



Lackawanna County

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Commissioners
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Lackawanna County Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) - Program Overview & Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act)

CDBG funds enable communities to effectively address local community development needs, such as infrastructure, housing, and community facilities. It also provides federal funds to develop viable communities through the provision of housing improvements and building suitable living environments, expand economic opportunities geared to low- and moderate-income individuals, and improve critical community health and welfare infrastructure.

Flow of CDBG funds from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

- There are 40 municipalities in Lackawanna County, of which, Scranton and Carbondale are cities
- The City of Scranton (1) receives CDBG funds directly from HUD
- The State of Pennsylvania (PA) receives State CDBG funds from HUD to distribute based on the formula of Act 179 of 1984
- The City of Carbondale (2) receives CDBG funds directly from the State of PA
- Lackawanna County receives CDBG funds directly from the State of PA “on behalf of” the remaining 38 municipalities
 - The 38 municipalities are all administered “on behalf of” by the Lackawanna County Department of Planning and Economic Development. Of the 38, 11 municipalities are entitlement communities that receive a yearly CDBG allocation based on population. The 11 entitlement communities are as follows, Archbald, Blakely, Clarks Summit, Dickson City, Dunmore, Jessup, Old Forge, Olyphant, Scott, Taylor, and Throop. The remaining 27 municipalities all fall under the non-entitlement category and must submit an eligible activity application to Lackawanna County to be considered for CDBG funding.

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act)

a total of \$5 billion will be made available under the Community Development Fund ***to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus***. These funds will focus on assistance to Businesses, including Special Economic Development Assistance, Public Services, and other programs that will assist in any activity that will support state or local pandemic response. The PA State CDBG program is expected to receive approximately \$24 million in additional CDBG funds via the CARES Act. An exact allocation amount for Lackawanna County (38 municipalities) has not been determined, but any funds received will be allocated in the same manner as the yearly CDBG allocation. As soon as the State releases funding amounts, we will update this notice with the amount of funds that are available for eligible CDBG activities.

Based on information that we have received from the State, the first tranche of the CARES Act funds, will be allocated on or about April 24, 2020. Additional funding may also be available later based on

need. The State would also like communities to be aware that based on their rudimentary analysis of the formula, it is possible that sufficient funds will not be available for every county and city to receive their base allocation.

The Planning and Economic Development Department would like the 38 municipalities that we administer CDBG funds “on behalf of” to help us to begin to plan now for eligible CDBG activities that may benefit your communities in the preparation, prevention and response to COVID-19, if and when funds become available. What specific uses of CDBG funds would you like to consider in your community? What needs are emerging in your municipality in need of response? Please reach out to Brenda Sacco, Acting Director of Planning and Economic Development, SaccoB@lackawannacounty.org or Peggy Piccotti, Contract Manager, PiccottiM@lackawannacounty.org with your communities needs and/or questions concerning CDBG funding.