



Pennsylvania
Broadband Development Authority

Annual Report

2026



Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority
Honorable Zachary Reber, Chairman
Brandon Carson, Executive Director



Table of Contents

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| A Snapshot of Progress: Broadband Access in Pennsylvania | 1 |
| Capital Projects Fund (CPF) Program | 3 |
| Broadband Infrastructure Program (BIP) | 3 |
| Digital Connectivity Technology Program (Technology) | 5 |
| Multi-Purpose Community Facilities Program (Facilities) | 7 |
| Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program | 9 |
| Broadband Ready Communities | 10 |
| Looking Forward to 2026 | 11 |



Pennsylvania

Broadband Development Authority

Board Members

Honorable Zachary Reber
Chairman
Secretary, Office of the Budget

Honorable Kristin Phillips-Hill
Board Secretary
Pennsylvania Senate, District 28

Honorable John Kane
Board Assistant Secretary
Pennsylvania Senate, District 9

Honorable Robert Matzie
Pennsylvania House of Representatives, District 16

Honorable Jesse Topper
Pennsylvania House of Representatives, District 78

Honorable Stephen DeFrank
Chairman, PA Public Utility Commission

Zachary Adams
Executive Director, Center for Rural Pennsylvania

Honorable Reggie McNeil
Secretary, PA Department of General Services

Honorable Dr. Carrie Rowe
Secretary, PA Department of Education

Honorable Russell Redding
Secretary, PA Department of Agriculture

Honorable Rick Siger
Secretary, PA Department of Community
& Economic Development



Pennsylvania
Broadband Development Authority

Chairman's Message:

Since its creation in December 2021, the Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority (PBDA) has been entrusted with a singular and consequential mission: to ensure every Pennsylvanian has access to reliable, high-speed internet—no matter where they live. In an increasingly digital economy, broadband access is no longer optional. It is essential infrastructure that supports education, healthcare, workforce development, public safety, and economic growth across the Commonwealth.

By the end of 2025, PBDA reached a critical milestone. After several years of planning, coordination, and program development, the Authority has transitioned decisively from strategy to execution. Through the effective deployment of \$279 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, PBDA-supported projects are now delivering measurable results—connecting homes and businesses, expanding digital access through community institutions, and strengthening local capacity across Pennsylvania.

At the same time, PBDA, working with the Department of Community and Economic Development, navigated the extensive federal requirements necessary to secure Pennsylvania's \$1.162 billion allocation under the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program—the largest single investment in broadband infrastructure in the Commonwealth's history. This work required careful stewardship, rigorous data validation, and close coordination with federal, state, local, and private-sector partners. The result is a BEAD program positioned to deliver high-speed service to more than 129,000 currently unserved and underserved locations in every county in Pennsylvania.

PBDA's work in 2025 also reflects a commitment to fiscal responsibility and accountability. Through the validation of planned service commitments made by internet providers, the Authority ensured that federal funds are directed where they are needed most—avoiding duplicative investment and preserving resources for the hardest-to-serve communities.

As we look ahead to 2026, PBDA's focus is clear: enable construction, deliver outcomes, and measure success. With strong oversight from its Board of Directors and continued collaboration with federal, state, and local partners, PBDA is prepared to move into the next phase of broadband deployment—turning historic investments into lasting infrastructure and opportunity for all Pennsylvanians.

Sincerely,

Zachary Reber
PBDA Board Chairman
Pennsylvania Secretary of the Budget



Broadband Access in Pennsylvania

Since its establishment in late 2021, PBDA has overseen measurable progress in expanding broadband access and performance across Pennsylvania.

Analysis of statewide **speed-test data from 2022 through 2025 shows that average download and upload speeds have doubled over the past four years.** This growth reflects **substantial public and private investment** in broadband infrastructure, network upgrades, and expanded service availability. Faster, more reliable connections are strengthening the Commonwealth's capacity to support remote work, telehealth, online learning, advanced manufacturing, and cloud-based services, while improving overall network resiliency and user experience.

At the same time, the number of **unserved and underserved locations across Pennsylvania has declined significantly.**

A key driver of that progress was **PBDA's completion of the federally required BEAD Challenge Process in 2024.** This rigorous, data-driven review confirmed which locations were eligible for Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment funding and ensured that public dollars would not duplicate private-sector investment.

Through the process, PBDA validated 46,755 locations as Planned Provision of Service — areas where internet service providers committed to deploy broadband without BEAD support. In 2025, using Version 7 of the FCC Broadband Fabric, PBDA reassessed those locations and determined that approximately 35,000 homes and businesses that were previously identified as unserved or underserved now have access to high-speed internet.

By honoring legitimate Planned Provision of Service commitments, PBDA preserved BEAD funding for the hardest-to-serve communities, avoided unnecessary overbuild, and accelerated broadband expansion for tens of thousands of Pennsylvanians. The result is a more efficient use of federal resources and a stronger foundation for closing the digital divide statewide.



Unserved & Underserved Locations

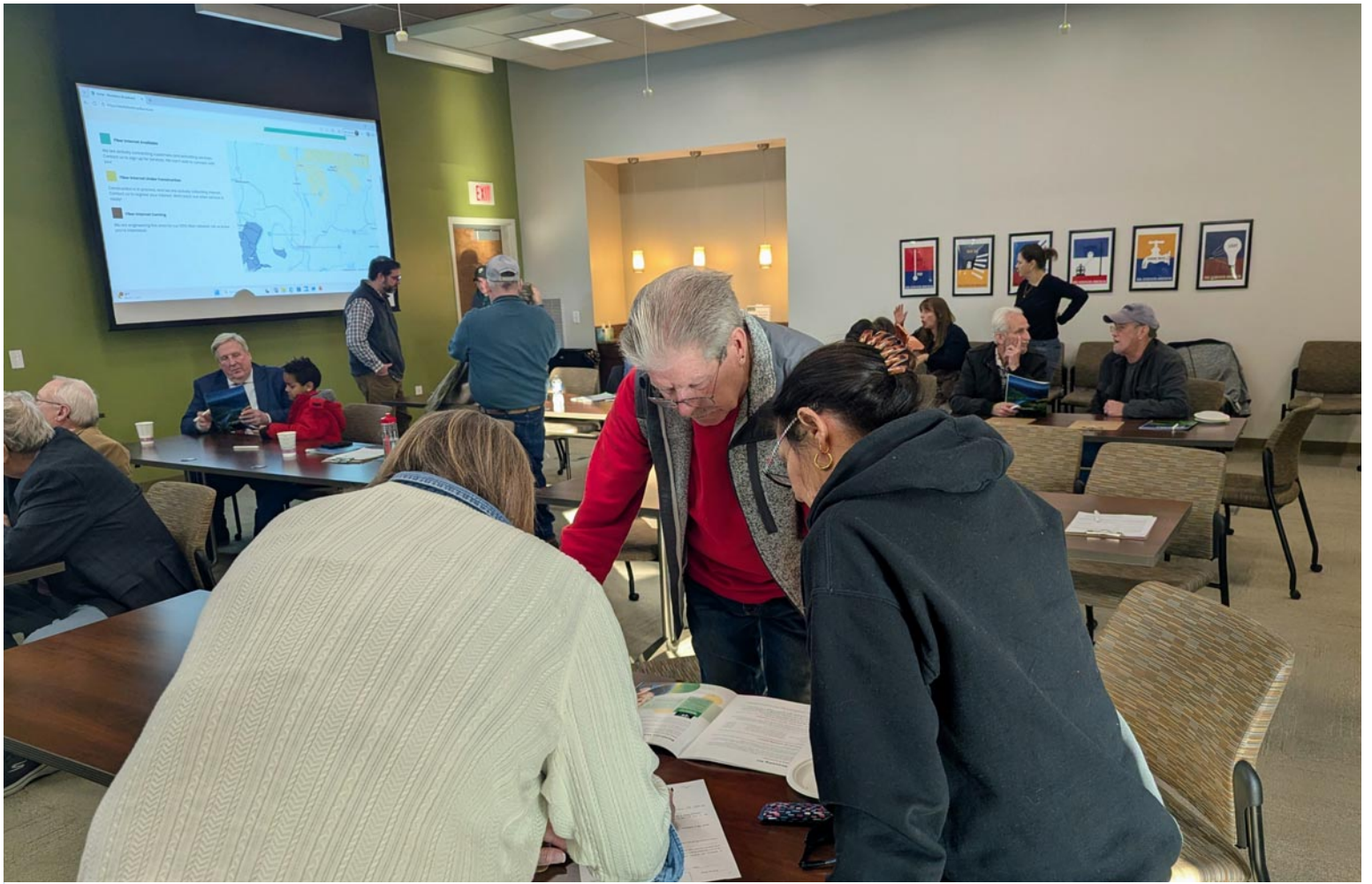
The number of locations in Pennsylvania that lack access to high-speed internet.

2022 – 331,054

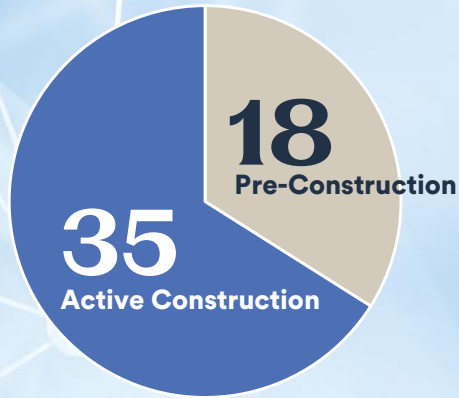
2023 – 287,630

2024 – 254,665

2025 – 155,785



BIP Construction



MORE THAN
13,000
LOCATIONS
have access to
high-speed internet

Broadband Infrastructure Program

The Broadband Infrastructure Program (BIP) consists of more than \$200 million distributed through grants to 53 projects to deploy high-speed broadband infrastructure in unserved and underserved areas of the Commonwealth using fiber, cable, and wireless broadband technologies. BIP is expected to connect roughly 50,000 homes and businesses to high-speed internet by December 2026. The program will contribute to statewide economic growth and will benefit various sectors, particularly education, healthcare, and workforce development.

Through 2025, 35 BIP projects had reached the active construction phase, while 18 were in the pre-construction or planning phase of the award. During the pre-construction phase, subgrantees are managing permitting, project design, and other tasks to prepare for construction. To date, more than 13,000 locations in BIP funded areas now have access to high-speed internet.

BIP Program Award List

Visit the PA Broadband Development Authority website for the full [BIP Program Award list](#).

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Blair County Fiber Expansion Project

Through a \$1.8 million Capital Projects Fund Broadband Infrastructure Program subgrant, the Blair County Fiber Expansion Project is bringing reliable, high-speed internet service to unserved and underserved areas of southcentral Blair County. The project will deploy more than 50 miles of fiber, while also utilizing fixed wireless equipment to directly connect more than 500 homes and businesses with reliable, high-speed internet.


The initiative is led by Alleghenies Broadband, Inc. in partnership with Crowsnest Broadband, working in coordination with Valley Rural Electric Cooperative and local municipalities. This public-private collaboration pairs regional planning and funding coordination with local technical expertise and on-the-ground deployment capacity.

Alleghenies Broadband, a nonprofit regional broadband initiative, works with incumbent Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to support the expansion of broadband infrastructure in rural communities in the Southern Alleghenies region. Crowsnest Broadband, a locally owned internet service provider based in Altoona, is responsible for infrastructure deployment and service delivery. Together, the partners are advancing a scalable model for expanding broadband access in rural Pennsylvania — one that leverages local leadership, community alignment, and targeted public investment to deliver lasting connectivity gains.






548
Digital Literacy Course
REGISTRANTS

MORE THAN
14,372
LAPTOPS
deployed in 2025



Digital Connectivity Technology Program

The primary purpose of PBDA's Digital Connectivity Technology Program (Technology) is to achieve digital inclusiveness and community empowerment through device access. PBDA purchased 14,372 laptops with the \$20 million in available program funding from U.S. Treasury, which were made available through a competitive application process.

Devices were awarded to qualifying public-facing institutions to enable participation in workforce development, education, and health-related initiatives. A major program requirement for all successful applicants was the incorporation of a digital literacy and awareness training within program goals and objectives. PBDA has provided awarded subgrantees with digital upskilling courses through the SkillUp PA job training platform.

Technology Program Award List

Visit the PA Broadband Development Authority website for the full [Technology Program Award list](#) and [Round 2 Award list](#).

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Tech2Elevate

Through the Digital Connectivity Technology Program, Tech2Elevate received 25 laptops to support a newly constructed Digital Learning Lab in Ambridge, Pennsylvania. The lab serves as a community hub for learning, connection, and collaboration — offering open computer access, structured classes, and one-on-one digital coaching.

Founded in July 2022, Tech2Elevate was created to address gaps in broadband access and digital skills among low-income households in Western Pennsylvania. Today, the organization serves clients across eight locations in Beaver, Allegheny, and Erie Counties, providing individualized coaching, group training seminars, and support securing affordable internet and devices.

The laptops provided through the Technology Program have expanded residents' ability to access health portals, build résumés, apply for jobs, and develop essential digital skills. Between February and June 2025, Tech2Elevate hosted 590 open lab hours and provided 412 hours of one-on-one digital coaching. The organization also delivered 33 classes, including a 10-week Senior Planet Computer Basics course.

By pairing device access with hands-on instruction and ongoing needs assessments, Tech2Elevate ensures its programming remains responsive to the community it serves. In the coming year, the organization will continue expanding classes, maintaining open lab hours, and delivering both group and individualized digital skills training — strengthening pathways to employment, education, and essential online services.



PBDA's Broadband Technology Specialist, Kalie Snyder and Board Member Representative Rob Matzie joined the staff at Tech2Elevate to celebrate its Digital Connectivity Technology Program grant and the Digital Learning Lab.



27

Counties Served



2

Projects Complete

through 2025

Square Footage Approved

Expected to improve ~467,000 sq ft of space in public facilities through 2026



Multi-Purpose Community Facilities Program

PBDA's Multi-Purpose Community Facilities Program (Facilities) has distributed \$45 million in subgrants to community anchor institutions and units of local government for public facing projects that will construct, acquire, or improve facilities and will directly enable work, education, and health monitoring at the facility. PBDA has awarded Facilities grants to 49 organizations, including 25 community centers, 19 public libraries, three health service centers, and two school-sponsored community venues. Projects are located throughout 27 counties across Pennsylvania.

By the end of 2025, construction on two Facilities projects were complete and three more were 90% complete. At least 27 projects are in an active phase of construction. Through the end of 2025, 19 projects were in a pre-construction phase, which includes securing permits, making property bids, and other completing other planning requirements. All projects will reach substantial completion by the end of 2026.

Facilities Program Award List

Visit the PA Broadband Development Authority website for the full [Facilities Program Award list](#).

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Happy Hollow Recreation Center

Happy Hollow Recreation Center, located in Philadelphia's lower Germantown neighborhood, is the city's oldest recreation center building still operating for its original purpose. For generations, it has served as a trusted community space offering classes in cooking, art, gardening, and youth programming, while also providing valued green space in a densely populated area.

Today, Happy Hollow is being transformed into a digital

access hub through a \$1 million Multi-Purpose Community Facilities grant, combined with additional public and private investment. The surrounding community faces significant connectivity challenges — with a substantial share of households lacking access to home internet and to a computer — making the site a strategic location to expand digital opportunity.

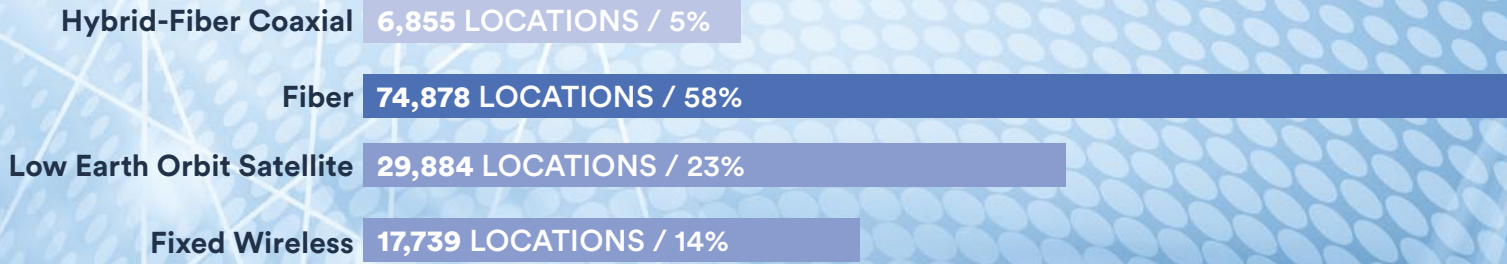
The project will renovate the Center's computer lab, install multi-gig internet service and public Wi-Fi, and expand access to digital skills training and educational programming. Once complete, the estimated 20,000 residents living in the surrounding area will have access to upgraded technology resources to support learning, job searches, workforce development, and everyday connectivity needs.

By modernizing its facilities and equipping staff to better support digital learning, Happy Hollow will build on its historic role — evolving from a traditional recreation center into a modern community anchor that helps close the digital divide in Philadelphia.



On November 1, 2025, Philadelphia Mayor Cherrille Parker joined city council members, state legislators, and Happy Hollow staff for a project groundbreaking celebration. The mayor noted that for more than a century, Happy Hollow has nurtured generations of Germantown families, and that the renovation project will help preserve history, build on the city's legacy, and contribute to future opportunities.

Technologies Selected for Provisionally Funded Locations



Connecting Communities through BEAD

126,824

HOMES AND BUSINESSES



2,532

COMMUNITY ANCHOR INSTITUTIONS

129,356

Total Locations Proposed for Service Through BEAD



Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program

The Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program is a federal initiative established under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). Pennsylvania was allocated \$1.162 billion to expand high-speed internet access to unserved and underserved locations across the Commonwealth.

PBDA launched its first BEAD application round in November 2024, receiving 239 applications from 26 entities. In March 2025, NTIA paused the program amid pending federal policy updates. PBDA used that period to prepare for revised guidance and position the Commonwealth to move quickly once new requirements were issued.

Following NTIA's June 2025 BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice, PBDA updated its guidelines to reflect changes to scoring criteria and other federal requirements. A second application round opened in July 2025 and closed 14 days later, generating 172 applications from 31 applicants.

Consistent with state law, PBDA conducted a BEAD Overbuild Challenge Process to prevent duplication of existing service areas. The challenge process was completed in August and ensures effective use of the federal BEAD investment.

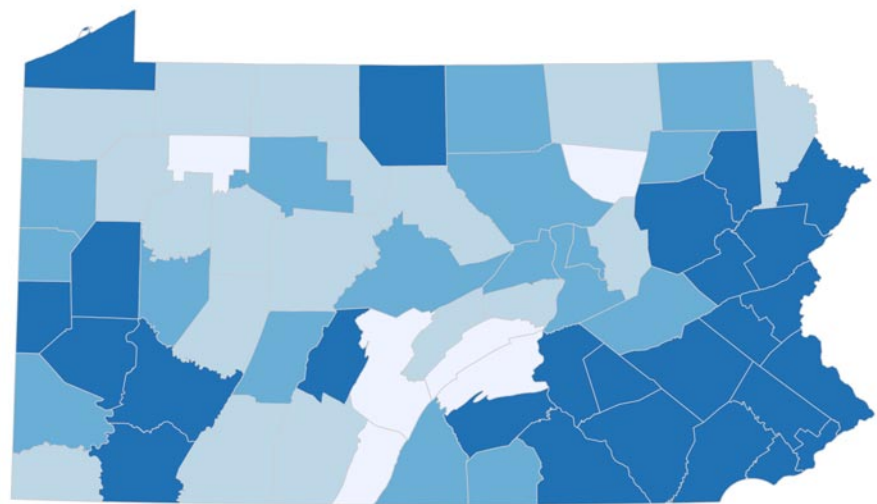
On September 4, 2025, PBDA submitted its draft Final Proposal to NTIA, outlining provisionally selected projects and documenting the Commonwealth's review and scoring methodology. After a navigating a collaborative federal review and curing process in partnership with the Department of Community and Economic Development, NTIA approved Pennsylvania's Final Proposal on February 9, 2026.

The approved plan includes \$711,295,843 in provisional subgrant awards to support 69 projects led by 20 entities. These investments will bring high-speed internet access to 129,356 eligible locations statewide using a mix of fiber, hybrid fiber-coaxial, fixed wireless, and low Earth orbit satellite technologies.

BEAD Program Provisional Award List

Visit the PA Broadband Development Authority website for the full [BEAD Program Award list](#).

Locations Served in Pennsylvania



Percent of Locations with Access to High-Speed Broadband Service



Source: FCC Broadband Fabric version 7, BDC data

Broadband Ready Communities

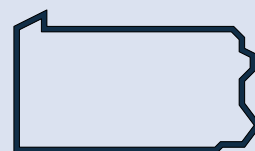
To strengthen coordination with county and municipal governments, PBDA established the Broadband Ready Communities (BBRC) program. BBRC is designed to reduce local procedural, policy, and permitting barriers that can delay broadband deployment and discourage private investment. By promoting clear, predictable processes at the local level, the program helps accelerate infrastructure expansion across Pennsylvania.

Communities that complete a set of readiness actions earn designation as “Broadband Champions.” While participation is voluntary, it is strongly encouraged, as it equips local governments with tools to streamline permitting, modernize ordinances, and signal that their communities are prepared for broadband investment.

To date, 146 local government entities have achieved Broadband Champion status. Several counties — including Bradford, Clinton, Schuylkill, and Westmoreland — have taken a leadership role in guiding municipalities through the process and encouraging consistent, countywide approaches to broadband readiness.

As BEAD and CPF infrastructure projects advance, PBDA will continue expanding BBRC participation to ensure communities are prepared for deployment. Through 2026, the Authority aims to increase the number of designated Broadband Champions and to engage a majority of counties and municipalities benefiting from BEAD investments.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, with PBDA staff providing direct support to local officials throughout the process.



143

COUNTIES + MUNICIPALITIES

have been designated as

“Broadband Champions”

Looking Forward to 2026



High-speed internet has become essential infrastructure for economic opportunity, education, and healthcare. As Pennsylvania looks to the future, expanding reliable broadband access remains central to strengthening communities and ensuring that every resident can fully participate in the modern economy.

In 2026, the Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority will enter a pivotal new phase of its work. Working in close partnership with internet providers, local governments, community organizations, and federal partners, PBDA will help translate this historic investment into new infrastructure, stronger connections, and lasting opportunity for communities across Pennsylvania.

At the same time, projects supported through the Capital Projects Fund will continue to advance, expanding broadband availability while strengthening the community institutions and partnerships that support digital access and opportunity. Together, these efforts reflect a comprehensive approach to closing the digital divide, ensuring that infrastructure deployment is paired with the tools, training, and resources Pennsylvanians need to thrive in a connected world.

The work ahead will require strong coordination, careful stewardship, and continued collaboration across the public and private sectors. PBDA remains committed to delivering results for the Commonwealth and ensuring that these investments create lasting benefits for Pennsylvania families, businesses, and communities.

As these efforts move forward, Pennsylvania is building a more connected future — one where reliable, high-speed internet is available to every community and every Pennsylvanian has the opportunity to succeed.



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania