

CDBG 2023 Bi-annual Report for The Huntingdon County Planning Commission

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While 2022 was a year of learning, 2023 has been a year of settling in and our confidence has been increasing.

We have recently attended a DCED sponsored training which explained a lot of the processes we currently use in our projects as well as how to put them in motion. We have also attended webinars sponsored by DCED as well as COSTARS and an in-person PennVest training which were all helpful in the learning process.

We offered some suggestions for changes and upgrades to the annual dinner with regards to the awards portion of the event and the feedback was positive. We look forward to offering suggestions to the annual picnic as well.

Jen presented a CDBG overview and networked with municipal leaders from throughout the county at the HACTC in May. Since the event we have had several municipalities reach out with their ideas, questions and concerns of how to find funding for projects they have in mind. Overall, it was a successful event for us.

As a requirement of CDBG, we must hold some type of Fair Housing activity. We took a new approach by hosting a family movie night. Huntingdon Borough graciously offered the use of Bryan Park and Washington Street for the event. We started with delivery of flyers to all the county elementary schools (Mount Union, Southern Huntingdon, Huntingdon, Juniata Valley, as well as Stone Valley Charter School) as well as promoted it through our social media, and postings at borough buildings and CCA. We had participation as well by multiple food/beverage trucks. After two weather delays and with the flexibility of Huntingdon Borough and the food vendors - Britty Rae's Tacos, Little Goody's Scoops of Heaven, and The Roast Post - we were successful in hosting the event on June 30th. We gathered a crowd of about 50 at the start of the movie. We took the opportunity to answer any questions, hand out some pamphlets and informational literature, as well as coloring books and crayons and our own personalized handout items. The movie was geared toward younger children with the focus on inclusivity and how to overcome

discrimination/adversity in the community and workplace. A great film for these topics to be absorbed by a younger audience.

We are signed up for a DCED workshop training to take place in Hershey August 1-3, 2023. After the annual training the response was that we should have smaller workshops with fewer people and people with equal experience to which they responded and created these mini-workshops and we're excited to attend and meet other "newbies" and create relationships with someone in the same position as us with the same level of knowledge and experience.

As we prepare for the 2023 CDBG application, we're working towards approval of multiple projects within Huntingdon County, as well as Huntingdon Borough and Smithfield Township. We have already held our public hearings and held the open comment period to which we have not had any contributions from the public.

We devised a new filing system for CDBG and implemented it into operation in June of 2023. Locating documents, files, and plans are much more achievable with the color coded tabbed binders and a new binder storage unit makes things much more efficient.

We received an invitation from Carbon Township to visit the site of their community park and "spitball" some ideas about the projects they have on their wish list and talk about the possibility of completing or at least begin the process of qualifying them for future projects. Having witnessed their sense of community pride and being shown all their amenities and learning of the history of their areas as well as what they envision for the future of the park, sparked an idea to which we will begin execution in the coming weeks - Jen and Jayme intend to visit all municipalities on their turf to let them show off a little bit about what they have and what they foresee or would like to entertain as additional improvements for their communities. We're working on building a list of contacts and setting up times for these visits and hope to gain a better working relationship with our municipal leaders as well as have a face to go with the names we sometimes encounter. We hope to see this as a step in creating a better network for the county.

As we continue to familiarize ourselves in the program and all facets of the grant process we are anxious to provide new and different opportunities to the County and areas within that have not yet been a beneficiary of CDBG funding.

Please see below the progress of existing projects and preliminary ideas of upcoming projects, as well as several we have been successful in completing.

Completed CDBG Activities:

Since January 2023, two CDBG projects have been completed, both for the CV-2020 contract.

Huntingdon County **FY 2020-HC CV**

Diven Park Improvements

In April 2023, Glenn O. Hawbaker began work on the tennis court at the Diven Park facility. Work consisted of fence removal and installation of new fencing, asphalt resurfacing, curb-cuts and sidewalk replacement. Through several bidding procedures and change orders, the scope of the work finally managed to meet a budget and the project was completed by May 19, 2023. The community has been looking forward to the completion of this project and we anticipate great use of the park moving forward.



Before



After

Huntingdon Borough **FY 2020-HB CV**

Obo Huntingdon Borough Portstown Park Enhancements (previously HB COVID-19 Prevention and Housing/Utility Assistance)

In March 2023, the Borough broke ground in Portstown Park on the children's section first, to which the ribbon cutting was held on May 24, 2023. Community feedback has been positive. The adult fitness portion of the equipment was completed by the beginning of June 2023. Both are pictured below in completion. The total amount of funding for this project was \$60,100.00 from CDBG and the remaining \$8,226.00 was covered by Huntingdon Borough as well as the installation of both units.



Aged 5-12 yrs. Slide/Climber Unit



Adult Fitness Activate Circuit

Ongoing CDBG Contracts and Activities:

FY 2018, FY 2019 & FY 2020

Obo Huntingdon Borough Town Clock Revitalization

This activity involves the repair and restoration (historical preservation) of the town clock located at 508 Mifflin Street, Huntingdon, PA. This project is very involved and includes the repair of the Seth Thomas Time and Strike tower clock movement; restoration of the dials; repair of the bell floor, bell cribbing, tolling wheel, and hammer assembly; installation of appropriate dial lighting; and physical structure repairs to eliminate existing water infiltration.

Balzer Family Clockworks have been busy restoring the timepiece since December 2022 in their Freeport, Maine workshop. They re-visited the site in June of this year to remove the dials and clock faces to start refabricating the exterior aspect of the clock, as well as provide specs to the architect for relocation of the timepiece to the ground level lobby entrance for viewing by the public and easier maintenance by the Borough staff.

When the Balzer's return in the fall the plywood will be removed and new clock faces installed. Construction for the modifications to the lobby and further safety measures within the tower will be out to bid by late summer 2023.





FY 2018 & 2019

Obo Smithfield Township Flood Levee Improvements

This activity involves efforts to keep Smithfield Township's levee certified and to ensure that flooding risks are minimized in their community. An internal closed circuit television inspection of the existing levee culverts was conducted as part of the flood control levee system inspection process. This project was 70% completed when stopped by DEP in December 2022. In April 2023, DEP sent forth new requirements to which the contractor, State Pipe Services, Inc., requested a termination of contract. A new set of bid specs will be prepared and the project rebid with completion by May 2024.

FY 2020

Pump Station #2 Upgrades

This County project was submitted by the Shade Gap Area Joint Municipal Authority (SGAJMA) and involves various improvements to their existing pump station (Pump Station #2) located at the intersection of Main Street and Croghan Pike in Dublin Township. The pump station currently serves residential users along Main Street in Dublin Township and a convenience store adjacent to the facility. The deterioration of the pump station has progressed to the point where measures need to be taken in the near future to prevent possible failure of the pump station. A total failure of this pump station would affect all residents that are connected and potentially result in a raw sewage surcharge event. This activity is currently funded with \$204,358 in CDBG FY 2020 funds. Bidding was completed in March 2023 and was awarded to Hickes Associates, Inc. Work will begin mid-July, and is expected to only take approximately 1-2 weeks to complete.



FY 2020 & 2021

Obo Smithfield Township Housing Rehabilitation

On October 25, 2022 a public announcement flyer was sent from our office to all residential addresses within Smithfield Township, which outlined the single-family housing rehabilitation program, defined the income restrictions and provided examples of eligible projects. An agreement was created with SEDA-COG to administer the program. We have begun intake on one household which went out to bid, but was unsuccessful in securing a contractor. The project has since been split into multiple bids. We hope to secure bidders by late Summer 2023.

Smithfield Township Housing Rehab Funds

Do you.....

- 1). Live in **and** own a home in Smithfield Township?
- 2). Have safety concerns about the state of your home?

Are you.....

- 3). Willing to provide proof of home ownership and proof of household income?



The 'Before' photo shows a single-story house with a brick chimney, a white front door, and dark shutters. The 'After' photo shows the same house with a new dark blue exterior, a new front porch with brick columns, and a new front door.

We may have funds available for you.

For preliminary eligibility, contact the Huntingdon County Planning Department at (814) 643-5091 or email planning@huntingdoncounty.net

Funding is provided by Community Development Block Grant Entitlement funds.



FY 2020, 2021 & 2022

Obo Huntingdon Borough – 6th Street Municipal Parking Lot Rehabilitation

We went out to bid in April 2023 having two different bid specs; General and Electrical. We secured Glenn O. Hawbaker as the general contractor, but didn't receive any for the Electrical portion, to which Huntingdon Borough volunteered their staff to do the electrical work. The pre-construction meeting was held in June 2023 and work beginning July 2023. The project will include; underground electricity for lighting with possibility of additional charging station for electric vehicle and/or parking payment toll booth, new light poles and lumens, landscaping, planting of trees, and adjust number of handicapped parking spaces to meet requirements.





Upcoming CDBG Contracts and Activities:

FY 2022

Huntingdon County – Mount Union Municipal Authority – W. Davis/W. Garber Street Waterline Repair

The service will receive new valves in the lines along Washington Street and the intersections of W. Davis and W. Garber Streets, a new 8” water main along W. Davis Street, a new 4” water main through the woods between W. Davis and W. Garber Streets, a new 4” valve connecting the new 4” line to the existing line along Garber Street. There will also be a new fire hydrant installed along W. Davis Street. This project was submitted and approved in the 2022 CDBG application submitted in October to DCED. We’re awaiting disbursement of funds before we can complete any further steps. We have completed the income survey for all affected beneficiaries and the project is qualified. We anticipate the next steps to take place at the earliest in summer 2023, but likely somewhat later.

FY 2022

Obo Huntingdon Borough – 7th Street Parking Lot Rehabilitation (replaces Community Center ADA Accessibility)

After meeting with the Borough’s CDBG engineer on-site in April 2023, and learning the estimate for the project would exceed \$600,000.00 the project was suggested to be tabled for another possible funding source. Huntingdon Borough presented the idea of rehabbing 7th Street parking lot to match the existing 6th Street parking lot rehabilitation project. While a formal modification is required to be submitted to DCED, we obtained first levels of approval for this project and will move forward. This will be a multi-year project to include FY 2023 as well.

FY 2022

Obo Smithfield Township – Storm Sewer Improvements Phase East (replaces Housing Rehabilitation)

Pending a demographic survey and a formal modification to DCED, we anticipate beginning a large multi-year, multi-phased storm sewer improvement project within the “village” of Smithfield Township beginning with the first portion named Phase East. There will be two additional Phases and the entire project will likely require the use of 6 years of CDBG funding.