

★

STATE COLLEGE · PENNSYLVANIA

•

Welcome to the

2026 PACOG

Annual Conference

State College, Pennsylvania · August 2026



HOSTED BY

Borough of State College

#PACOG2026

A Warm Welcome from **State College**



Honored to Host

On behalf of the Borough of State College, we are delighted to welcome dedicated local government officials from across Pennsylvania.



Your Work Matters

You understand the challenges, opportunities, and responsibilities of public service. Your collaboration strengthens communities across the Commonwealth.



Experience Happy Valley

Whether your first visit or your fiftieth, we invite you to experience what makes State College and the Nittany Valley truly unique.

“

We are honored to have you here in State College.

”

State College: A Community Defined by Its People

Innovation, education, and deep local roots



Penn State University

World-class research, arts, athletics, and a constant flow of new ideas right in our backyard.



Deep Local Roots

Neighborhoods where people know their neighbors, with a strong sense of place and belonging.



Parks and Trails

Outdoor spaces connecting residents to nature and to each other throughout the four seasons.



Vibrant Downtown

A walkable, locally-owned downtown full of character, restaurants, shops, and local energy.



Innovators & Entrepreneurs

A thriving ecosystem of start-ups, small businesses, educators, and civic leaders.



Public Servants

Dedicated families, students, and long-term residents who strengthen community life every day.

Our Community **Commitments**

What guides State College every day



SUSTAINABILITY

A deep commitment to environmental stewardship, green infrastructure, and responsible resource management. We invest today to protect the natural resources future generations will depend on.



PUBLIC SAFETY

Keeping residents, students, and visitors safe through regional partnerships, proactive planning, and high-quality emergency services. A safe community is the foundation of everything we build together.



INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

Building a community where everyone belongs through equitable housing, accessible services, and welcoming public spaces. Inclusion is not an afterthought — it is central to how we grow and plan.



QUALITY OF LIFE

Maintaining the outstanding standard of living residents expect through excellent services, programming, and community investment. Happy Valley quality of life is our greatest point of pride.

“

We are proud of the partnerships that make all” of this possible.

The Centre Region COG: **Partnership Over Fragmentation**

More than 50 years of intergovernmental cooperation

The Challenge

- ◆ Regional challenges cross municipal boundaries — no issue respects borough or township lines
- ◆ No single municipality has all the resources, expertise, or capacity needed to act alone
- ◆ Fragmented services create inefficiency, duplication, and dangerous gaps in coverage



WITHOUT COORDINATION • FRAGMENTED • INEFFICIENT

The COG Solution

- ◆ Six municipalities united under one regional framework — stronger together
- ◆ Shared expertise, resources, and coordinated decision-making across municipal lines
- ◆ Regional solutions to regional problems — proven and sustained for over 50 years



UNIFIED • EFFICIENT • PROVEN

50+



YEARS OF PROVEN REGIONAL COOPERATION IN THE CENTRE REGION OF PENNSYLVANIA

COG Shared Services: Stronger Together

More efficient, more cost-effective, and more responsive than any one municipality could provide alone



Regional Planning

Land use, transportation, and environmental stewardship supporting smart, sustainable growth across the region.

Parks & Recreation

Outstanding shared facilities and programming giving residents access to green space, sports, and community events region-wide.

Regional Fire Protection

Coordinated fire services and mutual aid agreements that protect every corner of the Centre Region.

Emergency Management

The Centre Region EMA ensures rapid, coordinated regional response to emergencies of any scale.

Library Services

High-quality, consistent library resources and programs accessible to all member municipalities.

Code Enforcement

The Centre Region Code Office ensures buildings meet rigorous safety, accessibility, and quality standards.

Spotlight: Centre Region EMA

Regional resilience when it matters most

CENTRE REGION
EMERGENCY MGMT.



Unified Regional Response

The Centre Region EMA ensures every emergency is responded to as one coordinated regional effort, eliminating fragmented gaps in coverage across all member municipalities.

One Region · One Response



Coordinated Planning & Resource Sharing

Municipalities pool expertise and equipment, enabling rapid deployment and resource sharing that no single municipality could achieve independently — stronger together.

Shared Expertise · Shared Strength



Enhanced Regional Resilience

Joint planning and cross-municipal agreements protect communities in times of crisis, building resilience and readiness across the entire Centre Region when it matters most.

Prepared · Protected · Resilient

“

This partnership allows coordinated planning, resource sharing, and rapid response capabilities that protect our communities in times of crisis.

”

Spotlight: Centre Region Parks and Recreation

A cornerstone of community well-being across the Centre Region



Serving All Ages and Interests

Diverse facilities and programming designed to enrich the lives of residents of all ages, backgrounds, and interests across every member municipality.



Shared Green Spaces

Pooled municipal resources deliver and maintain outstanding parks, open spaces, and natural areas accessible to the entire Centre Region community.



Active Lifestyles

Connected trail networks, sports fields, and recreation programs promote healthy, active living and provide alternatives to car travel across the region.



Coordinated Programming

Coordinated scheduling and shared staff ensure residents experience a wide variety of seasonal programs, events, and community activities year-round.



Cost-Effective Delivery

Regional cooperation eliminates duplication of facilities and staff, delivering more value to residents than any single municipality could provide alone.



Community Connection

Parks and recreation spaces are where neighbors meet, families gather, and community identity is forged — the heart of Happy Valley life.

*“ Our regional parks and recreation system continues to be a **cornerstone of community well-being** — bringing residents together and enriching life across the entire Centre Region. ”*

— Collaboration in Action

Three examples of what regional partnership makes possible

EXAMPLE 01



Regional Bike Path Network

Municipalities work together to maintain and expand a connected trail network promoting healthy lifestyles, alternative transportation, and community connectivity throughout the Centre Region.

◆ Health · Mobility · Connectivity



EXAMPLE 02



Centre Region Code Office

Ensures residential buildings — including State College's large rental housing stock — meet rigorous standards for safety, accessibility, and quality. Peace of mind for students, families, and long-term residents alike.

◆ Safety · Standards · Quality



EXAMPLE 03



Parks and Recreation System

Pooled resources and coordinated programming deliver diverse facilities and activities for all ages — enriching quality of life and promoting active lifestyles across the entire Centre Region.

◆ Community · Recreation · Vitality

"These partnerships exemplify the strength of regional cooperation — combining expertise, resources, and shared goals to build a safer, healthier, and more vibrant community."

BEYOND SERVICE DELIVERY

“

The real value is in the relationships — the trust, the communication, and the shared vision that come from working together.

”



CONSTANT COMMUNICATION

Elected officials, managers, and staff collaborate continuously to solve problems and plan regionally.



SOLVING PROBLEMS TOGETHER

Regional challenges are faced as one — not as isolated municipalities going it alone.



RESILIENT AND ADAPTABLE

Systems that respond to growth, manage change, and sustain the high quality of life residents expect.

A Call to Partnership

Reflect. Share. Strengthen.

TOGETHER
STRONGER



Share What Works

You bring ideas, innovations, and lessons from communities across the Commonwealth. Conferences like PACOG are invaluable — when we share experiences, we all get better.

— IDEAS · INNOVATION · LEARNING



Ask the Hard Questions

What partnerships shape your community? What is working well? What could be strengthened? How can local government serve residents more effectively, efficiently, and equitably?

— REFLECT · EVALUATE · IMPROVE



Collaboration Does Not Happen by Accident

It takes time, patience, and a willingness to listen. It requires balancing local priorities with regional needs — and a commitment to the idea that we are better together than we are alone.

— TRUST · PATIENCE · COMMITMENT

◆ ◆ “We are better together than we are alone.” ◆ ◆

Explore State College

Make the most of your time in Happy Valley



DOWNTOWN STATE COLLEGE

Walkable, locally-owned, and full of character. The Downtown Improvement District — renewed for another 10 years — keeps it clean, vibrant, and welcoming.



PENN STATE UNIVERSITY

Visit campus, explore the Arboretum, and take in the energy of one of the nation's great public universities.



TRAILS AND OUTDOORS

Bike paths, parks, and natural areas connecting you to the best of the Nittany Valley.





BOROUGH OF STATE COLLEGE

Thank You — Welcome to State College!

We are proud to host the 2026 PACOG Annual Conference

- ◆ We are proud of the work you do and proud to be part of the Pennsylvania local government community.
- ◆ Leave inspired, energized, and reminded of the impact we have when we work together.
- ◆ Enjoy Happy Valley — explore, connect, and experience State College!

#PACOG2026

