



LAWRENCE AND MERCER COUNTY

EMPLOYER RESOURCE GUIDE



Welcome Employers!

On behalf of the West Central Workforce Investment Board and the Business Service Teams of Lawrence and Mercer counties, we have compiled a comprehensive list of resources available to employers operating within Lawrence and Mercer Counties. This guide offers information on various grants, programs, and services available to your organization.

The Employer Resource Guide was developed using information provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, the PA CareerLink offices of Lawrence and Mercer Counties and West Central Job Partnership. To identify the funding provider for each program, please refer to the ‘Where Can I Get More Information’ section on each respective program page.

We hope that you find the Employer Resource Guide useful, and we look forward to working with you in the future to assist you in developing the skilled workforce necessary for your business to remain competitive!

Eric Karmecy
Assistant Director of Workforce Development
West Central Job Partnership

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Architectural/Transportation Tax Deduction

Tax deductions for making your property or public transportation vehicles more accessible to people with disabilities and the elderly.

Uses:

Eligible expenditures may include installing ramps, widening doorways, modifying restrooms, or equipping a shuttle van with a lift.

Funding:

Up to \$15,000 per tax year.

Eligibility:

Any private business.

For more information contact:

PA Department of Labor & Industry, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

Telephone: (800) 345-2555

Online: www.dli.state.pa.us

- Click Businesses and Organizations
- Click Financial Incentives/Resources
- Click Tax Credits for Accessibility
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Ben Franklin Technology Development Authority (BFTDA) Technology Development Grant

Grants to help groups or consortia of Pennsylvania companies position themselves at the cutting edge of emerging technologies and establish a competitive advantage through the use of advanced e-business systems.

Uses:

Technology development/advancement in the community.

Funding:

Variable.

Eligibility:

Not-for-profit organizations; Community groups

For more information contact:

Department of Community and Economic Development

Telephone: (866) GO-NEWPA

Online: www.newPA.com

To apply visit www.newPA.com for the Department of Community and Economic Development's [Single Application for Assistance](#).

Ben Franklin Technology Development Authority (BFTDA) Venture Investment Program

Investment in venture capital partnerships investing in early-stage PA technology companies.

Uses:

Investment in venture capital partnerships, angel investment funds and similar initiatives.

Funding:

Variable.

Eligibility:

Venture capital partnerships and angel investment groups.

For more information contact:

Department of Community and Economic Development

Telephone: (866) GO-NEWPA

Online: www.newPA.com

To apply visit www.newPA.com for the Department of Community and Economic Development's [Single Application for Assistance](#).

Ben Franklin Technology Development Authority (BFTDA) University Research Funding

Grants designed to promote stronger synergy between university-based research and development and the transfer of technology as it relates to economic and work force development

Uses:

Research and development; Technology transfer; Approved course of study

Funding:

Variable.

Eligibility:

Colleges or universities; Non-profit organizations partnering with colleges/universities

For more information contact:

Department of Community and Economic Development

Telephone: (866) GO-NEWPA

Online: www.newPA.com

To apply visit www.newPA.com for the Department of Community and Economic Development's [Single Application for Assistance](#).

Ben Franklin Technology Partners

Funding for research and development, technology transfer, joint research and development

Uses:

Research and development (for Product/Process Development); Technology transfer; Joint research and development (private companies and universities); Technology training/entrepreneurial infrastructure

Funding:

Typically range from \$5,000 to \$250,000 (varies somewhat between centers and project type)

Eligibility:

Technology Development/Application; Research and Development; Start-up or existing companies

For more information contact:

Lawrence County:

Innovation Works

Telephone: (412) 681-1520

Online: www.innovationworks.org

Email: info@innovationworks.org

Mercer County:

Ben Franklin Partners of Central and Northern PA

Telephone: (814) 863-4558

Online: www.cnp.benfranklin.org

Email: info@cnp.benfranklin.org

Broadband Outreach & Aggregation Fund (BOAF)

Grant assistance to qualified applicants to implement outreach programs concerning the benefits, use and procurement of broadband services as well as providing seed grants to aggregate customer demand in communities with little or no service so that the providers can respond to the new demand for services in a more timely fashion.

Uses:

- Outreach programs leading to increased awareness of the benefits, use and procurement of broadband services; and
- Seed grants to aggregate customer demand for broadband services in communities or political subdivisions with limited access to such services and to permit applicants to request such services from a telecommunications provider.

Funding:

Variable.

Eligibility:

Political subdivisions, economic development entities, schools, health care facilities, businesses, and residential customers.

For more information contact:

Department of Community and Economic Development

Telephone: (866) GO-NEWPA

Online: www.newPA.com

To apply visit www.newPA.com for the Department of Community and Economic Development's [Single Application for Assistance](#).

Business Opportunities Fund (BOF)

Installment loans, lines of credit and technical assistance for minority business enterprises, women-owned business enterprises and small businesses.

Uses:

Cash flow (working capital) – Including most business operation and expansion expenses; Equipment – includes acquisition, delivery, installation, and renovation of new and used equipment; leasehold improvements; and acquisition of owner-occupied real estate.

Funding:

There are no minimum or maximum loan sizes.

Eligibility:

Any small business may apply, but the program will give priority to small businesses requiring capital and technical assistance in order to compete for governmental and private sector contracts. This pilot program is open to businesses located in the Community First Fund's service area: Adams, Berks, Chester, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Perry and York counties, as well as the Bridgeway Capital service area: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, Mercer, Washington and Westmoreland counties.

For more information contact:

Daniel Betancourt, President and Chief Executive Officer
Community First Fund
30 West Orange Street
P.O. Box 524
Lancaster, PA 17608-0524
Telephone: (717)-393-2351

Business Retention & Expansion Program (BREP)

The Pennsylvania Business Retention Program (BREP) was established in 1997 to forge better working relationships and stronger collaboration among various public, private, state and local economic development organizations, with the goal of enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of efforts to retain and grow existing Pennsylvania businesses. The Pennsylvania Business Retention and Expansion Program is the most aggressive & job retention program in the country. Since its inception, representatives of the BREP have completed over 73,400 visits.

Uses:

BREP is designed to foster collaboration for economic vitality through business retention and expansion.

Funding:

The grant amount varies from region to region. The amount depends upon how many business retention visits the region plans to make on behalf of BREP.

Eligibility:

Eligible, reimbursable visits must adhere to region and state preferences. Click to view the Criteria for Eligible Visits for FY 08-09.

For more information contact:

Business Retention & Expansion Program – Northwest Region

Telephone: (814) 456-6162
Email: lwardi@e-pulse.net
Online: www.e-pulse.net

Building PA

Provides mezzanine capital for developers for real estate assets in small to mid-sized Pennsylvania communities.

Uses:

Real estate development in small to mid-sized PA communities

Funding:

Variable

Eligibility:

Professional Investment Fund Managers through a Request for Qualification (RFQ)

For more information contact:

Department of Community and Economic Development

Telephone: (866) GO-NEWPA

Online: www.newPA.com

Application will be made available through issuance of request for qualification (will be advertised in Pennsylvania Bulletin online at www.pabulletin.com).

Business in Our Sites Grants and Loans

Empowers communities to attract growing and expanding businesses by helping them build an inventory of ready sites

Uses:

All site development activities required to make a site "shovel ready"; for speculative projects only

Funding:

No maximum or minimum, except that the maximum amount of the funding for projects located within a single city, borough, town or township may not exceed 15% of the funds available for the program; Grants may not exceed 50% of the total amount of the financing provided, or \$5 million, whichever is less.

Eligibility:

Municipalities; Municipal Authorities; Redevelopment Authorities; Industrial Development Agencies; Private Developers

For more information contact:

Department of Community and Economic Development

Telephone: (866) GO-NEWPA

Online: www.newPA.com

To apply visit www.newPA.com for the Department of Community and Economic Development's [Single Application for Assistance](#).

Citizens Job Bank

A public/private \$150 million loan partnership between Citizens Bank and the Commonwealth.

Uses:

Machinery and Equipment; Land and Building

Funding:

\$1,000,000 min, \$10,000,000 max; Loans may not exceed 75% of project cost; Building acquisition/remodeling loans limited to 75% of appraised value.

Eligibility:

PA manufacturing, industrial and distribution operations, and select business services.

For more information contact:

Department of Community and Economic Development

Telephone: (866) GO-NEWPA

Online: www.newPA.com

To apply visit www.newPA.com for the Department of Community and Economic Development's [Single Application for Assistance](#).

Community Economic Development Loan Program

Low-interest loans for projects in distressed communities, stimulating self-help initiatives and helping people build assets at the individual, family and community levels

Uses:

Land and building acquisition; Building, construction and renovation; Machinery and equipment acquisition and installation; Working Capital

Funding:

Loans up to \$100,000 or 50% of total eligible project cost, whichever is less

Eligibility:

For-profit small businesses (100 employees or less) that are located in a DCED designated distressed community, Keystone Opportunity Zone

For more information contact:

Department of Community and Economic Development

Telephone: (866) GO-NEWPA

Online: www.newPA.com

To apply visit www.newPA.com for the Department of Community and Economic Development's [Single Application for Assistance](#).

Customized Job Training Program (CJT)

Grants for specialized job training to existing or newly hired employees.

Uses:

Instructional costs; Supplies; Consumable materials; Contracted services; Relevant travel costs for local education agency project coordinators

Funding:

Grants up to 75% of the eligible costs for new job creation, retention, upgrade training

Eligibility:

Manufacturing; Industrial; Agricultural enterprises; Research and development; Advanced Technology; Business service firms (no point of sale/retail)

For more information contact:

Department of Community and Economic Development

Telephone: (866) GO-NEWPA

Online: www.newPA.com

To apply visit www.newPA.com for the Department of Community and Economic Development's [Single Application for Assistance](#).

Disabled Tax Credit

If your small business has incurred expenses complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), you could have some of those costs defrayed.

Uses:

Tax credits may be applied against the tax liability of a business for the tax year in which the contribution was made.

Funding:

Eligible businesses can receive a tax credit equal to half of their ADA-related expenditures that cost between \$250 and \$10,250. Maximum is \$5,125 a year.

Eligibility:

The disabled Tax Credit is available to businesses with fewer than 30 employees or less than \$1 million in gross annual income.

For more information contact:

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Lawrence County:

Telephone: (724) 656-3070

Mercer County:

Telephone: (814) 871-4551

PA Department of Labor & Industry, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

Telephone: (800) 345-2555

Online: www.dli.state.pa.us

Click Businesses and Organizations

- Click Financial Incentives/Resources
- Click Tax Credits for Disabled Tax Credit

Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program (EITC)

Tax credits to eligible businesses contributing to a Scholarship Organization, an Educational Improvement Organization, and/or a Pre-Kindergarten Scholarship Organization.

Uses:

Tax credits may be applied against the tax liability of a business for the tax year in which the contribution was made.

Funding:

Tax credits equal to 75% of its contribution up to a maximum of \$300,000 per taxable year; Can be increased to 90% of the contribution, if business agrees to provide same amount for two consecutive tax years; For contributions to Pre-Kindergarten Scholarship Organizations a business may receive a tax credit equal to 100% of the first \$10,000 contributed and up to 90% of the remaining amount contributed up to a maximum credit of \$150,000 annually.

Eligibility:

Businesses authorized to do business in Pennsylvania who are subject to one or more of the following taxes: Corporate Net Income Tax; Capital Stock Franchise Tax, Bank and Trust Company Shares Tax; Title Insurance Companies Shares Tax; Insurance Premiums Tax; Mutual Thrift Institution Tax; or Personal Income Tax of S corporation shareholders or Partnership partners.

For more information contact:

DCED Center for Business Financing Tax Credit Division

Telephone: (717) 787-7120

Email: tknorr@state.pa.us

Employee Incentive (EIP) Program

Employers can earn tax credits that can be applied to state business taxes by hiring workers who are qualified cash welfare recipient or vocational rehabilitation referrals

Uses:

Tax credits that can be applied to state business taxes.

Funding:

An employer can earn a tax credit of up to 30% of the first \$9,000 of qualified first year wages; 20% for year two; and 10% for year three. Up to \$1,800 EIP tax credits are available over a three-year period, if the employer provides or pays for child care or transportation services for each new employee.

Eligibility:

Businesses are eligible for hiring individuals who received Pennsylvania General Assistance (GA) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) within a year prior to their start date. Also eligible are businesses that hire Pennsylvanians with disabilities who completed, or are completing, rehabilitative services approved through the State Rehabilitation Services program or the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs.

For more information contact:

PA Department of Labor & Industry

Telephone: (800) 345-2555

Email: areevesluc@state.pa.us

Online: www.dli.state.pa.us

Click Businesses and Organizations

- Click Financial Incentives/Resources
- Click Employment Tax Credits
- Click Employment Incentive Payment Program

Enterprise Zone Program

Grants to financially disadvantaged communities for preparing and implementing business development strategies within municipal Enterprise Zones.

Uses:

Business development surveys; Business development strategy/preparation; Revolving fund business

Funding:

Planning Grants – Up to \$50,000

Basic grant – Up to \$50,000

Grants-to-loans: Up to \$500,000

Eligibility:

Municipalities, redevelopment authorities, non-profit economic development organizations, or other non-profit organizations on a case-by-case basis

For more information contact:

Department of Community and Economic Development

Telephone: (866) GO-NEWPA

Online: www.newPA.com

To apply visit www.newPA.com for the Department of Community and Economic Development's [Single Application for Assistance](#).

Export Finance Program (EFP)

The Pennsylvania Export Finance Program provides small businesses with access to pre-export working capital and post-export accounts receivable financing through a direct loan program.

Uses:

Working capital financing; Accounts receivable financing; revolving lines of credit.

Funding:

Working Capital Loans: Up to \$350,000 or 50% of total eligible project costs, whichever is less; Accounts Receivable loans: Up to \$350,000 or 85% of eligible project costs

Eligibility:

Small Businesses (250 employees or less) exporting goods or services internationally

For more information contact:

Northwest Pennsylvania Regional Planning & Development Commission (NWPRPDC)

Telephone: (814) 677-4800

Online: <http://www.nwcommission.org/>

Festival Grant Program

The Pennsylvania Festival Marketing Initiative is an initiative of the Pennsylvania Tourism Office in association with the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA). The goal of this initiative is to identify a roster of local and regional festivals and special events which can help Destination Marketing Organizations (DMO) to increase inbound traffic and overnight hotel stays in Pennsylvania's seven tourism regions.

Uses:

Grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,500 are for cooperative marketing promotions designed to draw audiences from beyond the county and region of the applicant organization.

Funding:

Varies by category and sub category

Eligibility:

Festivals and special events that have received support from either the Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts (PPA) fund administered by the Pennsylvania Council of the Arts or from a Destination Marketing Organization are eligible to apply for "festival incubator quick grants."

For more information contact:

Department of Community and Economic Development

Telephone: (866) GO-NEWPA

Online: www.newPA.com

To apply visit www.newPA.com for the Department of Community and Economic Development's [Single Application for Assistance](#).

Film Tax Credit Program

Act 55 of 2007, the Film Tax Credit Law (Act 55) was enacted and authorized the issuance of \$75 million in tax credits in an effort to expand the activity of film, television and other production companies in Pennsylvania.

Uses:

A project is eligible if at least 60 percent of the project's total production budget is used for Qualified Pennsylvania production expenses. Refer to the program guidelines for a listing of qualified Pennsylvania production expenses.

Funding:

The amount of the tax credit available for an eligible project is equal to 25 percent of Qualified Pennsylvania production expenses for the project.

Eligibility:

Projects eligible for tax credits under the Program include: the production of a feature film, a television film, a television talk or game show series, a television commercial, a television pilot or each episode of a television series intended as programming for a national audience.

For more information contact:

Department of Community and Economic Development

Telephone: (866) GO-NEWPA

Online: www.newPA.com

To apply visit www.newPA.com for the Department of Community and Economic Development's [Single Application for Assistance](#).

First Industries Fund

The First Industries Fund is a grant and loan program aimed at strengthening Pennsylvania's agriculture and tourism industries. The First Industries Fund is part of PA Grows, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's new initiative designed to assist agricultural producers in gaining access to the capital they need to begin, continue, or expand their businesses.

Uses:

Land and building acquisition and construction; Machinery and equipment purchase and upgrades; Working capital; Operation of Revolving Loan Funds (RLFs) by Regional organizations - Grants: Planning and redevelopment - Loan Guarantees: Large-scale projects that demonstrate regional impact; deploy new or innovative technologies; demonstration of significant job creation

Funding:

Loans: Loans up to \$200,000 or 50% of total eligible project costs, whichever is less; Maximum loan amount for working capital is \$100,000 or 50% of total eligible project costs, whichever is less. Planning Grants: Up to \$250,000. Loan Guarantees: variable

Eligibility:

Planning grants, loans and loan guarantees for the agriculture and tourism industries.

For more information contact:

Department of Community and Economic Development

Telephone: (866) GO-NEWPA

Online: www.newPA.com

To apply visit www.newPA.com for the Department of Community and Economic Development's [Single Application for Assistance](#).

Go Global Grant Program

The Pennsylvania Go Global Grant Program is designed to enhance public awareness of the increasing linkages between Pennsylvania and the global economy.

Uses:

The Go Global Grant Program will support partnering organizations to organize and conduct events that are designed to either help promote Pennsylvania exports or to help attract new foreign investment to Pennsylvania.

Funding:

Matching grant of up to \$10,000.00 per year per organization.

Eligibility:

Applicants must be based in Pennsylvania and be one of the following types of organizations:

1. Economic development organization
2. Industrial development corporation or authority
3. Technology council
4. Chamber of commerce
5. Regional marketing organization
6. Local or county government
7. Membership-based business organization
8. Non-profit /Non-government organization

For more information contact:

Department of Community and Economic Development

Telephone: (866) GO-NEWPA

Online: www.newPA.com

To apply visit www.newPA.com for the Department of Community and Economic Development's [Single Application for Assistance](#)..

Guaranteed Free Training Program (GFT-WEDnetPA)

Basic skills and information technology training for eligible employees of new and expanding businesses.

Uses:

Basic Skills – Basic and entry level skills training. Information Technology – Advanced information technology training. Introductory level training, such as word processing, etc. is not eligible.

Funding:

Basic Skills Training: Up to \$450 per trainee and \$75,000 per company. Information Technology Training: Up to \$700 per trainee and \$50,000 per company.

Eligibility:

Basic Skills Training: PA Manufacturing and Technology-based businesses; and Information Technology training. Point of sale retail businesses, gaming establishments, employment agencies, government, education, training vendors and non-profit entities are not eligible.

For more information:

Please visit www.wednetpa.com/ or contact West Central Job Partnership for WEDnetPA partners in your local area.

Independence Capital Access Network (ICAN)

The ICAN Fund provides grants to small businesses with 100 employees or fewer to enable them to make workplace accommodations for employees with disabilities.

Uses:

For small-business site modifications, specialized or adapted machinery, or specialized training

Funding:

A maximum of \$50,000 a year

Eligibility:

Small businesses with 100 employees or fewer.

For more information contact:

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation's Placement Counselors:

Lawrence County:

Telephone: (724) 656-3070

Mercer County:

Telephone: (724) 983-5721

PA Dept. of Labor & Industry

Telephone: (717)787-8315

Email: crocken@state.pa.us

Online: www.dli.state.pa.us

- Under Businesses and Organizations click Learn More
- Click Financial Incentives/Resources
- Click Disability Accommodation Grants
- Click ICAN-The Independence Capital Network Fund

Industrial Resource Centers

The IRC Network represents the seven private, non-profit Industrial Resource Centers located strategically throughout the Commonwealth. These Centers were established to help small- and medium-sized manufacturing enterprises (SMEs) respond to changing markets, new technology and the competitive pressures of today's global economy.

Uses:

IRCs offer help in areas including:

Business Growth Services - Strategic planning, sales and marketing and new product development—as well as succession planning.

Manufacturing Excellence - Lean manufacturing, value stream mapping, quality improvements and ISO support.

Customized Workforce Training - Training Assessments and Education and Training Classes.

Funding:

Variable.

Eligibility:

Small- to medium-sized manufacturers with up to 500 employees.

For more information contact:

Lawrence County:

Catalyst Connection

Telephone: (412) 918-4300

Online: www.catalystconnection.org

Mercer County:

NWIRC

Telephone: (724) 699-5787

Online: www.nwirc.org/

Industrial Sites Reuse Program

Grant and low-interest loan financing to perform environmental site assessment and remediation work at former industrial sites.

Uses:

Phase I, II and III environmental assessments; Remediation of hazardous substances

Funding:

Grants and loans up to \$200,000 for environmental assessments;
Grants and loans up to \$1 million for remediation

Eligibility:

Public entities, private nonprofit economic development entities, and companies involved in reuse of former industrial land; Entities that did not cause or contribute to environmental contamination

For more information contact:

Department of Community and Economic Development

Telephone: (866) GO-NEWPA

Online: www.newPA.com

To apply visit www.newPA.com for the Department of Community and Economic Development's [Single Application for Assistance](#).

Industry Partnership Worker Training Grants

Industry Partnership Worker Training Grants help emerging and existing Industry Partnerships train their employees. This training helps companies meet the changing demands of the marketplace and improves their competitive position.

Uses:

Advanced job training for existing employees.

Funding:

Funding for these competitive grants varies depending on industry needs and funding availability. Partnerships seeking training funds **must** provide private sector match for training. Match is required at a \$1-to-\$1 ratio of which 25% of matching funds must be cash.

Eligibility:

Employers requesting training must be an active Industry Partner within one of the identified industry clusters. All workers selected to participate in training must be PA residents. No more than 25% of selected trainees may be new hires (minimum of 90 days). Employer must register on the PA CareerLink website and maintain an active business folder.

For more information contact:

Contact your local Workforce Investment Board

Lawrence & Mercer Counties:
West Central Job Partnership

Telephone: (724) 658-2501

Email: ekarmecy@wcjp.org

Online: www.wcjp.org

Infrastructure Development Program

Grant and low-interest loan financing for public and private infrastructure improvements

Uses:

Transportation facilities, airports; Clearing and preparation of land and environmental remediation; Water and sewer systems, storm sewers; Energy facilities; Parking facilities; Bridges, waterways; Rail and Port facilities; At former industrial sites only: land and building acquisition, construction and renovation by private developers; Telecommunications infrastructure

Funding:

Loans and grants up to \$1.25 million; No more than 20% of the annual appropriation for a single municipality; No more than 10% of the annual appropriation will be loans or granted to applicant for speculative Greenfield projects not involving private companies

Eligibility:

Municipalities, industrial development authorities and corporations, municipal authorities, redevelopment authorities and local development districts may apply for IDP assistance for themselves or on behalf of eligible private companies engaged in: agriculture, industrial, manufacturing, research and development, and export services; Real estate developers who are developing sites for eligible private companies

For more information contact:

Department of Community and Economic Development
Center for Business Financing, Site Development Division

Telephone: (717) 787-7120

Online: www.newPA.com

Infrastructure and Facilities Improvement Program

A multi-year grant program that will provide grants to certain issuers of debt in order to assist with the payment of debt service.

Uses:

Payment of debt service incurred by the authority relating to debt issued for the project

Funding:

Variable

Eligibility:

Authorities that issue debt for Tax Increment Financing; Redevelopment Authorities; Convention center authorities, including municipal authorities formed for the purpose of convention center activities; The Pennsylvania Economic Development Financing Authority

For more information contact:

Program inquiries should be directed to:
Department of Community and Economic Development
Center for Business Financing, Site Development Division

Telephone: (717) 787-7120

Online: www.newPA.com

Innovation Partnership (IPart)

Assistance for early-stage PA technology companies applying to Federal Funding opportunities such as SBIR/STTR

Uses:

Federal proposal preparation assistance

Funding:

\$1,000 - \$3,000 Phase I applicants; \$1,000 - \$10,000 Phase II applicants

Eligibility:

Early-stage PA technology companies working with an IPart Partners organization

For more information contact:

Innovation Partnership

Online: www.innovationpartnership.net

Or contact the Department of Community and Economic Development

Telephone: (866) GO-NEWPA

Online: www.newPA.com

Job Creation Tax Credits

A \$1,000-per-job tax credit to create new jobs in the Commonwealth within three years

Uses:

Tax credits used to offset various business tax liabilities

Funding:

\$1,000-per-job tax credit to approved businesses that agree to create jobs within three years; 25% of the tax credits allocated each year must go to businesses with less than 100 employees

Eligibility:

Approved businesses

For more information contact:

Department of Community and Economic Development

Telephone: (866) GO-NEWPA

Online: www.newPA.com

To apply visit www.newPA.com for the Department of Community and Economic Development's [Single Application for Assistance](#).

Keystone Innovation Grant

Keystone Innovation Grants provide funding to encourage the technology transfer and commercialization of intellectual property between Pennsylvania's technology-oriented businesses and entrepreneurs and Keystone Innovation Zone (KIZ)-participating Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs).

Uses:

Keystone Innovation Grants are designed to assist Pennsylvania's IHEs that are members of the KIZ Partnerships improve their performance in transferring technology from their institutions to the marketplace. The technology areas of focus will be the same as those adopted by the KIZ Partnership as their priority areas.

Funding:

In order to spur the development of new businesses in the Commonwealth, the Keystone Innovation Grant program was created to provide \$10 million in total grant funding including \$3.5 million for FY 2008-2009 to participating Pennsylvania IHEs.

Eligibility:

KIZ-participating IHEs

For more information contact:

Department of Community and Economic Development

Telephone: (866) GO-NEWPA

Online: www.newPA.com

To apply visit www.newPA.com for the Department of Community and Economic Development's [Single Application for Assistance](#).

Keystone Innovation Starter Kit

Keystone Innovation Starter Kits are designed to recruit new, top-level research faculty to Pennsylvania academic medical centers and institutions of higher education to accelerate the development of a cluster of companies and employees in emerging and growing technology areas.

Uses:

The funds will be utilized to "build out" labs, hire staff to assist the newly recruited faculty hires, and purchase equipment. These investments will be part of an attraction tool to bring new faculty researchers and bring additional support positions to the Commonwealth.

Funding:

\$2.5 million in funding from Fiscal Year 2008-09 will be allocated to the Starter Kit Program.

Eligibility:

KIZ-participating institutions of higher education, academic medical centers and research institutions.

For more information contact:

Department of Community and Economic Development

Telephone: (866) GO-NEWPA

Online: www.newPA.com

To apply visit www.newPA.com for the Department of Community and Economic Development's [Single Application for Assistance](#).

Keystone Innovation Zone (KIZ)

Provide grant funds to community/university partnerships to generate job growth through tech transfer and entrepreneurship. Focused around campuses and property around college and universities.

Uses:

Grant funds will be used for Zone coordination, strategic planning, personnel costs, hiring of consultants and administration of the zone.

Funding:

Maximum for the first year of \$250,000. Declining funding in following years, operations required without state funds after three years.

Eligibility:

Partnerships must include: institution of higher education, economic development organizations, private sector businesses, business support organizations, commercial lending institutions, venture capital, and foundations. Recommended partners include: local government organizations and workforce development organizations. Zone must be geographically identified with links to institutions of higher education.

For more information contact:

Department of Community and Economic Development

Telephone: (866) GO-NEWPA

Online: www.newPA.com

To apply visit www.newPA.com for the Department of Community and Economic Development's [Single Application for Assistance](#).

Keystone Opportunity Zones (KOZ)

Provides state and local tax abatement to businesses and residents locating in one of the 12 designated zones.

Uses:

Businesses, property owners and residents that are located in a KOZ, KOEZ/KOIZ are eligible to receive significant state and local tax benefits.

Funding:

Projects in KOZ/KOEZ are given priority consideration for assistance under various community and economic building initiatives.

Eligibility:

Qualified businesses, property owners and residents. Qualified means you satisfactorily meet the necessary criteria listed in the Act.

For more information contact:

Department of Community and Economic Development

Telephone: (866) GO-NEWPA

Online: www.newPA.com

To apply visit www.newPA.com for the Department of Community and Economic Development's [KOZ Online Application](#).

Machinery and Equipment Loan Fund (MELF)

Low-interest loans to acquire and install new or used machinery and equipment or to upgrade existing machinery and equipment

Uses:

Machinery and equipment acquisition and upgrading and related engineering and installation costs directly related to the business process.

Funding:

Loans up to \$5,000,000 or 50% of the total eligible project costs, whichever is less

Eligibility:

Manufacturing, industrial, agricultural processors, direct mining operations, information technology , biotechnology and medical facilities. A medical facility may only use MELF funds for the acquisition and installation of equipment and technology necessary to comply with FDA requirements regarding pharmaceutical management.

For more information contact:

Department of Community and Economic Development

Telephone: (866) GO-NEWPA

Online: www.newPA.com

To apply visit www.newPA.com for the Department of Community and Economic Development's [Single Application for Assistance](#).

Market Access Grant (MAG)

Designed to enhance the capability of small and mid-sized Pennsylvania companies to increase export sales, the Pennsylvania Market Access Grant (MAG) is a valuable tool available to qualifying companies seeking financial assistance and foreign market entry support.

Uses:

The MAG program is designed to provide flexibility and encourage innovative use of funds to meet the specific international marketing needs of the applicant. Examples: trade mission participation, trade show exhibition, consultant fees for website internationalization, training and workshops (CE Mark, CSA, ISO, etc.)

Funding:

Matching grant with maximum annual award of \$5,000.00 per company.

Eligibility:

Export-ready Pennsylvania companies in good standing.

For more information contact:

Northwest Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission

Telephone: (814) 677-4800

Email: dorteh@nwcommission.org

Online: www.nwcommission.org

MidAtlantic Trade Adjustment Assistance Center (MATAAC)

The MidAtlantic Trade Adjustment Assistance Center (MATAAC) provides financial assistance in the form of federal grants to help mid-Atlantic manufacturers meet and exceed goals to strengthen their position in today's global marketplace.

Uses:

Project categories include, but are not limited to:

- Marketing and Sales Initiatives
- Financial and General Management Enhancements
- Lean Manufacturing Assistance

Funding:

Up to \$75,000.

Eligibility:

Mid-Atlantic manufacturers.

For more information contact:

MidAtlantic Trade Adjustment Assistance Center (MATAAC):

Telephone: (800) 566-7522

Email: Info@MATAAC.org

Online: <http://www.mataac.org/>

Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP)

Tax credit program to encourage businesses to invest in projects which improve distressed areas.

Uses:

A project must serve distressed areas or support neighborhood conservation. Projects must fall under one of the following categories: affordable housing programs, community services, crime prevention, education, job training or neighborhood assistance.

Funding:

Tax credits equal 55 percent of project.

Eligibility:

Non-profits; For profit businesses

For more information contact:

Department of Community and Economic Development

Telephone: (866) GO-NEWPA

Online: www.newPA.com

To apply visit www.newPA.com for the Department of Community and Economic Development's [Single Application for Assistance](#).

Neighborhood Assistance, Neighborhood Partnership Program (NAP/NPP)

Corporate tax liability credit for businesses that sponsor a neighborhood organization to develop and implement a neighborhood revitalization plan by contributing a substantial amount of cash per year over an extended period of time

Uses:

Fosters the development of collaborations among business firms, neighborhood organizations, local government entities and residents to encourage high impact long term investments in distressed areas. Projects must fall under one of the following categories: Affordable housing; education; health and social services; community economic development; job training; crime prevention; and neighborhood assistance.

Funding:

Tax credit equals 75 percent of approved project. Total tax credit is limited to \$500,000 annually. Refer to guidelines.

Eligibility:

Non-profits, for profit businesses

For more information contact:

Department of Community and Economic Development

Telephone: (866) GO-NEWPA

Online: www.newPA.com

To apply visit www.newPA.com for the Department of Community and Economic Development's [Single Application for Assistance](#).

Neighborhood Assistance, Enterprise Zone Tax Credit (NAP-EZP)

An incentive program that provides tax credits to private companies investing in rehabilitating, expanding, or improving buildings or land located within designated enterprise zones.

Uses:

Real property improvements such as rehab, expansion or physical improvements to buildings or land resulting in jobs created or retained.

Funding:

Tax credits equal 25% of amount invested; Up to \$500,000 total tax credits per project.

Eligibility:

Any private company with an investment located in an enterprise zone.

For more information contact:

Department of Community and Economic Development

Telephone: (866) GO-NEWPA

Online: www.newPA.com

To apply visit www.newPA.com for the Department of Community and Economic Development's [Single Application for Assistance](#).

New PA Venture Capital Investment Program

Loans to venture capital partnerships to invest in growth-stage PA companies.

Uses:

Investment in young job-producing companies; Investments must be made in underserved areas of PA, defined as outside the Phila. MSA and those with populations below 1 million.

Funding:

To be determined by the Commonwealth Financing Authority.

Eligibility:

Venture Capital Investment Firms

For more information contact:

Department of Community and Economic Development

Telephone: (866) GO-NEWPA

Online: www.newPA.com

To apply visit www.newPA.com for the Department of Community and Economic Development's [Single Application for Assistance](#).

New Pennsylvania Venture Guarantee Program

The goal of this program is to increase the amount of equity financing available to businesses throughout the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth has a long history of partnering with the private sector through various investment vehicles to spur economic growth. This program continues that tradition. Under the New Pennsylvania Venture Guarantee Program, we can build upon that history by providing investment guarantees to qualified top tier venture capital companies.

Uses:

Guarantees on the first losses of equity investment made in Pennsylvania companies.

Funding:

To be determined. Visit www.newpa.com for updates.

Eligibility:

Venture Capital partnerships.

For more information contact:

Department of Community and Economic Development

Telephone: (866) GO-NEWPA

Online: www.newPA.com

To apply visit www.newPA.com for the Department of Community and Economic Development's [Single Application for Assistance](#).

Northwest Commission Revolving Loan Fund

Loans for eligible Manufacturing or Industrial businesses also retail/commercial business with high job-potential.

Uses:

For land and building, machinery and equipment and working capital..

Funding:

\$200,000 or 50% of the project total (whichever is less).
Maximum amount for working capital is \$75,000.

Eligibility:

Manufacturing or Industrial Businesses, Hospitality Enterprises, Commercial & Service, Child Day-Care Enterprises, and Agriculture Enterprises or Agriculture Producers.

For more Information?

Northwest PA Regional Planning and Development Commission

Telephone: (814) 677-4800

Email: darylc@nwcommission.org

Online: www.nwcommission.org

Opportunity Grant Program

Grant funds to create or preserve jobs within the Commonwealth.

Uses:

Machinery and equipment; Working Capital; Job Training; Infrastructure; Land and building improvements; Environmental assessment and remediation; Acquisition of land, buildings and right-of-ways; Site preparation, demolition and clearance

Funding:

Please refer to Section IV - Assistance Limitations - in OGP Guidelines (below).

Eligibility:

Firms, or IDCs and municipalities on behalf of firms, that will create or preserve a significant number of jobs within the Commonwealth; Manufacturing; Industrial; Research and development; Agricultural processors; Export services; Firms establishing a national or regional headquarters

For more information contact:

An eligible applicant must submit a letter of intent to the Department of Community and Economic Development. For [Program Guidelines](#) please contact the Department of Community and Economic Development

Telephone: (866) GO-NEWPA

Online: www.newPA.com

PA CareerLink Customized Job Training (CJT)

Pennsylvania's Local Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) coordinate training, a mix of classroom, on-the-job, and customized training to meet local businesses' needs. CareerLinks may be able to provide resources for employer-specific, customized retraining to upgrade employees' skills through the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Title 1.

Uses:

Classroom, on-the-job, customized, and advanced training needs.

Funding:

Up to 50% reimbursement of training costs through WIA Title 1 funds, for up to 6 months.

Eligibility:

For more information contact:

Contact your local PA CareerLink office:

Lawrence County:

Telephone: (724) 656-3165

Mercer County:

Telephone: (724) 347-9257

PA CareerLink On-the-job Training (OJT)

On-the-job training for new employees, including adult, underemployed, dislocated workers, veterans and workers with disabilities. The program creates a practical, hands-on learning environment that ensures workers are trained to meet employers' needs.

Uses:

Classroom, on-the-job, customized, and advanced training needs

Funding:

PA CareerLinks may be able to provide up to 50% of a trainee's wages for a training period of up to 1,000 hours through various funding sources including Workforce Investment Act Title 1 funding.

Eligibility:

- Employers must have an executed OJT contract prior to hiring employee and follow specific program guidelines
- All OJT positions must pay at least min. wage for at least 30 hrs./week
- Preference is given to full time, high priority occupations

For more information contact:

Contact your local PA CareerLink's Job Developers:

Lawrence County:

Telephone: (724) 656-3165

Mercer County:

Telephone: (724) 347-9257

PA CareerLink Subsidized Employment

The subsidized employment program is designed to provide eligible participants the opportunity to become gainfully employed by offering a wage subsidy to the employer.

Uses:

Subsidized employment is designed to provide eligible participants the opportunity to become gainfully employed. Subsidized employment is designed for the individual who may not have the related education or work experience to perform the required job duties expected by the employer. However, subsidized employment programs do not require the employer to provide special training to the participant other than that which any other employee in the same position would receive.

Funding:

Employers may receive a wage reimbursement by hiring the eligible individual when the entry-level wage is at least \$8.00 per hour. This reimbursement is 100% of the participant's wage in the first 30 days of employment, 75% of the participant's wage for days 31-60, and 50% of the wage for each 30-day period remaining, not to exceed a total of 6 months.

Eligibility:

Employers are by hiring the eligible individual when the entry-level wage is at least \$8.00 per hour.

Where can I get more information?

Contact your local PA CareerLink:

Lawrence County:

Telephone: (724) 656-3165

Mercer County:

Telephone: (724) 347-9257

PAWin Workplace Foundation Skills Program

Uses:

Grant for businesses to help pay for job training, machinery and equipment, land and building improvements, land acquisition, and other expenditures that will create or preserve a significant number of jobs in Pennsylvania.

Funding:

There is no set minimum or maximum grant amount.

Eligibility:

For more information contact:

Pennsylvania Department of Education
Workforce Education Research Center

Telephone: (814) 863-9333

Email: wlm12@psu.edu

Online: www.pawerc.org/

- Click Pennsylvania Workforce Improvement Network (PA WIN)

PNC's Pennsylvania Working Capital Growth FundSM

PNC's Pennsylvania Working Capital Growth Fund is designed to provide low-interest revolving line of credit working capital financing, up to \$100,000,000 in funds available to lend.

Uses:

Working Capital

Funding:

Line of credit amount between \$10,000 -\$2,000,000 per borrower

Eligibility:

Small/medium sized businesses creating or retaining jobs in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with annual sales up to \$30 million.

For more information contact:

PNC Business Bank

Telephone: (800) PNC-7660

Online: www.pnc.com

Applications are only accepted by calling this special hotline telephone number and are not available in any PNC Bank branches.

Pennsylvania Base Development Committee

This initiative is designed to assist local defense organizations to promote and enhance the military value of over 70,000 active, reserve, National Guard and Department of Defense positions located on 11 major installations across the Commonwealth.

Uses:

To develop and implement strategies to enhance the military value of the installations located in Pennsylvania

Funding:

Typically range between \$25,000 and \$250,000

Eligibility:

Local Gov/non-profits incorporated to function as a local defense group

For more information contact:

Department of Community and Economic Development

Telephone: (866) GO-NEWPA

Online: www.newPA.com

To apply visit www.newPA.com for the Department of Community and Economic Development's [Single Application for Assistance](#).

Pennsylvania Capital Access Program (PennCAP)

Loan guarantee through participating banks to be used to support a wide variety of business purposes.

Uses:

Land, building, equipment, working capital

Funding:

Guaranteed loans up to \$500,000

Eligibility:

Loan guarantee through participating banks for all businesses with capital needs

For more information contact:

Department of Community and Economic Development to find participating banks.

Telephone: (866) GO-NEWPA

Online: www.newPA.com

Pennsylvania Community Development Bank Loan Program (PCD Bank)

Debt financing for Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs).

Uses:

Economic development loans that support job creation;
Community development loans that support job creation

Funding:

Loans from \$250,000 to \$5 million

Eligibility:

Debt financing for Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) Public funds (25%) matched with private sector funds (75%) to create a loan pool for eligible CDFIs; State accredited community development financial institution; CDFI must meet state accreditation standards and program underwriting guidelines; Minimum two years lending experience; Focus on economic development and job creation

For more information contact:

Department of Community and Economic Development

Telephone: (866) GO-NEWPA

Online: www.newPA.com

Pennsylvania Economic Development Financing Authority (PEDFA) Tax Exempt Bond Program

Tax-exempt and taxable bonds, both in pooled transactions and stand-alone transactions, to be used to finance land, building, equipment, working capital and refinancings.

Uses:

Land and building acquisition; Building renovation and new construction; Machinery and equipment acquisition and installation; Designated infrastructure; Tax-exempt bond refinancing

Funding:

Loans no less than \$400,000 and no more than \$10 million for manufacturers; No upper limit for other projects; Up to 100% of project costs

Eligibility:

Manufacturing; Nonprofit 501(c) (3); Energy; Solid Waste disposal; Wastewater treatment; Transportation facilities; Assisted living/housing

For more information contact:

Department of Community and Economic Development

Telephone: (866) GO-NEWPA

Online: www.newPA.com

To apply visit www.newPA.com for the Department of Community and Economic Development's instructions for Completing the Single Application for PEDFA Bond Financing

Pennsylvania Economic Development Financing Authority (PEDFA) Taxable Bond Program

Tax-exempt and taxable bonds, both in pooled transactions and stand-alone transactions, to be used to finance land, building, equipment, working capital and refinancings.

Uses:

Land and building acquisition; Building renovation and new construction; Machinery and equipment acquisition and installation; Designated infrastructure; Refinancing; Working capital

Funding:

Loans no less than \$400,000; Up to 100% of project costs

Eligibility:

All types of businesses needing access to low-cost capital

For more information contact:

Department of Community and Economic Development

Telephone: (866) GO-NEWPA

Online: www.newPA.com

To apply visit www.newPA.com for the Department of Community and Economic Development's instructions for Completing the Single Application for PEDFA Bond Financing

Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority (PIDA)

Low-interest loan financing through Industrial Development Corporations for land and building acquisition, construction and renovation, resulting in the creation or retention of jobs.

Uses:

Land and building acquisition; Building construction and renovation; Industrial park development; Multi-tenant spec building construction, acquisition and renovation

Funding:

Loans up to \$2 million (within Enterprise Zones, Act 47 Industrial Communities, Brownfield Sites, and Keystone Opportunity Zones, \$2.25 million); No more than 30% to 70% of total eligible project costs, based on firm size and unemployment rate.

Eligibility:

Manufacturing; Industrial; Research and Development; Agricultural processors; Firms establishing a national or regional headquarters; Computer/clerical operation centers

For more information contact:

Lawrence County:

Catalyst Connection

Telephone: (412) 918-4300

Online: www.catalystconnection.org

Mercer County:

NWIRC

Telephone: (724) 699-5787

Online: www.nwirc.org/

Pennsylvania Infrastructure Bank (PIB)

Low-interest loans for the design, engineering, right-of-way and repair, reconstruction and construction of public highways, bridges, public and private airports and railroads and public transportation systems.

Uses:

Roadway and bridge construction and repair, traffic signals, roadway drainage improvements, airport runways, hangars and equipment, railroad track, equipment and signals, and public transportation capital facilities and purchases.

Funding:

There is no set minimum or maximum loan amount. Construction receives the highest priority. Up to 100% of eligible costs.

Eligibility:

All public highways and bridges as well as airports, rail freight and public transportation facilities are eligible to apply.

For more information contact:

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
Center for Program Development and Management

Telephone: (717) 772-1772

Online: <http://www.dot.state.pa.us>

Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PennVEST)

Low-interest loans for design, engineering and construction of publicly and privately owned drinking water distribution and treatment facilities, storm water conveyance and wastewater treatment and collection systems.

Uses:

Design, engineering and construction costs associated with publicly and privately owned drinking water distribution and treatment facilities, storm water conveyance and wastewater collection, conveyance, treatment facilities and Brownfield site remediation.

Funding:

Funding packages up to \$11 million per project for one municipality; Up to \$20 million for more than one municipality; Up to \$2 million for upfront (5 year loan) design and engineering; Up to 100% of the eligible project costs; Average project size is \$1.5 million

Eligibility:

Any owner or operator (public or private) of an existing or proposed drinking water or wastewater system; Any municipal owner of a storm water conveyance system

For more information contact:

Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST)

Telephone: (717) 783-6798

Online: www.pennvest.state.pa.us

Email: ra-pv-webmaster@state.pa.us

Pennsylvania Minority Business Development Authority

Low-interest loan financing to businesses owned and operated by ethnic minorities.

Uses:

Land and building acquisition; Building, construction and renovation; Machinery and equipment acquisition and installation; Working capital

Funding:

Manufacturing, industries, high-tech, international trade or franchise companies: Loans up to \$500,000 (within Enterprise Zone, \$750,000) or 75% of total eligible project costs, whichever is less
Retail or commercial firms: Loans up to \$250,000 (within Enterprise Zone, \$350,000) or 75% of total eligible project costs, whichever is less

Eligibility:

Businesses owned and operated by ethnic minorities

For more information contact:

Department of Community and Economic Development

Telephone: (866) GO-NEWPA

Online: www.newPA.com

To apply visit www.newPA.com for the Department of Community and Economic Development's instructions for Completing the Single Application for PEDFA Bond Financing

Pennsylvania Pollution Prevention Assistance Program (PPAA)

Assistance for small businesses to implement pollution prevention and energy-efficiency projects, enabling these businesses to adopt or install equipment or processes that reduce pollution, energy use or raw materials.

Uses:

Machinery and equipment acquisition and installation

Funding:

75% of total eligible project cost, up to a maximum of \$100,000

Eligibility:

Small businesses (100 full-time employees or less) that adopts or installs pollution prevention or energy efficient equipment or processes.

For more information contact:

Lawrence County:

Catalyst Connection

Telephone: (412) 918-4300

Online: www.catalystconnection.org

Mercer County:

NWIRC

Telephone: (724) 699-5787

Online: www.nwirc.org/

Pittsburgh Life Sciences Greenhouse

The Pittsburgh Life Sciences Greenhouse (PLSG) provides capital investments and customized company formation and business growth services to our region's life sciences enterprises. We support biosciences companies with promising innovations in the following concentrations: Biotechnology Tools, Diagnostics, Healthcare IT, Medical Devices and Therapeutics.

Uses:

PLSG promotes the relationship between research, technology and commercialization with Capital Investment and Business Growth programs that have been specifically tailored to the needs of western Pennsylvania's life sciences industry.

Funding:

Variable.

Eligibility:

Life sciences companies developing product and service innovations in the following concentrations: medical devices, therapeutics, diagnostics/screening, biotechnology services and health information technology.

For more information contact:

Pittsburgh Life Sciences Greenhouse

Telephone: (412) 201-7370

Online: www.plsg.com

Email: info@plsg.com

Rail Freight Assistance (RFA)

Grants to build or repair rail lines or spurs.

Uses:

Rail Freight: Maintenance; construction

Funding:

Up to \$750,000 or no greater than 75% of total cost, whichever is less, for maintenance projects; Up to \$100,000 or no greater than 50%, whichever is less, for construction projects

Eligibility:

Railroads; Rail freight users

For more information contact:

PennDOT – Bureau of Rail Freight.

Telephone: (717) 783-8763

Online: www.dot.state.pa.us

All applications must be filed electronically. For instructions, visit www.dot.state.pa.us.

Regional Film Office Program

Funding is provided to Regional Film Offices that promote and facilitate film and television production in Pennsylvania as a means to increase economic activity and create jobs in the Commonwealth.

Uses:

Eligible expenses include advertising, printing, postage, promotion/public relations, travel/entertainment, promotional consultants, contractual services and research, and salaries as they relate to marketing activities.

Funding:

Vary

Eligibility:

Non-profit organizations whose sole purpose is to promote the growth and expansion of the film and television industry in Pennsylvania are eligible to apply. Organizations must be a member in good standing of the Association of Film Commissioners.

For more information contact:

Department of Community and Economic Development

Telephone: (866) GO-NEWPA

Online: www.newPA.com

Applicants must complete the online [Single Application for Assistance](#), available at www.newPA.com and provide the information and documentation as set forth in the [Regional Film Office Guidelines](#).

Regional Investment Marketing

The Regional Investment Marketing (RIM) Grant Program is intended to reinforce the linkages between state and regional efforts to promote business expansion and to attract new investment to Pennsylvania, and focus regional economic development efforts on industries and industry sub-sectors where the likelihood of success is greatest.

Uses:

Refer to the Regional Investment Marketing guidelines.

Funding:

Funding requests may not exceed \$50,000 and preference will be given to those projects that have leveraged local matching funds.

Eligibility:

To qualify an applicant must be a Pennsylvania-based non-profit organization that represents a regional alliance of economic development, business, industry, labor, academic and/or community entities whose service areas and impact is spread across a minimum of three counties for purposes of the grant proposal.

For more information contact:

Department of Community and Economic Development

Telephone: (866) GO-NEWPA

Online: www.newPA.com

To apply visit www.newPA.com for the Department of Community and Economic Development's [Single Application for Assistance](#).

Regional Marketing Partnership Grant Program

The purpose of the Regional Marketing Partnership Grant Program provides funding for sound marketing efforts and partnership development to promote Pennsylvania. Two types of grants are available: place-based and experience-based.

Uses:

Eligible expenses include all activities associated with marketing a destination such as advertising, public relations, printing, postage, etc.

Funding:

Varies

Eligibility:

It is desirable that the applicants not be a TPA, but preferably a 501 c 3 or 501 c 6 or similar entity, whose board is represented by the counties and or TPA's of the marketed region or a statewide association.

For more information contact:

Department of Community and Economic Development

Telephone: (866) GO-NEWPA

Online: www.newPA.com

To apply visit www.newPA.com for the Department of Community and Economic Development's [Single Application for Assistance](#).

Research and Development Tax Credit

Allows companies holding qualifying Research and Development Tax Credits to apply for approval to sell those tax credits and assign them to the buyer(s).

Uses:

Applied research and development expenditures

Funding:

10% tax credit of company's increased research and development expenses over a base period (prorated to not exceed \$15 million annual cap for all businesses); Up to 20% of total pool set aside for small businesses

Eligibility:

Businesses qualifying for the federal Research and Development tax credit and making research and development investments in Pennsylvania

For more information contact:

Pennsylvania Department of Revenue

Telephone: (717) 787-1064.

Online: <http://www.revenue.state.pa.us/>

New Castle District Office

Telephone: (724) 656-3203

SBA 504 Loan Program

Summary:

Loans for for-profit businesses.

What is it?

Generally, a business must create or retain one job for every \$50,000 provided by the SBA except for "Small Manufacturers" which have a \$100,000 job creation or retention goal.

How much funding is available?

Minimum project size generally no less than \$400,000.

Where can I get more information?

Contact your local Economic Development Branch or visit the district offices of the U.S. Small Business Administration

Telephone: (800) 827-5722

Email: answerdesk@sba.gov

Online: www.sba.gov

- Click Services
- Click SBA Loans

SBA 7 (A) Loan Guarantee Program

Summary:

Loan guarantees for small businesses.

What is it?

7(a) loans are only available on a guaranty basis. This means they are provided by lenders who choose to structure their own loans by SBA's requirements.

How much funding is available?

SBA's 7(a) Loan Program has a maximum loan amount of \$2 million dollars. SBA's maximum exposure is \$1.5 million or 75 percent of the loan, whichever is less.

Where can I get more information?

Contact your local Economic Development Branch or visit the district offices of the U.S. Small Business Administration

Telephone: (800) 827-5722

Email: answerdesk@sba.gov

Online: www.sba.gov

- Click Services
- Click SBA Loans

SBA Micro-Loan Program

Summary:

Provides very small loans to start-ups, newly established, or growing small business concerns.

What is it?

Loans to small businesses with a current fixed interest rate of 9% and terms of up to 5 years.

How much funding is available?

Maximum loan amount of \$20,000.

Where can I get more information?

Contact your local Economic Development Branch or visit the district offices of the U.S. Small Business Administration

Telephone: (800) 827-5722

Email: answerdesk@sba.gov

Online: www.sba.gov

- Click Services
- Click SBA Loans

Second Stage Loan Program

Loan Guarantees for working capital for 2-7 yr old manufacturing, biotech, and technology-oriented companies

Uses:

Preference will be given to guarantees for working capital; Land, building, machinery and equipment also eligible.

Funding:

For first two years, 50% of outstanding principal up to \$1 million; after first two years, 25% of outstanding principal amount.

Eligibility:

Banks that do business within Pennsylvania

For more information contact:

Banks will be required to enroll in the program through DCED.

Enrollment Requests should be sent to:

The Second Stage Loan Program
Commonwealth Financing Authority
Commonwealth Key stone Building
400 North Street, 4th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0225

Section 108 Program

Section 108 enables states and local governments participating in the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program to obtain federally guaranteed loans to fund large economic development projects and undertake revitalization activities. Under Pennsylvania's initiative to use Section 108 the loans are guaranteed by the Commonwealth, committing the use of future CDBG funds to pay off the loan in case of default.

Uses:

Acquisition, rehabilitation, relocation, clearance, site preparation, special economic development activities, certain public facilities and housing construction

Funding:

Varies

Eligibility:

Loan Guarantees as security for federal loans; Local governments that are not designated by HUD as urban counties or entitlement municipalities

For more information contact:

Department of Community and Economic Development

Telephone: (866) GO-NEWPA

Online: www.newPA.com

To apply visit www.newPA.com for the Department of Community and Economic Development's [Single Application for Assistance](#).

Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs)

Technical assistance and consulting services to current and prospective entrepreneurs.

Uses:

Provides technical assistance for turning ideas into businesses; Helps small firms expand; Provides information necessary for businesspersons to make important decisions.

Funding:

Services provided vary from business to business and from person to person.

Eligibility:

Entrepreneurs, Small Businesses; Business persons.

For more information contact:

Duquesne University Small Business Development Center:

Telephone: (412) 396-6233

Online: www.sbdc.duq.edu

Small Business First

Funding for small businesses, including: low-interest loan financing for land and building acquisition and construction; machinery and equipment purchases and working capital.

Uses:

Land and building acquisition and construction; Machinery and equipment purchase and upgrades; Working capital; Environmental compliance/pollution prevention

Funding:

Loans up to \$200,000 or 50% of total eligible project costs, whichever is less; Maximum loan amount for working capital is \$100,000 or 50% of total eligible project costs, whichever is less

Eligibility:

Small business (100 employees or less) which are: Manufacturing: Industrial; Agricultural enterprises; Mining enterprises; Export-related, advanced technology and computer-related services; Hotels, motels, or restaurants; Environmental compliance/pollution prevention; Municipal or commercial recyclers; Defense-related

For more information contact:

Northwest Pennsylvania Regional Planning & Development Commission (NWPRPDC)

Telephone: (814) 677-4800

Online: www.nwcommission.org

Steel Valley Authority

The Steel Valley Authority is a regional development authority that has received national and international acclaim as one of the most innovative economic revitalization initiatives in the U.S. Organized as an inter-municipal development agency, the SVA represents the City of Pittsburgh and 11 municipalities in the Mon Valley. The SVA intervenes with companies-in-crisis on workplace retention, growth, and buyout strategies. It works regionally and nationally to implement innovative community revitalization and capital formation initiatives.

Uses:

The Steel Valley Authority's three areas of focus are jobs, community, and capital.

Funding:

Variable.

Eligibility:

Manufacturers and small businesses.

For more information contact:

The Steel Valley Authority:

Telephone: (412) 342-0534

Online: <http://www.steelvalley.org/>

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Guarantee Program

Promotes and stimulates the general economic welfare of various regions and communities in the Commonwealth and assists in the development, redevelopment and revitalization of Brownfield and Greenfield sites in accordance with the TIF Act.

Uses:

Infrastructure and environmental projects for industrial enterprises and retail establishments; Infrastructure, environmental and building projects for manufacturers, hospitals, convention centers and associated hotels; Utilization of abandoned or underutilized industrial, commercial, military, previously mined institutional sites or buildings; or undeveloped sites planned and zoned for development in accordance with any existing comprehensive municipal plan.

Funding:

Maximum guarantee amount per project is \$5 million

Eligibility:

All municipalities and their authorities, including boroughs, townships, towns, counties and home rules that issue TIF bonds to fund local economic development projects.

For more information contact:

Department of Community and Economic Development

Telephone: (866) GO-NEWPA

Online: www.newPA.com

To apply visit www.newPA.com for the Department of Community and Economic Development's [Single Application for Assistance](#).

Tourism Promotion Assistance Grant Program

The purpose of the Tourism Promotion Assistance Grant Program provides funding to supplement existing local destination marketing efforts by designated Tourism Promotion Agencies.

Uses:

Eligible expenses include all activities associated with marketing a destination such as advertising, public relations, printing, postage, etc.

Funding:

Variable.

Eligibility:

Only designated TPA's may receive grants under the Tourism Promotion Assistance Grant Program.

For more information contact:

Department of Community and Economic Development

Telephone: (866) GO-NEWPA

Online: www.newPA.com

To apply visit www.newPA.com for the Department of Community and Economic Development's [Single Application for Assistance](#).

Water Supply and Wastewater Infrastructure Program (PennWorks)

A program to ensure safe water supply and proper wastewater infrastructure.

Uses:

For water and sewer projects not used solely for residential purposes: Land and building acquisition; Demolition; Water/sewer project construction costs; Engineering and other fees associated with project.

Funding:

Grants and Loans: Grants: \$5 million maximum or 75% of the total eligible project costs, which ever is less. Loans: \$5 million maximum per project. 2% interest rate; may have repayment term of up to 20 years. Additional limitations apply. Refer to guidelines.

Eligibility:

Municipalities; Industrial Development Corporations; Municipal Authorities; Investor-owned water or wastewater enterprise

For more information contact:

Department of Community and Economic Development

Telephone: (866) GO-NEWPA

Online: www.newPA.com

To apply visit www.newPA.com for the Department of Community and Economic Development's [Single Application for Assistance](#).

Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC)

Summary:

This federal program provides a tax credit to businesses that hire Designated Community Residents and Qualified Veterans.

What is it?

Tax credits for businesses that hire Designated Community Residents and Qualified Veterans.

Funding:

WOTC offers a tax credit of up to \$12,000 per new hire

Eligibility:

To qualify for this tax credit, employers must retain new hires for at least 180 days or 400 hours.

For more information contact:

PA Department of Labor & Industry Tax Credit Coordination Services:

Telephone: (800) 345-2555

Email: bzullingers@state.pa.us

Online: www.dli.state.pa.us

- Click Businesses and Organizations
- Click Financial Incentives/Resources
- Click Employment Tax Credits
- Click Work Opportunity Tax Credit

Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (Title 1)

A federal program providing employment assistance and job training to eligible individuals

Uses:

Job search and placement; Skills assessment and evaluation; Counseling; Training services for individuals and companies; Supportive services; Labor market information

Funding:

Up to 50% of wage rate for employees while in training; Up to actual costs of classroom training, training/related and supportive services

Eligibility:

Private and public sector employers and employees; Dislocated Workers; Unemployed Persons; Persons seeking employment

For more information contact:

Contact your local PA CareerLink office

Lawrence County:

Telephone: (724) 656-3165

Online: www.cwds.state.pa.us

Mercer County:

Telephone: (724) 347-9257

Online: www.cwds.state.pa.us

Workforce Leadership Grants

Improve the supply of, and create a pipeline for, technology based industries in Pennsylvania that will require highly skilled technical workers to compete in a globally competitive technology based economy.

Uses:

Develop and implement 2+2+2 secondary and post-secondary education programs

Funding:

Up to \$300,000 for 2+2+2 grant; Up to \$100,000 for expansion of an existing program

Eligibility:

Education programs cutting across secondary and post-secondary education

For more information contact:

Department of Community and Economic Development

Telephone: (866) GO-NEWPA

Online: www.newPA.com

To apply visit www.newPA.com for the Department of Community and Economic Development's [Single Application for Assistance](#).

Partner Agencies:

Adult Literacy Lawrence County

Bureau Workforce Development Partnership (BWDP)

Community Action Partnership of Mercer County

Department of Public Welfare

Experience Works

Housing Authority of Lawrence County

Lawrence County Career and Technical Center

Lawrence County Community Action Partnership

The Literacy Council of Mercer County

Mercer County Housing Authority

Mercer County Career Center

Midwestern Intermediate Unit (MIU4)

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

Penn State University Shenango Campus

West Central Job Partnership



**PA CareerLink
Lawrence County**

102 Margaret Street
New Castle, PA 16101
Telephone: (724) 656-3165
TDD: (724)598-2075
Fax: (724) 656-3232

**PA CareerLink
Mercer County**

217 West State Street
Sharon, PA 16146
Telephone: (724) 347-9257
TDD: (724) 983-5822
Fax: (724) 983-5701

www.cwds.state.pa.us



West Central Job Partnership

44 South Beaver Street
New Castle, PA 16101
Telephone: (724) 658-2501
Fax: (724) 658-4252
Website: www.WCJP.org