

CDBG 2026 Bi-annual Report for The Huntingdon County Planning Commission

*Compiled by: Jen Bellis, Community Development Administrator and Jayme Reck,
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- 2025 CDBG Application submitted in October
 - Four applicants for a total of 7 potential county projects were received
 - Marklesburg Borough Authority; sewer – **did not qualify**
 - Mill Creek Borough; park/playground - **qualified**
 - Oneida Township; sewer – **did not qualify**
 - Saltillo Borough – **did not qualify**
 - Park/playground
 - Sidewalks
 - Community Building
 - Due to having not enough qualified projects we revisited old ideas and determined Diven Park Phase 2 to be a qualified and needed project.
 - Huntingdon Borough project
 - Huntingdon County Library ADA entrance upgrades
 - Mifflin Street Parking Lot Rehab
 - Smithfield Township project
 - Riverside Park ADA Fishing Pier
- DCED
 - On-site financial monitoring in July completed in person with grant manager Sarah who offered in her report to the Commissioners saying “DCED would like to thank and commend the Planning and Development staff (Jen & Jayme) for their efforts to comply with the highly regulated federal CDBG program and their professionalism and dedication to administering the CDBG program for the benefit of residents of Huntingdon County” and there were no findings or strikes against our files, only providing three minimal comments of her audit.
 - Having the opportunity to have our grant manager in person for several days with undivided attention was extremely helpful in a better understanding of many things that have been unclear. She offered insight and a fresh perspective on many of our ideas and was very beneficial to us to have the opportunity to work directly with her.

Completed CDBG Activities:

While in the first half of 2025 there was minimal project activity, the second half has been a completely different situation. We were successful in completing 5 projects.

Huntingdon County **FY 2023**

Habitat for Humanity – Mount Union (19 E. Garber Street)

It was with great pleasure we attended the open house and dedication event for the house at 19 E. Garber Street in Mount Union as the new owner and her family were able to move into their new home in November. After months long delays due to staffing shortages, it was bittersweet to mark this project as complete and the transformation of this property has been nothing short of amazing. It's always great to work with Habitat for Humanity as they bring new life into old properties. Coming in under budget the remaining funds will be reallocated to another county project.



Huntingdon County **FY 2024**

Wood Township – Jonathan Love Memorial Park Upgrades

With remaining funds from Habitat, we were able to assign an additional amount to this project and complete the roof on both the dugouts as well as the concession stand and obtain a new climber for a complete playground upgrade. The roofs were completed in October, and all components were received where they are being stored until Spring for assembly and installation. In total we were able to secure a new swing set with 2 double bays, belt swings (3) and one infant swing, recycled plastic benches (8), 6' recycled plastic picnic tables (10), 8' ADA accessible recycled plastic picnic table (1), a large playground climber and two recycled plastic trash receptacles.



Huntingdon County **FY 2023 & 2024**

MUMA – Green Avenue Waterline Replacement

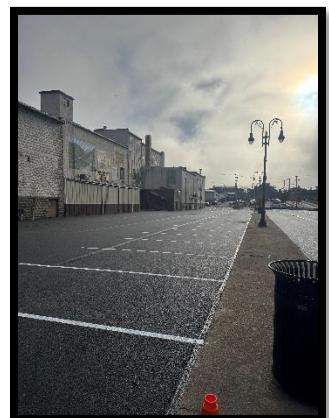
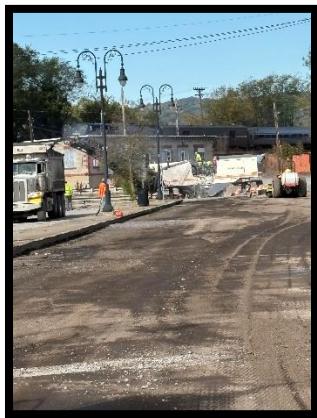
We hosted the bid opening for this project in August and McClellan Brothers was awarded the contract. Work was started shortly thereafter and completed in November. The waterline was replaced offering better water pressure to the residents of that street as well as offering adequate capacity to tie in an additional area later. There was also the addition of a fire hydrant at the end of Green Avenue which will offer support to fire companies if ever needed.



Huntingdon Borough FY 2022 & 2023

obo Huntingdon Borough – 7th Street Parking Lot Rehabilitation

We accepted and opened bids in August for this project, awarding the contract to Grannas Brothers. The project was bid substantially below budget allowing funds to be redistributed to other “back pocket” projects within the borough that have not been given full attention. The parking lot was completed by milling the entire lot, offering spot-based repairs, paving the entire space, repainting the parking spot lines and ADA designated requirements, new signs and posts, and attention given to drain inlets and grates.



Smithfield Township FY 2021 & 2022 & 2023 & 2024

obo Smithfield Township – Storm Sewer Improvements Phase East

The bidding process was completed in July with award given to Guyer Brothers. The sewer lines, following the report from the CCTV portion of the project done in 2024, provided ample evidence of problem areas needing attention where damages were repaired, replaced and/or heavily cleaned to ensure proper drainage was attained. The project was completed in December.



Upcoming CDBG Contracts and Activities:

Huntingdon County **FY 2025**

Mill Creek Borough – Community Park Upgrades

The community park located on Main Street in Mill Creek borough has not been updated in quite some time, is dilapidated and is not safely usable in its current state. The borough is seeking new playground equipment, basketball court refinishing, new benches and tables throughout, ADA parking accommodations and walking paths to the playground. With approval from DCED achieved and the contractual agreement underway, the project will likely be able to begin in Spring/Summer of 2026.

Huntingdon County **FY 2025 & 2026**

Mount Union Borough - Diven Park Phase 2 Upgrades

After completing Phase 1 of Diven Park Upgrades in 2023 with new fencing and the multi-purpose court resurfacing there is need for additional amenities to be completed. Phase 2 will include additional multi-purpose court improvements including nets for pickleball, basketball hoops, lining and painting the court, windscreen to block pickleballs, and rehabilitation of the parking lot at the park. Being a multi-year project, this will not begin until after 2026 funds are obtained in early 2027.

Huntingdon Borough **FY 2024**

obo Huntingdon Borough – HCC ADA Chair lift

The Huntingdon Community Center hosts many afterschool and evening activities as well as events for the community. There are many instances where families are in attendance with their child to assist or observe said activities but given the structure of the building there is no access to many of the community spaces due to mobility barriers. This project will consist of the replacement of an outdated, inoperable stair lift currently on site and ensure that spectators/visitors may access all community spaces within the basement and first floor with ease.

Huntingdon Borough **FY 2023 & 2024**

obo Huntingdon Borough – Detwiler Field Lighting Upgrades

Detwiler Field, owned and operated by Huntingdon Community Center, hosts many activities including youth soccer, tee-ball, and summer camps, but also an inviting community park with a walking trail, basketball courts, multi-aged and ADA compliant playgrounds, and multiple pavilions. While lighting is installed throughout the park, the age and type is not financially or energy efficient and limits the amount of activities the center could host due to the costliness of operating. Additionally, the control panels are not user-friendly therefore there isn't flexibility to operate lighting independently. We will be funding the replacement of the lights themselves on the existing poles, upgrading the control panel for ease of operation and offer the center flexibility in lighting specific areas of the park at different days and times.

Huntingdon Borough **FY 2024 & 2025**

obo Huntingdon Borough – Library ADA Improvements

The library located at the corner of Penn & 4th Streets in Huntingdon Borough is a historic building and pillar to the community hosting events and offering library services to residents of all ages in many different formats. While access to the library is attainable, the walkway is deteriorating and more difficult for those with mobility challenges to acquire entrance through the heavy doors and without handrails. This project will be exterior only focusing on replacing the walkway/ramp and attached half wall as well as installation of handrails. The library is working on further accommodations as part of the overall improvement project but doing so through other funding sources.

Huntingdon Borough **FY 2025 & 2026**

obo Huntingdon Borough – Mifflin Street Parking Lot Rehab

Since completing the 6th & 7th Street municipal parking lots in very recent years, the Mifflin Street Parking Lot is the third and final of the three major parking facilities in Huntingdon Borough that has not been rehabilitated and become a priority for borough council. The existing parking lot is poorly lit, has inadequate drainage, lacks ADA parking designations, and the lines have since faded beyond visibility. This multi-year project will offer re-design of the space into a better configured, more efficient parking lot, designated ADA regulation spots and to complete the aesthetic of the borough, ample lighting will be installed in a style consistent with the other borough lots.

Smithfield Township **FY 2025 & 2026**

obo Smithfield Township – Riverside Park ADA Pier

After many attempts, Smithfield Township is getting their pier. Having our grant manager visit in July and viewing the sight, she offered suggestions on how to make it a viable project to which we applied and have received approval. Located within Riverside Park, along the Juniata River, access to the waterfront is limited to those with mobility devices due to the grade of the bank and the uneven surface of the groundcover. A walkway from the existing walking path will be installed and meander to the water's edge where a ramp and pier will be installed in the river. This will grant fishing, train watching, bird watching, and waterside access to all residents regardless of mobility, something limited to the Juniata River in Huntingdon County.