

Build Now-NY/Shovel Ready Program

Frequently Asked Questions

The following are answers to the most common questions regarding Shovel Ready Certification. If you are unable to find the information you are seeking here, or elsewhere on our website, please refer to the contact information below.

Q1. Is there any funding attached to the Shovel Ready Certification?

A1: *No. Shovel Ready Certification is simply recognition and certification of the fact that a site is pre-permitted and ready for a quick beginning to construction. You may, however, be eligible for funding by other entities (i.e. utility providers). Please contact ESD for more information and/or potential referrals.*

Q2. What does Shovel Ready Certification cover? Will there be additional permitting required after certification is achieved?

A2: *Shovel Ready Certification covers the basic state permits required for an economic development project of the type of development profile selected by the developer. Additional permits specific to the final end-user of the site will be required. Shovel Ready Certification does not eliminate the necessity of the end-user-specific permits or of local permits, but can substantially reduce the overall permitting time needed by acquiring many of the generic permits prior to a company showing interest in the site.*

Q3. What do I get when my site becomes certified?

A3: *Successful applicants will receive a 3-foot by 4-foot road sign to proclaim the site's Shovel Ready status to all who drive by. Additionally, sites sometimes choose to have a press event to commemorate their achieving Shovel Ready Certification. Not only will Empire State Development (ESD) staff attend these events, our Public Affairs Office will help prepare whatever press releases are needed.*

Q4. How long does it take to become certified as Shovel Ready?

A4: *Once a complete application and binder of supporting information is received by ESD, the review will take about 90 days. If there are questions, missing documentation, or issues that arise with one of the regulating agencies, then the applicant will be contacted immediately and advised how to proceed. The promptness of the applicant's response(s) in such circumstances will determine how quickly a site can become certified.*

Q5. Is there a special time period during which I have to send in the application for my site?

A5: *No. Shovel Ready Certification is an ongoing program and applications can be submitted at any time. We encourage potential applicants to submit their materials to us as soon as their site meets*

the criteria, so that they may begin marketing it as Shovel Ready as soon as possible.

Q6. Is there any fee or charge associated with applying for Shovel Ready Certification?

A6: *No. There are no fees required for participating in the program.*

Q7. Who can I contact for more information?

A7: *Asha Middleton, ESD – asha.middleton@esd.ny.gov.*