

# **Tioga County Local Development Corporation**

## **Code of Ethics**

This Code of Ethics shall apply to all officers and employees of the Tioga County Local Development Corporation. These policies shall serve as a guide for official conduct and are intended to enhance the ethical and professional performance of the Corporation's directors and employees and to preserve public confidence in the Corporation's mission.

### **Responsibility of Directors and Employees**

1. Directors and employees shall perform their duties with transparency, without favor and refrain from engaging in outside matters of financial or personal interest, including other employment, that could impair independence of judgment, or prevent the proper exercise of one's official duties.
2. Directors and employees shall not directly or indirectly, make, advise, or assist any person to make any financial investment based upon information available through the director's or employee's official position that could create any conflict between their public duties and interests and their private interests.
3. Directors and employees shall not solicit, directly or indirectly, any gifts or receive or accept any gift having the value of Seventy-five (\$75.00) Dollars, or more, whether in the form of money, services, loan, travel, entertainment, hospitality, thing or promise, or in any other form, under circumstances in which it could be reasonably inferred that the gift was intended to influence him or her, or could reasonably be expected to influence him or her in the performance of his or her official duties or was intended as a reward for any official action on his or her part.
4. Directors and employees shall not use or attempt to use their official position with the Corporation to secure unwarranted privileges for themselves, members of their family or others, including employment with the Corporation or contracts for materials or services with the Corporation.
5. Directors and employees must conduct themselves at all times in a manner that avoids any appearance that they can be improperly or unduly influenced, that they could be affected by the position of or relationship with any other party, or that they are acting in violation of their public trust.
6. Directors and employees may not engage in any official transaction with an outside entity in which they have a direct or indirect financial interest that may reasonably conflict with the proper discharge of their official duties.
7. Directors and employees shall manage all matters within the scope of the Corporation's mission independent of any other affiliations or employment. Directors, including ex officio board

members, and employees employed by more than one government shall strive to fulfill their professional responsibility to the Corporation without bias and shall support the Corporation's mission to the fullest.

8. Directors and employees shall not use Corporation property, including equipment, telephones, vehicles, computers, or other resources, or disclose information acquired in the course of their official duties in a manner inconsistent with State or local law or policy and the Corporation's mission and goals.

## **Implementation of Code of Ethics**

This Code of Ethics shall be provided to all directors and employees upon commencement of employment or appointment and shall be reviewed annually by the Governance Committee.

The board may designate an Ethics Officer, who shall report to the board and shall have the following duties:

- Counsel in confidence Corporation directors and employees who seek advice about ethical behavior.
- Receive and investigate complaints about possible ethics violations.
- Dismiss complaints found to be without substance.
- Prepare an investigative report of their findings for action by the President of the board.
- Record the receipt of gifts or gratuities of any kind received by a director or employee, who shall notify the Ethics Officer within 48 hours of receipt of such gifts and gratuities.

## **Penalties**

In addition to any penalty contained in any other provision of law, a Corporation director or employee who knowingly and intentionally violates any of the provisions of this code may be removed in the manner provided for in law, rules or regulations.

## **Reporting Unethical Behavior**

Employees and directors are required to report possible unethical behavior by any director or employee of the Corporation to the Ethics Officer. Employees and directors may file ethics complaints anonymously and are protected from retaliation by the policies adopted by the Corporation.