

MUNICIPAL ASSISTANCE

With the approval of the Huntingdon County Commissioners, the Planning and Development Department may provide assistance to municipalities upon request. Such requests typically involve development of subdivision, zoning and building permit ordinances; preparation and administration of grant applications; requests for proposals for professional services and various planning studies.

INDIVIDUAL MUNICIPAL ASSISTANCE

Department staff worked directly with the following municipalities in 2015:

Huntingdon Borough

Staff attended meetings with Borough Staff and the Community Development Committee to discuss CDBG administration. Staff also provided assistance with updates to the Borough's website.

Juniata Township

Staff met with Township Supervisors to discuss Township Ordinances.

Mount Union Borough

Staff attended meetings to assist with implementation of the Borough's Strategic Plan.

Shirley Township

Staff attended a Township meeting to provide an update on the Blueprint Communities project.

Warriors Mark Township

Staff provided assistance with Township website updates.

ACT 13 LEGACY FUND

The PA Legislature passed a bill entitled Act 13, which Governor Corbett signed into law in 2012. The purpose of this comprehensive bill is to handle unconventional well drilling due to the recent industry breakthrough of extracting natural gas from the Marcellus Shale, a subsurface geologic formation.

One provision that directly impacts Huntingdon County is the establishment of a Legacy Fund (Section 2315(a.1)(5)). Each county in the Commonwealth received a share of the impact fee based upon the county's population. The funds are intended for "the planning, acquisition, development, rehabilitation and repair of greenways, recreational trails, open space, natural areas, community conservation and beautification projects, community and heritage parks and water resource management. Funds may be used to acquire lands for recreational or conservation purposes and land damaged or prone to drainage by storms or flooding."

On September 3, 2013, the County Commissioners established a grant process that made a total of \$30,000 available to any of the County's municipalities, with a maximum award of \$10,000

per municipality. The Commissioners appointed the Planning Commission to accept applications, review them, and make recommendations similar to the way the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) process operates. This process was recreated in 2014 and 2015.

In 2015, five applications totaling \$41,594.00 were received and reviewed by the Planning Commission. Recommendations were forwarded to the County Commissioners, who approved these five projects at a total cost of \$35,094.00. The additional \$5,094 was approved from the unspent balance of the 2014 allocation. The 2015 approved projects included:

- Playground Rehab/Rebuild, Cassville Borough - \$10,000;
- Storage Addition to Park Pavilion, Broad Top City Borough - \$6,500;
- Lower Trail Surface Rehabilitation, Morris Township - \$6,000;
- Riverside Park Improvements, Smithfield Township - \$5,094; and
- 911 National Memorial Trail Feasibility Study, Huntingdon County - \$7,500

Of the \$78,345.53 approved for eligible municipal projects since 2013, \$29,272.46 has been spent. Projects have been approved in the following municipalities: Alexandria Borough, Broad Top City Borough, Cassville Borough, Huntingdon Borough, Mount Union Borough, Morris Township, Porter Township, and Smithfield Township.

Distribution of Act 13 Legacy Funds
2013 - 2015

