



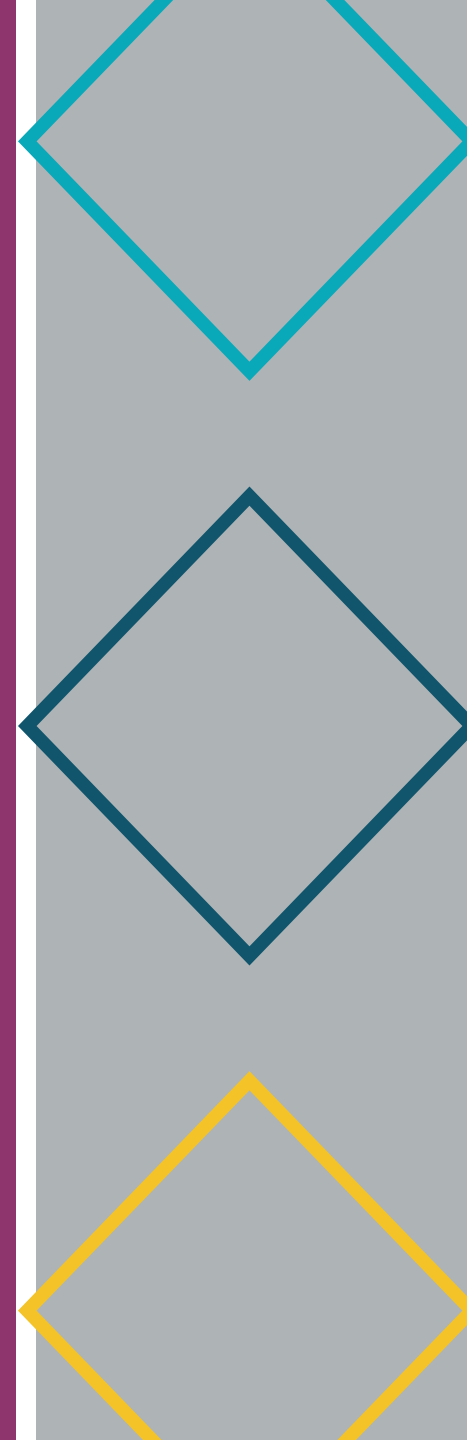
WELCOME TO THE NEW PACOG

**Amanda Settelmaier, Executive Director
Turtle Creek Valley COG**



TODAY'S AGENDA

- Introduction to the New PACOG
- PACOG Resources & Services
- Important Information for COGs
- Connecting with Other COGs
- Operating Under the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act (Act 177)

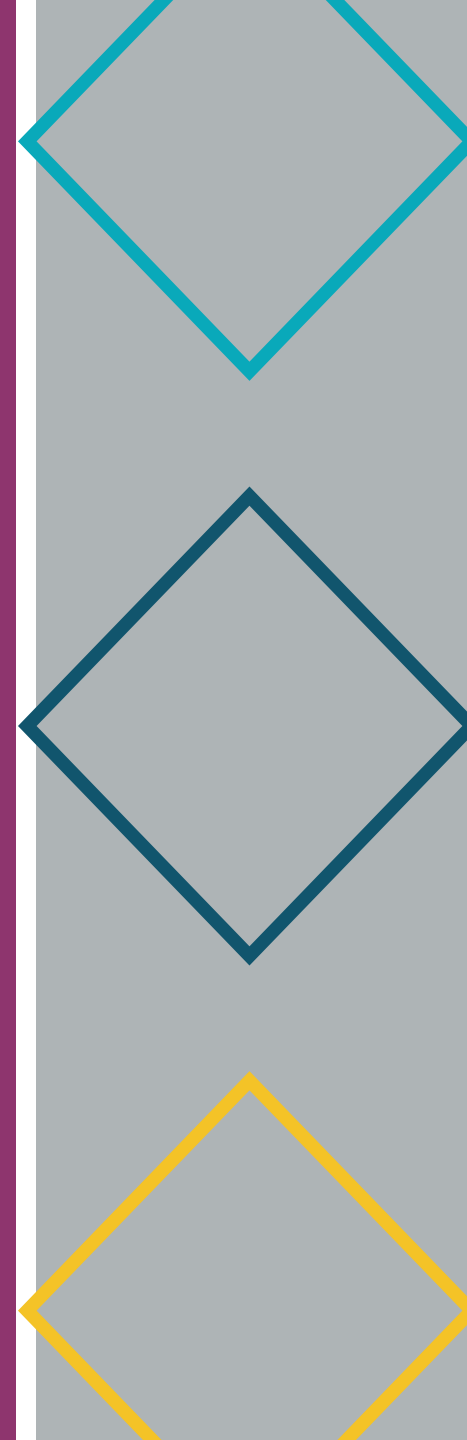



INTRODUCING THE PACOG BOARD OF DIRECTORS

AN LEWIS	Chair	Steel Rivers COG	al@steelriverscog.org
GARY MEYERS	Vice-Chair	Capital Region COG	capcog@comcast.net
AMANDA SETTELMAIER	Treasurer	Turtle Creek Valley COG	asettelmaier@tcvcog.org
BEN ESTELL	Board Member	Centre Region COG	bestell@crcog.net
JOHN MCHUGH	Board Member	Western Chester County COG	johnhmchugh@yahoo.com

INTRODUCING NEW RESOURCES AND SERVICES

- Education
- Networking
- Monthly Newsletter
 - Showcase for Projects-Programs
- Technical Assistance
- Regional Meetings
- Annual Conference
- Website
 - COG Directory with Links to Other COGs
 - Library – Ordinances, Resolutions, and Intergovernmental Agreements (Coming Soon)
- Legislative Updates & Outreach





**NEXT WEBINAR EVENT
MARK THE DATE
JANUARY 23, 2025**

**BECOME A TAX-EXEMPT ORGANIZATION:
BENEFITS OF BEING A 501(c)(3)**

COGs across the state are exploring the benefits and legal process for tax exempt status.

Join expert legal experts to hear if it makes sense for your COG.



**COOPERATION
COLLABORATION
COMMUNICATION**

**Bethany Williams
Local Government Policy Manager**

**PA Department of Community & Economic Development
Governor's Center for Local Government Services**



PACOG – MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR PENNSYLVANIA COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENTS

HISTORY OF PACOG

- At the February 1972 Pennsylvania Local Government Conference, a committee was set up to explore the concept of a statewide organization to promote multi-municipal coordination
- After many meetings and considerable study, the Pennsylvania Association of Councils of Governments (PACOG) was formally established on April 14, 1973, with nine charter members
- PACOG has been a leading advocate for intergovernmental cooperation for over 50 years



PACOG's MISSION

Improve and strengthen the role of COGs in Pennsylvania

WHY IS PACOG IMPORTANT?

- A Community of Common Interests
- A Place to Find Resources
- A Clearinghouse for Technical Assistance

WHY DOES DCED SUPPORT PACOG?

PACOG helps to promote intergovernmental cooperation throughout the Commonwealth and provides important resources for COGs



WE ARE A COG – NOW WHAT?

Terri Cunkle

Local Government Policy Specialist

**PA Department of Community and Economic Development
Governor's Center for Local Government Services**

LEARNING YOUR ICAs

What is an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement (ICA)?

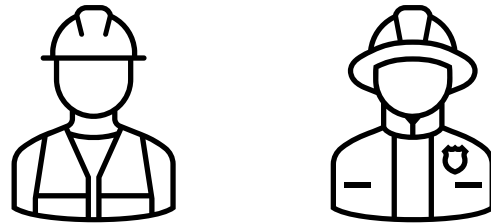
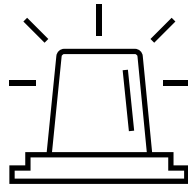
**A legal arrangement
between or among two or
more local governments**



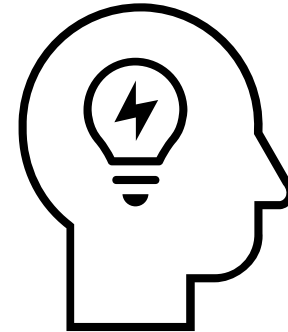
WHAT CAN AN ICA Do?



**Achieve
Common Goals**



Provide a Service



**Solve a Mutual
Problem**



THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION ACT

ACT 177

- The Intergovernmental Cooperation Law (Act 177 of 1996) was adopted to implement a provision of the PA Constitution.
- “A municipality ... may ... cooperate or agree in the exercise of any function, power or responsibility with ... one or more ... municipalities ...” (Section 2304)
- The ICA must be enacted **by ordinance** (Section 2305). The ordinance must specify (Section 2307):
 - The conditions
 - The term
 - The purpose and objectives
 - The manner of financing
 - The organizational structure
 - The acquisition and disposition of property
 - The ability to enter into contracts

COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENTS

- Councils of governments (COGs) are a special kind of Act 177 organization
- COGs enable a group of municipalities to work together on whatever programs are in their mutual interest
- COGs differ from the typical Act 177 ICA in several ways:
 - A COG can have broad responsibility
 - Several ICAs can be included under a single COG
 - No specific program must be undertaken
 - The COG board is almost always composed of elected officials

HOW ARE COGs FORMED?

ORDINANCE

The initial ordinance is the outline – it is the enacting legislation by the municipalities that creates the intergovernmental organization

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT

The ICA fills in the blanks about voting, bylaws, terms, officers, financing, allocating costs, and other operational details



ORDINANCE

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL
COOPERATION AGREEMENT**

HOW ARE COGs SPECIAL?



ITEM	COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS	MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY	CONSORTIUM
AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION	Ordinance by 2 or more municipalities	Ordinance by 1 or more municipalities	Agreement or memorandum of understanding
ICA	Yes	No	Maybe
MEMBERS	Municipality	Municipality	Individuals
VOTING	By the municipal delegate(s) who is appointed to represent the municipality	By individual board members appointed by the municipality	By consensus of individuals appointed
AUTHORITY	Flows from municipalities through delegates	Operates independently from the municipalities	Not binding on the municipalities
PROGRAMS	Single or multiple programs	Single program with single focus (usually)	Generally, don't run programs or projects
EMPLOYEES	Yes	Yes	Rarely
FUNDING	Memberships, fees for programs, grants	Mandatory fees for services	Voluntary memberships
INTER-MUNICIPAL BENEFIT	Primary purpose is collaboration and cooperation	Acts independently of municipalities towards a single purpose	May address cooperation and may adopt ICA

COGS HAVE COMMON ORGANIZING PRINCIPLES

MEMBERSHIP

- COGs are organized as groups of municipalities
- The municipality, not an individual person, is the member of the COG
- The municipality's interest is represented by the delegate(s) and votes are cast on behalf of the municipality
- The vote of the delegate binds the municipality to the action or decisions

REPRESENTATION AND VOTING

Each participating municipality has one or more delegate(s) with voting rights. Delegates are generally elected officials appointed by the governing body. Some common arrangements:

- One representative per municipality with each having one vote
- One representative and an alternate from each municipality with one vote to be cast for the municipality
- One representative and an alternate from each municipality with a vote for each (2 votes per municipality)
- All members of each municipal governing body represent the municipality with one vote for the municipality



BYLAWS AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS



BYLAWS

The COG ICA should specify the power to establish bylaws.

- Rules of procedure
- Election of officers
- Meeting dates
- Call for special meetings
- Powers of the chair

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The best approach is the most general

- Specify the positions and terms of office but no limiting rules on re-election or rotation
- Rotation of the chairmanship among the municipalities is a good idea but should not be locked in through adoption of the ICA or by the ordinance
- Keep your options open

RELATIONSHIP OF COGs TO OTHER ACT 177 ICAs

- Are all intergovernmental cooperation activities to be included in the umbrella COG ICA?
- **OR** are there separate ICAs for programs and projects where not all members participate?
- The umbrella ICA should provide that activities and programs can be operated directly by the COG but also allow for flexibility for other ICAs for individual programs
- Separate ICAs may be necessary for new programs or projects.
- An agreement supplementing or amending the umbrella ICA is an alternative to a completely new ICA for the new program

ALLOCATING COSTS TO MEMBERS



- **Equal Shares** Each municipality pays an equal share
- **Population** Municipal cost share is based on population
- **Assessed Valuation** The total assessed valuation of each municipality is used as the basis for allocating shares
- **Use** Municipal shares are allocated in proportion to the number of users residing in each municipality
- **Combining Assessed Valuation and Population** The total assessed valuation and population of the participating municipalities are combined to determine municipal shares

TYPICAL COG PROGRAMS

- **Joint Purchasing** – joint bids, specifications, advertising, awards - this is the most common COG service provided
- **Equipment Sharing** – truck, paver, backhoe, street sweeper
- **Joint Public Safety** – police, fire, ambulance, code enforcement
- **Shared Recreation** – pools, community centers, parks, programming
- **Circuit-Riding Manager or Finance Director** – skilled professional who serves several small municipalities
- **Other Shared Services** – There's no limit to the possibilities!

SOME EXAMPLES OF COG SERVICES

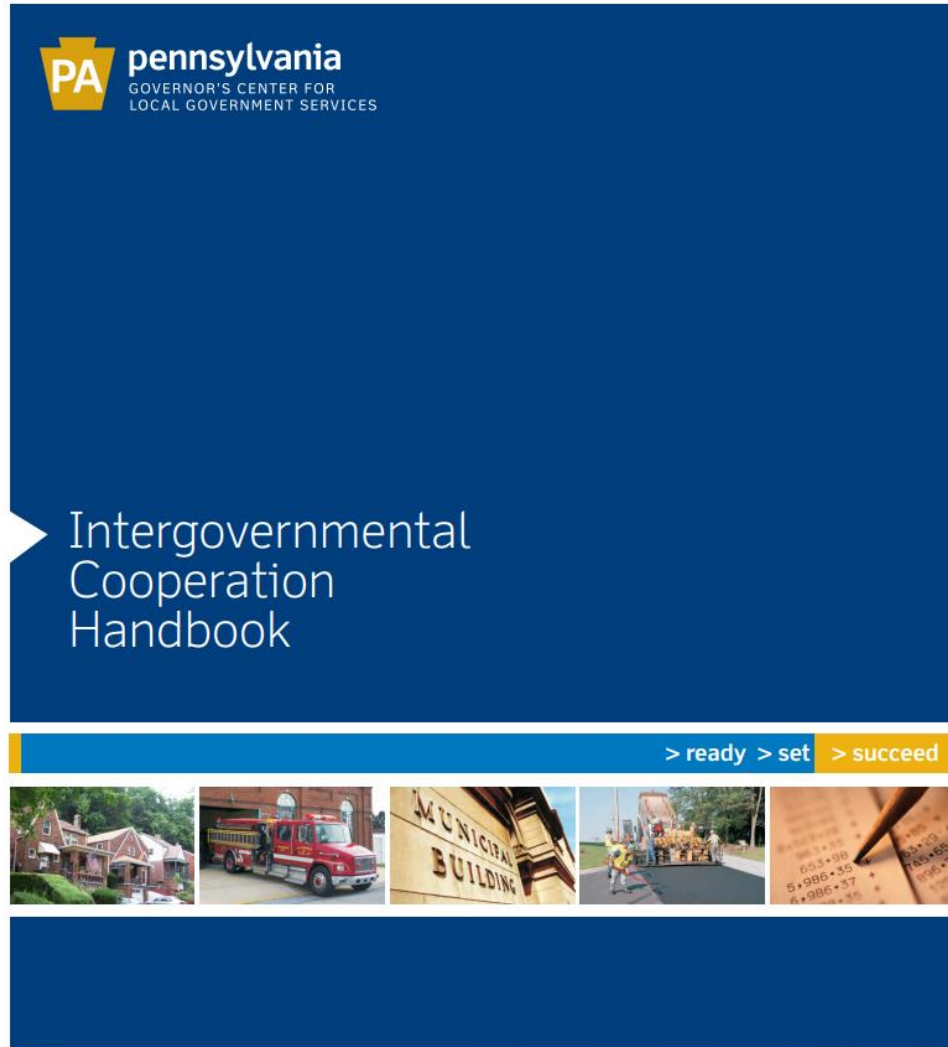
- Capital Region COG – Surplus Property, CDL Drug and Alcohol Test
- Central Keystone COG – Zoning, Inspections, Building Permits, Rental
- Centre Region COG – Joint Recreation, Centre Area Transportation
- Erie Area COG – e-Government, Grant Writing, Broadband Expansion
- Mercer County COG – Transportation, Joint Technology, IT Support,
- Moshannon Valley COG – Code Enforcement, UCC Board of Appeals
- Turtle Creek Valley COG – Utility Billing, Code Enforcement Software
- Steel River COG – Equipment Rental, Grants, Initiated Land Bank
- Western Chester County COG – Animal Control, Energy Action Plan



COGs ARE IN A UNIQUE POSITION TO FACILITATE COOPERATION THROUGHOUT THE REGION

- COGs can host regional discussions about common problems
- COGs can foster relationships among delegates that result in better cooperation
- COG delegates can act as liaisons to the governing bodies to exchange information
- COGs can form committees to research issues
- COGs can recommend programs and projects
- COGs can conduct studies or contract for services
- COGs can provide a variety of multi-municipal services that add capacity for smaller communities

A RESOURCE FOR COGs



- <https://dced.pa.gov/library>



TAKE OUR POLL



No. 1 – How Do Delegates Vote in Your COG?

- A. One delegate, one vote
- B. Two delegates, one vote
- C. Two delegates, two votes
- D. All governing body members are delegates – one vote
- E. Other

TAKE OUR POLL



No. 2 - How Does Your COG carry out programs and projects?

- A. Use one umbrella ICA for all programs/projects
- B. Amend the umbrella ICA for each program/project
- C. Use separate ICAs for each new program/project
- D. Don't have an ICA
- E. Other method for undertaking programs/projects



QUESTIONS??

THANK YOU

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From
the



Team
to You

