



One year after the passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, we have seen signs that it is beginning to work. Here are some of the stories from around the Commonwealth of the positive impact the Recovery Act had on local communities, small businesses, and school districts.

Northside Community Development Fund—Creating Jobs and Growing Business

Located in Pittsburgh, the Northside Community Development Fund (NCDF) received \$600,000 in Recovery Act funds through a Community Development Financial Institutions grant. These grants promote access to capital and local and economic growth in low income urban and rural communities across the country.

In early 2009, the historic Penn Brewing restaurant and brewery was forced to close their doors, resulting in the loss of thirty five jobs of hard working men and women. NSCDF intends to use grant to provide financing to a community organization for acquisition of the E&O Brewery complex. Penn Brewing will be able to use that space and will re-open its restaurant this month, creating forty jobs. In addition, there are 15 other small businesses located in the office portion of the building. The acquisition will also allow those companies to stay which retains approximately sixty five jobs. This shows how the Recovery Act has helped small businesses and local communities in these difficult financial times.

Source: http://www.cdfifund.gov/news_events/CDFI-2009-44-Fund-Announces-Disbursement-of-Recovery-Act-Grants.asp

Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Airport---Updating Essential Equipment

In October, I joined with my colleague Congressman Kanjorski and U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood to announce 13.3 million in ARRA funds will go towards replacing the outdated air traffic control tower at the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport. This will create approximately 140 construction jobs and help keep 39 federal employees at the airport. I am pleased that the Recovery Act Funds are addressing important infrastructure needs around the Commonwealth. Work began in this project in January 2010 and is expected to be completed by summer 2012.

Source: http://www.faa.gov/recovery/programs/media/facilities_and_equipment_arra_funding.pdf.

For more information see “Work begins on \$18.8 million air traffic control tower” by Josh Mrozinski, Scranton *Times-Tribune*, <http://thetimes-tribune.com/work-begins-on-18-8-million-air-traffic-control-tower-1.583160>.

Lebanon County Housing Authority—Housing Families and Helping Local Contractors

With funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the Lebanon County Housing Authority has thus been able to hire local contractors whose businesses were previously suffering.

During these difficult economic times, small business owner Derek Byler committed himself to look for any jobs his business could take on to keep himself and his three employees working. His business, Heart of the Homes Kitchens, was suffering so he put in a bid to replace windows on 61 dwellings for the Lebanon County Housing Authority.

"I used to be a contractor and home builder 23 years ago," Byler said. "For the last 11 years I've primarily been doing custom kitchens. But when things started slowing down I reached back into my past. This job [kept] me floating."

Lebanon County Housing Authority has used additional ARRA funding to install security cameras and repave parking lots at its senior apartments. The authority also used funds to renovate foreclosed homes and expand programs that reduce homelessness.

Source: <http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/RECOVERY/investments>

Lebanon Daily News – “Economic stimulus award reaches milestone, and some gainfully employed locals are grateful”

http://www.ldnews.com/ci_13632532

Holt Memorial Library—A Permanent Home

Due to ARRA Funds, the Holt Memorial Library in Phillipsburg will now have a permanent home. A \$300,000 mixture of a loan and grant from the Department of Agriculture will be used for the renovation of the former M & T Bank building to be the future site of the library.

Centre Daily Times “Library to receive stimulus funds”-

<http://www.centredaily.com/news/local/philipsburg/story/1524860.html>

Philadelphia Housing Authority—Workforce Development

In October, I travelled to South Philadelphia meet with PHA Executive Director Carl Greene and tour PHA’s Pre- Apprenticeship program before announcing an additional \$13.9 million HUD grant for PHA. Joining them was Ed Coryell, head of the local carpenters union. The award is one of many federal grants that the Authority has aggressively pursued in recent months to enhance its public housing and community building mission. The funds will help PHA demolish the outdated Paschall Apartments in southwest Philadelphia and rebuild 100 new housing units and a 4,000 ft. community facility on the site.

PHA's Pre-Apprenticeship program has earned a national reputation for preparing public housing residents for well paying careers in the building trades such as carpentry, electrical work and painting. PHA is currently putting hundreds of local contractors to work on a host of construction and energy upgrade projects, thanks to \$91 million in federal stimulus funding awarded earlier this year and some of those workers are Pre-Apprenticeship program graduates.

In these troubling economic times, affordable housing and workforce development are more important than ever. I am proud to say that PHA is leading the country in this arena, quickly and effectively administering more than \$91 million in ARRA funds to build quality housing, create jobs and expand economic opportunities here in Philadelphia.

Source: <http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/RECOVERY/investments>

For more information: http://www.pha.phila.gov/web_files/Stimulus_Booklet_for_web.pdf.

My Father's House—Providing Services for Veterans

Erie County, on behalf of My Father's House of Erie, will receive \$188,000 for a program to address the housing and supportive service needs of female veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. The funding will be used to hire two case managers and support two existing positions in Erie's Program House and in the proposed project house.

Source: www.recovery.pa.gov

Esperanza Health Center—Establishing Community Health Centers

Esperanza Health Center is a nonprofit, faith-based bilingual community health center in Philadelphia. It has received \$6.5 million in ARRA funding in order to build a third, new location in North Philadelphia. The building of the new center is expected to create 56 construction jobs as well as 60 permanent healthcare jobs after it is complete and open to the public. The center, which offers primary care services and health education classes among other services, expects the new location to serve approximately 7,000 patients.

Planned for a site near the intersection of North 6th and Cayuga Streets, the new 28,000 square foot center will transform an abandoned former warehouse building into

“WE ARE EXCITED TO HAVE BEEN SELECTED FROM MANY APPLICANTS TO RECEIVE THIS GRANT AWARD FOR HUNTING PARK. THESE RECOVERY FUNDS WILL ENABLE US MEET THE GROWING NEED FOR AFFORDABLE, CULTURALLY-COMPETENT PRIMARY HEALTH CARE IN NORTH PHILADELPHIA. THE FACILITY WILL ALSO PROVIDE SPACE TO PARTNER WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS IN A VARIETY OF WAYS.”

–SUSAN POST, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND HUNTING PARK RESIDENT

an efficient, modern health care facility serving seven thousand patients.

Services to be offered at the new facility include comprehensive primary care services for adults and children; a comprehensive HIV care program; behavioral health care services; nutritional counseling, health education classes; a small on-site medication dispensary for patients; and, multi-purpose space for recreational and fitness activities. Through additional classroom space available at the new facility, Esperanza will be able to expand its range of services, increasing the amount of preventative and health education/wellness programs offered.

Pennsylvania Local Workforce Investment Board--Jobs for Disadvantaged Youth

The Pennsylvania Local Workforce Investment Boards (LWIBs) will receive \$34.5 million in ARRA funds specifically for youth programs. The majority of this funding was aimed at employing Pennsylvania youth in the summer of 2009, during which 9,200 disadvantaged youths held their first jobs. In addition to facilitating the employment of young people in local establishments, the program includes job skills training. At summer's end, the program participants had gained valuable work experience, clear skill sets, and professional references.

[*The Patriot News*, 12/1/09] **From Democratic Policy Committee**

The City of Erie—Local Government Benefitting from the Recovery Act

The City of Erie, like many other local governments across the Commonwealth, received a number of grants from the ARRA for infrastructure investment, hiring more police officers and economic development. This funding has helped the city create jobs while addressing the needs of the people of Erie.

"THE CITY OF ERIE HAS GREATLY BENEFITED FROM THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT. WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO HIRE SIX ADDITIONAL POLICE OFFICERS TO ADDRESS OUR MANPOWER CONCERNS AND ENABLE OUR POLICE FORCE TO FOCUS ON THE ONGOING CHALLENGES THAT FACE OUR CITY. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS HAVE ALSO BENEFITTED GREATLY FROM THE VARIOUS STIMULUS GRANT OPPORTUNITIES. WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PAVE ADDITIONAL STREETS AND ADDRESS AGING INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS. THE ENHANCEMENTS TO SOME OF THE EXISTING COMMUNITY PROGRAMS HAVE ALSO HELPED A GREAT NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA."

—JOSEPH SINNOTT, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF ERIE

“The City of Erie has greatly benefited from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. We have been able to hire six additional police officers to address our manpower concerns and enable our police force to focus on the ongoing challenges that face our City. Economic development and infrastructure projects have also benefitted greatly from the various stimulus grant opportunities. We have been

able to pave additional streets and address aging infrastructure needs. The enhancements to some of the existing community programs have also helped a great number of people in Western Pennsylvania."

Greater Erie Community Action Committee—Keeping Homes Warm

Greater Erie Community Action Committee (GEAC) received over \$5.5 million from seven grants from the Recovery Act. This funding will be used for programs such as Head Start, Weatherization, and utility assistance. With severe winters in the Northwest part of the state, this funding will allow GEAC to rehabilitate houses and allow people to keep their residents. Due to this funding, GEAC has created 20 new jobs and in some cases has employed those who had been unemployed for a number of months. GEAC also received funding for workforce investment programs that re-trains workers to meet the needs of the new economy and help the unemployed find better jobs.

Ron Steele, CEO of GEAC says, “ARRA has been a great help to GECAC in a tough state economy. Without it, there would undoubtedly have been a great deal more suffering amongst the people of northwest Pennsylvania.”

Lehigh University—Producing Life Saving Research

Lehigh University received over \$185,000 for to help with research efforts with a micro fluidic AIDS/HIV device for label free HIV virion count. This research will help to create an inexpensive and easy-to-operate HIV viral counter. Dr. Cheng, Assistant Professor of Materials Science and Engineering/Bioengineering says “This money has really helped with the health initiative here on campus, and has aided collaborations with the Lehigh Valley Health Network that would not be possible without the money. We are looking forward to expanding awareness on campus of this new research, and possibly around the globe.”

Commission on Economic Opportunity—Helping to Supply Local Food Banks

The Commission on Economic Opportunity (CEO), located in Luzerne County, has received over \$1 million in ARRA funds to expand regional food banks and boost funding for emergency heating assistance. Last year alone, the food banks fed 37,000 low and moderate income people in Northeast Pennsylvania. The food banks currently receive and distribute 4.1 million pounds of food per year. As a result of the funding received from ARRA, the food bank food bank will receive and distribute an additional million pounds of food annually for the next three years. The increase will allow them to serve 1,200 more low- and moderate- income people annually

For more stories, visit: <http://dpc.senate.gov/dpcdoc-arrasuccess.cfm>.