

# Huntingdon County Three Year Community Development Plan (FFY 2023, FFY 2024, FFY 2025)

## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Three Year Community Development Plan is to provide a rational and effective basis for identifying community development needs based on consideration of available data and coordination with community leaders, to set short and long term objectives, and to design activities that meet these objectives. The Three Year Community Development Plan is prepared as a requirement of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Entitlement Program application preparation process.

All activities identified in the Plan must meet one of three national objectives. The principal goal of the CDBG program is to benefit low and moderate income persons through community conservation and stimulation of economic development. Also eligible for CDBG funding are activities that advance the national objectives of eliminating slums and blight and meeting urgent needs.

Huntingdon County Planning and Development Department staff reviews and updates the Three Year Community Development Plan annually using various sources of information including: survey data; recent planning studies; and from input from various sources including public hearings, municipal leaders, community agencies, the Planning Commission, and the County Commissioners. The nine-member Huntingdon County Planning Commission advances comprehensive community planning at the county level by reviewing the county's needs and recommending planning and community development priorities to the County Commissioners. A thorough Citizen Involvement methodology, outlined later in this Plan, is employed to gather input on community development needs of Huntingdon County.

## RELATIONSHIP TO COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Community Development in Huntingdon County is guided primarily by the Huntingdon County Comprehensive Plan. The first attempt to develop a community development plan was part of the update to the County Comprehensive Plan in 1998. The Plan involved analysis of data collected during Phase I and the setting of goals and objectives necessary to achieve a vision of Huntingdon County for the next twenty years, concluded during 2000 with the county adopting the updated Plan. Extensive efforts were made during the Plan update process to encourage citizen participation in the planning effort including: public meetings conducted throughout the county, monthly meetings of the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee, a countywide Quality of Life Survey, and a publicity campaign including speaking engagements and newspaper coverage.

A copy of the draft Plan was provided to each municipality for review, as well as to public libraries for public review and comment. Additionally, an illustrated and easy to read summary of the contents of the Plan was printed as a newspaper insert to explain the contents of the Plan to the citizenry. An additional phase including implementation of planned goals and objectives, including development of a model subdivision ordinance, commenced in 2001.

During 2006 and 2007, Comprehensive Plan efforts focused on updating the land use plan, developing an infrastructure investment strategy, developing a model zoning ordinance and developing an updated zoning ordinance for Huntingdon Borough. The firm of David Miller Associates assisted the Planning and Development Department staff in developing this update, which included an Infrastructure Investment Strategy. Data was collected from municipalities and municipal authorities regarding community facilities needs such as: water, sewer, recreation,

streets, municipal buildings, etc. The purpose of the strategy is to target community infrastructure development funds and efforts most efficiently to achieve the visions established by the plan, which focused on the following values:

- Economic prosperity
- Rural and small-town atmosphere
- Protect natural resources
- The “Centers” concept
- Greenways
- Access
- Excellence in both personal and community development


The Strategy will be a tool to proactively promote community development efforts where they will have the greatest impact. This approach is very different from the past practice of reacting to requests received from local entities as they arise often in crisis situations. The "2007 Supplement" was adopted by the County Commissioners on November 30, 2007.

**ALLEGHENIES AHEAD: SHARED STRATEGIES FOR A STRONGER REGION**

The six counties in the Southern Alleghenies Region (Cambria, Somerset, Blair, Bedford, Fulton, and Huntingdon) started a multi-county Comprehensive Plan update in 2016. This Plan was adopted in July of 2018. Each county planning commission sought to update the plan data and query the public for their priorities and to also focus on developing an action strategy that is both realistic and visionary, but also fundamentally *implementable*. The plan, titled Alleghenies Ahead: Shared Strategies for a Stronger Region, is focused on meeting the objective of truly making an implementable plan that is based on the primary needs of the community and stakeholders.

Through the process, each one of the six counties identified the same eight “BIG Issues, Opportunities, and Challenges” that would shape the rest of the planning process. Once the BIG, or critical issues, were identified, each county sought to prioritize each issue. Since there is such a regional aspect to broadband and cell service, coordination and capacity, and business development concerns, those issues were discussed to be approached regionally. The Steering Committee discussed and vetted the following additional county specific priorities: housing choices and blight





remediation, business and workforce development, and recreational and cultural assets and amenities. In order to make this into an

Broadband and Cellular Service 	Collaboration and Coordination 	Business and Workforce Development 	Housing and Blight 
Adequate internet speeds are essential to competing in the 21st Century, connecting otherwise isolated areas to a global economy.	The region’s ability to implement its priorities and maintain critical assets is tied to how well a variety of partners work together.	A healthier job market and more dynamic business environment is a key to limiting out-migration and stimulating healthy levels of in-migration.	Blighted and chronically vacant properties are a drag on the market and limit the levels of investment in new or existing housing stock.

implementable plan, each priority had to be made complete by identifying if the outcome would be considered successful if finished, as well as the inputs and outputs needed to get to the outcome. Once those were identified

for each priority, the action plan matrix was developed to identify answers to the following question for each action step: What?; Why?; Who?; What Resources?; and When?.

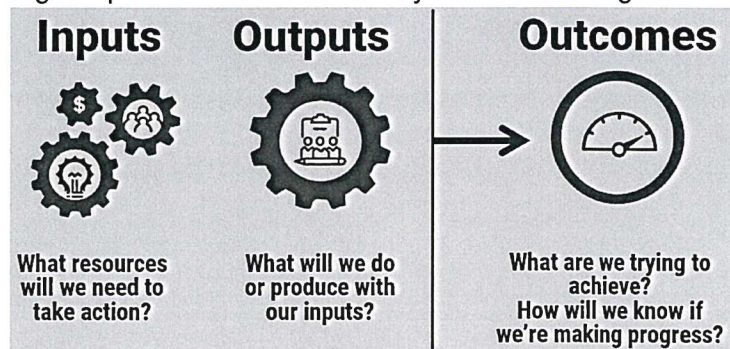


<p><b>Recreational Amenities and Natural Assets</b> </p> <p>The region's recreational amenities – which often intersect with its natural assets – play an increasingly vital role in attracting investment by contributing to the lifestyle options that help the region compete for households and visitors.</p>	<p><b>Agriculture</b> </p> <p>Agriculture is the region's single largest active land use and could play a significant role in the development of a diverse local food economy.</p>	<p><b>Public Health and Safety</b> </p> <p>Health outcomes are poor in much of the region and drug abuse has emerged as one of the major health threats to residents from all walks of life. This affects overall well-being as well as labor force engagement and family stability.</p>	<p><b>Transportation</b> </p> <p>For decades, expansion of transportation networks was an important focus, driven by a need to reduce isolation, boost economic opportunities, and improve safety. Today, preserving and maintaining this system is a priority and a challenge.</p>
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The updateable action plans for Alleghenies Ahead – for guiding implementation of specific activities at the regional and county levels – are based on a simple structure. Whatever the priority, there must be clarity about the outcomes sought – about what a project or activity is

intended to influence, why that is important, and how progress can be measured. Outcomes, then, represent both an endpoint for implementation and the starting point for action planning. Once outcomes were defined, specific activities (or outputs) that could reasonably be expected to achieve the outcomes were identified, along with the resources (inputs) needed to activate the chosen projects or initiatives. Insufficient attention to the inputs – the funding, the staff capacity, and everything else that feeds into the outputs – is usually why actions stall.

The action plans for regional and county priorities use **outcomes, outputs, and inputs** as a structure for continuously refining and updating the plans. This intentional cycle of assessing outcomes and updating action plans and priorities – something that should occur annually – recognizes that no single project or list of projects is a guaranteed solution that will achieve desired outcomes once and for all. Improving the likelihood of positive outcomes requires a commitment to experimentation, honest assessments of project impact, and changing course as needed to reflect new opportunities and evolving conditions.



The Following Priorities, along with the outcomes sought, were identified for Huntingdon County:

***Broadband and Cell Service:*** Critical broadband and cell coverage gaps are identified and filled, resulting in a reliable network and enhanced marketability and competitiveness of the county and/or improved public safety and education.

***Collaboration and Coordination:*** Service improvements and/or savings realized by collaborating municipalities; reduction in low-capacity and low-function units of government; improved services and efficiencies result in enhanced marketability and competitiveness of the county; improved functioning and collaboration among both private and public organizations.

***Recreational Amenities and Natural Assets:*** Growth in usage of recreational assets by locals and visitors; overall quality of facilities is consistent and strong; businesses connected to serving visitors and recreational needs thrive and expand; growth in home-based workers and residents under age 40; growth in number and variety of businesses in selected borough centers; growth in property values and private investment in borough centers; preservation of historic and cultural buildings and sites; and improved attraction/retention of middle and upper income households.



*Business and Workforce Development:* Business creation rates improve; growth in net number of jobs; entrepreneurial activity is more visible; risk-taking becomes more widely accepted; increase in labor force participation; number of long-term unfilled jobs fall.

*Housing and Blight:* The housing market across the county to be balanced and for different parts of the county to have contributions to make towards a “full housing ladder”. Variety and quality of housing options expands; demand revealed by subsidized production lowers perceptions of risk and stimulates more interest from developers; businesses have an easier time recruiting new workers due to improved housing options - competitiveness improves; non-seasonal vacancy rates remain stable at around 4%; property values improve in areas where intervention occurs.

The individual action steps for each priority can be found at [www.AllegheniesAhead.com](http://www.AllegheniesAhead.com), or all components of the Huntingdon County Comprehensive Plan can be found at <http://www.huntingdoncounty.net/Dept/Planning/Pages/Comprehensive-Plan.aspx>

**INDICATORS OF NEED**

Community need is calculated objectively based on four sets of data from the 2010 U.S. Census as shown on the table provided on the next page. Huntingdon County considers the municipality’s change in population, the percentage of persons living below the poverty level, the percentage of persons unemployed, and the value of housing units.

Community Distress is the most heavily weighted factor in the rating and ranking of activities proposed to receive Community Development Block Grant funding. The list below includes all nine factors and the points which a proposed activity may receive under each category.

200 Community Distress Rating

150 Proven Need for Project

Is there a proven need for the proposed project? How does the problem compare to other needs throughout Huntingdon County?

150 Appropriateness of Solution

Does the proposed project address the stated problem partially or completely?

100 Level of Activity Planning

How far developed is the project? Planning activities for which credit is given include completed income survey, detailed cost estimates and/or specifications prepared by a contractor or other professional, letters of support, previous applications for same project, and evidence of discussions regarding project.

100 Benefit to Low and Moderate Income Persons

What percentage of low and moderate income people will benefit?

100 Three Year Community Development Plan Priority

Community development needs priorities and the rating points assigned are as follows: economic development (100), public community facilities (90), housing (80), public service (70), transportation (60), other such as historic preservation, agricultural preservation (50)

100 Huntingdon County Comprehensive Plan Implementation

Is the activity consistent with the goals and objectives of the Huntingdon County Comprehensive Plan?

50 Previous Use of CDBG Funding

Has the applicant received CDBG funding in the past three years?

50 Leverage of Additional Funds

Points are assigned by calculating the percent of the total project cost that comes from another funding source. This percentage is multiplied by 50 to determine the number of points awarded.

Efforts are underway to update the scoring system for the 2023 CDBG funding allocations.



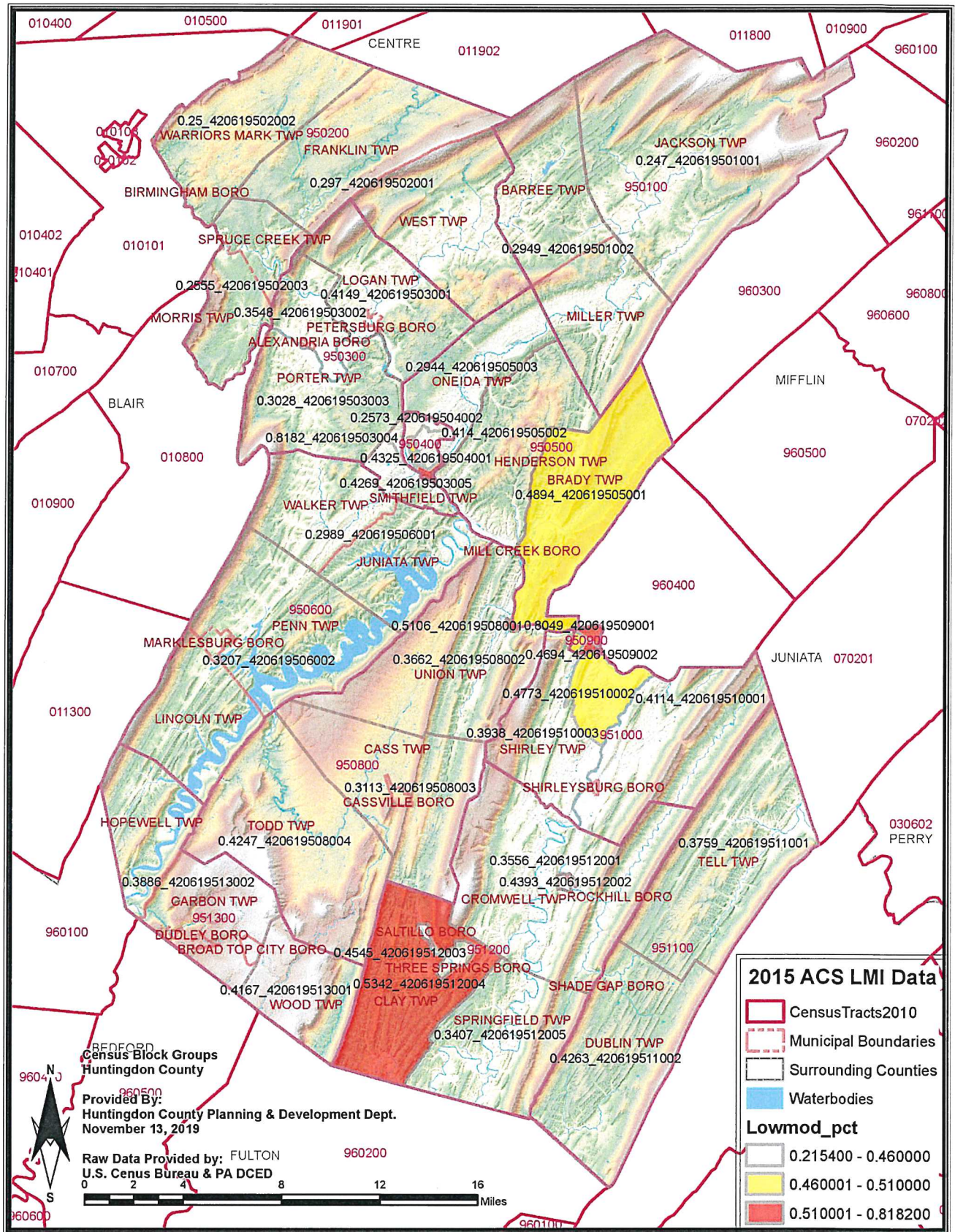
**LOW AND MODERATE INCOME CONCENTRATIONS**

According to the 2015 American Communities Survey (ACS) data released by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) in a CD&H Alert on February 28, 2019, seven Block Groups qualify as LMI by having LMI populations of greater than 51% (shown in red) and four Block Groups fall within 5% of 51% (shown in yellow). For the four block groups in yellow, income surveys may be conducted, if approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED).

<u>Block Group ID</u>	<u>Geography Name</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Low Mod</u>	<u>LMMI</u>	<u>Low Mod Universe</u>	<u>Low Mod %</u>
420619503004	Block Group 4, Census Tract 9503, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania	40	45	55	55	81.82%
420619504003	Block Group 3, Census Tract 9504, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania	185	295	435	605	48.76%
420619504004	Block Group 4, Census Tract 9504, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania	510	775	925	1005	77.11%
420619504006	Block Group 6, Census Tract 9504, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania	485	685	735	1030	66.50%
420619505001	Block Group 1, Census Tract 9505, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania	420	695	950	1420	48.94%
420619508001	Block Group 1, Census Tract 9508, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania	150	240	330	470	51.06%
420619509001	Block Group 1, Census Tract 9509, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania	340	495	550	615	80.49%
420619509002	Block Group 2, Census Tract 9509, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania	300	460	675	980	46.94%
420619509003	Block Group 3, Census Tract 9509, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania	370	550	675	805	68.32%
420619510002	Block Group 2, Census Tract 9510, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania	370	525	720	1100	47.73%
420619512004	Block Group 4, Census Tract 9512, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania	200	390	485	730	53.42%

A map of Huntingdon County municipalities by Census Tract and Block Group is provided on the next page. This map illustrates, by color, the location of the eleven low and moderate income communities.







The Huntingdon County activity proposed for funding through the FY 2023 CDBG application achieves the National Objective of benefit to low and moderate income persons. Meeting this national objective is demonstrated by ACS 2015 Census Data and selection by Habitat for Humanity.

1. 44 W. Water Street Rehab (FY 2023)
  - This activity benefits a low/moderate income family selected by Habitat for Humanity and is located in the Borough of Mount Union, Census Tract 9509, Low Mod %: 80.49%

The following tables provide the Low Moderate Income and Minority populations of each Census Tract and Block Group within Huntingdon County.

**2015 LOW MODERATE ACS DATA**

<b>GEOID</b>	<b>GEOGRAPHY NAME</b>	<b>LOW</b>	<b>LOW MOD</b>	<b>LMMI</b>	<b>LOW MOD UNIVERSE</b>	<b>LOW MOD %</b>
15000US420619501001	Block Group 1, Census Tract 9501, Huntingdon County, PA	70	205	385	830	24.70%
15000US420619501002	Block Group 2, Census Tract 9501, Huntingdon County, PA	105	230	400	780	29.49%
15000US420619502001	Block Group 1, Census Tract 9502, Huntingdon County, PA	155	300	465	1010	29.70%
15000US420619502002	Block Group 2, Census Tract 9502, Huntingdon County, PA	190	475	1010	1900	25.00%
15000US420619502003	Block Group 3, Census Tract 9502, Huntingdon County, PA	105	175	350	685	25.55%
15000US420619503001	Block Group 1, Census Tract 9503, Huntingdon County, PA	215	500	820	1205	41.49%
15000US420619503002	Block Group 2, Census Tract 9503, Huntingdon County, PA	220	385	680	1085	35.48%
15000US420619503003	Block Group 3, Census Tract 9503, Huntingdon County, PA	120	380	690	1255	30.28%
15000US420619503004	Block Group 4, Census Tract 9503, Huntingdon County, PA	40	45	55	55	81.82%
15000US420619503005	Block Group 5, Census Tract 9503, Huntingdon County, PA	265	365	595	855	42.69%
15000US420619504001	Block Group 1, Census Tract 9504, Huntingdon County, PA	325	625	1080	1445	43.25%
15000US420619504002	Block Group 2, Census Tract 9504, Huntingdon County, PA	115	310	665	1205	25.73%
15000US420619504003	Block Group 3, Census Tract 9504, Huntingdon County, PA	185	295	435	605	48.76%
15000US420619504004	Block Group 4, Census Tract 9504, Huntingdon County, PA	510	775	925	1005	77.11%
15000US420619504005	Block Group 5, Census Tract 9504, Huntingdon County, PA	25	70	140	325	21.54%
15000US420619504006	Block Group 6, Census Tract 9504, Huntingdon County, PA	485	685	735	1030	66.50%

GEOID	GEOGRAPHY NAME	LOW	LOW MOD	LMMI	LOW MOD UNIVERSE	LOW MOD %
15000US420619505001	Block Group 1, Census Tract 9505, Huntingdon County, PA	420	695	950	1420	48.94%
15000US420619505002	Block Group 2, Census Tract 9505, Huntingdon County, PA	195	385	630	930	41.40%
15000US420619505003	Block Group 3, Census Tract 9505, Huntingdon County, PA	125	315	530	1070	29.44%
15000US420619506001	Block Group 1, Census Tract 9506, Huntingdon County, PA	400	810	1335	2710	29.89%
15000US420619506002	Block Group 2, Census Tract 9506, Huntingdon County, PA	185	465	785	1450	32.07%
15000US420619508001	Block Group 1, Census Tract 9508, Huntingdon County, PA	150	240	330	470	51.06%
15000US420619508002	Block Group 2, Census Tract 9508, Huntingdon County, PA	170	390	640	1065	36.62%
15000US420619508003	Block Group 3, Census Tract 9508, Huntingdon County, PA	160	330	615	1060	31.13%
15000US420619508004	Block Group 4, Census Tract 9508, Huntingdon County, PA	205	395	600	930	42.47%
15000US420619509001	Block Group 1, Census Tract 9509, Huntingdon County, PA	340	495	550	615	80.49%
15000US420619509002	Block Group 2, Census Tract 9509, Huntingdon County, PA	300	460	675	980	46.94%
15000US420619509003	Block Group 3, Census Tract 9509, Huntingdon County, PA	370	550	675	805	68.32%
15000US420619510001	Block Group 1, Census Tract 9510, Huntingdon County, PA	255	360	510	875	41.14%
15000US420619510002	Block Group 2, Census Tract 9510, Huntingdon County, PA	370	525	720	1100	47.73%
15000US420619510003	Block Group 3, Census Tract 9510, Huntingdon County, PA	205	315	570	800	39.38%
15000US420619511001	Block Group 1, Census Tract 9511, Huntingdon County, PA	125	250	415	665	37.59%
15000US420619511002	Block Group 2, Census Tract 9511, Huntingdon County, PA	385	535	770	1255	42.63%
15000US420619512001	Block Group 1, Census Tract 9512, Huntingdon County, PA	310	665	1005	1870	35.56%
15000US420619512002	Block Group 2, Census Tract 9512, Huntingdon County, PA	205	380	640	865	43.93%
15000US420619512003	Block Group 3, Census Tract 9512, Huntingdon County, PA	170	350	455	770	45.45%
15000US420619512004	Block Group 4, Census Tract 9512, Huntingdon County, PA	200	390	485	730	53.42%
15000US420619512005	Block Group 5, Census Tract 9512, Huntingdon County, PA	115	230	420	675	34.07%
15000US420619513001	Block Group 1, Census Tract 9513, Huntingdon County, PA	120	275	385	660	41.67%
15000US420619513002	Block Group 2, Census Tract 9513, Huntingdon County, PA	335	645	1115	1660	38.86%



MINORITY POPULATIONS IN HUNTINGDON COUNTY  
BY CENSUS TRACT AND BLOCK GROUP

HUNTINGDON COUNTY  
2015 ACS MINORITY DATA BY CENSUS TRACT AND BLOCK GROUP

StCo_FIPS	MCD_FIPS	BG_FIPS	Geography	Total	White alone	Black or African American alone	American Indian and Alaska Native alone	Asian alone	Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	Some Other alone	Two or more races	Hispanic	Not Hispanic	Municipality	Split BGs
42061			Huntingdon County	45,906	42,302	2,426	27	210	5	189	747	816	45,090		
42061	4206100756		Alexandria borough	406	405	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	406		
42061	4206100756	420619503002	Block Group 2, Census Tract 9503, Huntingdon County	1,086	1,085	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1,086	Alexandria borough	Split-2
42061	4206104288		Barree township	337	328	0	0	0	0	0	9	1	336		
42061	4206104288	420619501002	Block Group 2, Census Tract 9501, Huntingdon County	780	760	1	3	0	0	0	16	15	765	Barree township	Split-2
42061	4206106560		Birmingham borough	109	106	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	109		
42061	4206106560	420619502002	Block Group 2, Census Tract 9502, Huntingdon County	1,899	1,844	9	2	12	0	14	18	0	1,899	Birmingham borough	Split-2
42061	4206108128		Brady township	1,045	1,045	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,045		
42061	4206108128	420619505001	Block Group 1, Census Tract 9505, Huntingdon County	1,418	1,403	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	1,418	Brady township	Split-2
42061	4206108896		Broad Top City borough	455	453	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	455		
42061	4206108896	420619513002	Block Group 2, Census Tract 9513, Huntingdon County	1,662	1,653	0	5	0	0	0	4	3	1,659	Broad Top City borough	Split-5
42061	4206111208		Carbon township	303	301	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	303		
42061	4206111208	420619513002	Block Group 2, Census Tract 9513, Huntingdon County	1,662	1,653	0	5	0	0	0	4	3	1,659	Carbon township	Split-5
42061	4206111600		Cass township	947	945	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	944		
42061	4206111600	420619508003	Block Group 3, Census Tract 9508, Huntingdon County	1,061	1,058	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	1,058	Cass township	Split-2
42061	4206111632		Cassville borough	114	113	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	114		
42061	4206111632	420619508003	Block Group 3, Census Tract 9508, Huntingdon County	1,061	1,058	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	1,058	Cassville borough	Split-2
42061	4206113944		Clay township	750	743	4	0	0	0	1	2	1	749		
42061	4206113944	420619512003	Block Group 3, Census Tract 9512, Huntingdon County	771	767	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	771	Clay township	Split-3
42061	4206113944	420619512004	Block Group 4, Census Tract 9512, Huntingdon County	731	724	4	0	0	0	1	2	1	730	Clay township	No
42061	4206114640		Coalmont borough	127	125	0	1	0	0	0	1	3	124		
42061	4206114640	420619513002	Block Group 2, Census Tract 9513, Huntingdon County	1,662	1,653	0	5	0	0	0	4	3	1,659	Coalmont borough	Split-5
42061	4206117280		Cromwell township	1,892	1,887	5	0	0	0	0	0	41	1,851		

HUNTINGDON COUNTY  
2015 ACS MINORITY DATA BY CENSUS TRACT AND BLOCK GROUP

StCo_FIPS	MCD_FIPS	BG_FIPS	Geography	Total	White alone	Black or African American alone	American Indian and Alaska Native alone	Asian alone	Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	Some Other alone	Two or more races	Hispanic	Not Hispanic	Municipality	Split BGs
42061	4206117280	420619512001	Block Group 1, Census Tract 9512, Huntingdon County	1,892	1,887	5	0	0	0	0	0	41	1,851	Cromwell township	No
42061	4206117280	420619512002	Block Group 2, Census Tract 9512, Huntingdon County	867	855	3	0	0	0	2	7	9	858	Cromwell township	Split-3
42061	4206120120		Dublin township	1,120	1,107	0	0	0	0	4	9	11	1,109		
42061	4206120120	420619511002	Block Group 2, Census Tract 9511, Huntingdon County	1,253	1,240	0	0	0	0	4	9	11	1,242	Dublin township	Split-2
42061	4206120152		Dudley borough	171	171	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	171		
42061	4206120152	420619513002	Block Group 2, Census Tract 9513, Huntingdon County	1,662	1,653	0	5	0	0	0	4	3	1,659	Dudley borough	Split-5
42061	4206127416		Franklin township	436	435	0	0	0	0	1	0	9	427		
42061	4206127416	420619502001	Block Group 1, Census Tract 9502, Huntingdon County	1,012	1,009	0	2	0	0	1	0	16	996	Franklin township	Split-2
42061	4206133808		Henderson township	930	912	2	1	12	0	0	3	5	925		
42061	4206133808	420619505002	Block Group 2, Census Tract 9505, Huntingdon County	930	912	2	1	12	0	0	3	5	925	Henderson township	No
42061	4206135688		Hopewell township	606	603	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	606		
42061	4206135688	420619513002	Block Group 2, Census Tract 9513, Huntingdon County	1,662	1,653	0	5	0	0	0	4	3	1,659	Hopewell township	Split-5
42061	4206136368		Huntingdon borough	7,060	6,734	169	0	45	0	14	98	104	6,956		
42061	4206136368	420619504001	Block Group 1, Census Tract 9504, Huntingdon County	2,348	2,225	46	0	37	0	0	40	60	2,288	Huntingdon borough	No
42061	4206136368	420619504002	Block Group 2, Census Tract 9504, Huntingdon County	1,268	1,232	0	0	0	0	0	36	0	1,268	Huntingdon borough	No
42061	4206136368	420619504003	Block Group 3, Census Tract 9504, Huntingdon County	1,016	946	26	0	8	0	14	22	40	976	Huntingdon borough	No
42061	4206136368	420619504004	Block Group 4, Census Tract 9504, Huntingdon County	1,070	1,041	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,070	Huntingdon borough	No
42061	4206136368	420619504005	Block Group 5, Census Tract 9504, Huntingdon County	323	323	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	323	Huntingdon borough	No
42061	4206136368	420619504006	Block Group 6, Census Tract 9504, Huntingdon County	1,035	967	68	0	0	0	0	0	4	1,031	Huntingdon borough	No
42061	4206137384		Jackson township	831	819	8	0	0	0	0	4	6	825		
42061	4206137384	420619501001	Block Group 1, Census Tract 9501, Huntingdon County	831	819	8	0	0	0	0	4	6	825	Jackson township	No
42061	4206138608		Juniata township	527	517	0	1	0	0	0	9	0	527		



HUNTINGDON COUNTY  
2015 ACS MINORITY DATA BY CENSUS TRACT AND BLOCK GROUP

StCo_FIPS	MCD_FIPS	BG_FIPS	Geography	Total	White alone	Black or African American alone	American Indian and Alaska Native alone	Asian alone	Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	Some Other alone	Two or more races	Hispanic	Not Hispanic	Municipality	Split BGs
42061	4206138608	420619506001	Block Group 1, Census Tract 9506, Huntingdon County	2,723	2,678	15	1	10	0	10	9	14	2,709	Juniata township	Split-2
42061	4206143424		Lincoln township	321	313	0	1	4	0	0	3	2	319		
42061	4206143424	420619506002	Block Group 2, Census Tract 9506, Huntingdon County	1,479	1,463	0	1	4	0	0	11	3	1,476	Lincoln township	Split-3
42061	4206144344		Logan township	666	660	0	0	5	0	0	1	2	664		
42061	4206144344	420619503001	Block Group 1, Census Tract 9503, Huntingdon County	1,207	1,196	0	0	5	0	0	6	10	1,197	Logan township	Split-2
42061	4206147248		Mapleton borough	472	452	0	0	0	0	0	20	5	467		
42061	4206147248	420619508001	Block Group 1, Census Tract 9508, Huntingdon County	472	452	0	0	0	0	0	20	5	467	Mapleton borough	No
42061	4206147544		Marklesburg borough	250	242	0	0	0	0	0	8	1	249		
42061	4206147544	420619506002	Block Group 2, Census Tract 9506, Huntingdon County	1,479	1,463	0	1	4	0	0	11	3	1,476	Marklesburg borough	Split-3
42061	4206149552		Mill Creek borough	373	358	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	373		
42061	4206149552	420619505001	Block Group 1, Census Tract 9505, Huntingdon County	1,418	1,403	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	1,418	Mill Creek borough	Split-2
42061	4206149624		Miller township	443	432	1	3	0	0	0	7	14	429		
42061	4206149624	420619501002	Block Group 2, Census Tract 9501, Huntingdon County	780	760	1	3	0	0	0	16	15	765	Miller township	Split-2
42061	4206151080		Morris township	407	386	0	0	8	0	0	13	15	392		
42061	4206151080	420619502003	Block Group 3, Census Tract 9502, Huntingdon County	687	656	6	0	8	0	2	15	15	672	Morris township	Split-2
42061	4206151984		Mount Union borough	2,436	2,013	256	0	38	0	9	120	25	2,411		
42061	4206151984	420619509001	Block Group 1, Census Tract 9509, Huntingdon County	628	435	133	0	0	0	0	60	15	613	Mount Union borough	No
42061	4206151984	420619509002	Block Group 2, Census Tract 9509, Huntingdon County	992	858	48	0	38	0	0	48	1	991	Mount Union borough	No
42061	4206151984	420619509003	Block Group 3, Census Tract 9509, Huntingdon County	816	720	75	0	0	0	9	12	9	807	Mount Union borough	No
42061	4206156808		Oneida township	1,072	1,031	0	1	24	0	0	16	0	1,072		
42061	4206156808	420619505003	Block Group 3, Census Tract 9505, Huntingdon County	1,072	1,031	0	1	24	0	0	16	0	1,072	Oneida township	No
42061	4206156928		Orbisoma borough	523	517	1	0	0	0	2	3	6	517		

HUNTINGDON COUNTY  
2015 ACS MINORITY DATA BY CENSUS TRACT AND BLOCK GROUP

StCo_FIPS	MCD_FIPS	BG_FIPS	Geography	Total	White alone	Black or African American alone	American Indian and Alaska Native alone	Asian alone	Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	Some Other alone	Two or more races	Hispanic	Not Hispanic	Municipality	Split BGs
42061	4206156928	420619512002	Block Group 2, Census Tract 9512, Huntingdon County	867	855	3	0	0	0	2	7	9	858	Orbisonia borough	Split-3
42061	4206158832		Penn township	908	908	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	908		
42061	4206158832	420619506002	Block Group 2, Census Tract 9506, Huntingdon County	1,479	1,463	0	1	4	0	0	11	3	1,476	Penn township	Split-3
42061	4206159616		Petersburg borough	541	536	0	0	0	0	0	5	8	533		
42061	4206159616	420619503001	Block Group 1, Census Tract 9503, Huntingdon County	1,207	1,196	0	0	5	0	0	6	10	1,197	Petersburg borough	Split-2
42061	4206162160		Porter township	1,935	1,929	0	0	0	0	6	0	13	1,922		
42061	4206162160	420619503002	Block Group 2, Census Tract 9503, Huntingdon County	1,086	1,085	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1,086	Porter township	Split-2
42061	4206162160	420619503003	Block Group 3, Census Tract 9503, Huntingdon County	1,255	1,249	0	0	0	0	6	0	13	1,242	Porter township	No
42061	4206165496		Rockhill borough	344	338	2	0	0	0	0	4	3	341		
42061	4206165496	420619512002	Block Group 2, Census Tract 9512, Huntingdon County	867	855	3	0	0	0	2	7	9	858	Rockhill borough	Split-3
42061	4206167632		Saltillo borough	297	293	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	297		
42061	4206167632	420619512003	Block Group 3, Census Tract 9512, Huntingdon County	771	767	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	771	Saltillo borough	Split-3
42061	4206169456		Shade Gap borough	133	133	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	133		
42061	4206169456	420619511002	Block Group 2, Census Tract 9511, Huntingdon County	1,253	1,240	0	0	0	0	4	9	11	1,242	Shade Gap borough	Split-2
42061	4206170400		Shirley township	2,658	2,510	17	0	25	0	0	106	25	2,633		
42061	4206170400	420619510001	Block Group 1, Census Tract 9510, Huntingdon County	876	858	3	0	0	0	0	15	17	859	Shirley township	Split-2
42061	4206170400	420619510002	Block Group 2, Census Tract 9510, Huntingdon County	1,098	1,046	17	0	10	0	0	25	11	1,087	Shirley township	No
42061	4206170400	420619510003	Block Group 3, Census Tract 9510, Huntingdon County	806	725	0	0	15	0	0	66	0	806	Shirley township	No
42061	4206170408		Shirleysburg borough	122	119	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	119		
42061	4206170408	420619510001	Block Group 1, Census Tract 9510, Huntingdon County	876	858	3	0	0	0	0	15	17	859	Shirleysburg borough	Split-2
42061	4206171328		Smithfield township	4,503	2,212	1,891	10	15	5	122	248	443	4,060		
42061	4206171328	420619503004	Block Group 4, Census Tract 9503, Huntingdon County	2,186	883	1,091	0	0	0	88	124	277	1,909	Smithfield township	No



HUNTINGDON COUNTY  
2015 ACS MINORITY DATA BY CENSUS TRACT AND BLOCK GROUP

SCo_FIPS	MCD_FIPS	BG_FIPS	Geography	Total	White alone	Black or African American alone	American Indian and Alaska Native alone	Asian alone	Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	Some Other alone	Two or more races	Hispanic	Not Hispanic	Municipality	Split BGs
42061	4206171328	420619503005	Block Group 5, Census Tract 9503, Huntingdon County	2,317	1,329	800	10	15	5	34	124	166	2,151	Smithfield township	No
42061	4206173072		Springfield township	677	676	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	673		
42061	4206173072	420619512005	Block Group 5, Census Tract 9512, Huntingdon County	677	676	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	673	Springfield township	No
42061	4206173488		Spruce Creek township	280	270	6	0	0	0	2	2	0	280		
42061	4206173488	420619502003	Block Group 3, Census Tract 9502, Huntingdon County	687	656	6	0	8	0	2	15	15	672	Spruce Creek township	Split-2
42061	4206176312		Tell township	673	669	2	0	0	0	0	2	2	671		
42061	4206176312	420619511001	Block Group 1, Census Tract 9511, Huntingdon County	673	669	2	0	0	0	0	2	2	671	Tell township	No
42061	4206176632		Three Springs borough	455	455	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	455		
42061	4206176632	420619512003	Block Group 3, Census Tract 9512, Huntingdon County	771	767	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	771	Three Springs borough	Split-3
42061	4206177000		Todd township	965	943	16	0	0	0	3	3	40	925		
42061	4206177000	420619508004	Block Group 4, Census Tract 9508, Huntingdon County	965	943	16	0	0	0	3	3	40	925	Todd township	No
42061	4206178328		Union township	1,064	1,045	2	0	12	0	0	5	0	1,064		
42061	4206178328	420619508002	Block Group 2, Census Tract 9508, Huntingdon County	1,064	1,045	2	0	12	0	0	5	0	1,064	Union township	No
42061	4206180560		Walker township	2,196	2,161	15	0	10	0	10	0	14	2,182		
42061	4206180560	420619506001	Block Group 1, Census Tract 9506, Huntingdon County	2,723	2,678	15	1	10	0	10	9	14	2,709	Walker township	Split-2
42061	4206181104		Warriors Mark township	1,790	1,738	9	2	9	0	14	18	0	1,790		
42061	4206181104	420619502002	Block Group 2, Census Tract 9502, Huntingdon County	1,899	1,844	9	2	12	0	14	18	0	1,899	Warriors Mark township	Split-2
42061	4206182352		West township	576	574	0	2	0	0	0	0	7	569		
42061	4206182352	420619502001	Block Group 1, Census Tract 9502, Huntingdon County	1,012	1,009	0	2	0	0	1	0	16	996	West township	Split-2
42061	4206186080		Wood township	660	640	17	0	0	0	0	3	0	660		
42061	4206186080	420619513001	Block Group 1, Census Tract 9513, Huntingdon County	660	640	17	0	0	0	0	3	0	660	Wood township	No

#### MINORITY POPULATION NOTE:

Smithfield Township minority population figures include those incarcerated in two group quarters, Pennsylvania State Correctional Institution - Huntingdon and Pennsylvania State Correctional Institution - Smithfield. In regards to minority concentrations, the general population of Smithfield Township mirrors a typical municipality in Huntingdon County.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEEDS

### PLANNING

Goals of the Huntingdon County Planning Commission are met by the actions of the Huntingdon County Planning and Development Department. This is in contrast to some counties, which are served by planning departments as well as separate redevelopment authorities. Huntingdon County recognizes the connection between planning and implementation and through the organizational structure of county government has coordinated the two disciplines under direction of the Planning Commission.

Pennsylvania Growing Smarter legislation similarly emphasizes the need for construction of infrastructure that is in accord with county and local plans and ordinances. In order to most effectively use limited financial resources, there is a need for community facilities and services to be constructed and delivered in compliance with existing plans.

It is the responsibility of county government to lead townships and boroughs in development of tools to guide development such as subdivision, land development and zoning ordinances based on thorough examination of communities' needs. These needs are identified through the Comprehensive Plan development process. Additionally, those municipalities in Huntingdon County that have Comprehensive Plans are the Boroughs of Huntingdon/1992, Mount Union Borough/1979, Orbisonia/1997, and the Townships of Oneida/1994, Smithfield/2000, Walker/2002 and Warriors Mark/2005.

One regional Comprehensive Plan was cooperatively developed and adopted in 1991 by municipalities of the Broad Top Region including: Broad Top City Borough, Coalmont Borough, Dudley Borough, Carbon Township, Wood Township and Hopewell Township.

Mount Union Borough adopted a strategic plan in December of 2013. The plan was developed through a community input process conducted by Penn State Cooperative Extension. The plan revealed the following goals:

Goal 1: Rejuvenate rail infrastructure and activities in Mount Union

Goal 2: Increase River Tourism

Goal 3: Increase jobs and tax base in Mount Union

Goal 4: Revitalize and beautify Mount Union's homes and buildings

Goal 5: Building Community Pride

A committee of Mount Union Borough Council holds well attended public meetings periodically to track plan implementation.

After the Mount Union Borough Strategic Plan process was completed, the Pennsylvania Downtown Center nominated the Mount Union Area for a regional in depth planning process sponsored by the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh. The intensive, year-long, public process involved Mount Union, Mapleton Borough, and Shirley Township. A 13 member "steering committee" representing the participating municipalities and various countywide organizations

compiled community input into a thirteen page spreadsheet outlining goals, objectives and outcomes in the following areas:

THEME A: High-performance businesses and a 21st century oriented economy

THEME B: Safe neighborhoods and affordable housing

THEME C: A well-defined, local identity and a positive community image

THEME D: A highly desirable quality of life with access to a superb natural environment

THEME E: Excellent educational institutions and a well-trained workforce

THEME F: A modernized infrastructure with available capacity

THEME G: Engaged residents share vision with political leaders who support community initiatives

## **HOUSING**

Information for this housing summary is taken primarily from the 1990, 2000, and 2010 Census data gathered in a 1998 update to the Huntingdon County Comprehensive Plan, including a Quality of Life Survey and Housing Stock Windshield Survey, the Huntingdon County 2010 Citizen Survey, and data gathered in a 2012 Huntingdon County Housing Study prepared to update the Huntingdon County Comprehensive Plan. Several generalizations that can be made about housing in Huntingdon County are as follows:

1. housing stock is older and of lesser value than state averages
2. seasonal housing and mobile homes comprise a significantly higher percentage of the housing stock compared to state averages
3. there is a lack of quality rental housing
4. housing in Huntingdon County is more affordable than in other areas of the state

A comparison of 2000 to 2010 Census statistics shows significant growth in the number of houses valued at \$100,000 or more with the greatest rise in houses between \$150,000 and \$199,999; however, Huntingdon County housing stock remains of lesser value than state averages. 2010 Census data reveals that the median value of owner occupied housing in Huntingdon County is \$101,100 compared to the state's median value of \$159,300. This shows a decline in the median housing value in Huntingdon, from 75% of the state median in 2000 to 63% in 2010. The greatest proportion of owner-occupied housing units in the county falls between \$50,000 and \$99,999 at 33% of the total, and is followed by 19% between \$100,000 and \$149,000 and 17% between \$150,000 and \$199,999.

Studies reveal that there was an improvement in the quality of Huntingdon County housing stock between the years of 1977 and 1998. Information gathered by the Planning Commission in 1998 revealed that approximately 1,700 Huntingdon County housing units needed rehabilitation. This was an improvement over an estimate generated from a survey of housing conditions conducted by the Planning Commission in 1977, which indicated that 2,301 dwelling units were substandard. Of this total, 2,058 dwelling units were considered to be suitable for rehabilitation, while another 243 units were recommended for removal. This data revealed an improvement in the number of houses needing rehabilitation from 17% in 1977 to 9%, twenty-one years later in 1998. It is apparent that this is a countywide problem with code enforcement allowing uninhabitable, vacant and dilapidated houses to stand in deteriorating condition, thus causing safety concerns and reducing neighboring property values. Reasons for this trend will be expressed later in this summary. For now, a look at other characteristics such as the age of housing units can be used as a loose evaluation of the condition of housing in Huntingdon County. The housing stock is unquestionably aging; almost half of the housing stock is more than 50 years old and a third of the homes were built before 1939. The vast majority of this historic housing stock is frame construction with interior and exterior renovations indicative of styles throughout the decades. There are no



Historic Architectural Review Boards in the county to protect the historic integrity of housing or other structures.

Of greatest concern to the county, in terms of the upkeep of homes, is the increasing age of a large percentage of homeowners. The need for owner occupied housing rehabilitation may increase more significantly in the next twenty to thirty years due to an aging population. With the aging of the baby-boomer group and the out-migration of persons under 35 years of age, recent Census data shows that Huntingdon County is rapidly gaining residents in all groups over the age of 50. In 1990, 48.5 percent of all Huntingdon County homeowners were 55 years of age or older. As these owners retire and income levels drop, capacity to maintain homes will also decrease. Historically, a majority of the homeowners served by the Huntingdon County Housing Rehabilitation Program are elderly, and often single, elderly widows. As elderly homeowners move on to assisted living, rehabilitated houses are protected from becoming blighted and are appraised and sold for higher values than they would otherwise bring, thus raising property values of neighboring properties.

It can also be expected that the need for housing rehab of mobile homes will increase in the coming years. Mobile homes have become an alternative to low income housing for county residents, making up 14% of all housing types, more than three times the state average. Because the majority of public and private subsidized housing is located in the Huntingdon and Mount Union areas, mobile homes are predominantly located in the County's more rural townships. Each of the six public and private housing facilities the Huntingdon County Housing Authority often operates with a waiting list of applicants, as well as the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program administered by the County Housing Authorities. Thus, both the "out of town" location and the lack of availability of low income housing opportunities for county residents likely contributes to the high percentage of mobile homes.

The ACCESS Program, which makes housing repairs for the disabled, which had been utilized in Huntingdon County since 2003, is a flexible program that does not require that the whole house be brought up to code. These funds dovetailed well with HOME funds for housing rehabilitation. Unfortunately, this program, administered by Weatherization, Inc. is not being offered in Huntingdon County at this time. The U.S.D.A. Housing Preservation Grant funded Minor Home Repair Program made grants available for emergency home repair needs, which includes such work as roof and furnace replacements, and electrical and plumbing system repairs, components which are essential to making a house livable. The County received a contract for \$72,000 in 2018 for this program, and County staff are currently working with the Center for Community Action to administer the program.

In December of 2009, Huntingdon County was rewarded federal ARRA funding through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP). Funds were to be focused in "tipping point" communities, where the infusion of federal funds to purchase and rehabilitate vacant and foreclosed properties is part of a comprehensive plan that will regenerate a community and reverse the declining condition of the neighborhood. Mount Union and Mapleton Borough were selected as the "tipping point" communities in Huntingdon County with Mount Union receiving a score from HUD of 10 and Mapleton Borough a score of 6 on a 1 to 10 scale predicting the severity of impending home foreclosures. Six was the average rating for the county. Through this program, one bank owned house in Mount Union was purchased, rehabbed, and sold through a lease to purchase agreement through cooperation with Center for Community Action. In Mapleton, NSP funds acquired a house through short sale, and Huntingdon County Housing Services used NSP and HOME funds to rehab and sell the home. CDBG were used to purchase two tax foreclosed lots that were transferred to Huntingdon Area Habitat for Humanity, which constructed a "Green House" there. Although this program has been useful in addressing the problem of foreclosed

homes, it has also increased the County's awareness of substandard housing which would not be considered a feasible use of grant funds; far too deteriorated for rehabilitation or do not meet definition of 'abandoned' or 'foreclosed upon'.

To address housing too far deteriorated for rehabilitation, municipal ordinances, building codes and code enforcement are needed for substandard housing. Enforcement officers are needed to implement ordinances, and demolition needs to be pursued to remove severely deteriorated housing units. In the 2010 Huntingdon County Citizen Survey, respondents identified houses in disrepair as the most serious problem in communities. Additionally, code enforcement was ranked higher in importance than it had previously been. This growing concern is expressed through the increase in requests for the Planning and Development Department to demolish abandoned properties throughout the County. An increasing number of municipalities are actively working to rid their communities of blighted properties. Those noted to have condemned or demolished blighted buildings recently include: Huntingdon Borough, Alexandria Borough, Mapleton Borough, Mount Union Borough, Smithfield Township and Shirley Township. Mill Creek Borough aggressively targeted property owners with code violations through letters. Municipalities requesting support with derelict properties include: Warriors Mark Township, Todd Township, Petersburg Borough and others.

Enhanced municipal subdivision and zoning ordinances are needed to guide the quality of housing developments. Cooperative efforts are needed for code enforcement such as municipalities participating in Councils of Government in Huntingdon County for the implementation of the Pennsylvania Statewide Building Code implemented in 2004.

First Time Homebuyer assistance is needed. Previous studies showed that the greatest barrier to home ownership is the difficulty for lower income households to save for down payment and closing costs. A countywide first Time Homebuyer Program was first started in 2003, which granted low and moderate income households \$6,500 for the purpose of down payment and closing costs. The predominant majority of those who have purchased homes through this program are single females. The need for this program has decreased as lenders offer mortgages with little or no down payment.

Flooding in 1996 and 2004 raised awareness of the problem of houses located in the floodplain. There is a significant need for funding to flood proof existing houses located in the floodplain and to educate the public regarding the hazards of owning a home in the floodplain. A committee of Alexandria Borough residents worked on a flood hazard mitigation planning effort. Despite the attention from local, county, state and federal officials, a feasible solution could not be identified. There is concern that this historic, "Main Street" in this very nice community will deteriorate as residents, who cannot sell their homes due to the high cost of flood insurance, will not invest in the upkeep of these historic houses. Stormwater management is also an acute problem in Smithfield Township, Petersburg, Dudley and Rockhill Boroughs and Shirley Township as well as other areas. Stormwater directly impacts suitability of housing during major and minor storm events. Smithfield Township owns and maintains a significant levee and other flood control facilities, which are under review by the PA DEP and FEMA for sufficiency to handle floodwater levels, which have increased since the construction of the facilities late in the 1970's due to upstream development.

Increased options are needed in housing for elderly county residents. The Quality of Life survey conducted in 1998, and public meeting input during 1999, identified the need for additional housing units designed with the needs of elderly citizens. Although considered to be more important in the 1998 survey, housing for the elderly remained the most important housing issue for county residents in the 2010 Huntingdon County Citizen Survey. 68% of respondents thought elderly

housing should be given high or highest priority over the next five years. With an aging population, more accessible housing is needed. Specifically desired options include Continuing Care Retirement Communities with independent living quarters, personal care facilities, and nursing home facilities. The availability of condominium housing, with property management services, would benefit elderly, but is lacking.

In July 2011, Graystone Court Villas, a 6-story, 82 unit complex was constructed in Smithfield Township for adults 55 and older with moderate incomes. Graystone Court Villas, a Division of Jeff S. Long Construction, is responding to the need for quality, affordable housing to persons seeking a safe and maintenance free home. While under construction, the demand for apartments was so great that Long Construction modified their building plans to add an additional floor to the facility. While close to shopping opportunities, this independent living, elderly housing facility lacks sidewalks connecting the housing units to the shopping destinations. In June 2019, construction began on Graystone Manor, a 52 unit assisted living facility adjacent to Graystone Court Villas. In 2021, construction was started on Graystone Cottage Community (formerly Emily Estates) located in Morris Township. This is the first adult-living community cottage development for Graystone. The community will offer 81 homes sized at 1,600 square feet and a 14,560 square foot club house. The construction is projected to be complete in late 2023. In August 2019, an announcement was made that Westminster Woods located in Huntingdon Borough received a Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA) tax credit award to build affordable housing for ages 62 and over. The project, Westminster Place, proposed a 48-unit apartment building on the 4.85 acre Westminster Woods campus. Westminster Place was officially open to residents in April 2022. Work is currently underway at the Mount Union Elementary School property on Market Street. Ohio-based Pivotal Housing Partners is turning the 99-year-old building into an apartment complex for older adults. The project will entail the preservation of the original building and construction of an addition which, together, will accommodate approximately 40 apartments, and also include in-house laundry facilities, a community room and a fitness center.

The problem of vacant housing in Huntingdon County is almost equal to the state, both averaging about 6% of the housing stock. The 2010 Census reported that of the 22,365 year-round housing units in the County, 17,288 were occupied and 5,077 were vacant. Of these 5,077 vacant units, 3,794, or 75% were seasonal, leaving only 1,283 housing units abandoned. The percentage of vacant homes determined to be seasonal rose significantly between 1990 and 2000 but has remained about the same since the 74% figure in 2000.

	1980 Huntingdon County	1990 Huntingdon County	2000 Huntingdon County	2010 Huntingdon County	2010 Pennsylvania
Total housing units	15,551	19,286	21,058	22,365	5,249,750
Occupied units	14,459	15,527	16,759	17,288	4,777,003
Total vacant units	1,092	3,759	4,299	5,077	472,747
Those vacant units for seasonal, recreational or occasional use *	not available	2,463	3,180	3,794	148,230
Vacant units as % of total housing units	7%	19%	20%	23%	10%
Abandoned units as % of total housing units	not available	7%	5%	6%	6%
Seasonal units as % of total housing units	not available	13% of total units	15% of total units	17% of total units	3% of total units

*\* In the table above, the number of vacant housing units for seasonal, recreational or occasional use are included in the number of total vacant units.*



It is significant to note that 2010 Census data indicates that three-quarters of the vacant houses in Huntingdon County were used for seasonal or recreational purposes. One impact of the increasing prevalence of outsiders purchasing second, seasonal houses in Huntingdon County is the inflation of the cost of housing. The resulting problem is that Huntingdon County residents, earning incomes on the local wage scale, find housing less affordable. The Planning Commission recognizes the significant ways in which communities benefit from increased home ownership and wishes to continue to make efforts to promote homeownership.

A number of Huntingdon County municipalities are now, or are considering, pursuing on-lot septic system management. Efforts include house by house assessment of the condition of existing on lot septic systems. Systems are identified for pumping maintenance or repair/replacement of malfunctioning systems. Indeed the prevalence of outhouses in communities where new sewer systems are constructed leads one to believe that there may also be houses in rural settings that do not have indoor plumbing. The high capital cost of on lot system repairs and construction will be a significant burden on the low and moderate income households. A program to solve this problem will be in increasing demand in the coming years.

Awareness is growing of the quality of drinking water received from private water systems. Whether the source is a well, spring, or other surface water source, the quality of water available to low and moderate income families living in rural areas where treated water is not available is an area of concern that needs to be addressed.

An improvement in the quality and quantity of rental housing for all income levels is needed in Huntingdon County. During public meetings conducted in 1999, the lack of quality rental housing units was identified as a hindrance to recruiting qualified young professionals to Huntingdon County. Specifically noted is a need for attractive, new condo rental units for both young professionals, empty-nesters, and the elderly. Between 2000 and 2010, the number of renter-occupied units grew by 10%. This increase in renter-occupied units, however, could, in part, reflect the rise in admissions at Juniata College over the past five years. Without sufficient space on campus, more students are living in off campus rental properties. This poses a problem for low and moderate income residents in Huntingdon Borough, specifically. Because landlords are able to charge college students a lot more than they could a family, the availability of rental housing in the neighborhoods surrounding the college is seriously limited. As a whole, low income residents throughout the County are deprived of quality housing rentals because of a lack of adequate building maintenance codes and code enforcement. Existing codes often address only the exterior of the building. Therefore, interior rental unit codes and inspections would address this need.

A survey of housing related agencies, conducted during 1996, revealed need for the following: emergency shelter for homeless and victims of domestic abuse, housing for developmentally and physically disabled, housing rehabilitation and assistance for low and middle income families (including the working poor), first time home buyer programs (including down payment assistance and a rehab-for-resale program), housing for the elderly, and assistance to single female heads of households (both with children and elderly). The above needs are still relevant today but are accompanied by additional concerns identified by the 2012 Housing Study Committee which include: supervised group homes for MH/MR clients, a housing option for low income residents with criminal records, and transitional housing for foster care graduates who reach the age of 18 and have not yet obtained full-time employment.

Discrimination in access to housing has not been identified as a problem in Huntingdon County. In 1991 the Huntingdon County Commissioners commissioned a fair housing analysis. This analysis

was updated in November of 1996. The analysis found housing in the County to be void of discrimination. The study recommends that local governments do more to educate the public concerning the laws affecting fair housing and fair housing services.

In April 2013, Huntingdon County carried out two fair housing education events, one for professionals and one for the public. Southwestern Pennsylvania Legal Services provided a presentation on fair lending to local realtors, lenders, and attorneys. A homebuyer education event, called House Hunt, took place for County residents. There were three workshops that covered the topics of the home buying process, fair housing rights, and mortgage options. Eleven businesses participated, including six banks, three realtors, one human service agency, and one legal service organization. Although there were strong efforts set forth to publicize the event and encourage County residents to attend, only two individuals attended. In June 2023, the County Planning and Development Department hosted a family movie night for fair housing awareness. Huntingdon Borough graciously offered the use of Bryan Park on Washington Street for the event. Flyers were distributed to the county elementary schools as well as promoting the event through social media, and postings at borough buildings. The event had participation as well by multiple food/beverage trucks. After two weather delays, the Planning Department successfully hosted the event. A crowd of around 50 gathered to watch the movie "Zootopia", which was geared toward younger children with the focus on inclusivity and how to overcome discrimination/adversity in the community and workplace. The County continues to work toward developing a plan for more successfully increasing awareness of fair housing rights among residents. Continued monitoring and research on this topic is important. The county advertises Fair Housing information annually in April, which is Fair Housing Month and conducts at least one new activity per year to promote Fair Housing education.

The County is exploring working with the Realtors Association to conduct a survey of homeowners to better assess current housing conditions, needs and trends.

Finally, coordination with the private sector, the Huntingdon County Housing Authority, Huntingdon County Housing Services, Habitat for Humanity, Center for Community Action, Weatherization, Inc. and other housing service providers, is important to maximizing resources in all housing related efforts.

### **PUBLIC/COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

Public and community facilities, such as water and sewer systems, schools, libraries, community centers, parks and public services, are the assets of our communities. They are the investments of local resources in the quality of life of area residents. Adequate facilities are vital to sustaining community life. Many people want to live where amenities are available. Subsequently, communities are able to sustain themselves and grow, as more people, attracted to an area, making even greater resources available for community enhancements.

Of course, this growth needs to be accomplished in a planned method so as to preserve the rural, small town atmosphere that currently exists in Huntingdon County, and is so prized by those responding to the Huntingdon County Quality of Life Survey conducted in 1998 and the more recent Huntingdon County Citizen Survey in 2010. The Infrastructure Investment Strategy, completed in June of 2007, is vital to targeting limited resources of staff and grants to projects, which most effectively achieve the goals of the Comprehensive Plan.

CDBG and other grant funds are needed to boost the assets of those municipalities having few resources so that community sustaining amenities can be developed and maintained at monthly

user rates that are affordable to area residents. Throughout Huntingdon County, all types of public and community facilities are needed, or need to be rehabilitated or expanded.

### Sewer and Water Facilities

Huntingdon County consists primarily of a rural landscape dotted with small, and often historic, concentrations of population. Many of these villages and boroughs have on lot septic systems on small lots next to neighbors. When aged septic systems malfunction, neighboring residential water wells are commonly contaminated. At least one of the municipal sewer systems is not designed for an increase in capacity for expansion: Hesston.

Sewage facilities were constructed or improved in the following locations:

Mill Creek Area 1996	Orbisonia 1974
Alexandria 1976	Petersburg 1981
Shirley Township 1981	Smithfield Township
Huntingdon Borough expanded 1988	Mount Union Borough imp. 2002 / 2012
Hesston, Penn Township 1994 / 2010	Shade Gap Area 1995
Broad Top City Borough 1994	Rockhill Borough 1974
Marklesburg Borough 1997	Three Springs/Salttillo Area 1989
Wood Township - Robertsedale 1998 / imp. 2019	Mapleton Borough – 1999 / imp. 2018

Sewage facilities constructed or improved in the following locations continued:

Cassville Borough 2001	Dudley-Carbon-Coalmont Area - 2004
Puttstown, Hopewell Twp – 2006	Fousetown, Brady Township – 2007
Porter Township – 2012	Cromwell Township - 2014

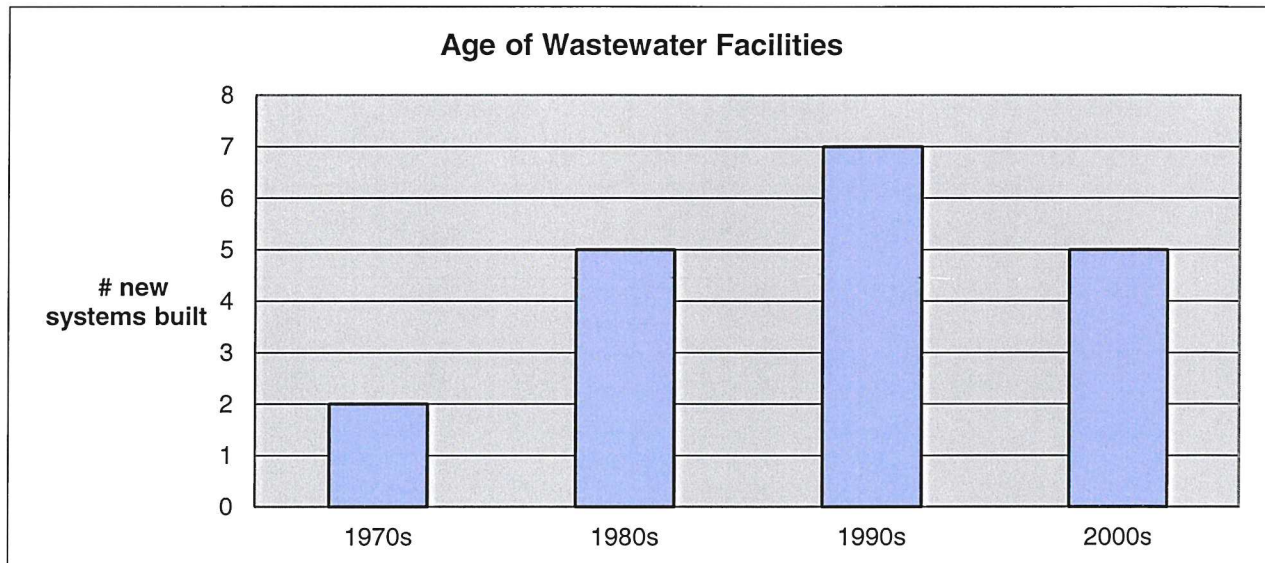
Population concentrations in need of municipal sewage treatment facilities include:

Birmingham Borough	Warriors Mark Twp	Shirleysburg Borough
Calvin, Union Twp	Cherrytown, Hopewell Twp	

Many low and moderate income households are significantly burdened by the construction of new wastewater collection and treatment systems. The average cost of constructing a sewer service line from the curb stop to the foundation and proper abandonment of on lot septic system is approximately \$2,500 per household. Tap fees, which are assessed with greater frequency and at higher levels than before, can add as much as \$2,500 or more, to the cost of connecting to a new sewer system. This initial capital expense is unaffordable to lower income households. Grant assistance is needed to reduce the adverse economic impact of connection to new sewer systems for those who can least afford the expense of installing sewer and water laterals and septic tank abandonment. Additional costs associated with a new sewer service include tap fees and the cost of adding indoor bathroom facilities to houses where they do not exist. In nearly every community in which a new sewer system is constructed, there is at least one house, where an outhouse is still the only bathroom available.

Non-routine maintenance of aging sewer systems and compliance with Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection regulations significantly burdens county sewage authorities, resulting in higher user fees in areas populated by those least able to afford cost increases. Most sewer systems in Huntingdon County are fairly new. (See figure below.) Revenue earned by these new authorities is largely used for debt reduction; while older systems focus resources on system maintenance, upgrades and extensions. The first phase of compliance with the Chesapeake Bay nutrient reduction regulations has impacted Huntingdon Borough and Mount Union Borough.





Those sewer facilities constructed in the 1990's are approaching the 30 year old mark. Major treatment plant components and equipment are designed to last 15 to 25 years. Replacement of these aged and sometimes obsolete pieces of equipment is a growing need among the plants constructed in this time frame. Some of these systems have roughly 200 customers, which is too few to adequately fund basic operations and the payment of debt originally taken to construct the plants. There has been little financial capacity to save for equipment replacement. User fee affordability is important in these historic centers of population, which are largely populated by the lower income demographics of the elderly, starter home families and renters. Grant funds, and careful financial management are needed to help keep these small systems operating within DEP and EPA guidelines. The Wood-Broad Top-Wells Water and Sewer systems and the Marklesburg Borough Sewer system are good examples of the need for rehabilitation of facilities that are reaching the full life expectancy of mechanical and electrical treatment plant components, which will require significant capital investment, but that will be unaffordable without grant funding due to already existing debt and few system customers.

While the County is aware that all municipal infrastructure is in need of constant upgrade, the specific condition of various wastewater collection and treatment systems, as it is known in the fourth quarter of 2015, is as follows: The Walker Township septic tank effluent collection system is notably in need of rehabilitation due to system backups and overloads during rain events, which are caused by a significant inflow and infiltration problem. The Mount Union Area Wastewater Collection System experiences significant I&I problems in the Southern part of town as well as in the Liverpool Area Collection System, which extends into Shirley Township. The Broad Top City Borough and Orbisonia-Rockhill systems are also burdened by significant stormwater infiltration problems.

During 2015, conditions of the wastewater and water systems along Pennsylvania Avenue in Mount Union Borough, which were precarious, were vastly improved. Sixteen homes are served by a wastewater line that was located in a street just behind a failed retaining wall. As sections of the wall fall, or are demolished, wastewater collection to those houses would have been jeopardized. Water lines are also located behind this wall. In 2015 CDBG funds were used to move these lines away from the failed wall to a safe location under sidewalks and near the sidewalk. In addition to wastewater and water systems improvements, the existing structurally

deficient retaining wall and broken sidewalks were replaced and a large portion of Pennsylvania Avenue was reconstructed between Division and Jefferson Streets. This project was completed in July 2021.

As Townships begin to more closely regulate on-lot septic systems, the need for adequate disposal capacity for septic tank waste is expected to increase. There may be a need for additional septic tank waste and treatment plant sludge disposal capacity within the next five to ten years.

The assistance of a county sewage and water authority could provide services to reduce overhead and potentially operating expenses for smaller systems. Similarly, a Circuit Rider program, coordinated for a group of authorities can achieve many of the same goals as a county authority or cooperative.

Poor water quality exists in many of the county's small boroughs. Communities with no municipal sewage treatment face concerns of water contamination from coliform bacteria leaching into ground water from malfunctioning on lot septic systems. Municipalities with aging water systems and high percentages of low income residents face the burden of non-routine system maintenance.

Water facilities have been addressed in the following municipalities:

1. Alexandria Borough constructed a new water filtration plant in 1988 and replaced water mains in the spring of 1990 and the summers of 1997 and 2005 using CDBG funding. Substantial treatment plant upgrades were made in 2004. The water treatment plant is also plagued with sediment laden water. This is due to the condition of the reservoir and the intake structure that allows debris to be taken in with the water supply. The water intake structure needs to be rehabilitated and the reservoir needs to be cleaned of debris. Another need that still exists is replacement of approximately 3 miles of water main from the storage tank to town, and distribution system looping. CDBG funds budgeted for intake structure reconstruction cannot be used for this purpose due to failure of ACS data to show 51% or more low and moderate income residents. In late 2021 and early 2022, the water authority received a grant from PENNVEST for \$2,300,000 and a separate grant/loan for \$10,832,976. The water authority has begun extensive improvements to the water system. Some of these improvements include:

- 40,000 feet of transmission and distribution main replacement
- Replacement of 400 water meters
- New 300,000 gallon water storage tank
- Existing water storage tank rehabilitation
- Improvements to the Robinson Run Reservoir
- Upgrade of existing water treatment facility

2. In 1994, Mount Union Borough completed construction of a new water treatment facility and installation of new water lines to replace those originally placed in the community circa 1910. In 1996 a temporary water treatment facility was constructed on Licking Creek to provide additional water supply. A FY 1995 competitive CDBG grant, was used to rehabilitate Mount Union Lake, also known as Singers Gap Reservoir. The Authority took ownership of the Dark Hollow Reservoir from the Borough in 2002. This historic dam needs to be rehabilitated and utilized as a dry hydrant for fire protection. Two wells and a chlorination building were developed in 2001 in the Riverview Business Park grounds. A third well was developed, which is located in Wayne Township, Mifflin County. This additional source of groundwater is needed for sufficient quantity of water as well as for a secondary supplemental source to the Singers Gap Reservoir in case the wells in Riverview

Business Center need to be taken out of service at any point. A portion of the County's FY 2018 CDBG entitlement funding was budgeted for waterline replacement on West Water Street. This project was completed in December 2021. In April 2021, Mount Union Municipal Authority was awarded \$2.14 million from PENNVEST for water meter replacement. By March 2022 MUMA was near the installation phase after a 10-month wait. A pending application for Huntingdon County's FY 2022 CDBG entitlement funding contains funding for waterline improvements on W. Garber and W. Davis Streets west of S. Washington Street. This project will replace valves and water mains and add a fire hydrant.

3. Huntingdon Borough built a new water distribution system and new treatment plant in 1993. System upgrades were made in 2013. Water is taken from the Stone Creek, a vulnerable surface water source. A Watershed Assessment was conducted to identify means of protecting this water supply. Implementation of this plan is very significant to the county seat.

4. Mapleton Borough upgraded its water system by drilling new wells in 1994. These wells proved inadequate and a new filtration facility was constructed on the surface water source of Scrub Run. Construction of this facility was completed in 1996. A major water line replacement project was funded through CDBG in 2001, resulting in repair of a 30,000 gallon per day leak. Substantial improvements are needed to the old and deteriorated distribution system. Namely, lines which dead end, causing poor water quality for residents, need to be looped to create a continuous flow of water. The glass lined water tank, constructed in 1993 needs to be repaired or replaced due to a crack in the liner which is causing water quality problems and the rusting of the thin exterior metal layer. The entire system must be shut down when a system repair is needed along Hill Street, which has the main supply line for the community. High water pressure contributes to water line breaks throughout the system. In 2018 and 2019, a combination of Competitive and Entitlement CDBG funds were used to replace the water tank, to rehabilitate the existing tank for use as a back-up, and to complete the water line looping project.

5. The Borough of Mill Creek and parts of Brady and Henderson Townships drilled a new well in 1993 as part of a water and sewer system. Construction of a water treatment system and distribution lines was completed in 1996. Construction of an extension to the Mill Creek water system was completed in 1998 with use of Competitive CDBG funds. The water distribution system was extended through Fousetown in 2007 including construction of a new water tank.

6. Huntingdon, Fulton and Bedford Counties cooperated in the reconstruction of the Wood-Broad Top-Wells Joint Municipal Authority water system in 2000. This Broad Top Region Authority constructed water and sewer systems in the villages of Robertsdale and Woodvale. Woodvale is located in part of Well Township Fulton County and Broad Top Township Bedford County. The three counties used CD funds to assist low and moderate income households with connection expenses. With the water and wastewater treatment facilities nearing 20 years of age, computers that control the automated treatment facilities are antiquated requiring manual operations. Other plant equipment is also reaching the end of its useful life. Using a combination of Huntingdon County Competitive and Entitlement CDBG funds and Bedford County Entitlement CDBG funds, major improvements were made to the controls, valves and equipment at both treatment plants. This work was completed in March 2019.

7. Water line replacement was undertaken in Petersburg Borough in 1997 on St. Peters Street and Hill Street with the use of county CDBG funds. The Petersburg Borough Water Authority is using force account labor to clean all system lines with pigs and water pressure. Lines that are too small to be cleaned in this manner are being replaced. FFY 2000 county CDBG funds were used to complete replacement of water lines along Hill Street and King Street. Additional water line



replacements, and source development, are needed. The Reeds Run Reservoir was completely reconstructed in 2007. The breast of the dam was demolished. The settling basin where the run flows into the reservoir was reconstructed. The intake tower was reconstructed. Work on the reservoir was funded by PennVest and Competitive CDBG funds.

8. Huntingdon County CDBG funds were used to rehabilitate the Broad Top City Borough water storage tank in 1998. A Small Water System Water Regionalization Study was conducted in 2000-2001 to determine the feasibility of cooperation with neighboring systems including the Dudley-Carbon-Coalmon Joint Municipal Authority and/or Saxton Borough. The study revealed a number of priorities to be addressed including source, replacement of aging equipment, water quality and quantity, creation of a backup supply, need for certified operators, facilities for proper handling of backwash water, and other miscellaneous improvements. A hydrogeologic study identified potential well sites. DEP conducted sanitary surveys of the well sites. Two wells were developed along Cooks Road and connected to the system @ 2011.

9. Substantial improvements were made to the Shirleysburg Borough Water Authority system with CDBG funds. In 1997, a backup well was developed; and the electrical and chlorination systems were replaced. Storage tank rehabilitation was completed in 1999. Water meters were replaced through a FY 2000 county CDBG. It is reported that the system experiences frequent interruptions in service. Pipe size of mains is known to be too small.

10. Water meters were purchased with CDBG funds in 1996 and installed throughout the Orbisonia-Rockhill system. Problems experienced by the system include the need for an additional source. There is no back up supply. Water storage is needed on the Rockhill Borough side of the service area because there is a single line crossing the Creek, supplying water to Rockhill Borough. Should this line fail, there is no water supply to the Borough of Rockhill. The water distribution is plagued by leaks. The situation was measured in 2004 when the treatment plant was processing twice the amount of water that was being metered as used by customers. PennStep funds were used to repair a significant leak in 2005. CDBG funds were used in 2014 to rehabilitate the community's only well, when the pump and pump house equipment were replaced.

11. The Dudley-Carbon-Coalmon Joint Municipal Authority also participated in the DEP funded Small Water System Water Rehabilitation Study along with Broad Top City Borough. The study revealed a number of priorities to be addressed including source quality and quantity, replacement of aging treatment equipment, creation of a backup supply, and other miscellaneous improvements. A hydrogeologic study identified potential well sites, which could be shared regionally by merging with the Broad Top City Borough system. Both DCCJMA and the Broad Top water Authority have signed agreements to share a water source, should one be found of acceptable quality, which produces a minimum of 100,000 gallons per day. Unfortunately, a water source that could be shared by the two communities was not identified. A radio technology tank level indicator was installed with the use of CDBG funds in 2006. There had been a chronic problem of tank level equipment failure due to a lack of sufficient lighting protection. An evaluation of the DCC water storage tank revealed that it is in need of rehabilitation. FY 2013 Competitive CDBG funds were used to replace much of the equipment within the water treatment plant and to replace water line along Rt. 913 and on School Street. This work was completed by 2017.

12. Birmingham Borough is served through an ancient system owned and operated by The Grier School. (Water lines are owned by Birmingham Borough.) The antiquated system is in need of distribution line and treatment facility improvements. In 2007, the school was investigating the feasibility of limiting water distribution to the school facilities only by abandoning the system that distributes water to the community. A hydrologic study was conducted to determine the feasibility

of drilling on lot wells for each house rather than fixing the system. Because of on-lot septic systems, the private well alternative was disregarded. In 2014, CDBG funds were used to replace water lines from a point along Grier School Road (near the tennis courts) over land to the intersection of Juniata Avenue and Market Street. Plans to replace lines on Market Street were abandoned due to lack of sufficient funding. In 2019, FY 2016 CDBG funds were used to complete the Market Street portion of the project.

13. The Spring Creek Water System serving the Boroughs of Three Springs and Saltillo is in need of well rehabilitation, a secondary water source, water storage improvements and source protection. In August 2016, Three Springs Borough applied for CDBG funds for reservoir renovation. A demographic survey conducted in October 2020 found this area did not meet LMI.

The County Planning and Development Department is currently conducting a survey of municipal water and sewer systems to determine areas of need. A similar survey was conducted in 2013.

All municipal water systems in Huntingdon County are in need of various improvements and rehabilitation of system components. Those systems with worst supply problems are Dudley-Carbon-Coalmont and Orbisonia and Rockhill Boroughs. Cherrytown and Neelyton are two very small systems with significant problems.

A countywide Source Water Assessment would be beneficial in developing written plans for protection and enhancement of municipal water supplies and may be helpful in identifying ground water sources that are over taxed by private residential development. The Piney Ridge Area is known to have residential water supply problems. Developments in the Leffard's Bench Area could potentially be served by municipal water supply. Many residential wells in this area are more than 500 feet deep and severely limited in quantity.

Increasingly it becomes evident that small municipal sewer and water authorities struggle to properly operate and maintain public utility systems due to a lack of certified operators. The small number of customers per system makes it difficult to pay for the services of certified operators. This lack of optimum management results in excessive wear on equipment and loss of water. Additionally, improper operation procedures increase routine expenses, thus minimizing authority funds that are needed for regular system maintenance. A certified professional sewage and water treatment plant operator, with management skills, is needed to assist the growing number of small municipal authorities.

Another phenomenon prevalent in many systems is the age of authority members and system operators. Only one or two aging individuals know much of the knowledge of line location and standard operating procedures. A systematic recording of this information would be a significant benefit to many systems.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The Huntingdon County Comprehensive Plan from 2000 ranks economic development as the highest priority improvement needed in the county. Economic development is also one of the top three from the Alleghenies Ahead Plan of 2018. The Huntingdon County Economic Development Task Force, created in 2000, for the purpose of coordinating the efforts of various economic development agencies operating in the county continues coordination efforts, was renamed the Huntingdon County Partnership for Economic Progress (PEP) in late 2003.

The Task Force completed a Comprehensive Economic Development Analysis in December of 2002. The goal of the Analysis was to identify key issues facing the county and recommend

The Task Force completed a Comprehensive Economic Development Analysis in December of 2002. The goal of the Analysis was to identify key issues facing the county and recommend strategies for addressing these issues. Implementation of these strategies is expected to be a high priority for future CDBG applications. The Partnership for Economic Progress (PEP) was formed as recommended by the Analysis and works as a vehicle for coordination of efforts designed to advance economic development initiatives. The strategic plan completed in May 2017 identified the following priorities:

- Supply Chain – Support existing businesses by promoting crossover business
- Business Development – Assist businesses by providing a host of services
- Infrastructure – Promote 21<sup>st</sup> Century infrastructure provided to businesses
- Workforce Development – Attract, Retain and Educate the workforce
- Marketing – Market the county to employers, investors and employees

Huntingdon County residents have consistently ranked unemployment as the most severe problem facing the county. According to the 2010 Citizen Survey, 83% of respondents felt high unemployment was the most severe problem, a slight increase from 1998's 78%. Although employment statistics were said to have been improving, Huntingdon County has one of the highest unemployment rates in the state, as it did throughout the 1980's and 1990's. The U.S. Bureau of Labor found that the county's unemployment rate was 10% in December 2012. Seasonal work related to construction and tourism causes higher unemployment rates during winter months. Also affecting unemployment rates are several significant manufacturing employers with cyclical production schedules.

Huntingdon County Business and Industry, Inc., an organization of business and government leaders that works to sustain and improve the industrial base in the county, set diversification of industry as a primary goal. Attraction of new businesses is hindered by a lack of local resources including: water and sewage facilities, airport and highway access, trained workers, housing stock, medical facilities, convenient retail shopping opportunities, and cultural and educational opportunities. Other economic trends include more two income families, more national "chain" retail stores and restaurants, and more recreation oriented private businesses. Additional programs are needed to support small businesses and encourage their location in the Centers of Huntingdon County.

Huntingdon County allocated FY 2002 CDBG funds for the purpose of extending utilities to a KOEZ designated property in Broad Top City Borough and Carbon Township. When no business located on the ground within the contract period, the \$80,000 investment was recaptured. No business has located on the site despite continued attempts to market the site. An announcement was made in March 2022 by Huntingdon County Business and Industry that there may be interest in a portion of the site for a potential business.

### **MEDICAL FACILITIES**

Quality medical facilities are a factor in recruiting new industry to Huntingdon County and therefore are a very important community need. The increasing percentage of the county residents over 65 years of age, (13% in 1990; 15% in 2000; 16.5% in 2011), will result in greater need for medical services. To remain competitive, the J.C. Blair Hospital completed a major expansion and renovation project in 1994. The hospital also constructed office space surrounding the facility's parking lot to provide for co-location of various doctors' offices and various medical services. A wound center was developed as a niche service. In 2014, the Hospital merged with Pinnacle Health and was reported to meet standards to remain a viable health care facility as Huntingdon County's only hospital. Several new doctors were recruited in 2014 and 2015 to expand services available at the facility. Effective June 1, 2019, JC Blair joined Penn Highlands Healthcare and



needs of residents throughout Northwestern/Central Pennsylvania” and “brings advanced care and service close to home”.

Currently, two regional medical centers also assist in providing medical services throughout the county. These medical centers have locations in Alexandria Borough, Broad Top City Borough, Huntingdon Borough, Mount Union Borough, Orbisonia Borough, and Smithfield Township. The Broad Top Area Medical Center in Broad Top City Borough is in need of additional space and rehabilitation. The condition of other facilities is similar. In May 2015, a convenient care medical clinic, an extension of JC Blair Memorial Hospital opened in Smithfield Township, providing “walk-in”, no appointment necessary alternative to the emergency room. This facility continues to serve the community, along with an acute care walk-in clinic opened by the Broad Top Area Medical Center in June 2018. This walk-in clinic, also located in Smithfield Township, is open seven days a week. In 2019, the Broad Top Area Medical Center opened a pediatric and family health care center adjacent to the acute care clinic. In June 2022, Penn Highlands Healthcare announced the J.C. Blair Convenient Care Center would be renamed QCare Huntingdon.

According to a 2021 Penn Highlands Huntingdon Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) the top community health needs include:

- Access to Care – Infrastructure (e.g., care coordination, navigation, and transportation) and Lack of primary care physicians/physician specialists
- Behavioral Health – Mental Health and Substance Abuse
- Chronic Diseases/Conditions – Health Behaviors (e.g., nutrition, physical activity, obesity) and Dental Health

Penn Highlands Huntingdon has developed strategies and goals as to how to address these health needs. The addition of virtual doctor’s visits and tele-health visits has helped to improve access to care. Penn Highlands Huntingdon is committed to improving the health of the community.

### **EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES**

A trained and educated workforce is critical to the recruitment of business and industry. Likewise quality educational facilities are important to attracting young professionals to the area who may be interested in continuing their education, as well as in the educational opportunities for their children.

Investment in traditional educational institutions, as well as innovative second career, entrepreneurial skills, leadership and continuing education programs is paramount to achieving Huntingdon County’s goal of economic prosperity.

Educational resources in Huntingdon County include six school districts, a vocational-technical school, at least two religiously affiliated schools, and the Grier School, a prestigious, international, girls’ boarding school. Juniata College, located in Huntingdon Borough, is a small, private, four-year, liberal arts, undergraduate institution. A campus of Penn Highlands Community College is now located in the Juniata College-owned Sill Business Incubator in Huntingdon Borough. The campus relocated from Walker Township to the new location in July 2022. Penn Highlands offers associate degrees and continuing education opportunities. Penn State’s Main Campus, located in nearby State College, provides undergraduate through doctoral programs; while the Penn State campus in Altoona is also less than an hour away for most of Huntingdon County’s population.

The Mount Union and Huntingdon Area School Districts constructed three new elementary school buildings since 1998, resulting in the closure of eight older school buildings located in Huntingdon and Mount Union Boroughs, and Walker, Jackson and Smithfield Townships.

Juniata College converted the Alfarata School in Huntingdon Borough into the Sill Business Incubator. The vacant school in Walker Township was purchased by a religious group and converted to a church and daycare/pre-school and after school care facility operated by a non-profit organization. The elementary school in Smithfield Township was converted into offices and a day facility for the mentally and physically disabled. The Mount Union Elementary was closed in 2014, and purchased by an individual. In December 2020, Pivotal Housing Partners (formerly MVHA Partners) presented plans to convert the building into senior housing. Work is currently underway to preserve the original building, as well as constructing an addition which, together, will accommodate approximately 40 apartments for older adults. A portion of the William Smith Elementary School in Huntingdon Borough was demolished, while the remaining portion was purchased by Huntingdon Borough Council. The Jackson Miller Elementary School in Jackson Township was purchased and became the location of Stone Valley Community Charter School in 2011. The Brady Henderson Elementary School in Brady Township was purchased by a religious group and converted into a church and dance academy. The Mapleton Elementary School was closed in mid-2020 and remains vacant.

In late 2021, the Southern Huntingdon County School District announced plans to close three elementary schools and construct one new elementary school on the grounds of the current middle and high school building in Cromwell Township. Land development plans for the new elementary school were reviewed by the Huntingdon County Planning Commission in April 2022. The three elementary schools include Rockhill Elementary in Rockhill Borough; Springs Farm Elementary in Clay Township and Shade Gap Elementary in Dublin Township.

The Tussey Mountain School District serving residents of Bedford and Huntingdon Counties has closed two elementary schools within Huntingdon County - the Trough Creek Elementary School in Cass Township and the Robertsdale Elementary School in Wood Township. The Trough Creek Elementary School was turned over to a church organization in April 2014. In August 2018, the Robertsdale Elementary School was turned over to the Wood Township Supervisors. Since 2019, the Center for Community Action has actively pursued funding to turn the building into senior housing.

In 2018, the Huntingdon Area School District hired a consulting firm to help conduct a capacity study focused on best utilizing existing classroom space.

The Huntingdon County Career and Technology Center was completed in 1977, thus offering a higher degree of technical training to county high school students and adults. Students residing in the Juniata Valley, Huntingdon Area, Mount Union and Southern Huntingdon County school districts are eligible to attend. In 2001, the Career and Technology Center approached participating school districts for facility expansion; however, the initiative was not supported. The growing job market for technical and service professions is cause for focus on this facility as a high school and a continuing education facility. In 2019, a multi-million dollar investment was made to the facility, providing much more classroom space to improve the quality of the existing programs. In February 2023, renovations to the practical nursing building were nearly complete. This building houses the HCCTC's Practical Nursing program.

In 2012, Juniata College announced a Master Plan that will be implemented over the course of the next 20 years and will result in significant campus wide renovations and improvements. Juniata College enrollment brings approximately 1,600 students to Huntingdon from August to May. About

150 of those students are Huntingdon County residents. Enrollment can be expected to increase in the coming years with the new plan seeking to support a campus community of 2,000 students. In 2017, Juniata College built the Kepple IMSA Building, a state-of-the-art multimedia facility with digital arts, built a dormitory, and, in 2019, received a RACP grant to expand their Library. The Library, to be renamed the Tim & Kathy Statton Learning Commons, is currently in the renovation and construction process. The learning commons will have an open floor plan which will contain small group study/meeting rooms, extensive built-in technology, a full-service café, compact shelving for the existing 200,000 volumes of text and a secured rare book collection space. This new space will provide economic growth and new jobs within the County. Completion of this project will possibly be late 2023 or early 2024.

The \$122-144 million project places particular emphasis on renovating old and creating new residence halls, educational facilities, and athletic/recreational facilities. Strongly taken into account throughout the development of the plan was the location and relationship of Juniata College within the Borough of Huntingdon. The plan states, "At the present time, there is an almost seamless merging of the campus and surrounding community. While there are many advantages to this condition, it is also acknowledged that there is a need for stronger visual identification of the College within this context." Thus, the plan seeks to provide entrance features to the College, more fully integrate the college's land holdings into the campus fabric, and create a more pedestrian-friendly campus.

In 2002, Juniata College formed a partnership with Huntingdon County Business and Industry, increasing their role in local economic leadership. The vacant Alfarata School was purchased and turned into the Sill Business Incubator (SBI), which now houses the Juniata College Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership (JCEL). The SBI consists of 10,000 square feet of wet lab, professional office and light assembly space for undergraduate entrepreneurs, faculty members, and community members. The Juniata College Raystown Field Station has expanded in recent years, allowing for students to live, work, and study on the 365-acres of land situated on the James Creek branch of the lake. Completed in 2003 was the Shuster Center, the first LEEDS certified structure in Huntingdon County.

The Leadership Huntingdon County Program began in 2003, and is an initiative of the Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce and a major objective of the Huntingdon County Partnership for Economic Progress (PEP). The program offers participants in-depth exposure to leadership training at workshops and retreats held throughout the year. When the fourth class graduated in 2007, 75 individuals had completed the training. The focus has moved to leadership training for youth. The first Y.O.U. class formed in 2008 to instruct approximately 20 high school students in leadership skills. The development of community leaders is needed to bring about positive changes in the communities of Huntingdon County.

There is a need for more child and adult care facilities. Furthermore, educational facilities can play an important role in augmenting municipal public facilities by opening their buildings to increased public use and by offering various programs to the greater public. Improvements to Huntingdon County educational facilities and the programs that they offer are needed.

### **RECREATION FACILITIES**

Huntingdon County is very fortunate to be home to many outdoor recreational opportunities: three state parks, one U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) 29,000-acre facility, approximately 33,000 acres in state game lands, 68,000 acres in state forests. Access to lakes, rivers, and ponds abound. Trails are plentiful throughout the county. Recreational opportunities include fishing, swimming, cycling, boating, hiking, hunting, picnicking, and camping. Publicly and privately



owned facilities provide opportunities to those of all income levels. Tourists are attracted to the area, generating spin-off businesses and generating income to the county's economy. A steady decline in federal funding budgeted for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Raystown Lake facility threatens this tourist attraction that is so vital to the local economy. However Friends of the Raystown Lake is a non-profit organization that has emerged to assist in improving amenities at the facility. Maintaining the natural beauty and small town charm of the County while achieving the goal of economic prosperity is central to continuing to attract tourists to vacation in Huntingdon County. The WINN Act gave funding to the USACE to update the outdated Master Plan. The Final Plan is expected to be adopted by September of 2020.

While progress is being made, the county is lacking in a sufficient number of well-maintained community parks, located near population centers, such as playgrounds, ball fields, bike paths, etc. Many municipalities have requested funding for local, in-town parks including the Boroughs of Mill Creek, Alexandria, Cassville, Huntingdon, Mapleton, Mount Union and Broad Top City, and Petersburg and the Townships of Carbon, Walker, Porter, Wood, Smithfield, Warriors Mark and Tell. The Community Conservation and Partnership Program offered by Department of Conservation and Natural Resources provides significant funding for numerous recreation facilities in the county. Municipalities with high percentages of low/mod populations may have difficulty in securing match funds for this grant program. Since May 2013, Act 13 Legacy funds have been made available to municipalities and non-profits for "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". As of October 2022, \$174,653.32 of the funds approved for eligible projects have been spent on projects in Alexandria, Broad Top City, Cassville, Huntingdon, Mapleton, Mount Union, Shirleysburg and Three Spring Boroughs; and in Morris, Porter, Shirley, Smithfield, Tell and Walker, Warriors Mark, and Wood Townships.

In 2021, the addition of Bryan Park in Huntingdon Borough was a major benefit to the community. Dedicated on October 16, 2021, Bryan Park is an event venue and picnic area managed by Huntingdon Borough.

Mapleton Borough also saw improvements to its' two parks. Riverside Park received an upgrade with new playground equipment. This was a three year project that was dedicated on September 21, 2022. Veterans Memorial Park received a new merry-go-round and safety upgrades. This was a 2020 Act 13 project that was completed in mid-August 2022.

Two CDBG projects that were in the CV-2020 contract have been completed. In April 2023, Glenn O. Hawbaker began work on the tennis court at the Diven Park facility located in Mount Union Borough, Huntingdon County. Work consisted of fence removal and installation of new fencing, asphalt resurfacing, curb-cuts and sidewalk replacement. This will be a great asset to the Mount Union community. In March 2023, Huntingdon Borough broke ground in Portstown Park on new youth playground equipment, to which the ribbon cutting was held in May 2023. The adult fitness portion of the equipment was completed by the beginning of June 2023. This is a great benefit to the Huntingdon community as the adult fitness equipment is the first of its kind in the Borough.

The Active Transportation Committee, which was first created in 2017 and reactivated in 2021, will oversee all non-motorized transportation within Huntingdon County. In September 2022, the county Planning and Development Department, with approval by the Huntingdon County Commissioners, accepted a \$25,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Health and Pennsylvania Downtown Center to conduct a survey to create a plan for an active transportation plan. In late 2022, the Planning and Development Department advertised that they were accepting

a RFP to obtain a consultant to help develop the active transportation plan. The EADS Group was selected, and over the course of the next 6 months, helped develop the plan with the ATC's assistance. A public meeting was held to get community input, as well as an internal planning meeting to take the data received from the community input and survey and identify the key action items for the plan. The Active Transportation Plan was adopted by the Commissioners in September 2023. Huntingdon County is in very preliminary discussions for a trail/trailheads to be a part of the 9/11 Trail. This trail would start at the Mifflin/Huntingdon county line and follow the Juniata River waterway beyond Alexandria. The National Trail Memorial Alliance is focused on creating and maintaining a 1,300 mile multi-use trail that connects the New York City National 9/11 Memorial & Museum, the Flight 93 National Memorial in Somerset County, Pennsylvania and the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial in Arlington, Virginia. The trail will serve as a catalyst for economic development by encouraging recreational and educational tourism in Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Washington D.C. Currently, more than 50 percent of the trail is off-road. The NTMA is partnering with federal, state, county and local officials on 14 projects to connect more than 30 trails. The hope is to create a single trail of remembrance comprised of communities, memorials and other places of remembrance.

Huntingdon County and Huntingdon Borough are part of the South Western Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission Project, a nine county project under the National Park Service. The goals of the commission are to recognize, preserve, promote, interpret, and make available to the public the cultural heritage of the nine counties, including both Huntingdon County and Huntingdon Borough, the three basic industries; iron and steel, coal, and transportation, found in southwestern Pennsylvania. Active participation in the Southern Alleghenies Regional Planning Commission's initiative for development of recreational opportunities is essential in reaching goals established by the County's Comprehensive Plan.

The County supported implementation of East Broad Top Railroad Full Steam Ahead. This study recommended restoration of the entire railroad as a tourist attraction. The East Broad Top Railroad is a national historic landmark in need of investment and improved marketing practices to remain viable. In February 2020, The East Broad Top was purchased by the non-profit foundation known as the EBT Foundation. The East Broad Top Railroad Foundation Inc. made the decision to apply for funding through the Appalachian Regional Commission for an expansion of 6 miles of trackage in the southern portion of Huntingdon County encompassing approximately 18 square miles stretching from the village of Wood at the extreme southern border of the County to Robertsdale, through the village of Cooks and further north to Rocky Ridge Junction. The grant request is 1.5 million with a match provided in the amount of 1.5 million from an RACP grant previously awarded to EBT. The application has been submitted and notification was received in July 2023 that the project was selected as a finalist and will be moving to the next phase of review. Huntingdon County supports current efforts to revitalize the East Broad Top Railroad.

Investment in enhancing the County's abundant recreation facilities is essential to the well-being of communities. The need has been identified for improved recreation related improvements and amenities, such as year round attractions, accommodations and eateries. The Infrastructure Investment Strategy completed in June of 2007 inventoried existing facilities to identify centers in need of improved indoor and outdoor recreational activities.

Quality recreation facilities and support businesses are essential to sustaining tourism as a strong contributor to the Huntingdon County economy. Huntingdon, Blair, Bedford, Fulton, Cambria, Somerset and Centre Counties are working to cooperatively market the region as to cyclists. The Green Way initiative also focuses on the recreational resource of the Juniata River to the region.

Aiding such efforts through supportive community development projects is important to economic development in Huntingdon County.

The Allegheny Ridge Corporation (ARC) is active in enhancing the Juniata River Trail in Huntingdon County. Efforts underway by the ARC include construction of soft-launch facilities for kayaks and canoes in Mapleton and Mount Union. Construction is expected to begin early in 2015 for these two facilities, which will also include primitive camping facilities. A similar facility is being planned for a Huntingdon Borough access to the river to be located near Love it Upcycle Boutique. Additionally, the ARC is working on an internet based trail guide along the Juniata River including points of interest in Huntingdon County. In 2018 and 2019, the ARC conducted a study of the Mainline Canal corridor, that was named as a section of the September 11<sup>th</sup> National Memorial Trail, to study alternatives and find the best way through Huntingdon and Mifflin Counties.

### **PUBLIC SERVICES**

Huntingdon County has conducted a separate planning process for human services since 1983. The "Coordinated Service Plan for Huntingdon County" was last updated in 1986. The Huntingdon County Human Services Department plans to conduct a comprehensive service needs assessment.

The median per capita income for Huntingdon County was \$15,379 in 2000 compared with \$20,880 for the State. As of December 1999, 1.1% of the persons in Huntingdon County receive cash assistance, compared to 2.6 percent statewide. This is a significant reduction compared to the pre Welfare Reform 4.8% figure for Huntingdon County. According to the Department of Public Welfare, most of those who no longer receive cash assistance are working at part time jobs with low pay and no benefits. These individuals are still eligible for medical assistance, food stamps and other state assistance programs. Given the local economy, it is difficult to find entry level positions that pay enough to support a family. This results in a large class of "working poor".

The top "target problems" in the county according to the "Coordinated Service Plan" are:

1. failure to attract new businesses and industry to provide jobs
2. not having enough money to pay bills
3. not knowing what service agencies provide
4. lack of jobs
5. lack of money to pay for recreation
6. tax increases
7. not being able to go to the doctor because of the cost
8. feeling very depressed
9. not having enough money to pay for food, shelter, or clothes
10. having job openings not matching training or skills

Services are needed to address all of the above problems as well as the needs of emergency housing, employment assistance, legal services, special needs housing and care, victims of violence and the physically and mentally disabled. The study recommended several services as being needed to address county needs: public transportation, day care, better human service coordination, and recreation.

In the rural environment of Huntingdon County, many social services are available only to those with a means of transportation to agency offices. Most offices are centrally located in the Huntingdon Borough Area. The lack of public transportation limits accessibility of some services. The Huntingdon County Planning and Development Department in partnership with J.C. Blair Memorial Hospital completed a countywide Transportation Needs Analysis. The problem of a lack

of transportation is identified during conversations with all human service providers. According to the analysis 48% of all health and human service clients have difficulty getting to needed services. The analysis documents current services being provided and recommends a more detailed feasibility analysis for a public transportation system.

There is a need to educate school age youth and teens in life skills such as budgeting, legal rights and responsibilities, renting, purchasing a home, house maintenance, drug awareness, parenting and communication. A program designed to effectively reach youth could reduce later dependence upon social service agencies. Targeting dissemination of similar information to the elderly in group settings such as elderly housing and senior centers and meal sites can also improve the quality of life for many county residents. Topics of particular concern for the elderly include medical services, legal rights and responsibilities, coping with depression, etc.

Of growing concern to Public Service practitioners of Huntingdon County are problems facing area youth including drug use, teenage pregnancy, and high school drop-out rates. The support of early intervention programs, such as those fostering self-esteem in elementary children and those instructing parents of young children, is important to aiding the Public Service sector.

Responsibility for human services shifted in or around 2008, when the Huntingdon County Human Services Department was privatized. The CSBG program duties were later administered through a regional Center for Community Action. Huntingdon County partners with CCA through the HOME and ESG programs. Huntingdon County also partners with Weatherization, Inc. for various housing rehabilitation related services

### **SECTION 504 ANNUAL UPDATE**

An annual update of County owned facilities conducted in 2013 revealed architectural barriers to the disabled at the County Courthouse, where first floor and basement restrooms were identified as not meeting ADA and ASA requirements. Hardware on row office doors were also replaced in an effort to increase accessibility of county facilities.

In 2015 Huntingdon County conducted a Request for Qualifications process for an update to the county's Section 504 Plan. Three responses were received, all of which far exceeded funds available. Fees ranged from \$16,500 to \$24,000. No contract was awarded. Efforts have been made to update the Plan in-house. Starting in 2018, the County Commissioners hired CES Engineering of Petersburg to conduct a review of the Courthouse facilities. In 2023, County Planning & Development Department staff began a thorough review of Section 504 requirements followed by an ongoing collaborative effort with the Huntingdon County Maintenance Director and Keller Engineers, Inc. to conduct a review all County buildings to determine compliance and areas to be addressed.

### **Conclusion of Community Development Needs**

Given the limited resources of Huntingdon County, with its high unemployment and low median income, state and federal grants are going to be essential in developing the assets characteristic of healthy, desirable communities. Efforts must be comprehensive. County leadership is needed to systematically review community needs throughout the county, so that limited resources are focused where they are most needed to create the successful communities envisioned by the Huntingdon County Comprehensive Plan, matching most needed improvements with available funding sources. Identifying and bolstering township and borough leaders is critical to helping communities help themselves.



Adequate financial resources, consistently and wisely focused on the needs of our communities are necessary for fulfillment of our vision for Huntingdon County as established by the Huntingdon County Comprehensive Plan, “It is our goal that Huntingdon County achieve economic prosperity while retaining the qualities of rural and small town living.”

**SUMMARY OF PREVIOUSLY FUNDED CDBG PROJECTS**

The table provided below shows the activities funded through the Huntingdon County Entitlement Community Development Block Grant Program over the three past years. This table also identifies CDBG entitlement activities administered by Huntingdon County on behalf of (OBO) Huntingdon Borough and Smithfield Township.

<b>COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS – FFY 2019, 2020, 2021</b>			
<b>Activity</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
PA Ave Linear Park Corridor Retaining Wall, Phase 2 (total funding identified includes \$200,486 in FFY 2019 Entitlement CDBG & \$382,160.64 in FFY 2013 Competitive CDBG)	\$582,646.64	\$0.00	\$0.00
obo Huntingdon Borough Town Clock Revitalization	\$44,216.81	0.00	0.00
obo Smithfield Township Flood Levee Improvements	\$77,239.00	0.00	0.00
Pump Station #2 Upgrades	0.00	\$204,358.00	0.00
obo HB 6 <sup>th</sup> Street Parking Lot Rehabilitation	\$55,335.19	\$102,309.00	\$103,964.00
obo ST Housing Rehabilitation	0.00	\$78,945.00	\$79,970.00
Pennsylvania Ave Restoration	0.00	0.00	\$206,680.00
<b>Total Budgeted</b>	<b>\$759,437.64</b>	<b>\$385,612.00</b>	<b>\$390,614.00</b>

The Huntingdon County 2020 CDBG-CV grant was originally slated as Housing/Utility Assistance for the county and borough. The county only received two applications for assistance and the borough received none, so both the county and borough monies were reallocated via approved DCED contract modifications to Diven Park in Mount Union Borough and Portstown Park in Huntingdon Borough, respectively.

**Countywide Development Objectives**

As a result of the collection and analysis of public comment and data during the recent update of the Huntingdon County Comprehensive Plan, the following categories have emerged:

Countywide Housing Needs

GOAL: To encourage the provision of decent, safe, and affordable housing for all the residents of Huntingdon County regardless of age, sex, income, religious or ethnic background.

The major countywide housing needs include:

1. Upgraded maintenance of the housing stock throughout the county
2. Provision of a wider choice of housing types, for ownership and rental, throughout the county
3. Increased capacity to respond to minor housing repair emergencies
4. Improved capacity to eliminate Lead Based Paint hazards from housing
5. Increased access to home ownership for the working poor
6. Demolition of a number of dilapidated structures throughout the county
7. Attraction of housing developers to the county to construct a variety of housing and rental units
8. Provision of certain types of housing e.g. family, elderly, low income, emergency shelter, transitional, physically/developmentally disabled, etc.

9. Identification of suitable sites for building reuse and conversion for housing throughout the county
10. Availability of housing for special needs populations
11. Improve access to affordable housing for low and moderate income families throughout the county
12. Increased awareness of Fair Housing rights and requirements
13. Development of housing options specifically targeted to the needs of elderly
14. Municipal guidance for housing development including land use plans and building and maintenance codes and code enforcement
15. Assistance to First Time Home Buyers including education and down payment and closing cost assistance
16. Improved code enforcement achieved through updated municipal codes, better trained code enforcement officers, and a commitment from municipal officials to enforce codes universally

#### Countywide Public/Community Facilities and Improvements Needs

GOAL: To encourage and promote the provision of adequate community facilities, utilities, and services in Huntingdon County by appropriate governmental and private organizations. To conduct a needs assessment of all water and sewer systems in all municipalities in the county.

The major countywide needs for public and community facilities improvements include:

1. Rehabilitation and upgrading, as well as new public facilities, such as: stormwater systems, water systems, and sewage collection and treatment systems
2. Provision of additional numbers of, and greater variety of, recreational facilities and opportunities
3. Reconstruction of local roads, streets, and bridges
4. Public transportation
6. Development of community centers for youth, elderly and physically and developmentally disabled
7. Child care and elderly care assistance for disadvantaged families and single head of households
8. Provision of emergency shelter to homeless and victims of crime
9. Construction of physical improvements to public structures to accommodate the handicapped and elderly
10. Safety improvements for pedestrians including reconstruction of sidewalks and installation and replacement of brighter and more energy efficient, LED street light heads
11. Library improvements
12. Increased availability to specialized medical facilities
13. Increased availability of educational facility resources to general public
14. County assistance to municipal authorities in the development, repair, management and operation of aged water and sewer systems

#### Countywide Public Service Needs

GOAL: To assist all county residents in achieving economic self-sufficiency, public safety, good mental and physical health, and healthy social relationships through the provision of a variety of social and public services

The major countywide public service needs include:

1. Provision of expanded programs to serve the high number of unemployed citizens throughout the county, e.g. job training, job placement

2. Provision of coordinated delivery of Health, Social and Welfare Service through the use of a Human Service Coordinator
3. Provision of training and counseling in skills for school age youth, the elderly, the physically, developmentally, economically and socially disadvantaged including, but not limited to: life skills, budget planning, home maintenance, etc.
4. Transportation
5. Dental care assistance through a regional clinic serving LMI population

#### Countywide Economic Development Needs

GOAL: To encourage the development of a healthy and diversified economic base capable of providing employment and goods and services to the residents of Huntingdon County

The major economic needs throughout the county include:

1. Provision of a greater number of job opportunities in basic industries
2. Provision of a greater variety of job opportunities for low and moderate income persons
3. Implementation of the comprehensive economic development analysis to guide countywide future economic growth and development
4. Identification of those industries and commercial enterprises throughout the county which may wish to expand
5. Provision of additional services and programs to local business and industry to enable them to better compete in the marketplace
6. Identification of sites with required services and other desirable features which can accommodate additional industrial and commercial activity
7. Continued diversification of the industrial and commercial base of the county
8. Provision of proper land use and development to prevent future slums and blight
9. Provision of job training programs for the disadvantaged
10. Diversification of employment opportunities
11. Continuing educational opportunities to improve employment skills
12. Support for small businesses and entrepreneurs
13. Support for improved multi-modal transportation services including rail service and an airport, as well as bike lane, trail, street, bridge and highway improvements

## **Short and Long Term Plan**

#### Short Term Plan (FFY 2023)

Activities for Huntingdon County's Community Development Short Term Plan for CDBG entitlement funding include:

1. 44 W. Water Street Rehab (located in Mount Union Borough)

#### Long Term Plan (FFY 2024 and 2025)

Activities for Huntingdon County's Community Development Long Term Plan for CDBG entitlement funding include:

1. Municipal Water and Waste Water System Improvements
2. County Wide Spot Blight Remediation
3. Smithfield Township Storm Sewer Phase East (located in the village of Smithfield & utilizing obo CDBG funding)
4. 7<sup>th</sup> Street Parking Lot Rehab (located in Huntingdon Borough & utilizing obo CDBG funding)



## Relationship of Community Development Plan with Other Plans

The Community Development Plan is developed through a combination of data from other studies and plans and through consultation with municipal governments, authorities and non-profit agencies.

An extensive outreach effort is made to coordinate with the many plans prepared for localized needs. All non-entitlement municipalities along with authorities and non-profit agencies receive CDBG packets. The packets include a CDBG Fact Sheet, notice of CDBG Public Information Meetings, and a request for new CDBG projects. The County also develops relationships with local leaders, comes to an understanding of local needs and solicits comments on past use of CDBG funds and their impact on communities.

A heavy emphasis is placed on coordination with the Huntingdon County Comprehensive Plan due to an extensive data gathering, visioning and goal setting process undertaken by the Huntingdon County Planning and Development Department and Planning Commission from 1997 through 2018. Other plans referenced for coordination include: Southern Alleghenies Planning Commission Reports, U.S. Census Data, Huntingdon County Comprehensive Economic Analysis, the Coordinated Services Plan for Huntingdon County and input from the public and local municipal officials.

As part of the CDBG application process, and in compliance with the Growing Smarter land use legislation, a letter is required from the appropriate local and county planning agency to certify that any activity occurring in previously undeveloped property is in compliance with land use and comprehensive plans and zoning and subdivision ordinances. However, there are no activities proposed in the FY 2023 CDBG application, which occur in previously undeveloped property.



**CERTIFICATION**  
of  
Non-Entitlement Municipality Notification

I hereby certify, that all non-entitlement municipalities were provided with a written notification that (1) that the county will be preparing its annual application for CDBG funds; (2) the amount of funds available for use in addressing the community development needs of the non-entitlement municipalities; (3) that each non-entitlement municipality is invited to submit in writing, a list of needs it would like to have considered; and (4) the deadline by which such needs are to be submitted to the county. This notification was emailed to most non-entitlement municipalities on February 8th, 2023 (and mailed to the few without email address) as well as to all municipal authorities and several non-profit agencies. The notification can also be found on the Huntingdon County website ([www.huntingdoncounty.net](http://www.huntingdoncounty.net))

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Bellis, Community Development  
Administrator, Huntingdon County, PA,

9-27-2023  
Date