

CDBG 2024 Bi-annual Report for The Huntingdon County Planning Commission

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The first half of 2024 has been fairly busy for us. While we're continuing to meet and engage with townships and municipalities, we're also getting ourselves more involved in various committees and local events. In our CDBG work, we've been able to complete four projects and close out three contracts since January.

We participated in a DCED webinar in February that discussed the Environmental Review process, and provided information about ER public notices and the various forms used in the process. While we would eventually like to be able to do environmental reviews in-house, we still feel we need to have more extensive and in-depth training on the subject.

Our fair housing activity for 2024 focused on elementary aged children by providing the elementary schools within the County with copies of two different books, "Strictly No Elephants", which is geared more for grades K-2, and "The Fair Housing Five & the Haunted House, which is for grades 3-5. Our thought was that these books would help children have a better understanding of fair housing rights in an easily comprehensible format. We provided each school with one copy of each book for each classroom (based on grade level), and two copies for each school's library. We also had the pleasure of being able to read these books to some of the library classes at Standing Stone Elementary and Southside Elementary located in the Huntingdon Area School District.

Jayme attended a series of PMPEI trainings in March along with the Planning Director and several other members of the Huntingdon County Planning Commission to gain knowledge of the land development and sub-division review process. This training covered the entire process, starting from pre-application meetings through project completion. Since early June, Jayme and Jodi have been assisting with the preliminary steps of the subdivision/land development review process, which allows our office to have multiple persons with the ability to accept and review plans as they are submitted in hopes to have them to the Planning Commission in a timely manner.

Currently, we are preparing for the 2024 CDBG application. We have already held our initial public hearings and held the open comment period to which we have not had any contributions from the public.

As we had mentioned previously we intend to physically visit each of our municipalities to learn of their needs and desires for their community; we have continued to do so and have now met with 4 more, either in their regularly scheduled meetings or with individuals on behalf of the borough/township they represent. We've met with Cassville Borough about upgrades to their community building and playground, and provided them with information on possible grants they could apply for and ideas on how to fundraise for the funding they are in need of. We've also met with representatives from Mapleton Borough about rehabilitating the former Presbyterian Church into a community center. They have since applied for 2024 CDBG entitlement funds. A representative from the Petersburg Community Development Association reached out to us about rehabilitating the retaining wall/sidewalk on a section of King Street in Petersburg Borough; they have since applied for 2024 CDBG entitlement funds. We also provided grant information to Walker Township for possible upgrades to their community park ballfield. We were welcomed by each and every location we visited, and they were all very glad to now have a face to go with the connection in our office. Everyone was eager to learn more of what CDBG was and how our grants could benefit them, as well as the information we provided them for other grant opportunities within the state that may be better suited for their projects.

Jen and Jayme continue to participate in the JRBC committee that serves the Mount Union Area encompassing Mount Union, Mapleton and Shirley Township. JRBC held its first Color Me! Run/walk, in combination with its 10th anniversary celebration, on June 8, 2024. In addition to the run, there were several vendors and food trucks that participated which added to the success of the 5k. The JRBC committee hopes to make the Color Me! Run/walk an annual community event. Jen was recently invited to be a member of the Huntingdon Landmarks committee. She's looking forward to sharing her enthusiasm and ideas for historic preservation for Huntingdon.

We plan to use the second half of 2024 to advance our knowledge in grant opportunities, serving our communities to the best of our ability, continued involvement in the various committees we serve on, and potentially investigating how we can be involved in additional organizations to further benefit our office and the County.

Please see below the progress of existing projects and preliminary ideas of upcoming projects, as well as several we have been successful in completing.

Completed CDBG Activities:

Since January 2024, four CBDG projects have been completed, as well as the closure of three contracts, those being FY 2018, FY 2019 and FY 2020.

Huntingdon County
FY 2022

Bricktown Senior Center Upgrades – Mount Union

The Bricktown Senior Center is located in Mount Union Borough with a member size of 229 seniors ranging in ages 62 and older. Due to recent changes for senior centers, they are required to provide funding for their own utilities. Bricktown Senior Center addresses this requirement by having a monthly hoagie fundraising event held May through September. The seniors were in need of a freezer-less refrigerator to store hoagies while awaiting pickup to be delivered. They were also in need of updated dining room/event room seating. The chairs they had were older and very much worn from general wear and tear. In early April 2024, 150 stackable chairs and one freezer-less refrigerator were ordered and delivered to the Senior Center. After two incidences of damaged chairs due to mishandling by the delivery service, we were able to get replacement chairs delivered without incident and the project was completed by mid-April. The funded amount for this project was \$10,411.61. Due to some items being on sale, the total spent for the project was \$10,196.50. The remaining \$215.11 will be allocated to the MUMA W. Davis/W. Garber Waterline project.

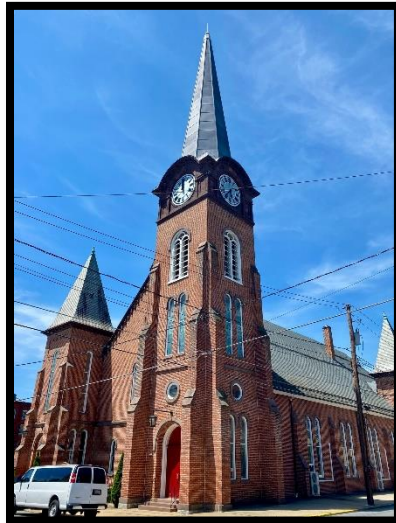


Huntingdon Borough
FY 2018 & 2019

Obo Huntingdon Borough Town Clock Revitalization

This activity involved the repair and restoration (historical preservation) of the town clock located at 508 Mifflin Street, Huntingdon, PA. This project was very detailed and labor intensive due to the complete repair of the Seth Thomas Time and Strike tower clock movement, restoration of the dials, repair of the bell floor, bell cribbing, tolling wheel and hammer assembly, installation of appropriate dial lighting and structural repairs to eliminate existing water infiltration.

Balzer Family Clockworks (Rick, Linda and Chris) were busy with the restoration of the timepiece since December 2022 in their Freeport, Maine workshop. They have re-visited the site multiple times throughout the process. From removal of the timepiece to removing the dials and clock faces for refabricating; installation of the new faces and hands; and finally, on May 21 and 22, 2024, installation of the timepiece itself located in the church vestibule, which allows the public to watch the actual movement of all the components of the timepiece. Huntingdon Borough staff were able to complete the construction portion of the work, and will also maintain the upkeep required to keep the timepiece operational. The encasement that will go around the timepiece could not be completed until the timepiece itself was actually installed. This part of the process will be overseen and funded by Huntingdon Borough. The total cost of this project was \$241,635.67, with funding coming from CDBG grant funds and Huntingdon Landmarks.



Huntingdon Borough **FY 2022**

Westminster Place Outdoor Upgrades

Westminster Place are fairly new senior living apartments located in Huntingdon Borough that host lower income seniors ranging in ages 62 and over who are able to live independently. Many times throughout the day there are groups of residents sitting outside in their one and only seating area. This area offers no shading which results in it being in direct sunlight for a majority of the day. While there are health benefits to being outside, too much sun is not favorable despite the temperature, therefore the complex was seeking assistance in purchasing an awning for a shade option. The seating area will be partially covered with the 24' retractable awning. The awning is made from durable canvas with the color and trim being aesthetically pleasing to the design of the building. It was purchased in mid-April 2024, and was installed by Huntingdon Borough staff. Due to the awning being on sale at the time of purchase, there were funds left over that weren't anticipated. It was decided to purchase (2) 4' Outdoor Steel Benches with backrests, providing more seating options to residents so that they can enjoy their new awning. Total cost of this project was \$3,156.00.



Smithfield Township **FY 2020 & 2021**

Obo Smithfield Township Housing Rehabilitation

After teaming up with SEDA-COG to administer this project, Hilltop Construction was selected for the rehabilitation of a single family residence. This project consisted of extensive exterior work which included replacement of walks around the front and side of the home, installation of vinyl railings and posts, installation of new drainage, cleaning of the chimney, installation of new vinyl replacement windows and replacement of the foundation wall. Interior work that was done included removing the existing water heater and replacing it with a new energy efficient water heater, updating electrical throughout the residence, replacement of smoke alarms, complete kitchen and bathroom remodel, installation of a new insulated steel door and replacement of all storm doors, installation of new ceiling molding and new flooring (carpet and vinyl plank) installed throughout the home. Final inspection was performed by SEDA-COG on March 26, 2024. Total cost of this project was \$100,850.00

Ongoing CDBG Contracts and Activities:

FY 2021 & 2022

Huntingdon County – Pennsylvania Ave Restoration – Mount Union

The original project was submitted as the restoration of a section of the one-way west bound lane of Pennsylvania Avenue between Franklin Street and Division Street. This section experiences a relatively large traffic volume, including school bus traffic and delivery trucks that enter the Borough from Kistler Borough and proceed to Division Street or Jefferson Street. The pavement condition of this roadway section is poor with many areas of base and edge failures. In addition, the sidewalks do not meet ADA requirements for an accessible route and the crossings at Franklin Street and Division Street are substandard. Much of the vehicle parking in this area is informal, with vehicles regularly parking on the sidewalks, decreasing ADA pedestrian access. After learning about an upcoming sewer project that will be taking place along this same section of roadway the project location has been relocated. The new corridor will be from Division to Jefferson Streets along Pennsylvania Avenue (just east of the original location) and will not be disrupted by the sewer project. The same problems that existed with the previous section are present in the new corridor as well. The environmental review has been completed on the original sector, as well as a recertification completed for the new section. The bid specifications are in the process of being created. The

timeline for when this project will go out to bid is anticipated to be the end of August 2024.

FY 2022 & 2023

Huntingdon County – Mount Union Municipal Authority – W. Davis/W. Garber Street Waterline Repair

The service will receive new valves in the lines along Washington Street and the intersections of W. Davis and W. Garber Streets, a new 8” water main along W. Davis Street, a new 4” water main through the woods between W. Davis and W. Garber Streets, a new 4” valve connecting the new 4” line to the existing line along Garber Street. There will also be a new fire hydrant installed along W. Davis Street. This project was submitted and approved in the 2022 CDBG application submitted to DCED, which included a completed income survey of all affected beneficiaries to prove that the project was qualified. This project went out to bid in late March 2024. Snyder Excavating, LLC from Johnstown, PA was selected as the contract holder. The Notice to Award was issued on April 30, 2024, with the Notice to Proceed being issued on May 21, 2024. Work began in early June 2024, with the estimated substantial completion to be the end of July 2024.



Opening CDBG and A

FY 2022 & 2023

obo Huntingdon Borough – 7th Street Parking Lot Rehabilitation

A modification to FY 2022 application resulted in the change from the Huntingdon Borough project from the Huntingdon Community Center ADA Accommodations to the 7th Street Parking Lot Rehabilitation. While this parking lot had recent electrical accommodations made, the paving and draining in the lot is in poor condition and in need of repairs made. There are also currently no ADA parking spaces. We are anticipating needing to combine the 2022 and 2023 funds with the allocation for 2024 as well to complete the entire paving project with bid specifications, bidding and start dates to occur in late 2025.

FY 2022 & 2023

obo Smithfield Township – Storm Sewer Improvements Phase East (replaces Housing Rehabilitation)

We anticipate beginning a large multi-year, multi-phased storm sewer improvement project within the “village” of Smithfield Township beginning with the first portion named Phase East. It has been noted by the engineer that upon inspection the existing storm sewer system has collapsed and clogged sections throughout. Repair and replacement of storm sewer system components is the only method of system improvement. In Phase East, the areas in question will be cleaned, and then inspected by closed circuit television inspection. All defects and areas in need of repair will be noted, and a detailed design for repair will be completed. There will be two additional Phases and the entire project will likely require the use of 6 years of CDBG funding.