



CREATIVE WAYS TO GENERATE REVENUE FOR COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENT

PACOG Conference:
September 30 – October 1,
2025

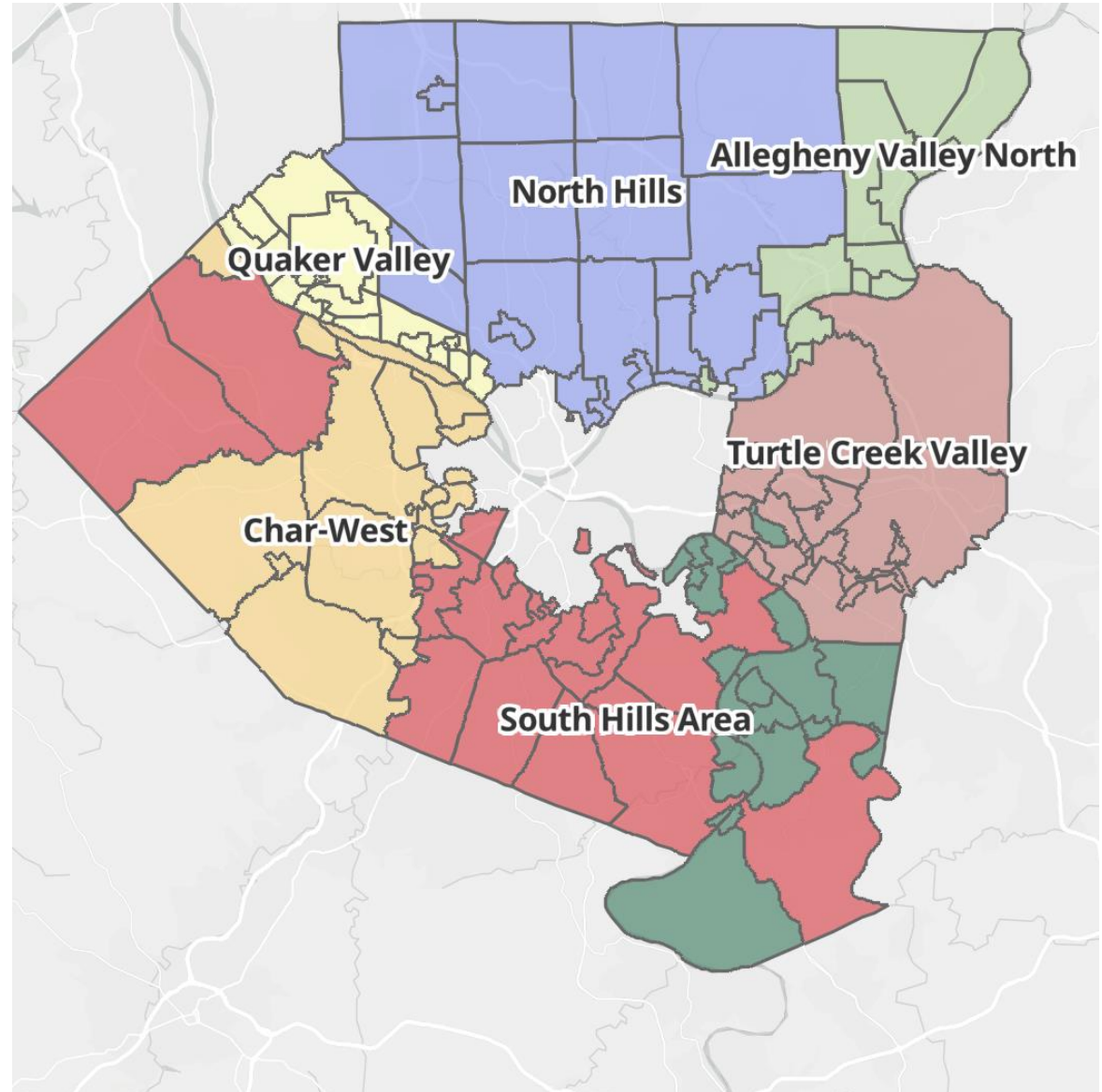
Presentation by Patrick
Conners, Executive Director,
QVCOG

About the QVCOG

- Mission Statement
 - The Quaker Valley Council of Governments is part of a network of communities, local elected and appointed officials promoting efficiency and effectiveness of local government while respecting local governance.
 - The organization operates under a set of written by-laws and is governed by a Board of Delegates with each member community having one voting delegate.
 - Encompasses 17 municipalities that are home to 32,810 residents within Allegheny County.
 - Two State Senate Districts
 - Three State Legislative Districts
 - Three School Districts
 - Nine Police Departments
 - The Ohio River and Route 65 (Ohio River Boulevard) connect nearly every member community.



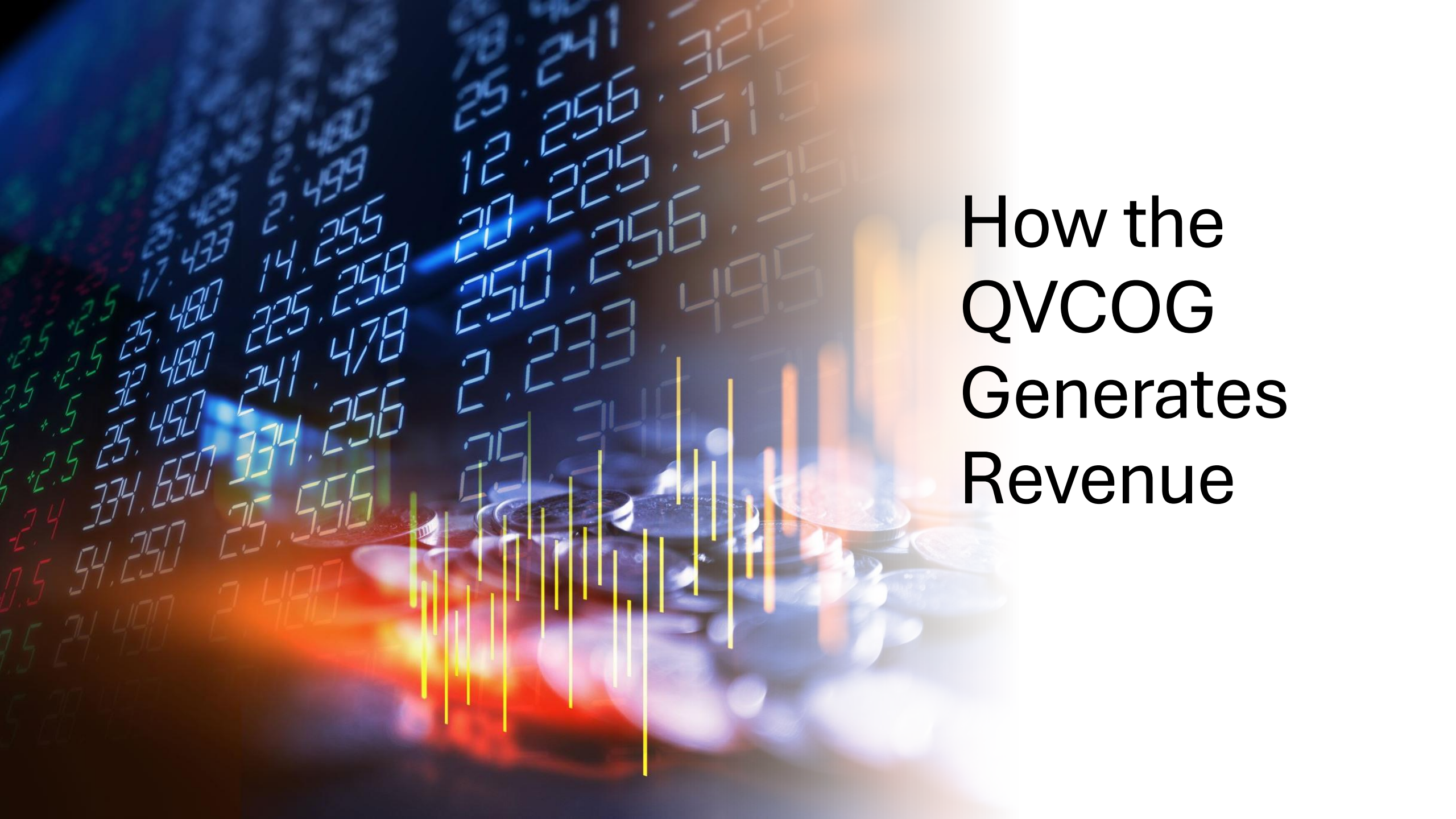
Where is the
QVCOG?



WHAT THE QVCOG DOES



- Grants
 - Apply for and administer federal, state, and county grants on behalf of member communities and regional authorities and organizations.
 - Federal Grants – Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)
 - State Grants – Local Share Account (LSA) & Recycling Performance Grants
 - County Grants - Gaming Economic Development & Tourism Fund & Act 152 Programs
- Shared Programming
 - Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping
 - Police Chiefs Committee
 - Managers and Secretaries Committee
 - Recycling (Glass Drop-off Sites, Tree Adoption Events, & Hard to Recycle Events)



How the QVCOG Generates Revenue

Utilization Fee

The QVCOG is a voluntary association of municipalities under the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act. It funds its operations through program income and maintains a fair fee structure so that costs align with each member's level of participation and utilization.



All grant applications submitted and prepared on behalf of a member municipality are charged a \$500 fee. This fee recovers staff time and other expenses associated with the application. Grants awarded to members through applications submitted by the COG will be subject to a 2% fee of the overall award amount.

i.e., a \$100,000.00 grant award would be subject to a \$2,000.00 fee for administration by the COG.

Joint Recycling Fund



THE QVCOG SUBMITS AN ANNUAL APPLICATION TO THE PA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ON BEHALF OF MEMBER COMMUNITIES THROUGH THE ACT 101 SECTION 904 RECYCLING PERFORMANCE GRANT PROGRAM



RECYCLING PROGRAM PERFORMANCE GRANTS ARE AVAILABLE TO ALL PENNSYLVANIA LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WITH RECYCLING PROGRAMS. THE GRANT AWARDS ARE BASED ON THE TOTAL TONS RECYCLED AND THE APPLICANT'S RECYCLING RATE.



POST-CONSUMER ALUMINUM AND STEEL CANS, GLASS, PLASTICS, CORRUGATED CARDBOARD, NEWSPAPERS, AND OTHER MARKETABLE GRADES OF PAPER ARE MATERIALS ELIGIBLE FOR THE GRANTS. ALL ELIGIBLE MATERIALS COLLECTED FROM RESIDENTS, BUSINESSES, SCHOOLS, COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES, AND COMMUNITY EVENTS CAN BE FACTORED INTO THE GRANT AWARDS.

Joint Recycling Fund (cont.)

- Annually, the QVCOG receives approx. \$25,000.00 in funding from the DEP.
 - All revenues derived from residential recycling tonnage rates, in addition to a bonus amount based on population and commercial tonnage collection rates, are sent back to participating communities.
 - Remaining revenues linked to commercial recycling tonnage rates are included within the QVCOG's Joint Recycling Fund, a separate line item within the organization's capital savings account.
 - The Joint Recycling Fund is utilized to pay for:
 - Two glass drop off stations;
 - Annual Hard to Recycle Event (in partnership with Pennsylvania Resources Council); and
 - Tree Adoption Event (in partnership with Tree Pittsburgh).



Waste and Recycling Agreement Franchise Fee

- Every five years the QVCOG organizes and negotiates a joint bid for waste and recycling services for many of its member communities.
- The current agreement cycle (2022-2026) includes a Franchise Fee which levies a \$1 (one dollar) per unit per year or the equivalent of \$0.25 per unit per quarter fee to the awarded Contractor (in this case, WM).
 - 9,716 households within participating communities = \$9,716.00 annually.

Regional Asset District (RAD) Funding

- Specific to Allegheny County
- Per Section 3172-B of Pennsylvania Act 77 of 1993, “Contributions to Councils of Government: Beginning in the second full calendar year in which disbursements are received from the State Treasurer under section 3157-B and in each year thereafter, municipalities other than the county and the city shall contribute an amount equal to at least twenty-five per centum (25%) of the increase in the amount of such disbursements received in excess of the prior calendar year to entities or organizations created pursuant to the act of July 12, 1972 (P.L.762, No.180), referred to as the Intergovernmental Cooperation Law, including councils of government. The contributions made pursuant to this section shall not be used to offset or reduce other contributions made to councils of government or other intergovernmental entities or organizations.”
- 30% of the collected amount goes towards the COG’s general operating expenses with the remaining 70% being allocated towards the Capital Reserve Fund.
- Very volatile funding stream linked to the ebbs and flows of regional spending & sales tax generation.
 - 2021 - \$ 37,836.02
 - 2022 - \$ 28,682.49
 - 2023 - \$ 19,025.34
 - 2024 - \$0.00

Other Examples of Revenue

Membership Dues

- Tiered amounts based on municipal population

Allegheny County Funding

- General Funds
- CDBG Administration



Questions?