



March 2014

NTRPDC update

ntl
northern tier
regional
planning &
development
commission

SERVING BRADFORD, SULLIVAN, SUSQUEHANNA, TIOGA, AND WYOMING COUNTIES

Wyoming County Awarded DCED Grant



In February, Wyoming County and the Wyoming County Chamber of Commerce were awarded grant funds by the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) to assist in their joint update of the county's comprehensive plan and complete a separate, but complementary, economic study.

DCED funds in the amount of \$50,000, with a Wyoming County commitment of \$39,850 and a Wyoming Chamber of Commerce commitment of \$27,125, bring the total project budget to \$116,975.

The most recent comprehensive plan was completed in 1997 and the previous eco-

nomic study was completed in 1994. Since that time, Wyoming County has seen vast changes in its economic outlook, with new opportunities and challenges placed on existing industries, natural resources, and the community as a whole. "The economic, transportation, land use, and industry changes seen throughout the county heighten the importance of developing an up-to-date, action-oriented plan to address concerns and opportunities and promote sustainable growth and development," said Nicole Wootten, Wyoming County Planning Director.

The new Wyoming County Comprehensive Plan and Eco-

nomic Study will be action-oriented and implementable, modeling after PA DCED's "Creating an Implementable Comprehensive Plan" Workbook. While these documents could be used as standalone planning documents, they will also supplement one another and provide a comprehensive framework for addressing planning opportunities and challenges throughout the county.

NTRPDC assisted Wyoming County and the Wyoming County Chamber of Commerce in preparing the grant application, communicating with DCED about Wyoming County planning needs, and working through the process of the grant award.



Photos courtesy Wyoming County Office of Community Planning

Upcoming Meetings

Executive Committee

NTRPDC Conference Room
10:30 a.m.

May 16, 2014

kulick@northerntier.org

Economic Development Advisory Committee

NTRPDC Conference Room
10:30 a.m.

April 9, 2014

hauser@northerntier.org

Local Management Committee

NTRPDC Conference Room
11:00 a.m.

May 27, 2014

fay@northerntier.org

RTAC

NTRPDC Conference Room
10:00 a.m.

April 14, 2014

May 12, 2014

baker@northerntier.org

Workforce Investment Board

NTRPDC Conference Room
10:30 a.m.

May 21, 2014

warner@northerntier.org

Youth Council

NTRPDC Conference Room
9:30 a.m.

May 21, 2014

felten@northerntier.org

Export Training a Success

Two webinars held in Northern Tier region

Free Training on Export Documentation

The Export Program is offering a webinar on Export Documentation and Proper Filing of Electronic Export Information on Tuesday, April 15, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This web presentation provides a real-life comprehensive understanding of the commercial documentation required for an international transaction. It will also provide an understanding of who is responsible for filing the Electronic Export Information (EEI) through the Automated Export System (AES), when filing is required, and the information to be filed. If your company is located in Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, or Wyoming counties, this webinar is provided at no cost to you. To register, please e-mail Cynthia Traore at Traore@northerntier.org or call 570-265-1534.

NTRPDC's Export Program offered its first-ever Export Compliance webinar series in January and February. The series consisted of two webinars and covered the Basics of U.S. Export Controls and Export Controls under the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR). The webinars were offered at no cost to companies in the Northern Tier region; several businesses participated.

NTRPDC received funds through the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) to conduct these trainings. Webinars were led by instructor Bob Imbriani from Team Worldwide, a global logistics provider with an International Trade Services Group, which provides training, consulting, and compliance audit services for businesses engaging in global trade.

"We look forward to continuing to coordinate trainings for Northern Tier businesses who may have questions on exporting their products or services. These trainings provide practical information to businesses already exporting, while also assisting new businesses in learning about the possibilities within international markets," said Cynthia Traore, NTRPDC Export Program Manager.

33 Health Care Employees Receive Training

Pittsburgh-area trainers delivered four-day program in Wellsboro

In January, 33 health care professionals from Susquehanna Health's Soldiers + Sailors Memorial Hospital in Wellsboro participated in Perfected Patient Care (PPC), a four-day training program subsidized with Health Care Worker Training grant funds through the Northeast Regional Healthcare Industry Partnership. Trainers from the Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative traveled to Wellsboro to deliver this intensive program, providing

health care professionals with the tools, expertise, education, models, and networks to conduct ongoing quality improvement projects. The program included individualized training sessions and on-site coaching.

The Northeast Regional Healthcare Industry Partnership represents the Workforce Investment areas of the Northern Tier, Lackawanna, Luzerne/Schuylkill, and the Poconos. Sixty-four health care

employers actively participate in the partnership, including every major health care facility in the Northern Tier. To date, worker training grant funding has been used to help upgrade the skills of more than 3,000 employees in the region.

For more information, please contact Sherry Felten at 570-265-9103.

Free Workshops for Area Businesses

Learn how to build your business through government contracting

NTRPDC is sponsoring free workshops in each of our five counties to introduce area businesses to the world of government contracting. At these workshops, small business owners will learn how to tap into government contracting opportunities, challenges of working with government agencies, and programs available to help break into government markets. Federal, state, and local government agencies contract with thousands of small businesses every year, buying everything from paper clips to space ships, from landscaping services to computer software.

The federal government alone purchases more than \$6 billion in products and services each year. By federal law, more than 20 percent of all contracts MUST be awarded to small businesses!

Workshops will be held in:

- Bradford County on May 13 at NTRPDC, 312 Main Street, Towanda
- Tioga County on May 14 at PA CareerLink, Plaza Lane, Wellsboro
- Sullivan County on May 15 at DCNR, 6735 Route 220, Dushore
- Wyoming County on May 20 at the Emergency Management Office, 3880 Route 6, Tunkhannock

- Susquehanna County on May 22 at the Trehab Center, 10 Public Avenue, Montrose

All workshops will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and will be led by NTRPDC Procurement Technical Assistance Center staff. Workshops are free but pre-registration is required. To register for any of these workshops, please contact Laurie Lentz, NTRPDC Procurement Program Manager, toll free at 888-868-8800, or 570-265-1538, or by e-mail at lentz@northerntier.org.



Participants in a procurement workshop at NTRPDC

Free Online Technology Training Available

Funding ends December 31, 2014

Registration is now open for the Pennsylvania Online Broadband & Technology Training (OBTT) Program, which offers free online courses available anytime, anywhere. The PA OBTT course library was designed with small businesses, local governments, and nonprofits in mind. With more than 100 free courses to choose from, there is something new for nearly everyone to explore.

Course topics include Online Marketing; Website Development; Cloud Computing; Quickbooks; Microsoft applications such as Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, and Access; Business Skills; Project Management; and more. A complete course listing and registration information are available at www.paobtt.com or by contacting Jeff Field, NTRPDC Information Technology Pro-

gram Manager, at 570-265-1541 or field@northerntier.org.

The OBTT Training Program is provided through the PA Department of Community and Economic Development and made possible by American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds. Training is available through December 31, 2014.

Loan Closings

Two loans were closed in January and February.

NTRPDC closed a \$100,000 loan to Walters Elkland Chevrolet in Elkland (Tioga County) as part of a \$600,000 financing package. Funds will be used for renovations and expansion of the auto dealership.

NTRPDC assisted The Murus Company (Mansfield) with a \$100,000 loan. These funds will assist in the purchase of machinery and equipment assets from Suretight Panel Corporation and relocating them to Mansfield.

NTRPDC Welcomes Stacey Urban

Fills loan officer/program manager position



Stacey Urban is our new Loan Officer/Program Manager
urban@northerntier.org
 570-265-1510

Stacey Urban joined the Northern Tier Team in March as our Loan Officer/ Loan Program Manager. Urban comes to us from Steuben County, New York, and brings extensive experience in agricultural and commercial lending. Urban will be responsible for managing NTRPDC's loan portfolio and helping busi-

nesses access loan funds for business development and expansion. "We are happy to have Stacey on board at NTRPDC as an integral part of our work in economic and community development. Her lending experience will be an asset as we continue to work closely with businesses and our lending partners

throughout the region to promote business expansion and development," said Kevin Abrams, NTRPDC Executive Director.

Sue Dillon, our Business Development Specialist, will continue to work part time sharing her expertise with businesses throughout the region.

DCED Loan Interest Rate Reduced to 1.75%

Application deadline June 30, 2014

Governor Corbett announced a reduction in the interest rates of business loan programs through the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). Beginning February 1, interest rates for the Small Business First, Machinery & Equipment Loan Fund, Pollution Prevention Assistance Program, and Export Financing Program were reduced to 1.75% for

applications received by close of business June 30, 2014. DCED also announced that it would waive fees normally charged to borrowers.

Additionally, the Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority (PIDA) announced that its interest rate would be reduced from 4% to 2.25%, and that it would also waive fees charged to borrowers for applications in this same time

period.

These interest rate reductions are being made in an effort to encourage small business and manufacturing business growth in Pennsylvania and to bolster new job creation.

To speak with someone regarding your business needs and financing options, please contact Stacey Urban at 570-265-1510.



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Transportation Improvement Program Update

Work is underway on the 2014 update of the Northern Tier TIP

The Northern Tier Region Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) update is currently underway. The TIP is a prioritized list of highway, bridge, and transit projects expected to be undertaken in federal fiscal years 2015-2018 throughout the Northern Tier

region. Public involvement is invited through municipal surveys, county meetings, project advisory committee meetings, and a regional forum held to collect data on projects. The TIP will be adopted by the NTRPDC Regional Transportation Adviso-

ry Committee (RTAC) in July following a formal 30-day public comment period. It is projected that during fiscal years 2015-2018 approximately \$212 million will be spent on transportation projects across our five counties.