



# STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP

The Pittsburgh region has made a remarkable transformation over the past three decades, but there are still communities that have been left behind. The Strengthening Communities Partnership (SCP), a program of the Allegheny Conference, seeks to engage the region's business community to help build capacity and drive revitalization in struggling communities throughout the region.



Connellsville

Homewood

McKees Rocks

Mt. Oliver/Knoxville

Sharpsburg

City of Washington

Wilkinsburg

## How does the program work?

Created in 2012, the SCP has identified partner communities by issuing two rounds of requests for proposals. The seven organizations chosen to participate in the SCP were selected based on the needs of the communities they represented, the organizational capacity to create change, and the existence of unified community support for a locally developed revitalization plan. Through the SCP Conference members provide the partner organizations with targeted, pro bono professional services, and also provide essential financial support.

The SCP focuses private investment through the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (PA DCED) Neighborhood Partnership Program (NPP), a tax credit program which provides an 80-percent tax credit to companies that make multi-year contributions to qualifying community development organizations. Partnering neighborhood organizations must submit a thorough Neighborhood Partnership plan to DCED, which creates measurable goals and outcomes, but participation for businesses is administratively simple, and the net cost is only 7-13 cents on the dollar.

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*"The Strengthening Communities Partnership is a great way for businesses to be part of the comeback story for once-vital communities throughout our region. The program has been successful in pooling private sector resources to leverage nearly \$10 million to help build capacity and drive revitalization in participating communities. TriState Capital has been an active participant in the partnership, and we can see that it helps bring back communities where people are committed to working together."*

*- Bill Schenck - SCP Chair, and Vice Chairman, TriState Capital*

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**Be a partner in strengthening our region's economy.  
Learn how you can help to transform these communities:**

**Visit [SupportSCP.com](http://SupportSCP.com)**

**Contact:** Will Bernstein, Allegheny Conference at (412) 281-4783 ext. 3122  
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## There are seven communities participating in the Strengthening Communities Partnership:

Each of the seven communities has a strong redevelopment plan that includes projects that are benefiting from the partnership. Projects being led by partnering neighborhood organizations include business district revitalization, land use and transportation strategies, blight remediation, housing and commercial development and more.



### **Connellsville | Fayette County Cultural Trust (FCCT)**

The FCCT is working to decrease the number of commercial vacancies through progressive marketing of available buildings both in the City of Connellsville and along the Great Allegheny Passage. It is also creating strategies to stabilize and preserve its housing stock – which includes code enforcement initiatives and energy efficiency strategies – and enhance its streetscape amenities and open space.



### **Homewood | Operation Better Block, Inc. (OBB Inc.)**

OBB Inc. is tackling blight remediation and homeowner stabilization through neighborhood engagement initiatives and housing and land use plans. Initiatives include conducting neighborhood-wide door-to-door survey to collect demographic information and needs of individuals and developing plans that detail parcel specific strategies as well as short-term and long-term strategies for reinvesting in the neighborhood.



### **McKees Rocks | McKees Rocks Community Development Corporation**

After years of hard work, McKees Rocks CDC spearheaded a development effort which has now led to private investment committed for 130 acres of former brownfield. Also underway, a dramatic streetscape plan of lower Chartiers Avenue, with private investment committed for the former Roxian Theatre, and unique partnerships around transitioning residents out of poverty through workforce readiness programs and youth mentorships.



### **Mt. Oliver/Knoxville | Economic Development South (EDS)**

EDS is developing a more unified, efficient and effective strategy to revitalize the Brownsville Road corridor – identifying streetscape and public safety improvements and long-term programs to retain existing businesses and attract new ones. In addition, EDS is working on a multi-modal transit center along the intersection of Route 51/88, identifying the potential to create infrastructure to access the light rail line, the South Busway and to build a new park and ride facility.



### **Sharpsburg | Sharpsburg Neighborhood Organization**

Sharpsburg Neighborhood Organization is working closely in the Sharpsburg community on strategies to eliminate blight, market vacant properties, improve the housing stock and reinforce and implement priorities identified in its comprehensive plan. It is also developing its Main Street with plans to attract and develop new Main Street businesses (both resident-serving and destination) and embark on commercial property rehabilitation plans.



### **City of Washington | City of Washington Citywide Development Corporation (CWDC)**

CWDC is reinvigorating its Main Street area – developing a 15,000 square foot landmark community pavilion as the new center of Downtown Washington's events, attractions and community gatherings. It is also partnering with Washington & Jefferson College in support of the college's evaluation and predevelopment of a Downtown business incubator.



### **Wilkesburg | Wilkesburg Community Development Corporation**

Wilkesburg CDC is working to bring vacant properties back to productive use by marketing available properties, offering grant and loan programs, and developing tax abatement strategies. Key projects include restoring the Wilkesburg Train Station as a transit hub, redeveloping the blighted 800 block of Penn Avenue, and promoting the development of the former Penn-Lincoln Hotel site. In addition, WCDC continues providing small business support through grant programs, marketing, business planning, and other technical assistance.

