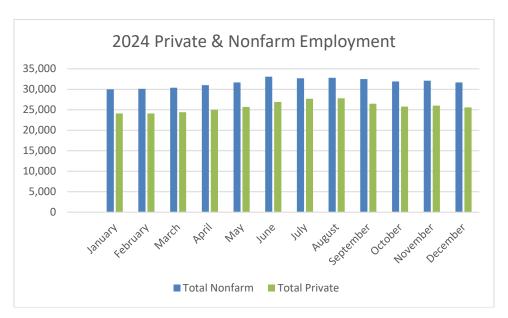
Temporary Assistance caseload profile January 2025:

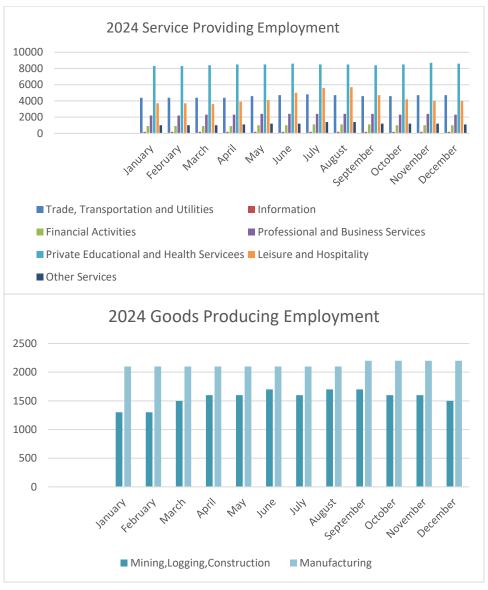
	TANF/SNM	Safety Net
January 2025	Cases - 157	Caseload - 131
Medical Issues	6%	1%
Disabled	19%	0
Pregnant/Newborn	5%	0
Needed in Home	5%	0
No Child Care	12%	0
Criminal Justice		
Involved	19%	58%
Cases Closed	15	15

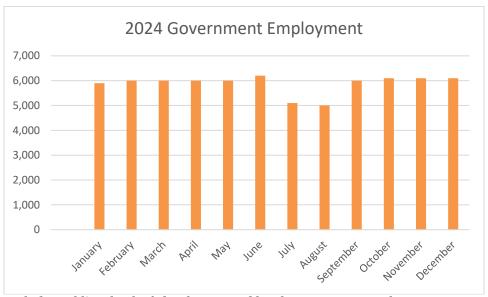
## **Labor Market Data for 2024**











Includes public schools, federal, state and local government employment.





# **Sullivan County**

## Legislative Memorandum

**File #:** ID-7239 **Agenda Date:** 3/6/2025 **Agenda #:** 2.

# ACTIVITY REPORT – FEBRUARY 2025 COUNTY OF SULLIVAN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (IDA), SULLIVAN COUNTY FUNDING CORPORATION (SCFC), THE SULLIVAN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (TSCILDC)

February 27, 2025

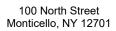
The IDA Board held its regular monthly meeting on February 10, 2025. At that meeting the Board approved a minor revision to the IDA Governance Committee Policy and conducted its annual review of IDA's Procurement Policy, Investment Policy, Disposition of Real Property Guidelines, Mission Statement, and Performance Measurements.

The SCFC and TSCILDC Boards also met on February 10 to review their policies, performance measurements, and mission statements.

IDA staff is working to complete the collection and distribution of 2025 Payments in Lieu of Taxes. To date we have distributed approximately \$3,317,000 to the taxing jurisdictions and we anticipate making one more distribution in the coming weeks.

We are finalizing the 2024 Public Authorities Reporting Information System (PARIS) Reports and the 2024 certified financial audits for IDA, SCFC, and TSCILDC. The IDA, SCFC, and TSCILDC Boards will meet on Monday, March 10, 2025 to review the PARIS Reports and financial audits, and conduct any other business.

##





# **Sullivan County**

## Legislative Memorandum

**File #:** ID-7240 **Agenda Date:** 3/6/2025 **Agenda #:** 3.

## **Update for March 2025**

## **Economic Development Committee**

The 2025 Sullivan Catskills Travel Guide is already being asked for in astonishing numbers. Available in print and digitally it is being distributed through individual request, major bulk distribution centers and at travel and trade shows. It's debut was at the Adventure and Travel Show held at the Javits but will be traveling to several more outdoor shows and golf shows in and around the tri-state area.

February had over 80 events that SCVA assisted promoting. King of the Ice and Rotary Ice Carnival where we had ice. SCVA also hosted the NYSTHA Catskill Legislative Reception coinciding with the Heart-A-Thon.

### HERE ARE THE SULLIVAN CATSKILLS LATEST FAST FACTS

According to the recently released data, 2023 traveler spending in the Sullivan Catskills reached another record high of \$969 million an 8.6 % increase over 2022's traveler spending. Tourism-generated state tax of \$53 million and local taxes of \$50 million, saving the average household in the county an additional \$3,481 to maintain the same level of government revenue.

The growth of tourism has brought about a myriad of economic benefits, including increased employment opportunities and support for local businesses. In 2023, total tourism-generated employment registered 4,908 jobs, \$289 million in tourism generated income.

#### **SCVA Activities for 2025**

- Romance map is done and is very popular again
- Sullivan Catskills Dove Trail Geo Tour has already had Geocachers complete the trail.
- Spring Restaurant Week is coming
- Beyond the Big Apple program through Miles Partnership for advertising
- Continue hosting Media writers and influencers
- Working with Johnson Consulting about feasibility of a Conference Center
- Working with A21 on Catskill Cuisine
- Planning for Catskill Barbeque 2025

#### **Meetings**

- Regional Catskill Association Tourism Promotion Agency Meeting
- Sullivan O&W Rail Trail Alliance Meeting
- SCVA Marketing Meeting
- NYS DMO Meeting

#### Social Media & E-News

• Continue to utilize videos produced by our members to create short vignettes and Tik Tok placements to use on our social channels. Instagram reels are

- seeing a lot of likes and comments.
- In House Social media continues to see fantastic gains

## INFORMATION INCLUDED IS LAST MONTH'S REPORT.

## **November - January New Member Report**

Business Name	Type of Business	Location
ALL Family Farm	Catskill-icious (Farmers Markets & Local Products)	Middletown
Back to Bakers	Catskill-icious (Dining)	Barryville
Casa Di Longobardi	Shopping (local products and specialty market)	Parksville
CleanX Car Wash	Tourism Supporter (Financial Institutions & Professional Services)	Rock hill
Coil + Drift	Art & Culture (Art Galleries & Exhibits)	Jeffersonville
Cuppie Cake Desserts	Catskill-icious (Café & Bakeries)	Jeffersonville
Delaware Valley Farm and Garden Center	Shopping (local products and specialty market)	Callicoon
Double D Sourdough	Catskill-icious (Café & Bakeries)	Jeffersonville
Gary's Cabins	Stay With Us (Vacation Rentals)	White Lake
Homestead Improvement Tourism Supporter		White Lake
JR Capital Solutions	Tourism Supporter (Financial Institutions & Professional Services)	Monticello
Mamakating photo	Shopping (local products and specialty market)	Wurtsboro
Narrowsburg Veterinary	Tourism Supporters (Medical Facilities & Providers)	Narrowsburg
Rise again retreats	Stay with us (Resorts & Retreats)	Hurleyville
The Herbal Scoop	Shopping (local products and specialty market)	Narrowsburg
The Old Foundation	Catskill-icious (Dining)	Kenoza Lake
The Other Magazine	Tourism Supporter	Hastings – on – Hudson
The Outlier Inn	Stay With Us (Cottages, Cabins & Bungalows)	Mountaindale
Toast	Catskill-icious (Dining)	Jeffersonville

Two Farms Brewing		Bloomingburg
	Catskill-icious (Breweries, Distilleries	
	& Wineries)	
Visit Wurtsboro	Tourism Supporter (Member	Wurtsboro
	Organizations & Associations)	

### **Print and Digital Ads and Advertorials Completed**

- Chronogram Newsletter Sponsorship Digital ad
- NY Family February Editorial
- DiscoverUpstate.com listing
- Passport Magazine
- CONY 2025 ad
- Mountains Media Winter 24-25 Print ad
- Byways Magazine Print ad
- Geo Caching Digital Ads
- AARP February Print ad
- NY Family print and digital ads

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#### In Progress:

- Brand USA Global Inspiration Campaign
- Fairfield After Dark Sprint 2025 Campaign
- Catskill Mountain Magazine Print Ads March May
- Catskill Confidential and Hoy en Sullivan Monthly ads
- Philly Magazine March Print ad
- New Banners for 2025
- Roadrunner Magazine Spring Print ad
- Chronogram Monthly Print & Digital Sponsorship ads
- Mass Republican Digital Ads
- Mass Republican Spring/Summer Print assets
- Today Media Digital Ads
- Antiques Trail Map Update (digital only version)





# 2024 FB **ACCOUNT INSIGHTS**

#### NOTES

- FACEBOOK AUDIENCE IS VERY ENGAGED AND RESPONSIVE TO NEW CONTENT
   THE ACCOUNT WENT VIRAL MULTIPLE TIMES IN 2024
   ORGANIC WAS ON PACE WITH PAID ALL YEAR



#### CONTENT INTERACTIONS

#### 2023

Post engagements 231,744 clicks, reactions, saves, comments, shares and replies Engagement Rate 421%

#### 2024

Post engagements 408,300 +76% clicks, reactions, saves, comments, shares and replies Engagement Rate 700% +66%

#### REACH

#### 2023

Accounts Reached 761,053 37,720 Followers 729,194 Non Followers 467,218 Paid 288,062 Organic Impressions 4,625,241 1,897,491 Paid 2,727,750 Organic Profile Visits 36,469

#### 2024

Accounts Reached 1,879,155 +137% 37,559 Followers 1 844 319 Non Followers +153% 1,122,378 Paid +140% 867,435 Organic +201% Impressions 7,601,679 +64% 3,485,472 Paid +84% 4,116,207 Organic +51% Profile Visits 56,774 +56%

#### **GROWTH**

#### 2023

Total followers 54,937 Follows 1,148 Growth Rate 1%

#### 2024

Total followers 56,158 +2.22% Follows 1.892 64% Growth Rate 2.2% +120% A good Growth Rate is 1%

# 2024 IG **ACCOUNT INSIGHTS**

#### NOTES

- IG AUDIENCE IS ENGAGNING MORE WITH NEW CONTENT
   OUR REACH HAS INCREASED AS WELL AS OUR STORY
- GROWTH RATE HAS INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY



#### ENGAGEMENT

Content Interactions 20.051 Engagement rate (Interactions+clicks/followers) 81.74%

Content Interactions 41,746 +108% Engagement rate (Interactions+clicks/followers) 144.85% +77%

#### REACH

#### 2023

Paid 22,280 Organic 565,055 Impressions 1,326,522 Paid 39,473 Organic 1,287,049 Story Impressions 374,186

Accounts Reached 587,335

#### 2024

Accounts Reached 916,286 +56% Paid 166,093 +646% Organic 750,093 +33% Impressions 1,208,651 Paid 238,582 +504% Organic 970,069 Story Impressions 345,117

#### **GROWTH**

#### 2023

Total Followers 24,529 New Followers 2,395 Follower Growth Rate 9.8%

#### 2024

Total followers 28,820 +17% New Followers 4,291 +80% Follower Growth Rate 14.9% +52% A good growth rate is between 2.5% & 5%











# 2024 WEBSITE SESSION INSIGHTS

#### **NOTES**

SOCIAL STRATEGY PRIORITIZING SOCIAL LINKS IS WORKING
 THE INCREASE IN BLOGS HAS ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO SEO



#### ORGANIC SOCIAL

#### 2023

Sessions 17,809 New Users 14,428

#### 2024

Sessions 43,184 **+142**% New Users 39,978 **+177.1**%

# PAID SOCIAL







#### **META PAID SOCIAL**

- In December, with an ad cost of \$2,023.60, we served 189,519 impressions (up 75% YoY), 3,591 link clicks, and a 1.89% link CTR.
- In this period, ads Fall focused ads were replaced by Winter focused ads, according to the seasonality and learnings up to this month.

## Top Ads

- The Winter Ad generated 95,110 impressions and 1,866 link clicks.
- o The Wedding Venue Ad, generated 90,259 impressions and 1659 link clicks.









# Google Ads







- Over 4,288 clicks (+16% YoY) were recorded from our Google campaigns in December. The average cost per click was \$0.82 from the 769,315 impressions. The Catskills Vacation campaign generated 334 link clicks from a 4.85% Click-through rate.
- The display campaign served 762,434 impressions (+188% YoY) and 3,954 clicks (+67% YoY) at an average CPC of \$0.17.
- During this period, the search term "lodging catskills ny" accounted for 4,787 impressions, representing 69% of our total search impressions (6,881). The second-highest search term, "catskills resorts," generated 487 impressions.

# OTT - CTV & DSP







CTV Impressions: 343,951

CTV Completion Rate: 98.74%

Web Conversions: 544

**TOP Zip Codes:** 

- 18301 East Stroudsburg, PA
- 19464 Pottstown, PA
- 17601 Lancaster, PA
- 18104 Allentown, PA

Display Impressions: 259,163

Clicks: 277



CATSKILLS















Date period 12/01/2024 - 12/31/2024 Duration: 31 days





Impressions 769,315



4,288



Average CPC \$0.82



\$3,498.18



0.56%

Campaign conversions

Name	Impressions 🔻	Clicks	Average cpc	Ctr
Smart Display	762,434	3,954	\$0.17	0.52%
Catskills Vacation	6,881	334	\$8.50	4.85%





Total spent \$2,023.60



Link clicks 3,591



Impressions 189,519



107,820



Post Reactions 216



Post Comments



Frequency 1.76



CPC (cost per link click)

\$0.56



 $\begin{array}{l} \text{CTR (link click-through rate)} \\ \textbf{1.89\%} \end{array}$ 

### Top Placement

Publisher Platform	Total spent	Impressions	Reach	CTR (link click-throu	CTR (all)	Post Com	▼ Website Purchases
Facebook	\$1,774.41	179,182	102,291	1.78%	3.03%	8	2
Audience network	\$71.89	3,113	991	3.18%	3.15%	0	0
Instagram	\$177.30	7,224	4,985	4.11%	5.22%	0	0
Unknown	\$0.00	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0









#### **Top Performing Ads**



Ad Name: SCVA Winter 24 Ad A Campaign Name: Traffic Campaign

95,110

Amount spent Impressions \$988.19

CTR (link clickthrough rate) 1.96%

Link clicks 1,866

Ad Name: Wedding Venue Ad Campaign Name: Traffic Campaign

CTR (link click-Amount spent Link clicks Impressions through rate) \$991.32 90,259 1.84% 1,659

CATSKILLS @

Ad Name: Fall Offer 2 Ad Campaign Name: Traffic Campaign

CTR (link click Impressions Amount spent through rate) \$37.59 3,388 1.68%



Ad Name: Fall Offer 1 Ad Campaign Name: Traffic Campaign

Amount spent Impressions through rate) \$6.50 762

CTR (link click-Link clicks 9 1.18%





Account impressions

102,398

Followers 28,820

Engagement 3,892

Static In-Feed Post Impressions 56,815



**New followers** 192



Website clicks 206



Stories Impressions 26,841



Engagement rate 13.50%



Reach 78,433















Impressions Reach Likes 8,140 6,424 753



Message: A Looking for NYE plans? Check out everything we have going on in The Sullivan Catskills ! Full list in our Link In Bio! NYE Dinner &...

Impressions Reach Likes 3,954 203



Message: K Welcome to Parksville, @doubleupcatskills! We love this new restaurant located in a Double Decker Bus! Stop by and enjoy a cup of...

Reach Likes Impressions 6,379 5,463 371



Message: Ready for another great weekend in The Sullivan Catskills? Here's what's happening! 📳 🞄 Attend A Christmas Carol dinner show at...

Impressions Reach Likes 184 4.876 4.061



Message: 🐥 Merry Christmas & Happy Hanukkah from the snowy Sullivan Catskills! We hope you are having the best time celebrating with family...

Reach Likes Impressions 5,164 4,127 292



Message: ♣ Tons of winter fun this weekend & New Years Eve in The Sullivan Catskills! 및 Enjoy the last few days of 2024 with us! 🏂 Hit the...

Impressions Reach Likes 4.828 3,867 145 12/01/2024 - 12/31/2024



Ad Name: Catskills Cuisine Ticket Sales Ad

Campaign Name: Traffic Campaign CTR (link click-Link clicks Amount spent Impressions through rate) \$1,211.47 278,934 0.64% 1,793



Ad Name: Wedding Venue Ad Campaign Name: Traffic Campaign

CTR (link click-Link clicks Amount spent Impressions \$1,923.53 1.98% 220,770 4,363



Campaign Name: Traffic Campaign

CTR (link click-Link clicks Amount spent Impressions \$2,028.70 1,360 01/01/2024 - 11/25/2024 214,634 0.63%









#### **Top Performing Reels**



Message: 🗲 Winter has officially started because @skiholidaymountain is open!! Get ready for a fun season of Skiing & Snowboarding in The Sullivan Catskills. 🚱 Click the link in our bio to learn more about Holiday Mountain!

Plays	Likes	Saved	Shares	Comments
1,903	115	3	15	2



Message: FHere is a Holiday Wine Guide from The Sullivan Catskills! Check out these expert picks from Meg McNeil at @drinkingupstream in Livingston Manor: 64 Phos d'oeuvres: Les Gras Moutons - Muscadet Sevre et...

Plays	Likes	Saved	Shares	Comments
1,635	61	8	16	1

# facebook

•	Impressions 511,321		Started following 74	<b>©</b>	New page likes 33
•	Post engagements 35,434	-@	Page posts impressions 424,984	· 🌣	Page views 3,216
	All posts engagement rate (reactions + comme $8.34\%$	·@	Started following 74		Followers
	Total page likes 53,787	- <u></u>	Paid impressions		<b>56,172</b> 12/01/2024 - 12/31/2024











**Top Performing Posts** 



Message: Welcome to Parksville, Double Up Catskills! We love this new restaurant located in a Double Decker Bus at 268 Old Rt 17! Stop by and...

Engagement
9.019



Message: Another great weekend is here! Enjoy all of the holiday activities going on including our annual Sullivan Catskills Holiday Market tomorrow...

Impressions	Clicks	Engagement		
3,388	3,365	3,402		



Message: & Congratulations to Healthy Kids on the grand opening of their second location in Monticello! This new space isn't just bringing...

Impressions	Clicks	Engagement	
10,689	7,928	8,013	



Message: 🕸 Tons of winter fun this weekend & next week in The Sullivan Catskills! Click through to see what is happening. 🕌 We are so excited t...

Impressions	Clicks	Engagement
4,699	3,331	3,363



Message: // We are excited to welcome Threshold Korean Catskills Kitchen to Livingston Manor! Stop by and enjoy a delicious cocktail, snac...

Impressions	Clicks	Engagement	
18.448	6.825	7.387	



Message: :+ Last night, community members braved the cold for the annual menorah lighting in Parksville! Thank you to the Town of Liberty &...

Impressions	Clicks	Engagement
8,849	2,221	2,420 12/01/2024 - 12/31/2024









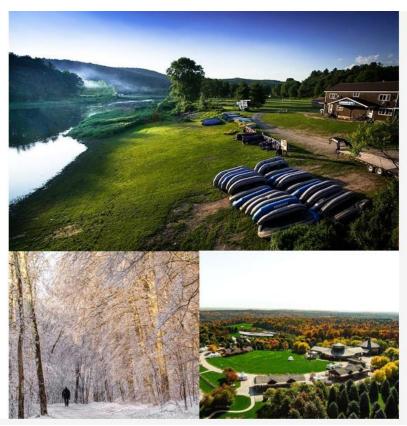
## Core Creative 2024 Results

We continued our partnership with our public relations firm— Core Creative— in 2024. This year, Corey Bennett and her team haven't missed a beat keeping our Sullivan Catskills brand in the spotlight.

They secured 80+ placements in regional and national media outlets whose primary focus is on consumer and lifestyle news.

The results are impressive:

- Over 18.2B+ impressions
- \$168M+ in Estimated Ad Value Equivalency
- This represents an over 300% increase YOY!



## Year in Review

2024 had them hitting the ground running, meeting new members, bringing more key media in to experience the destination firsthand, digging deeper to find the untold stories and seasonal hooks, and leveraging a range of news, openings, and trends. Coverage included top targets including the following, amongst others:

- Travel + Leisure
- **ELLE**
- Business Insider
- Men's Journal
- Conde Nast Traveler
- Country Living
- New York Post
- Fox News
- PureWow
- Eater NY
- Passport Magazine
- Forbes
- Times Union

- Robb Report
- MSN
- Yahoo!
- Brit & Co.
- New York Lifestyles
- Mommy Poppins
- Bal Harbour
- Travel Curator
- Hudson Valley Magazine
- Newsday
- Thrillist
- Matador Network
- InsideHook













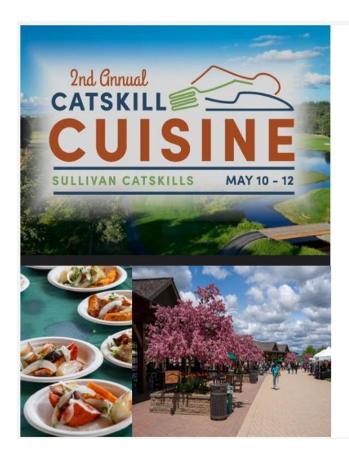
## Year in Review

The team pitched and facilitated **15 media visits in 2024**, capturing several target media to experience the destination first-hand. Media outlets included:

- Family Travel Forum
- Condé Nast Traveler
- USA Today Go Escape
- Food & Wine
- Business Insider
- Robb Report
- Travel + Leisure
- Travel Weekly
- New York Lifestyles
- Forbes
- Dossier
- Westchester Family
- Hudson Valley magazine
- New York Post
- Fox News online
- PIX11 News







## Catskill Cuisine

The team also worked with us to launch our 2nd annual Catskill Cuisine e building on the momentum created from our inaugural event in 2023 to continue to tell even more niche stories within the destination.

Top target regional and national journalists were secured to participate in 1 event, as well as experience itineraries that let them indulge in all the Sulli Catskills has to offer.

#### The results:

- · 30+ stories on the event and culinary-centric angles
- Over 1.5B impressions and \$14M in Estimated Ad Value Equivalency
- 133% increase over 2023!









## Year in Review

Finally, the team also launched new storytelling initiatives, most recently hosting a Virtual Tasting and Cocktail Demo to showcase more about the beverage & culinary scene in the Sullivan Catskills.

The event kicked off with an introduction to the destination by President, Roberta Byron-Lockwood, and engaged top target media contributing to a range of publications including the following, amongst others:

- Travel + Leisure
- CNN
- **USA Today**
- Lonely Planet
- Travel Channel
- **HGTV**
- Business Insider
- Forbes
- MSN
- The Points Guy
- Yahoo! Life
- TripAdvisor
- TravelAwaits
- Wine & Spirits Magazine Forbes
- Northshore Magazine
- MSN



## 2024 Coverage Highlights

## TRAVEL+ LEISURE

12 Up-and-coming Destinations Around the World for LGBTQ+ Travelers



15 Best Places to Travel in June 2024

Catskill Mountains, New York



# ELLE

## 24 Wellness Experiences to Book in 2024

From yoga retreats to high-tech spas and everything in between.

Simmer in the Catskills' Hot New Spa







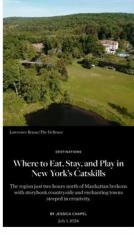
















The Bradstan Boutique Hotel at The Eldred Preserv

## 2024 Coverage Highlights

## BRIT+CO

5 Wellness Retreats to Escape To In 2024

Hemlock Neversink, Neversink, NY





20 Awesome Places to Go Glamping Near New York City

FROM THE CATSKILLS TO VERMONT



The 34 Coziest Winter Weekend Getaways from NYC in 2025

вуо-нот торру

















# Robb Report



8 Spooky Hotel Soirees to Celebrate Halloween in **Ghoulish Style** 





Yorkers occasionally need to escap-the city, so when I had the chance the city, so when I had the chance to flee to experience the second annual Catskill Cuisine event, hosted by Sullivan Catskills, I jumped at the chance. Aside from the festival itself, which offered the opportunity to rub elbows with food stars (I audibly screamed when I saw Anne Burrell sitting at the end of my table) and eat food prepared by the likes of chef Marcus Samuelsson, it also presented the opportunity to casually tool around opportunity to casually tool around the Catskill Mountains.

## 2024 Coverage Highlights



## The Catskills are calling - here's where

to stay, eat and play By Perri Ormont Blumberg Published July 3, 2024, 1:29 p.m. ET



## Get the holiday spirit at these tri-state celebrations

From Florida to Washington, brand n hotels across the nation to check out 2024















Travel experiences to give as last-minute Christmas gifts

Top excursion and travel experiences to buy now for anyone on your Christmas list

From Florida to Washington, brand new hotels in America to check out in 2024

Plan to travel in 2024? Check out these new hotel offerings from sea to shining sea

# BUSINES

Travel news, reviews and intel for high-flyers



experiences are bringing the all-inclusive resort to a new level

by Todd Plummer March 6, 2024 TRAVEL



## 2024 Coverage Highlights

















# **Forbes**





#### A food festival in the Catskills

The second annual food festival, Catskill Cuisine, is back on May 10 through 12, with a portion of the events held at the same site where the 1969 Woodstock Festival took place. Participants include celebrity chefs like Andrew Zimmern, Marcus Samuelsson, and Melba Wilson, according to a spokesperson. Tickets are available for purchase online.



## 2024 Coverage Highlights



#### The 34 Best Mountain Towns of 2024 in America—and Beyond

Nothing tops a stellar mountain town for adventure seekers. Our lofty favorites feature the best hiking, biking, climbing, skiing, paddling, and local microbrew found at any altitude.

Best Quick Urban Escape: Ro





Top autumn destinations in the U.S. for 2024

Leaf your troubles behind and head out on these enchanting escapes.



## TRAVEL CURATOR WORTH TRAVELING FOR

May 7, 2024, 10:06am ED7



HOTELS + RESORTS + VILLAS

THIS UPSTATE NEW YORK WELLNESS RETREAT EVOKES A SENSE OF CALM









100 North Street Monticello, NY 12701



## Legislative Memorandum

File #: ID-7216 Agenda Date: 3/6/2025 Agenda #: 1.

#### **Narrative of Resolution:**

To adopt the Tourism Sector Enhancement Grant Program and Guidelines.

If Resolution requires expenditure of County Funds, provide the following information:

**Amount to be authorized by Resolution:** 0

Are funds already budgeted? Choose an item.

**Specify Compliance with Procurement Procedures:** 

NA

# RESOLUTION INTRODUCED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO ADOPT THE TOURISM SECTOR ENHANCEMENT GRANT PROGRAM AND GUIDELINES

**WHEREAS**, the Sullivan County Legislature is committed to supporting Sullivan County non-profit organizations that provide successful, largescale tourism programming events; and

**WHEREAS,** the County Manager's Office and the Division of Planning, Community Development & Environmental Management have developed the attached Tourism Sector Enhancement Grant Program and Guidelines for non-profit to be eligible for funding; and

**WHEREAS,** grants awarded under this program will be funded by a portion of the Hotel Room Occupancy Tax collected in Sullivan County, NY designated by the County Legislature in its annual budget.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Sullivan County Legislature hereby adopts the attached Tourism Sector Enhancement Grant Program and Guidelines.



# TOURISM IMPACT GRANTS

**Program Guidelines** 

**Draft date: 1/3/2025** 

# Purpose & Overview

Through the Sullivan County Tourism Sector Enhancement Grant Program, the Sullivan County Legislature is committed to supporting Sullivan County non-profit organizations that provide successful, large-scale tourism programming events. Applicants must demonstrate project readiness, capacity to host large-scale tourism programming, thorough planning and budget preparation, and alignment with County goals that substantially enhance local tourism. Grants awarded under this program will be funded by a portion of the Hotel Room Occupancy Tax collected in Sullivan County, NY designated by the County Legislature in its annual budget.

Funded projects must demonstrate the potential for economic benefits through additional room nights and visitor spending in Sullivan County.

## Eligibility

This funding opportunity is offered to Sullivan County non-profit organizations for tourism promotion only. No funding will be awarded for capital improvements, other than specific capital improvements described in Eligible Projects "equipment and capital expenses," or to improve privately-owned property, or to benefit a specific business. The minimum award for this grant program is \$25,000.



The Sullivan County Tourism Sector Enhancement Grant is a reimbursement grant open to Sullivan County-based non-profit entities to offset costs associated with sponsoring large-scale tourism event programming. Proposed event programming must be held within Sullivan County and target diverse participation of visitors from outside of Sullivan County. Proposals should demonstrate anticipated positive corollary impacts on local Sullivan County tourism industries, including the food, hospitality, and recreation sectors. Organizations must clearly demonstrate that revenue generated from the programming event supports the stability and expansion of the event itself. Allocating program revenue to offset day-to-day organizational operating costs is prohibited, and general organizational operating expenses are not eligible for reimbursement.



## Eligible Projects

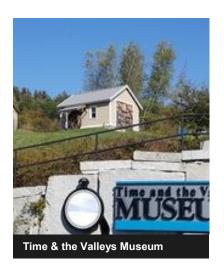
Projects should create a new facility or experience, or expand and increase the impact of existing attractions. The funded activity must be a new and discreet project, or an enhancement of an existing event with a schedule and demonstrated outcome. The program is flexible in terms of the types of proposals that will be considered. These may include:

- New or expanded special events, festivals and community celebrations that convey the unique culture and history of Sullivan County, promote a sense of place and community pride, create new traditions, and build Sullivan County's brand as a travel destination. Events may take place on a single day or span multiple days. For multiday events, the dates of the event are not required to run consecutively. Eligible programming expenses might include costs associated with hiring entertainment, purchasing of food/beverage supplies, and other supply costs.
- Marketing and advertising campaigns and promotional activities to expand and increase impact by attracting visitors from outside Sullivan County. These may include social media, website work, the creation of visitor-oriented apps, production and/or distribution of collateral material, etc.
- Equipment and capital expenses associated with a special event, festival or celebration for which funding is requested may be eligible for reimbursement. Examples of such expenses include construction of temporary structures, such as stages, or rental of equipment for event activities.

Enhancement Grants are not meant to provide general operating expenses, overhead costs, routine facility maintenance, ongoing financial assistance, or support for the continuation or renewal of established programs and activities.

Tourism Sector

Applicants must show how their proposed project will add to the ability of Sullivan County to attract new and repeat visitation, extend stays, and increase spending on local goods and services. Projects should create a new facility or experience, or increase the impact of existing attractions. The funded activity must be a new and discreet project, or an enhancement of an existing event with a schedule and demonstrated outcome.



The minimum award for this grant program is \$25,000.

## Match Requirements

Applicants must demonstrate that a minimum of 20% of the total project costs will be provided by sources other than the Tourism Impact Grant program (TIGP). Acceptable sources of matching funds include local, state and federal funding, donations of materials, and pro bono services provided by a licensed or accredited professional.

Project administration by the grantee and nonprofessional volunteer labor may be factored into the overall project cost but will not be counted as part of the minimum 20% match.

Projects providing a larger share of costs will be rated more highly than applications meeting the minimum required match of 20%.

All prospective applicants must participate in an informational session about the TIGP. This session will include a segment dedicated to training on administration of grant funding. The session will be held in-person and will provide an opportunity for prospective applicants to ask questions about the TIGP.



# Application Process & Requirements

Program applications will be accepted on a rolling basis by the Sullivan County Division of Planning, Community Development & Environmental Management. Staff will review applications and refer those deemed complete and eligible to the Tourism Impact Grant Committee. Applicants will be notified whether their application has been accepted as complete within 2 weeks of receipt. Members of the Committee include the County Manager or his designee, the Commissioner of Planning, and representatives from the Sullivan County Department of Grants Administration, Sullivan County Division of Management & Budget, and the Sullivan County Visitors Association.

The Committee will meet in March of each year to review all applications received by the preceding February 28th. After that, the Committee will meet every other month to review new and/or resubmitted applications until all available grant funds for the program year program have been awarded. The Grant Committee will make funding recommendations to the Sullivan County Legislature. Once the Legislature has approved an award, staff will notify the applicant and provide a grant contract.

Applicants under consideration for funding may be asked to provide additional information or documentation, or to modify their project. Applicants denied funding may reapply for consideration in later rounds of review or subsequent program years. Grantees who are awarded less than they requested will be asked to submit an updated project budget and, if necessary, a modified scope of work, demonstrating how the applicant intends to address any funding shortfalls.

## **Application Materials**

Please complete the Sullivan County Tourism Impact Grant Application and submit with all supporting documents in PDF format to the Sullivan County Planning Division at planning@sullivanny.gov. If application files are too large to be attached in a single email, they may be sent in a numbered series (i.e.: 1, 2, 3...)

A copy of the application form is attached to this notice of funding opportunity.

## **Application Materials**

Grant awardees are required to enter into a contract with Sullivan County.

Funding will be provided directly to grant awardees on a reimbursement basis, subject to receipt of a signed contract, a valid payment voucher, and required documentation of expenses and project deliverables.

Any changes to the approved use of funds will be subject to approval by Sullivan County and must be documented in a modification to the contract prior to reimbursement.

Grant recipients are required to acknowledge the support of the Sullivan County Tourism Impact Grant in all project promotional materials.



## Email Submission

All application documents should be submitted in PDF form by emailing planning@sullivanny.us.

If application files are too large to be attached in a single email, they may be sent in a numbered series (i.e.: 1, 2, 3...)

## **Selection Criteria**

## **Project Benefits**

The degree to which the project is likely to:

- lead to additional, local Sullivan County based hotel/B&B room nights and increased visitor spending
- support tourism growth mid-week, in the winter, and on soft weekends
- be resilient to, and help Sullivan County's tourism economy withstand impacts from, changing weather patterns, economic downturns, public health emergencies, and other potential threats
- improve visitor experiences and impressions, create positive memories, and generate positive social media, word of mouth, etc.
- provide significant quality of life benefits for residents as well as visitors
- deliver benefits that last beyond the project time frame
- result in a positive return on public investment **Proposal Quality**

The degree to which the application:

- is complete and coherent
- demonstrates the project has been well thought-out, is feasible, and is ready for implementation
- includes a sufficiently detailed budget identifying all projected costs, funding sources, and uses of grant funds, and that includes back-up documentation on the sources of cost estimates
- identifies an effective means of measuring success and tracking project impact over time



Lake Superior State Park

## Administrative Capacity

The degree to which the applicant has:

- demonstrated an understanding of the specific steps needed to deliver a successful project
- relevant skills and experience to execute the proposed project
- a history of success in carrying out similar projects
- an appropriate level of financial security to carry out the project
- developed partnerships, with relevant County entities, including the Sullivan County Visitors Association, to ensure a successful outcome

## Leverage and Support

The degree to which the applicant has:

- demonstrated strong support of the applicant organization through its commitment of matching funds and other forms of leverage
- provided for non-County project funding beyond the required 20% match
- submitted evidence of project support in letters, media coverage, etc.

## Additional Criteria for Specific Project Types

- Applications to create Special Events and Celebrations should address the project's potential to:
  - attract visitors from outside Sullivan County
  - extend impact by offering multiple days of programming
  - support local talent, performers, products, and services
  - demonstrate a compelling vision and innovative addition to existing event/festival offerings
  - build community identity and pride
- Applications to support Marketing and Promotion project should identify the visitor groups targeted and how the project will engage those audiences



## **2025 Sullivan County Tourism Sector Enhancement Grant Application**

## **GENERAL INFORMATION:**

Application Preparer:	
Name and Title of Person Preparing this Application:	
Preparer Phone Number:	
Preparer Email Address:	
Organizational Information	
Legal Name of Non-Profit Organization/Agency:	
CEO/Director:	Non-
profit designation: 501(c)3 501(c)6	
Physical Address:	
Mailing Address (if different from Physical Address):	
Website Address:	
Phone Number:Email Address:	
Year Established (Incorporation Date):	EIN
Number (or Tax ID):	
Do you have Articles of Incorporation on File? Yes No Do you have By-Laws on File? Yes	No
Please attach copies of the following:	
✓ Brief History of your Organization (Narrative)	
✓ Mission/Values Statement	
✓ Description of Service Area/Target Population and Current Services/Program Provided	
Governance Information	
Please attach copies of the following:	
✓ Description or Diagram of Organizational Structure/Chart	
<ul> <li>✓ List of Board of Directors (affiliations and contact info)</li> </ul>	
✓ Copy of Strategic Plan/Business Plan, if applicable	
✓ Executive Director/CEO Bio	
Tax Documentation	
Is your organization tax exempt?YesNo	
✓ If yes, please include a copy of your tax exemption letter.	
Do you have an IRS Form 990 on file?YesNo	
Can you provide a W-9, upon request?YesNo	

#### **Financial Information**

Are the following financial documents prepared and available upon request?		
Annual Operating Budget	YesNo	
Year-End Financial Statements	YesNo	
Audit, if applicable	YesNo	
Sources of Funding	YesNo	
Annual Report	Yes No	

#### **PROJECT PROPOSAL:**

Proposal Informati	on
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Tourism Program/Event Title:	
Please select: One Day EventMultiple Day Event	
Proposed Date(s) of Event:	
Proposed Event Location:	
Proposed Event Time:	
Proposed Event is: New Event (held 0-1 times previously)Established Event (held 2 or more times previously)	iously)
Projected Number of Participating Visitors:	
Does the event directly generate revenue?YesNo	
How much funding is your organization seeking?	
Can you provide proof of Liability Insurance for Special Events, if required?YesNo	

#### **Proposal Narrative**

Provide a detailed description of the proposed programming event. Include the following information and attach additional documentation as needed.

- ✓ Detailed Program/Project Description (Include date/time(s), description of event activities, involvement of collaborating partner agencies, engagement of vendors/entertainers, etc.)
- ✓ Year Event was Established and History (How many years have you hosted event/programming?)
- ✓ Target Population (Include samples of advertising and information about reach, if applicable.)
- ✓ Event Staffing Structure/Organizational Chart
- ✓ Measurable Outcomes (number of visitors, description of demographic, data from previous events, if applicable, and positive outcomes)
- ✓ Success Story Narratives/Newspaper Articles/Media, if applicable
- ✓ Description of the challenges your organization faces related to the event/programming
- ✓ Description of current needs of your organization to promote, stabilize, or expand the programming event
- ✓ Description of how grant funding would be utilized
- ✓ Explanation of how the proposed project benefit Sullivan County's tourism sector
- ✓ Description of positive corollary impacts on associated tourism industries (ex. food/hospitality/recreation)
- ✓ Explanation of event sustainability plans, if applicable
- ✓ If charging admissions to an event, please provide the anticipated admission fee

#### **Proposed Project Budget and Budget Narrative**

Please attach a preliminary **Project Budget** and **Budget Narrative** for your Proposed Event/Program. Within your Budget Narrative, provide a brief budget summary; describe how the event directly generates revenue, if applicable; and include copies of any cost estimates received, if applicable. If your organization has hosted this event previously, please include a copy of revenue and expense reports from the most recently held event. If your event is revenue generating, please describe how revenues are applied.

Capacity:
Collaborating Partners
Do you currently partner with any other organizations/agencies for this project?YesNo
If yes, please list them here:
If partners will be involved in the proposed project, please attach letters of support or MOAs from these partners for the project.
Grant Administration Requirements
This grant is a reimbursement grant. Award recipients will be required to attend a brief Grant Administration Training
and submit a final report upon completion of the event/program which includes a detailed description, participation data,
and other pertinent information as requested.
Authorizations:
Is the governing board of your organization aware of an interest in pursuing grant funding?YesNoNA
Is your local municipality (township/village) aware of the proposed event/program? Yes No
(NOTE: Awardees are expected to comply with all local municipal guidelines/requirements related to holding special events within the local jurisdiction.)
Signature of Preparer:
Signature of Organization CEO/Director:

Please complete this assessment and submit with all supporting documents in PDF format to the Sullivan County Planning Division at: planning@sullivanny.gov.

If application files are too large to be attached in a single email, they may be sent in a numbered series (i.e. 1 of 3, 2 of 3...) or via a file transfer application such as Dropbox or WeTransfer.

## Sullivan County Tourism Sector Enhancement Grant Application Checklist

Organizational Information:
Brief History of your Organization/Agency (Narrative)
Organization Mission/Values Statement
Description of Your Organization's Service Area/Target Population and Current Services/Program Provided
Description or Diagram of Your Organization's Organizational Structure/Chart
List of Board of Directors (affiliations and contact info)
Copy of Strategic Plan/Business Plan, if applicable
Executive Director/CEO Bio
501(c)3 or 501(c)6 determination letter
Proposal Information:
Proposal Narrative
Event Staffing Structure/Organizational Chart
Event Newspaper Articles, Media Samples, if applicable
Project Budget
Budget Narrative
Copies of cost estimates, if applicable
Revenue/Expense Report from most recent event, if applicable
Description of how revenues from event are applied
Collaborating Partners Letters of Support/MOUs if applicable



## Sullivan County

100 North Street Monticello, NY 12701

## Legislative Memorandum

File #: ID-7201 Agenda Date: 3/6/2025 Agenda #: 2.

#### **Narrative of Resolution:**

Resolution introduced by the Economic Development Committee to authorize a Contract Agreement between the County of Sullivan and Bold Gold Media Group to provide services for the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)

If Resolution requires expenditure of County Funds, provide the following information:

Amount to be authorized by Resolution: \$33,000.00

Are funds already budgeted? Yes

Specify Compliance with Procurement Procedures: RFP #24-20 & Resolution 294-24

WHEREAS, the Center for Workforce Development (CWD) runs the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) under an MOU with the County of Sullivan Department of Social Services (DSS) through funds provided by the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA), and

WHEREAS, participants must be engaged in traditional paid employment activities such as career exploration, mentoring, financial literacy, or education. CWD is requesting to enter into a contract with Bold Gold Media Group, to provide the education service component for the SYEP through life skills, hard and soft skill training, and occupational skills training in multimedia as a business, to include branding concepts, broadcast marketing; digital graphics, video and audio; visualization; photography; website development; social media; radio; podcasting; industry professionalism; and more; and

**WHEREAS**, under RFP #R-24-20 CWD has the right to extend this agreement for an additional four (4) years, on a yearly basis, in an amount not to exceed \$33,000; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the County Manager is hereby authorized to enter into a contract with Bold Gold media Group for the six-week SYEP schedule, from July 7, 2025 through August 15, 2025, in an amount not to exceed \$33,000, and such contract shall be in the form approved by the County Attorney. This contract is extendable for an additional three (3) years, on a yearly basis, for dates and funding to be determined, and is contingent each year on CWD receiving all funding.