

*Public Hearing  
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Project:  
Fiscal Year 2024 Microenterprise Assistance Program  
April 23, 2026*

The Public Hearing on public comments on Tioga County's current Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) project: Fiscal Year 2024 Microenterprise Assistance Program, Project #1142ME562-24 was called to order by the Chair at 10:00 A.M. Legislators Brown, Bunce, Ciotoli, Monell, Rose and Standinger were present with Legislators Aronstam, Cantella and Flesher being absent.

There were eight people in attendance.

The Clerk read the legal notice as published in the official newspapers.

Casey Yelverton, Economic Development Specialist, of the Economic Development & Planning Department spoke. "Tioga County was awarded \$212,500 in September 2024 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to support microenterprises. Microenterprises are defined as businesses with five or less employees, including the owner. The program supports them through financial assistance and professional training. Eligible businesses may receive up to \$35,000 to address essential needs such as working capital, inventory, equipment, and fixtures in accordance with national objectives.

"The program serves low to moderate income business owners, as well as non-low to moderate owners who commit to creating jobs made available to low to moderate income individuals.

"In addition, fifty percent (50%) of total program costs are reserved for start-up businesses for those operating for less than six months.

"As of April 1, 2026, \$160,093 has been expended on direct assistance to microenterprise businesses. In addition, \$2,656.25 has been expended on program delivery and \$10,917.18 on administration. Tioga County has contracted with Thoma Development for the program delivery and administration. All remaining funds are expected to be fully expended and all program activities completed by October 2026.

"Six businesses were awarded CDBG Microenterprise funds throughout the course of this program including: Labrador Lumber, Ocular Prosthetics, Country Fit, Owego Brewing Company, Light Years Brewing, and The Five.

All projects have been completed except for one which is expected to be completed in the next couple of months.

“We did apply for a renewal application for additional funding which was submitted on January 7, 2026. As of today, the County has not received confirmation on approval yet.”

There being no public comments, the hearing was adjourned at 10:06 A.M.