



# Initial Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Otsego County, New York

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# Who Am I ?

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- Otsego County Representative serving the City of Oneonta Wards 5 & 6
- Environmental Planner with the Otsego County Conservation Association
- M.S. in Environmental Policy and B.S. in Environmental Science



# Otsego County and the Chesapeake Bay

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- Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts are driven by the local Soil and Water Conservation District, the Upper Susquehanna Coalition, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- FY 2020 County Appropriation to the Otsego County Soil and Water Conservation District: \$173,250



# How has the Pandemic Affected Us Locally?

Otsego County is heavily dependent on sales tax

37% of revenue from sales tax (Source: Otsego County, 2018)

Potential forecasted decline of 10-25% in sales tax revenue (Source: NYSAC, 2020)



2,292 unemployment claims as of April 18, 2020

Up 18.2x from same time period in 2019 (Source: NYSAC, 2020)



Approximately 53% decline in visits to retail/restaurants (Source Google COVID Mobility Data, 2020)



# Impact to County Workforce/Outside Agencies

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- Otsego County obtains 55% of its revenue from sales tax receipts and state reimbursements
- Otsego County voted to lay off 59 people totaling 50.5 FTE positions on May 20
- Cuts to outside agencies such as the Otsego County Soil and Water Conservation District are anticipated



# Questions Moving Forward



Status of HEROES Act in  
Congress



Balancing economic  
stabilization with  
environmental protection



How to maintain essential  
services with reduced  
capacity

