

PA Council of Governments

Funding Opportunities and Planning

April 13, 2026



Agenda



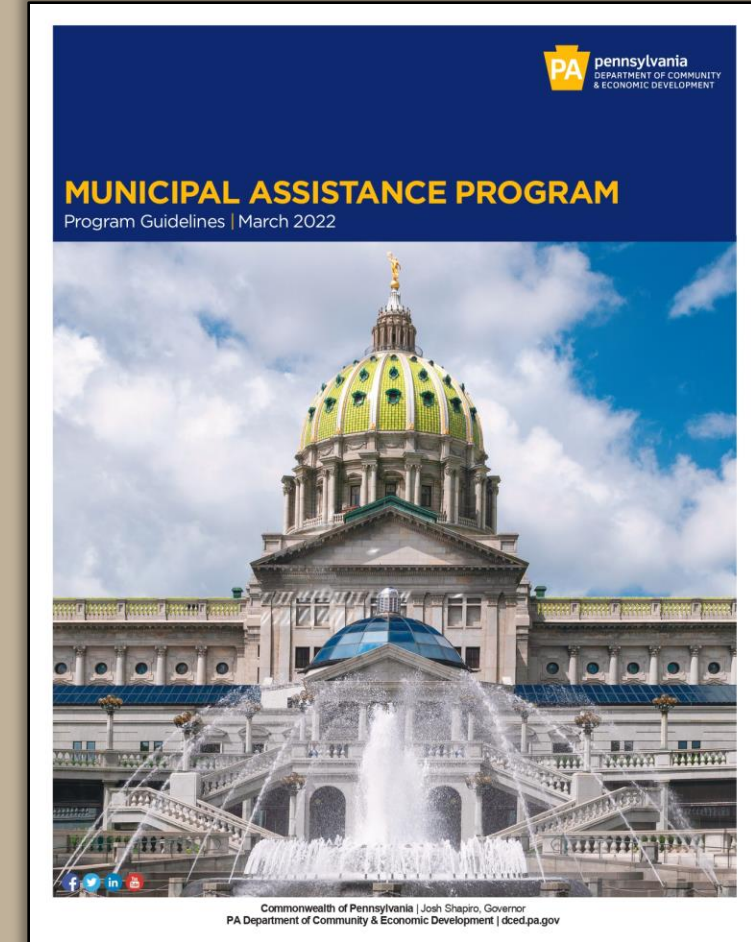
- Funding Opportunities
- Tips & Best Practices
- Case Study – Funding Plans
- Regional Local Government Specialists
- Wrap Up

Where to Find Funding Opportunities

Municipal Assistance Program

Overview

- Funding to assist local governments to plan for and implement various policies, programs, or projects, and manage development with an emphasis on intergovernmental approaches.
- Up to 50% reimbursement grant
- Single application at grants.pa.gov
- Apply anytime, deadlines fall/spring



MAP-Eligible Project Types

Shared Services

-  Regional Police & Fire
-  Shared Personnel
-  Boundary Change Study

Community Planning

-  Comprehensive Plan
-  Official Map
-  SALDO
-  Zoning
-  Special Study or Analysis
-  Functional or Area Plan
-  Housing Plan
-  Aging Plan
-  Design or Advisory Guidelines
-  TRID Study
-  Heart & Soul
-  Other

Strategic Management Planning Program

- Provides matching grant funds to assist municipalities experiencing fiscal difficulties to develop comprehensive multi-year financial plans and establish short- and long-term financial objectives
- Funds are used for the development and implementation of multi-year financial management programs and strategies with a consultants
- Implementation funding available after Phase I Plan is adopted (eligible applicant is Phase 1 municipality)

[Strategic Management Planning Program \(STMP\) - PA Department of Community & Economic Development](#)



Find Other Funding

Partners in your network can help direct you to funding sources and grant opportunities.

- [Local Development Districts \(LDDs\)](#)
- Planning Commissions
- Municipal Associations ([PSATS](#), [PSABS](#), [PML](#), etc.)
- County Planning Departments
- Philanthropic/Foundations



Search State Sources

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (state government) has an **online site to search for state grants**. pa.gov/grants

Official website of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Discover State Grants

Pennsylvania offers grants for many uses. This funding supports growth and success across the state. Enter your details below to find grants available to you.

Applicant type

All

Funding agency

All

Funding type

All

Search grants →

Find grants by category

 Agriculture →	 Animal services →
 Community & economic development →	 Consumer protection →
 Creative industry →	 Education →

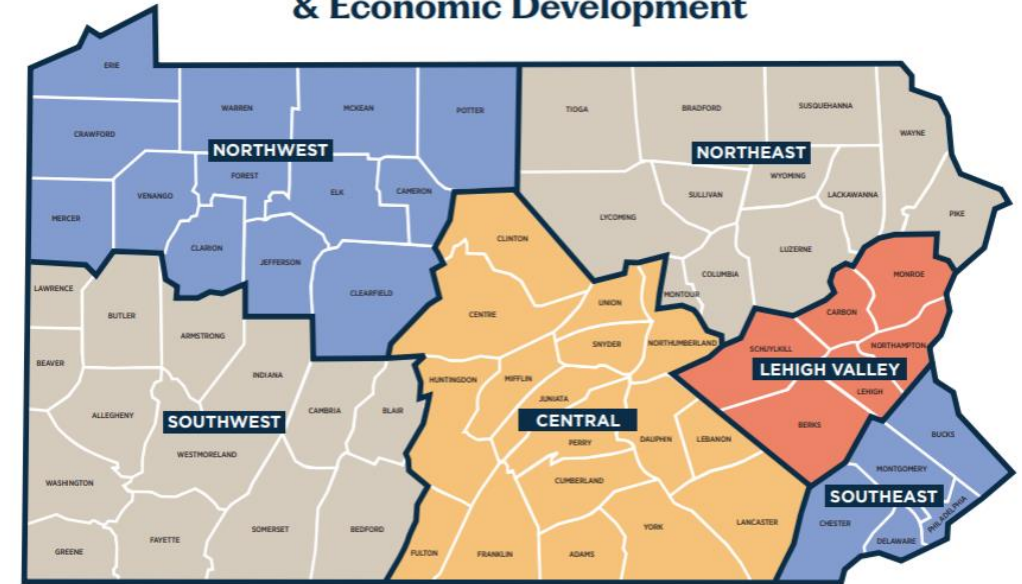
State Government Agencies

DCED

The PA Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED) offers a wide range of grants and other funding programs. Popular programs include:

- **Local Shares Account Statewide**
- **Multimodal Transportation**
- **Act 13 Grants**
- **Main Street Matters**
- **NAP/NPP**
- **Water & Sewer**

Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development



The [Programs & Funding page](#) has a robust search tool.

You can find your [DCED Regional Office contacts](#) online.

Example COG Projects DCED funded

- LSA Grants
 - Fiscal sponsor for capital projects for public building
 - Feasibility study for train station
 - Retaining wall repair
 - Equipment purchase
- PIDA Loans (unique for COGs that are designated CEDO)
- MAP
 - Technology for code enforcement
 - Multi-municipal planning
 - Trail study



PennDOT

The **PA Department of Transportation (PennDOT)** has several popular grant programs:

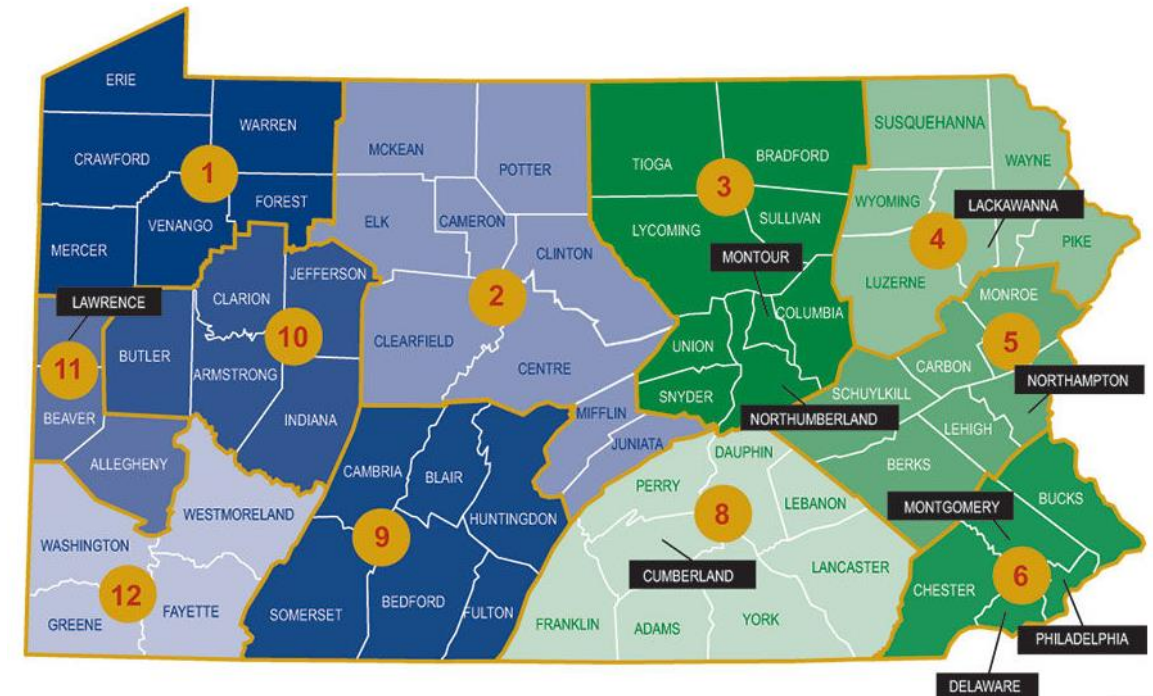
- [Multimodal Transportation](#)
- [Automatic Red-Enforcement \(ARLE\)](#)
- [Green Light Go](#)

Find your [PennDOT regional district office online](#) for local guidance.

PennDOT Engineering Districts

Have a driver license or motor vehicle question? You can call us at 717-412-5300. PennDOT's Riverfront Office Center, the Harrisburg-based office for dealing with licensing and vehicle concerns, is located at 1101 South Front Street Harrisburg, PA, 17104.

You can find a PennDOT driver license or photo center near you using our driver and vehicle services [Locator Page](#).

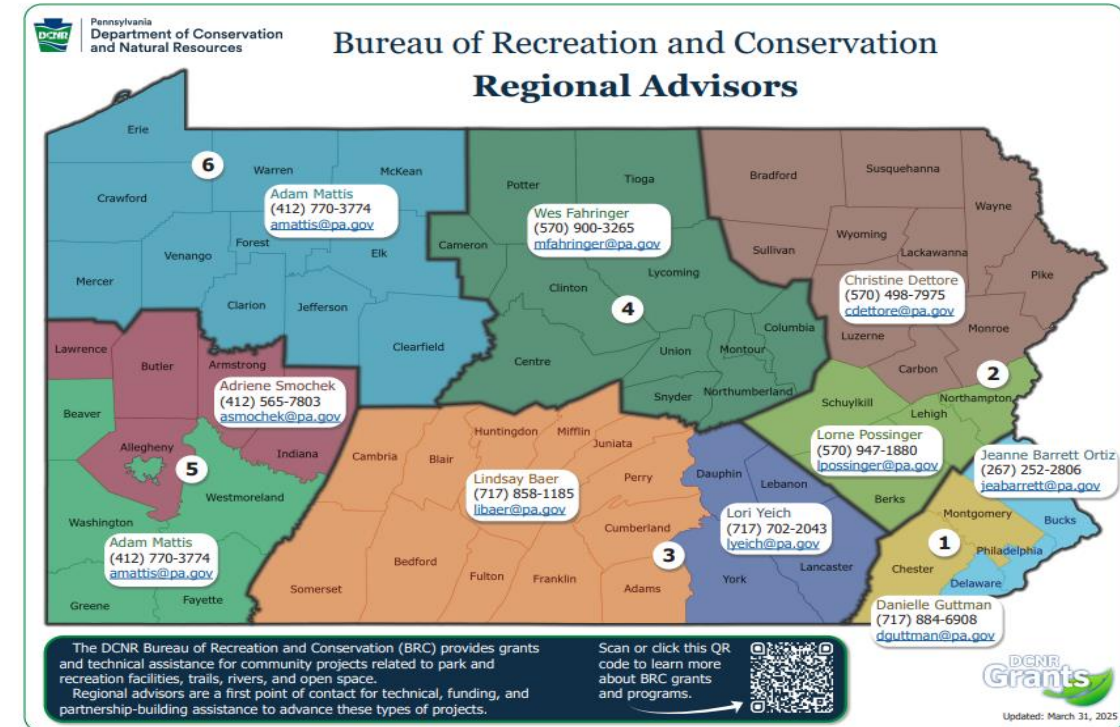


DCNR

The [PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources \(DCNR\)](#) offers grants including:

- **Community Conservation Partnership Program**
- **Volunteer Fire Assistance**
- **Wild Resource Conservation Program**

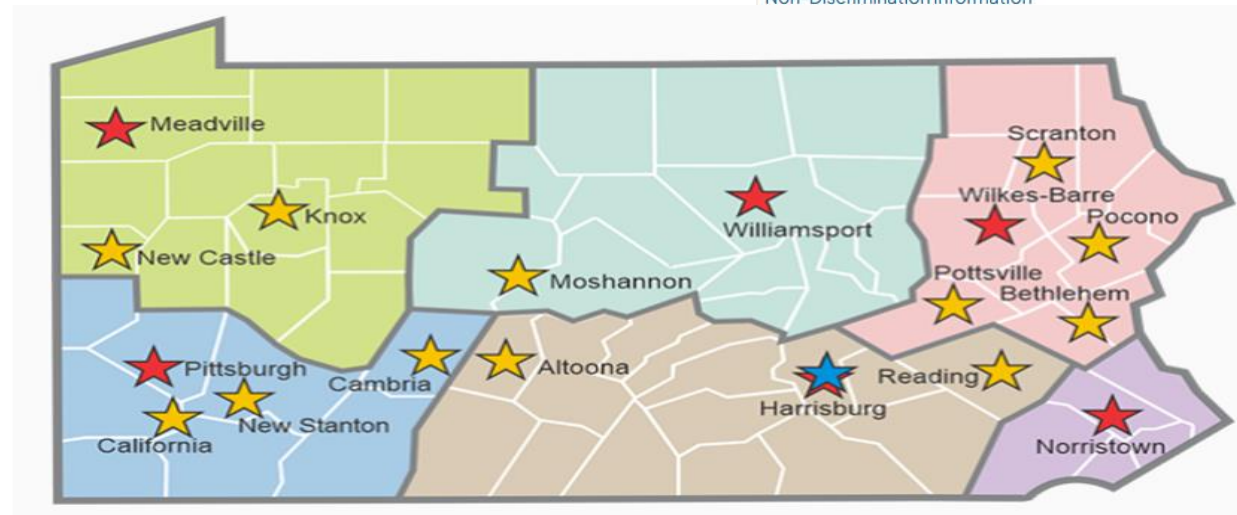
Find your [DCNR regional online](#) for local guidance.



DEP

The [PA Department of Environmental Protection \(DEP\)](#) has more than 50 grants and rebate programs to improve or protect the water, land, and air in Pennsylvania.

★	Meadville	814-332-6945
★	Williamsport	570-327-3636
★	Wilkes-Barre	570-826-2511
★	Norristown	484-250-5900
★	Harrisburg	717-705-4700
★	Pittsburgh	412-442-4000



Photos: Bennett Branch Watershed Association acid mine drainage cleanup project, Sinnemahoning Creek Bennett Branch, Growing Greener Grant recipient; Green Playces student ambassadors project, Pittsburgh, Environmental Education Grant recipient; City of Harrisburg electric car charging stations project, Driving PA Forward Grant recipient. Above: City of Altoona stormwater management project, Growing Greener Grant recipient.

Grantee/Vendor Assistance

For Grantee/Vendor assistance related to Vendor Number: [Help & Resources](#)

For Self Service Payment Lookup/Audit Confirmation: [Self-Service-Payment-Lookup](#)

DEP Notice of Non-Discrimination: [Non-Discrimination Information](#)

Investment Tracker

For a listing of awarded grants, please see [DEP's Investment Tracker](#)

*Currently, DEP's Investment Tracker is only displaying information for grants awarded using the Electronic Single Application system. Dates of inclusion in this system will vary by grant program. Historic data for all awards not contained in this current report will be added in the near future.

Funding Programs

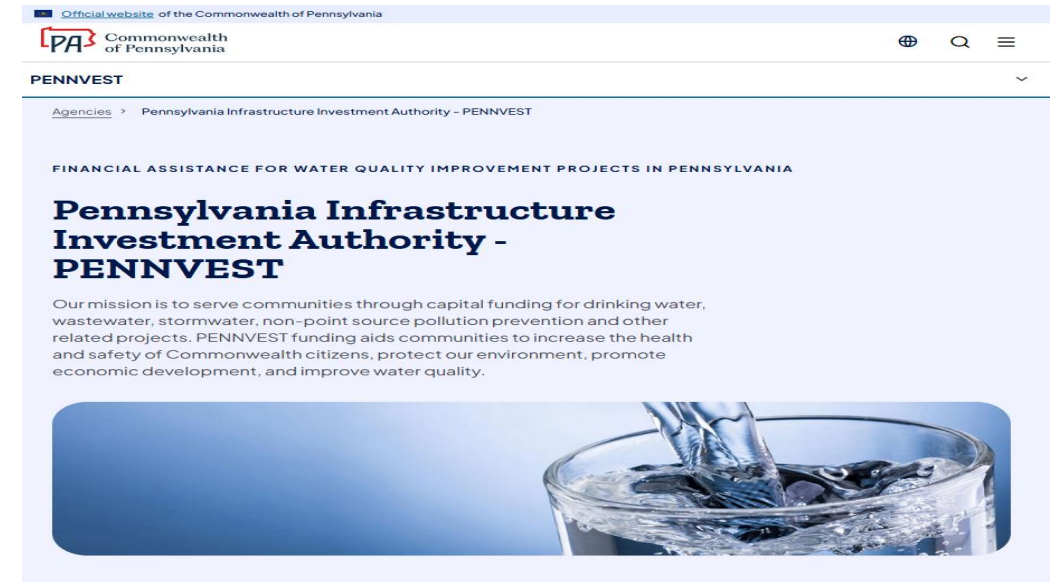
Programs accept applications at different times throughout the year. Most applications are submitted online through the [Enterprise eGrants System Applications](#)

Use this list to find information on application periods, eligibility, where to apply, and other details for all grant programs managed by the DEP Grants Office. For more general questions, call the Grants Office at (717) 705-5400. For issues related to completing the online application (non-specific to the grant program itself), please contact the Enterprise eGrants Customer Service Center at 833-448-0647 or by e-mail at egrantshelp@pa.gov.

PennVEST

The PA Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST) provides grant and loan funding for:

- Drinking water
- Wastewater
- Stormwater
- Non-point source pollution prevention, and
- Other related projects



PENNVEST Regional Contacts



LESLIE COTÉ Northcentral
lecote@pa.gov 717.783.4489

REBECCA HAYDEN Northeast/Southeast
rhayden@pa.gov 717.783.4488

BRENDAN LINTON Northwest
blinton@pa.gov 717.783.6799

DANIEL MIKESIC Southwest
dmikesic@pa.gov 717.783.6673

TESRA SCHLUPP Southcentral
tschlupp@pa.gov 717.783.8618

For more information on PENNVEST
contacts visit www.pennvest.pa.gov.

Other Programs

There are other grant programs offered by **state government**, **county government**, and **others** to support local needs.

One example is the [Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Road \(DGLVR\) Maintenance Program](#), offered by the **State Conservation Commission**.



Federal Funding

Federal Programs

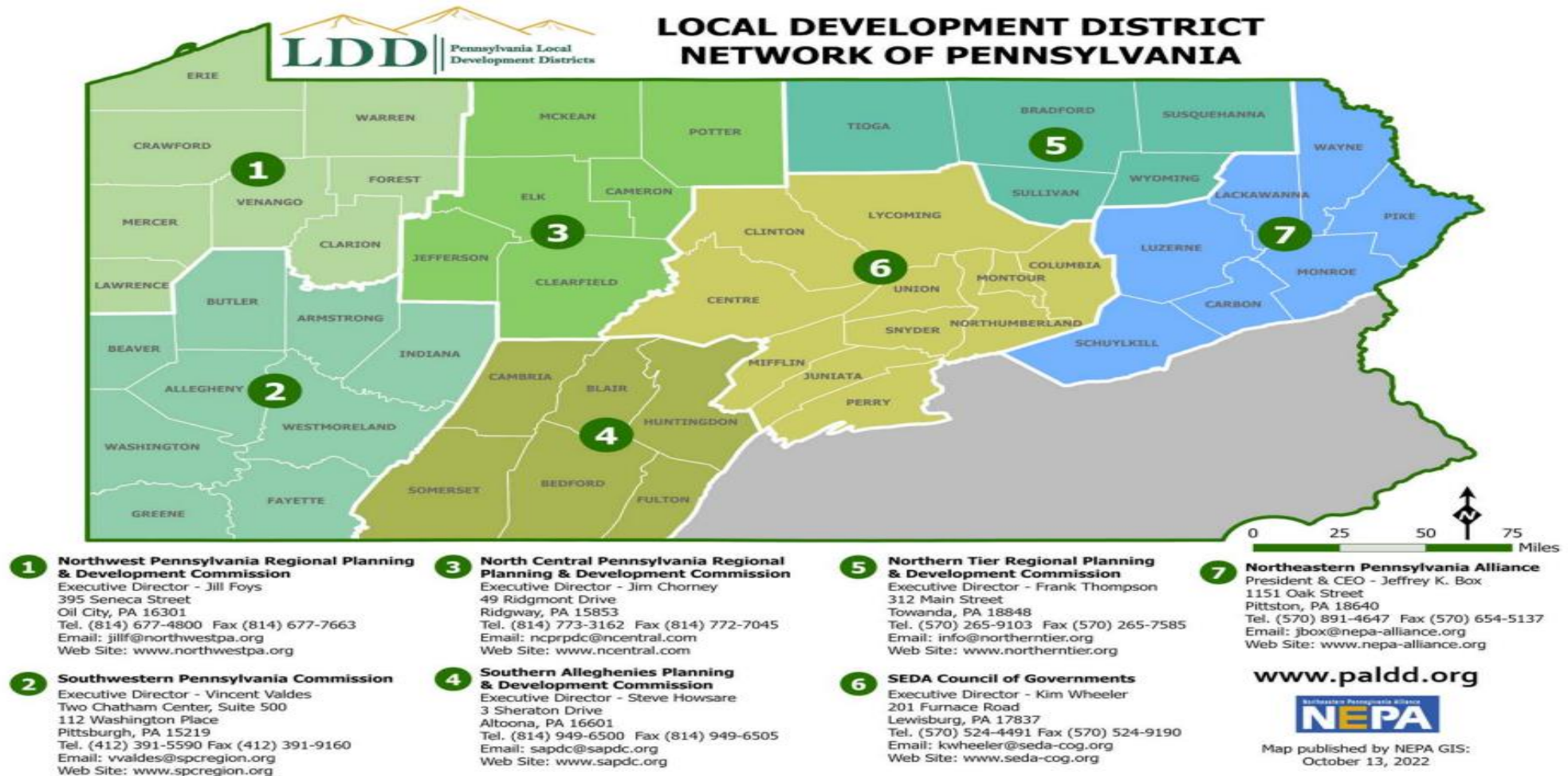
Work with you local planning commission to learn more about opportunities presented by federal legislation:

- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)
- Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)
- Transportation Alternative Set Aside (TASA)
- Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)



Federal Funds

- Local Development Districts



US Army Corp of Engineers

The **US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE)** is a good resource to consult regarding anything related to water, from new funding to technical assistance.

Pennsylvania is part of the **North Atlantic Division**, and included in the Buffalo, Baltimore, Pittsburgh, and Philadelphia Districts.



Tips & Best Practices

Preparing Your Best Application

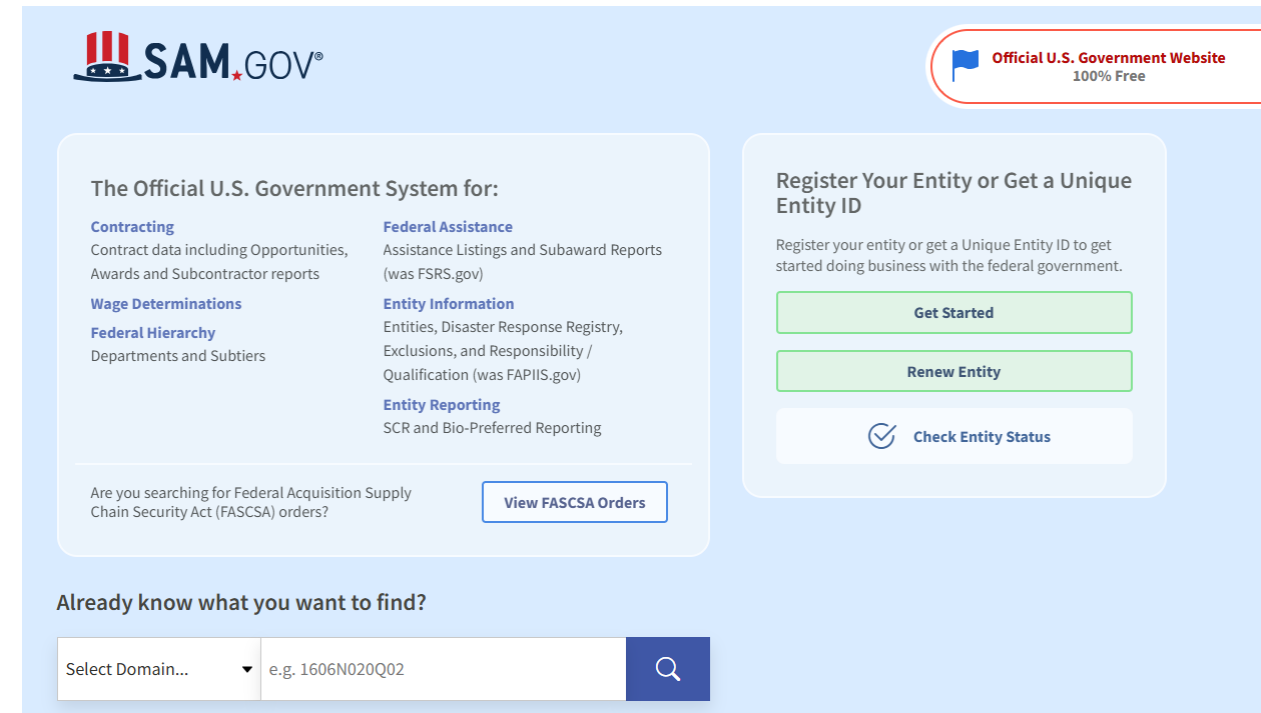
- Follow the **Program Guidelines**
- Understand the project
- Be clear, concise & specific
 - Define the problem
 - Focus on the solution, benefits, and long-term sustainability
 - Limit abbreviations and acronyms
 - No “fluff” – be direct
 - If the project is part of a plan (Comprehensive Plan, Master Site, etc.) be sure to reference it
 - Re-read to make sure non-experts (reviewers) can understand the project
- Explain with statistics:
 - [U.S. Census Bureau](#)
 - [Center for Rural Pennsylvania](#)
 - [Roadway Statistics from PennDOT](#)
- Be project ready.
 - The project drives the grant; the grant should not drive the project
 - Adopt a project plan
 - Identify your top 3 to 5 projects
 - Align with grant programs
 - Apply when available

Patience and persistence = prosperity.
If at first you don't succeed — try, try again.

Federal SAM Account

You should **always** maintain an active [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) account.

- It is used for all federal grants
- A Unique Entity ID (UEI) is recommended for state funds (for now?)
- **To remain active, you must renew annually.** Please beware of scams.



Resources & Relationships

It is helpful to start with the following contacts if you plan to apply for funding:

- **Agency Regional Offices**
- **Local Planning Commission**
- **PennDOT Municipal Service Representative**



Support



Applications benefit from legislative, local, and county support.

Legislators can write support letters but also ask for a site visit.

Non-profits and local citizen groups can help get local officials involved.

County Planning Department letters can help show county-level support and buy-in.

Member municipalities should provide letters of support to the project.

Case Study – Funding Plan for Beaver Falls

Planning-Activated Communities (PAC)



Determine 2 to 4 broad categories of investment



Identify specific, actionable projects



Connect project leads with relevant State resources

Why Beaver Falls

Invests in quality of life

Forms strategic partnerships

Invests in modern infrastructure

Embraces change as an opportunity

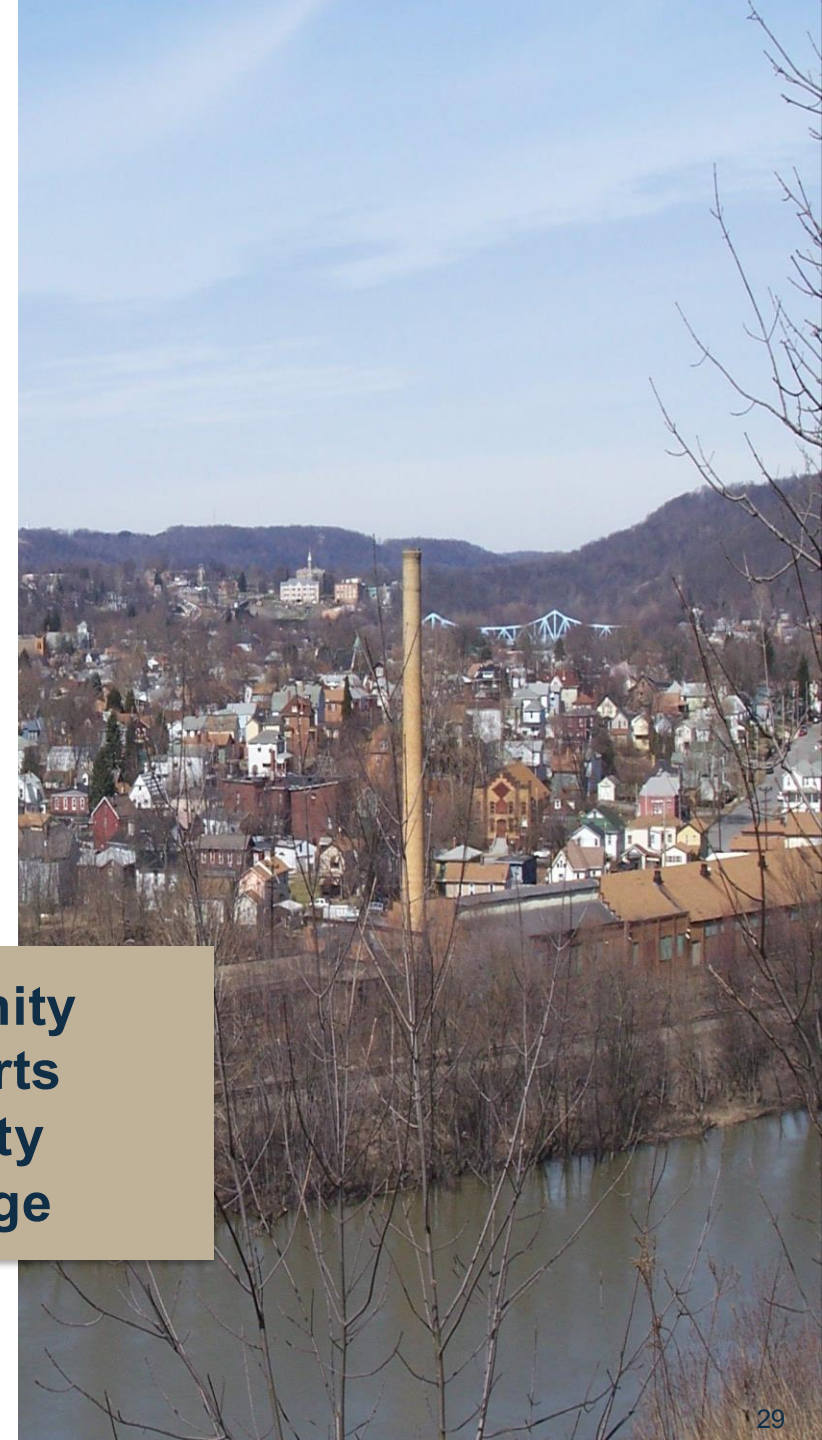


PAC in Beaver Falls

Goals and Objectives

- Review *Beaver Falls Forward* plan, assess action status, and plan for next steps
- Focus efforts on neighborhood footprint as outlined in *Beaver Falls Forward*
- Assess blight and community strengthening initiatives
- Assess work done in the Innovation Corridor
- Assess other significant initiatives, programs, or projects and coordinate action

Partners included City of Beaver Falls • Beaver Falls Community Development Corporation (CDC) • Portobello Cultural Life & Arts Center • Neighborhood North Museum of Play • Beaver County Corporation for Economic Development (CED) • Geneva College



Three Focus Areas



Opportunities for Catalytic Investment

\$28M over **11** projects



HOUSING

CATEGORY PRIORITY: 1

Continue Housing Revitalization Program

PROJECT: Continue, structure, support, fund, and deploy a housing revitalization program (similar to Whole-Homes Repair).

OVERALL PRIORITY: 2

Continue and expand homeowner-based revitalization efforts previously facilitated by BFCDC. Follow the targeted approach outlined in *Beaver Falls Forward* and expand as and where appropriate.

LEAD: Beaver Falls Community Development Corporation

PARTNER: City of Beaver Falls, Beaver County

FUNDING: [Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement Fund \(PHARE\)](#)

- Max \$750,000 for rehab/preservation of existing housing
- Grant
- Match encouraged
- 30% of funds used for households below 50% area median income (AMI)
- Contact: Clay Lambert, clambert@phfa.org

[DCED Neighborhood Assistance Program \(NAP\), Special Program Priorities](#)

- Up to 90% tax credit to business(es) for contribution(s) towards qualifying project
- Contact: Johnna Pro, jopro@pa.gov

[PA Local Share Account \(LSA\)](#)

- Min \$25,000 to max \$1,000,000
- Reimbursement
- No match required
- Contact: ra-dcedcbf@pa.gov

[HUD Home Investment Partnership Program \(HOME\)](#)

- No specific min or max, limited to available funds
- Grant
- 25% match required
- For households at 50%-60% AMI
- Contact: Marlene Landrum, mlandrum@beavercountypa.gov

BENEFIT: Strategic investment to assist with maintenance, prevent blight, stabilize and improve neighborhoods, and individual property values.

CHALLENGE: Increased material costs have reduced buying power among homeowners; population decline, low ownership rates, low incomes, and higher unemployment can lead to more neglected and abandoned properties.

COST EST: \$1,000,000

TIME EST: 60 months



CONNECTIVITY

CATEGORY PRIORITY: 2

Extend the Beaver River Trail North

PROJECT: Conduct a feasibility study on extending the Beaver River Trail north from Geneva College along the river towards Wallace Run Road / PA 551.

OVERALL PRIORITY: 7

Current project includes 1,856ft segment connection from 23rd Street under the Eastvale Bridge to Geneva College.

Follow-up project would be to conduct necessary design, engineering, and construction of trail extension, per the study, if feasible.

LEAD: Geneva College, City of Beaver Falls

PARTNER: Beaver Falls Community Development Corporation

FUNDING: [DCNR Community Conservation Partnership Program \(C2P2\)](#)

- No specific min or max, limited to available funds
- Grant & reimbursement
- 50% match required
- Contact: Adam Mattis, amattis@pa.gov

[DCED Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program \(GTRP\)](#)

- No specific min to max \$250,000
- Reimbursement
- 15% match required
- Contact: ra-dcedsitedvpt@pa.gov

[DCED Municipal Assistance Program \(MAP\)](#)

- No specific min or max, limited to available funds
- Reimbursement
- 50% match required
- Contact: Stephanie Edwards, steadwards@pa.gov

[PA Local Share Account \(LSA\)](#)

- Min \$25,000 to max \$1,000,000
- Reimbursement
- No match required
- Contact: ra-dcedcbf@pa.gov

[Hillman Foundation](#)

- No specific min or max, see range of previously-awarded grants
- Grant
- Contacts: Pam Lewis, pdlewis@hillmanfo.com or foundation@hillmanfo.com

A request for proposal (RFP) process is recommended (or may be required by funding program) for professional consulting services to perform the study and/or additional pre-construction work.

GUIDANCE FOR YEAR-ONE ACTION

Several of the highest priority projects require funding towards action. As such, key steps during the first year will be applying for funding for actions such as design, maintenance, repair, and program administration, or conducting a study. Others include key steps of organizational assessment and visioning, and auditing of policies. Below conceptually outlines a majority of the work among key organizations during year one in Beaver Falls.

Neighborhood North	Neighborhood North to the Tribune Building: Continue to apply for funding, leverage funding, and fundraise towards design, architectural services, and construction. → Towards construction and relocation											
BFCDC	Continue Housing Revitalization Program: Apply for funding to (re)administer housing revitalization program. → Towards housing revitalization											
Portobello	Portobello to the BHIVE: Set a vision for the organization and seek funding and staff for executive director. → Towards expanded programming											
Beaver Falls	Develop Policies and Ordinances: Review and develop policies and ordinances for the downtown district. → Towards adoption and enforcement											
Geneva College	Extend the Beaver River Trail North: Apply for funds to study trail extension. → Conduct study											
	JUL '25	AUG '25	SEP '25	OCT '25	NOV '25	DEC '25	JAN '26	FEB '26	MAR '26	APR '26	MAY '26	JUN '26

Get in Touch

Northwest Region



Mary Ammann

Local Government Specialist

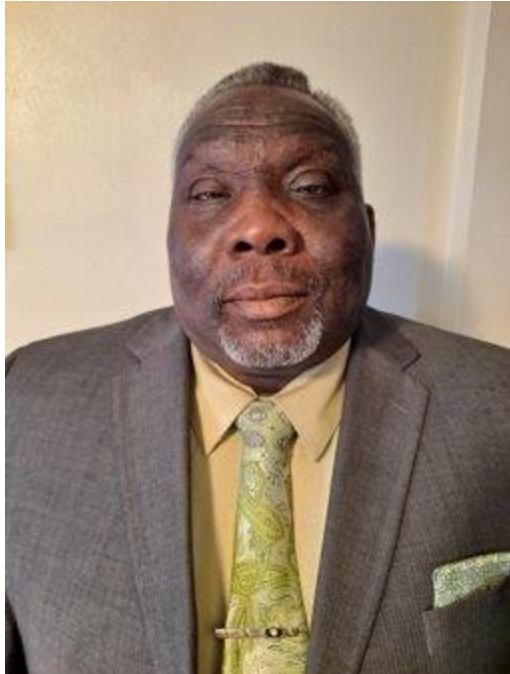
mammann@pa.gov

717-307-2411

Counties Served

- Clarion
- Crawford
- Erie
- Forest
- Jefferson
- Lawrence
- Mercer
- Venango
- Warren

Southwest Region



George Newsome

Local Government Specialist

gnewsome@pa.gov

412-565-7970

Counties Served

- Allegheny
- Armstrong
- Beaver
- Butler
- Fayette
- Green
- Indiana
- Washington
- Westmoreland

Central Region



Jacob DeCarli
Local Government Specialist
jdecarli@pa.gov
717-466-4823

Counties Served

- Bedford
- Blair
- Cambria
- Cameron
- Centre
- Clearfield
- Clinton
- Elk
- Fulton
- Huntingdon
- McKean
- Potter
- Somerset
- Tioga

Northeast Region



Jonas Crass

Local Government Specialist

jcrass@pa.gov

412-654-0784

Counties Served

- Bradford
- Carbon
- Columbia
- Lackawanna
- Luzerne
- Lycoming
- Monroe
- Montour
- Pike
- Schuylkill
- Sullivan
- Susquehanna
- Wayne
- Wyoming

Southcentral Region

Troy Kieser

Local Government Specialist

tkieser@pa.gov

717-720-1375



Counties Served

- Adams
- Cumberland
- Dauphin
- Franklin
- Juniata
- Lancaster
- Lebanon
- Mifflin
- Northumberland
- Perry
- Snyder
- Union
- York

Southeast Region



Kabir Hossain

Local Government Specialist

khossain@pa.gov

717-441-7195

Counties Served

- Berks
- Bucks
- Chester
- Delaware
- Lehigh
- Montgomery
- Northampton
- Philadelphia

Q&A



Pennsylvania

Department of Community & Economic Development

Kathy Wyrosdick, AICP
Executive Director

Governor's Center for Local Government Services

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dced.pa.gov

