



October 10, 2024

Karen Utz
WNY Regional Director
95 Perry Street, Suite 500
Buffalo, NY 14203-3030

Re: NY Forward Grant Application for the Village of Sherman

Dear Ms. Utz:

As the Manager of the Chautauqua County Partnership for Economic Growth, I am pleased to provide my support for the Village of Sherman's New York Forward Application to the NYS Department of State.

The New York Forward award will ignite the committed capital infusion to simultaneously construct multiple transformational interdependent projects that are ideally supportive of each other's missions and within the community's goal of keeping with the historic character and charm of the family-friendly neighborhood. The New York Forward award will greatly contribute to Chautauqua County's growing industry of ecotourism and agritourism, and the Village of Sherman's role in Live CHQ and Choose CHQ campaigns contributing to strengthening the regional economy.

The "We Rock the Spectrum – Sherman" sensory gym is the anchor project that will give Sherman a competitive advantage in the region with its unique inclusive sensory equipment for children of all abilities. While the market of children's activity and play centers is rapidly expanding and expected to increase to more than \$30 billion by 2032, it will draw visitors from the region as it sets Sherman apart as the only facility of its size and scope serving the target market in Chautauqua County. The adjacent Chautauqua Rails to Trails and connectivity provide further opportunities for Sherman in its efforts to achieve the Trail Town Designation, to which substantial economic growth has been proven around trail communities. These are the key projects that will be further complemented by multiple committed transformational projects.

The Village of Sherman has support from businesses, residents, and community organizations for the application to the New York Forward program and through the completed Comprehensive Plan, Downtown Market Analysis, and NYMS Building Feasibility Study that incorporated the input of all stakeholders. The Village of Sherman has prepared for its 'shovel readiness' by executing the necessary community planning strategies and direct outreach to interested developers and businesses.

Once again, please accept this letter of support for the essential grant to support the Village of Sherman. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office at (716) 363-3672.

Sincerely,

Nathan Aldrich, Manager
aldrichn@chqgov.com