

Huntingdon County
Act 13 Marcellus Legacy Fund
2024 FACT SHEET
Revised January 23, 2024

Under Act 13 of 2012, the Huntingdon County Commissioners have received Marcellus Legacy Fund monies from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In order to obligate these funds, known as the Legacy Fund, the Huntingdon County Commissioners have adopted this Act 13 Legacy Fund Strategy and Plan. This Strategy is designed to clearly outline Huntingdon County's process for choosing projects for submission under the requirements stipulated in Act 13 of 2012.

Act 13, Section 2315(a.1)(5)

Fifteen percent 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. Funds shall be distributed to counties proportionately based on the population of the county as follows:

- (i) In each county, the distribution shall be according to the following formula:
 - (A) Divide:
 - (I) the total population of the county; by
 - (II) the total population of the Commonwealth.
 - (B) Express the quotient under clause (A) as a percentage.
 - (C) Multiply:
 - (I) the percentage under clause (B); by
 - (II) the amount of funds available under this paragraph.
- (ii) Each county shall receive a minimum of \$25,000 to the extent funds are available.

Guiding Resources

The following resources are available to help determine if submitted projects are in compliance with the mission of the Huntingdon County Planning Commission

1. Consistent under Act 13 of 2012;
2. Consistent with the Huntingdon County Comprehensive Plans, including the Active Transportation Plan;
3. Leverage other private or public dollars;
4. Implement other plans such as:
 - a. Southern Alleghenies Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan
 - b. Juniata River Conservation Plan;
 - c. Mainline Canal Greenway Plan;
 - d. Southern Alleghenies Regional Greenway Plan;
 - e. Agricultural Land Preservation Plan;
 - f. The Feasibility Study for the Main Line Canal Greenway Trail (segment of the 9/11 National Memorial Trail) Huntingdon and Mifflin Counties

Eligibility

Only projects deemed eligible under Act 13 of 2012 guidelines, listed above, are eligible for funding. If you have an idea for a project, you may contact the County Planning and Development Department prior to applying for funding. All requests must be applied for directly through the project location's home municipality. The host municipality may apply on behalf of organizations within their municipality. All funding awards must demonstrate the benefit to the public and not restrict the use to the public.

Project Selection

It is the intent of the Huntingdon County Commissioners to allow the Huntingdon County Planning and Development Department to accept applications for funding and to rank each project based upon an objective point system. Once the projects have been scored and ranked, they will be submitted to the Huntingdon County Planning Commission for recommendation, then to the County Commissioners for final selection and grant award.

Point System

County Act 13 projects are rated by Planning and Development Department staff on a 100-point scale based on the following criteria. The maximum number of points to be assigned for each category listed below along with a description of the manner in which the number of points are awarded include:

15 Attendance at one of the two virtual scheduled workshops

15 Appropriateness of Solution

Points are assigned to rate how effectively the proposed project addresses the stated problem. Applicants should explain whether the problem would be completely or partially solved by the proposal.

30 Proven Need for the Project

The seriousness of the project is rated in comparison to other proposed projects considering concerns such as safety, loss of economic and natural resources, number of people impacted, etc.

15 Level of Activity Planning

The amount of preparation made for the project is rated in comparison to other proposed activities. Planning efforts include having detailed cost estimates and/or specifications prepared by a contractor or other knowledgeable professional, letters of support, previous applications for same project, evidence of discussions regarding project. This factor also addresses the readiness of the project to proceed once funding is received.

Points for activity planning will be assigned as follows:

- 15 detailed drawings and specifications
- 10 feasibility study completed
- 5 activity is recommended by other planning documents
- 5 contractor quote
- 0 no planning activities

10 County Comprehensive Plans Implementation

If an activity is compliant with the goals established by the Comprehensive Plans the activity receives 10 points. If the activity is non-compliant with the plan, no points are awarded. No fraction of points will be awarded in this category.

10 Previous Grant

Projects which have received County Act 13 funds in the previous 3 years receive 0 points. Those which have not received County Act 13 funds in the previous 3 years receive 5 points.

5 Leverage

Points are assigned by first calculating the percent of the total project cost that comes from another funding source. This percentage is multiplied by 5 to determine the number of points awarded.

For example: total project cost is \$100,000, \$20,000 is provided from another source ($20,000 / 100,000 = .20$ or 20%), ($.20 \times 5 = 1$ point) or total project cost is \$100,000, \$70,000 is provided from another source ($70,000/100,000 = .70$ or 70%), ($.70 \times 5 = 3.5$ points).

Application Form

Applications shall be made on forms provided by the County. The form must be completed and submitted for the project to be ranked by the Huntingdon County Planning and Development Department and for a recommendation from the Planning Commission to be forwarded to the Huntingdon County County Commissioners for consideration.

Grant Award

A total of \$30,000 will be made available for this funding cycle. A maximum award of \$10,000 will be provided to those applicants that rank the highest. A six percent (6%) administration fee will be deducted from the total grant award of each awardee while the balance must be used for project costs.

Awarded Project Requirements

Once a municipality has been awarded funds, the municipality will be responsible for submitting a detailed expense report upon the completion of the project that will detail how the funds will be expended to comply with Act 13 (as listed in this fact sheet) for project close-out. Any misused funds or unused funds will be required to be re-paid to the County by the municipality and deposited back into the Legacy Fund.

Schedule

Projects shall be submitted according to the schedule contained here. Applications will be accepted in person at the Huntingdon County Planning and Development Department Office, located at 205 Penn Street, Huntingdon, PA, or by email to planning@huntingdoncounty.net. Failure to follow the schedule will result in project ineligibility.

February 26, 2024	6:00 PM	Technical Assistance Workshop (in person and Via Zoom)
February 27, 2024	12:30 PM	Technical Assistance Workshop (in person and Via Zoom)
April 12, 2024*	4:00 PM	Applications due, County Planning Department
April 18, 2024	5:00 PM	Applicant Presentations to County Planning Commission
April 30, 2024	9:30 AM	County Commissioner's Consideration/Approval

*APPLICATION DEADLINE

Time Limit

After County Commissioner's approval, successful applicants have one year to enter into an agreement with the Commissioners and one year after the date of the agreement to complete the project. Projects that exceed that timeframe could result in the recapture of the funds. A time extension *may* be considered for extenuating circumstances.

Contract

Any funding award approved by the County Commissioners will require a signed agreement between the municipality and the County. All invoices shall be submitted directly to the County Planning Commission, the administrators of the fund, for payment. All invoices will be verified against the approved budget submitted with the project. Prior to payment, all awardees must provide proof of purchase or delivery by either scheduling an on site visit or by providing photographs of the product or improvements.

Technical Assistance

Assistance in completing a project submission is available from Huntingdon County Planning and Development Department staff. Applicants are strongly encouraged to attend one of the Technical Assistance Workshops prior to submitting a project. Project applications and specific questions concerning program guidelines should be addressed to the Huntingdon County Planning and Development Department, 205 Penn Street, Suite 3, Huntingdon, PA 16652, 814-643-5091 or planning@huntingdoncounty.net.