

February 12, 2015

**Oneida County Industrial Development Agency  
Uniform Tax Exemption and Agency Benefits Policy  
Market Rate Rental Housing Development Initiatives**

**1. Overview :**

In furtherance of the Oneida County Vision 2020 – “Path Toward Prosperity Initiative,” the Oneida County Industrial Development Agency (“OCIDA”) has created the following Uniform Tax Exemption and Agency Benefits Policy (the “Policy”) to encourage development of specific types of market rate rental housing. This Policy meets the demands of changing population and workforce demographics and takes into account an evolving housing market that places an increasingly higher preference on lifestyle choice and geographic mobility. The expansion of OCIDA’s policy to support eligible market rate rental housing is largely driven by the anticipated employment opportunities that will be created by the nanotechnology and emerging innovation economy where a segment of the new work force that will be attracted to these type of jobs prefer market rate rental housing and unique urban living lifestyles.

The purpose of this Policy is to assist OCIDA in determining whether a housing project promotes employment opportunities and prevents economic deterioration in the area served by OCIDA, consistent with New York State Controller’s Opinion No.85-51 and the New York State General Municipal Law. This Policy is intended to be annexed to and made a part of OCIDA’s Uniform Tax Exemption Policy adopted on January 28, 1994, amended on December 21, 1998 and April 30, 2009 (the “UTEP”). OCIDA reserves the right to deviate from this Policy at its discretion and in accordance with the General Municipal Law.

**2. Eligible Housing Projects:**

The types of housing eligible for OCIDA consideration include market rate (rental only): ***apartments, townhouses, condominiums, loft-style housing and new urbanism type of housing developments.***<sup>1</sup> ***In order to be considered for OCIDA financial assistance pursuant to this Policy, projects must have a minimum of five (5) units in a renovation or conversion of a building and twenty-four (24) units for new construction, and achieve the minimum number of points to qualify for OCIDA tax incentives in accordance with this Policy.***

In addition, all applications for consideration must have a minimum project investment of \$400,000 in renovation/construction projects and \$1.2 Million for new construction rental housing projects.

All projects shall be subject to and in compliance with the New York State General Municipal Law and the UTEP. OCIDA’s UTEP requires all applicants to file a Cost/Benefit Analysis that is deemed acceptable to OCIDA.

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<sup>1</sup> **New Urbanism** is an urban design movement which promotes walkable neighborhoods containing a range of housing and job types. It encompasses principles such as traditional neighborhood design (TND) and transit-oriented development (TOD). It is also closely related to regionalism, environmentalism, and the broader concept of smart growth.

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**3. Eligible Areas:**

OCIDA's Uniform Policy for Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3 benefits are targeted for projects that lie in the defined areas of the cities of Rome, Sherrill and Utica and 2010 Census Urbanized Areas and incorporated villages, as shown on the maps that are annexed hereto and made a part of this Policy. Projects that lie outside the three cities or the historic villages but lie within the urbanized area must have water and sewer service in place in order to qualify for OCIDA consideration.

Applications received by OCIDA for eligible projects within the defined Eligible Areas will be considered for Tier 1, Tier 2 or Tier 3 benefits provided the application can achieve the required minimum number of points for these benefit levels.

Eligible Area projects shall be located in downtowns or along main street corridors, neighborhood commercial districts, in an approved Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (LWRP), defined areas proposed by the municipality or directly adjacent to colleges/universities campuses.

**4. Criteria:**

OCIDA will entertain applications for assistance that fall within the following criteria, using the following 85 point scoring system for each application received:

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Description of Criteria</b>	<b>Points</b>
Adaptive Reuse Projects	Projects that propose a change in use to an existing building (e.g., reuse of vacant or underutilized facility) or propose development on a vacant urban infill site <sup>2</sup> that is being repurposed or redeveloped for an eligible housing project.	<b>20</b>
Eligible Area Locations	Projects located within <i>Eligible Areas</i> (see attached map) that have 24 or more units of eligible housing units via new construction or renovation, except for urban infill development projects where the IDA will entertain applications for projects located on a vacant urban infill site that has less than 24 units of eligible housing.	<b>20</b>
Utilizes Existing Infrastructure	Projects that <b><i>utilize existing infrastructure</i></b> (i.e. utilizing both existing sewer and water services and do not require system expansion. Modernizations, such as replacing existing pipes where service is already provided, are viewed favorably).	15
Community Benefits	Projects that create other benefits that inure to the benefit of the community that may include: rebuilding community infrastructure, pays sewer credits, creates or contributes to a community amenity, dedicates land to a municipality for a public improvement (e.g., municipal parking lot, trail, park or recreational improvement,	10

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<sup>2</sup> Urban infill site focuses on the reuse of obsolete or underutilized buildings and sites where the proposed development would include infill rental housing being constructed on vacant or underutilized property.

	community center/fitness center), removes slums and blighting influences (e.g., demolition or supports in-fill development within a neighborhood, commercial corridor, downtown, or main street area), provides an environmental enhancement (e.g., flooding wetlands creation/restoration, development of habitat areas/enhancements), is part of a Brownfield, utilizes federal/state historic tax credit programs, provides mixed income rental units to support workforce housing, or provides other benefits deemed important and relevant by OCIDA.	
Mixed Use Development Projects	Projects that are mixed use development with housing being at least –50% or more of a building’s total area and the project induces job growth (mixed use development project proposes direct job creation with non-residential uses). To reach 20 points, must create at least 2 FTEs.	20
<b>Total Points:</b>		<b>85</b>

**5. Scoring of Housing Applications:**

OCIDA shall use this scoring system to determine the level of Agency benefits:

- Tier 1 Benefits: projects that score at least 60 points may receive abatement of real property taxes, exemptions from sales taxes and exemptions from mortgage recording taxes
- Tier 2 Benefits: projects that score between 50 to 59 points may receive abatement of real property taxes, exemptions from sales taxes and exemptions from mortgage recording taxes
- Tier 3 Benefits: projects that score 40 to 49 points may receive exemptions from sales taxes and exemptions from mortgage recording taxes (not eligible for abatement of real property taxes)

<b>Term of PILOT Exemption Schedule</b>	<b>Tier 1 – PILOT Exemption Schedule</b>	<b>Tier 2 – PILOT Exemption Schedule</b>
1	100%	75%
2	100%	75%
3	100%	75%
4	100%	75%
5	75%	50%
6	50%	25%
7	50%	
8	25%	
9	10%	
10	10%	

Applicants will pay 100% of all taxes due and owed until a Certificate of Occupancy is issued for a project, and then the first exemption year in the schedule will begin effective the first taxable status date after a Certificate of Occupancy is issued.

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**6. Ineligible Housing Projects:**

OCIDA will not consider housing applications that propose new suburban subdivisions that serve single family detached housing or projects that are not located within the eligible areas as referenced in Section 3 and included on the map, which is attached hereto and made a part of this policy.

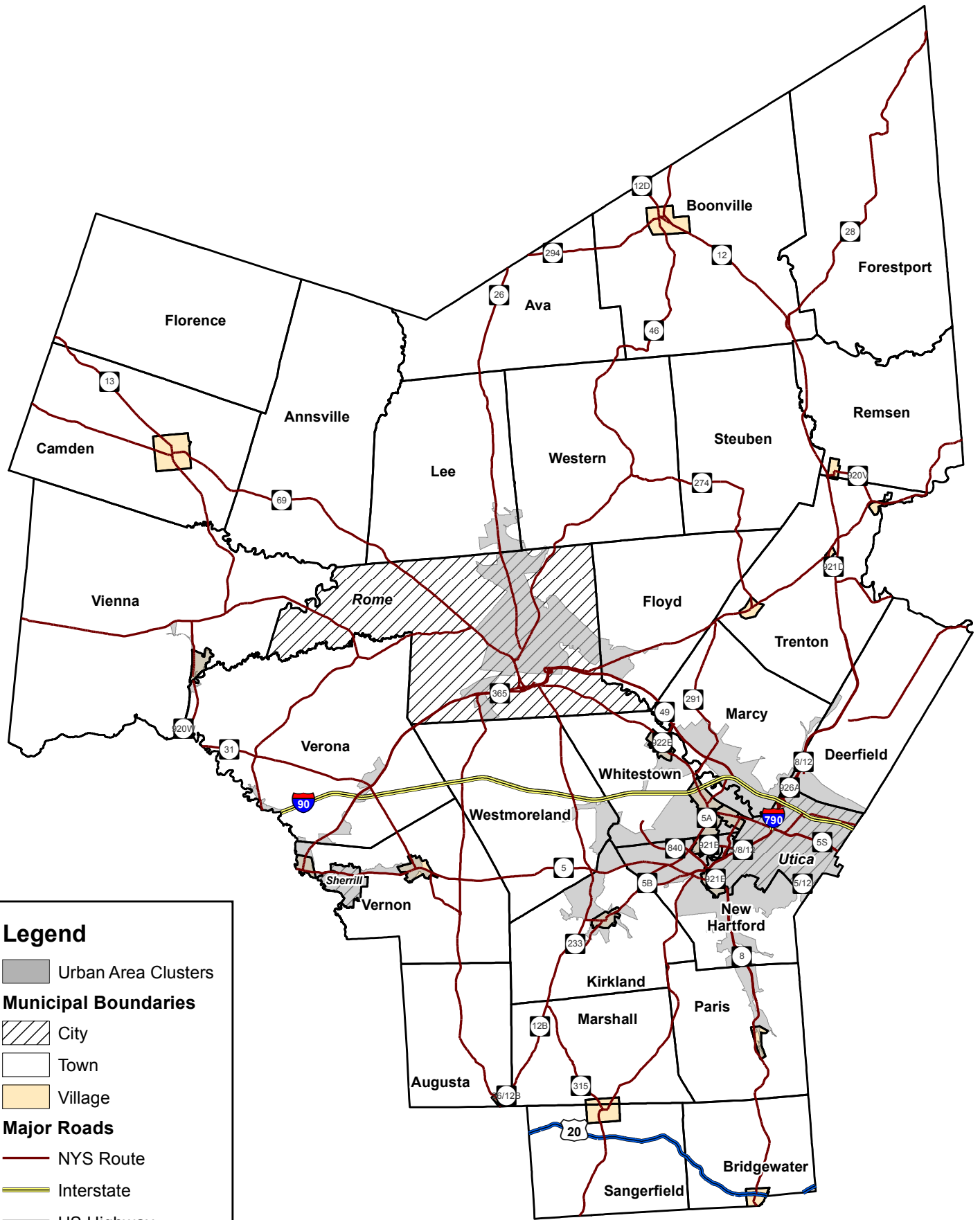
**7. Sunset Provision:**

The effective date of this policy will commence on the first day of the month following the date in which this Policy is formally approved in accordance with requirements set forth under Article 18A of the General Municipal Law and shall remain in effect for a period of three years, unless OCIDA elects to extend or modify the Policy.

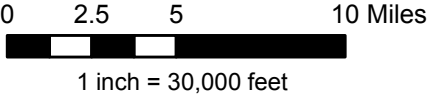
All applicants who are granted approval during this time period will have twenty-four (24) months to complete their project, which shall be evidenced by issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy by the applicable local codes officer for the political subdivision where the project is situated. Receipt of a Certificate of Occupancy is required in order to receive all tax benefits that were granted in the final authorizing resolution approved by OCIDA.

**8. Agency Fees:**

The applicant will be required to remit to OCIDA all applicable fees (see fee schedule), including payment of all OCIDA legal costs associated with the project and an annual rent payment of \$500, which is due as part of the lease agreement with OCIDA. A copy of the applicable fee schedule is included with the application package. When the application is submitted, the applicant shall submit a check for \$1,500 which includes a non-refundable application fee of \$500 and a commitment fee of \$1,000 that will be applied at closing; if the project does not close the \$1,000 is not refundable. Other than the application fee and the annual rent payment, all other fees shall be due and paid at closing.



Oneida County, NY  
Urban Area Clusters



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