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McKees Rocks, Wilkinsburg Receive Multi-Million Dollar Funding Package To Drive Community Revitalization

Through Strengthening Communities Partnership initiative, five area businesses pool resources to provide funding under state corporate tax credit program

(PITTSBURGH – November 4, 2013) – The Allegheny Conference on Community Development is pleased to announce that the McKees Rocks Community Development Corporation and the Wilkinsburg Community Development Corporation’s applications for business tax credits under the PA Department of Community and Economic Development’s Neighborhood Partnership Program (NPP) have been accepted.

Earlier this year, the Conference announced a new initiative, the [Strengthening Communities Partnership](#), designed to address disparities still present in many of our region’s communities, by accelerating neighborhood improvement through concentrated private investment in community development corporations.

Through the SCP, Allegheny Conference member companies have committed funding that ensures that McKees Rocks and Wilkinsburg community development corporations will each receive \$500,000 a year, the highest level of funding permitted under the state’s NPP.

McKees Rocks’ funding under SCP will come from Pitt Ohio Express (\$600,000); Dollar Bank (\$450,000); and TriState Capital (\$450,000). They join Duquesne Light Company, First Niagara and UPMC Health Plan – companies that are already participating in the state’s NPP program in McKees Rocks.

SCP funding for Wilkinsburg will come from Tristate Capital (increasing its existing investment to \$1.65 million); Keystone Health Plan West, a Highmark Company (\$900,000); and Dollar Bank (\$450,000).

The NPP provides for a maximum of \$3 million per community, paid over six years.

“While the Neighborhood Partnership Program is available statewide, the private sector and the community development corporations in the Pittsburgh region have established a unique and effective approach to leveraging these tax credits. The Strengthening

Communities Partnership is a model for bringing focus and alignment to community investment that will lead to greater impact in our downtowns, neighborhoods and business districts,” said Pennsylvania Department of Economic Development Secretary Alan Walker.

“Despite our region’s remarkable transformation over the past thirty years, we still have people and communities who have been left behind,” said Dennis Yablonsky, CEO, Allegheny Conference on Community Development. “Through the Strengthening Communities Partnership and participation in the State’s NPP, the private sector can be vital partners in driving economic development in some of our region’s struggling communities.”

When selected to pilot the SCP, the McKees Rocks Community Development Corporation and Wilkinsburg Community Development Corporation submitted proposals with detailed development plans already underway but in need of additional investment.

“At just three miles from downtown Pittsburgh, McKees Rocks is a community on the rise, that is rich in tradition, history and potential,” said Taris Vrcek, executive director of the McKees Rocks Community Development Corporation. “The partnership with the Allegheny Conference will enable us to implement our main street plan to improve the marketability and livability of Lower Chartiers Ave. in the heart of downtown McKees Rocks, while leveraging 120 acres of adjacent industrial development underway, anchored by the \$50 million CSX intermodal facility announced last month.”

“Since 2008, we have been working to revitalize the business district along Penn Ave. in Wilkinsburg and have made significant progress,” said Tracey Evans, executive director of the Wilkinsburg Community Development Corporation. “The additional investment and expertise, which comes as a result of our partnership with the Allegheny Conference, will provide enormous assistance as we move forward with our plan and build on the progress we have already made.”

In addition to McKees Rocks and Wilkinsburg, Economic Development South (the Brownsville and Route 51 corridors), Fayette County Cultural Trust (Connellsville) and the City of Washington Citywide Development Corporation are also piloting the SCP and are preparing NPP applications to seek investment in the near future.

About the Neighborhood Partnership Program (NPP)

NPP is a tax credit program of the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, which provides an 80 percent tax credit to companies that make contributions to qualifying community development organizations. Supported activities include: affordable housing, real estate development, social services, crime prevention, education, workforce development, and other community revitalization efforts.

Businesses must contribute a minimum of \$50,000 per year, and communities can receive up to \$500,000 per year. In order to receive the maximum tax credit of 80 percent,

businesses must commit to contributions for six years. Multiple businesses can participate in one NPP.

Participating businesses need only complete a single form to contribute, which makes it easy to participate. Net cost to contributing business is approximately 13 cents on the dollar. Partnering neighborhood organizations must complete a thorough Neighborhood Partnership plan, which creates measurable goals and outcomes.

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The Allegheny Conference on Community Development and its affiliates, the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, the Pennsylvania Economy League of Greater Pittsburgh and the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance, work in collaboration with public and private sector partners to improve the economy and the quality of life in southwestern Pennsylvania. Learn more at <http://www.alleghenyconference.org>.