

LACKAWANNA COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Department of Planning and Economic Development

The Lackawanna County Department of Planning and Economic Development administers the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG). The CDBG program was created through Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The program is designed to assist communities by providing funding for decent, safe and sanitary housing, opportunities for a suitable living environment especially for persons of low to moderate income and the elimination of slums, blight and blighting influences within neighborhoods. Annually between \$1.6 and \$1.8 million comes to Lackawanna County's eleven entitlement communities, approximately \$300,000 to the County's non-entitlement communities, all administered by DPED. The cities of Scranton and Carbondale administer their own CDBG programs. DPED staff also administers the Lackawanna County Affordable Housing Program, Brownfields for Housing, the Family Business Initiative and programs under the purview of the Redevelopment and Industrial Development Authorities.

Regional Planning Commission

Created by action of the Board of Commissioners in 1959, the Lackawanna County Regional Planning Commission is responsible for policy decisions concerning the planning program, recommendations on subdivision and land development and proposals on local land use regulations. As mandated by the State, the Commission is involved with subdivision and land development reviews and land use ordinance and comprehensive plan reviews. In addition, under federal contract or mandate, the Commission is responsible for transportation and environmental planning, census data and demographic analysis. Commission staff also provides planning and technical assistance to municipalities, and maintains the County's mapping and geographical information systems.

Redevelopment Authority

Enacted under the Urban Redevelopment Law of 1945, the Lackawanna Redevelopment Authority was created by the Board of Commissioners in 1961 “for the public purposes of acquiring and re-planning blighted areas and of holding or disposing of them in such manner that they become available for economically and socially sound redevelopment.” Since its creation, the Authority has undertaken dozens of projects across the County. Currently, the Authority is administering several Tax Increment Financing Districts a federal HOME housing program contract.

Industrial Development Authority

The Lackawanna Industrial Development Authority was enacted under the 1955 Industrial Development Authority Act. The Authority has no projects currently underway.

Family Business Initiative

The Family Business Initiative is designed to insure that Lackawanna County family-owned business’ can more successfully compete by providing access to critically needed working capital and fixed asset financing as well as linking these businesses to the full range of support programs available locally, state-wide, and nationally. Access to capital is through a \$50 million loan pool made available by joint effort of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh and the US Small Business Administration’s 504 Loan Program. One-stop-shop services are provided under a working agreement with the Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance’s Entrepreneurial Network. The Family Business Initiative will serve as a satellite of *pabizhelp.com* in Lackawanna County.