

Applicant/Location	Program Type	Tax Credit Amount	Project Description
<p>Greater Easton Development Partnership - Easton, Northampton County</p>	<p>NPP 2/6</p>	<p>\$160,000</p>	<p>The West Ward is a unique and diverse neighborhood with tremendous historic assets, but faces several challenges, including high vacancy rates, blight, transience, crime, and an aging housing stock. This 1.27 square-mile community is conveniently located to the west of Downtown, and is the City's most dense neighborhood. Presently, there are limited neighborhood-scale commercial amenities in the West Ward. The community has a vacancy rate of approximately 12%, and underutilized and blighted properties have created opportunities for crime. Nearly 24% of households do not have access to a vehicle, and inadequate public transportation options and crumbling infrastructure, including missing and unsafe sidewalks, discourage residents and visitors from patronizing local businesses. The West Ward Neighborhood Revitalization Project ("Project") will bring to fruition over a decade of comprehensive planning and community outreach, and lay the groundwork for future revitalization strategies. The Project is a 6-year community development initiative designed to improve the social and economic viability and quality of life in the West Ward neighborhood. GEDP is requesting NPP funds to support Year 2 of the Project. The activities proposed for Year 2 build off the success of Year 1, and are based on six major principles identified in the West Ward Neighborhood Plan. Year 2 of the Project is anticipated to create the following community and economic benefits. 1. Decrease the number of Part I and Part 11 offenses by 10% through a new Block Watch Program and designated Block Captains. 2. Retain two new jobs that pay more than the state minimum. 3. Install adequate lighting along 10 blocks of the West Ward. 4. Add 8 new facia to improve community appearance. 5. Enhance 27 blocks of the West Ward with streetscape improvements and beautification. 6. Provide semi-annual workshops for first-time homebuyers (25 homebuyers served annually).</p>

<p>Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley - Pen Argyl, Wind Gap, Bangor, Portland, Northampton County</p>	<p>NPP 4/6</p>	<p>\$80,000</p>	<p>This project will coordinate the community and economic development efforts of four socially and economically disadvantaged boroughs- Bangor, Pen Argyl, Portland and Wind Gap- in Northampton County to address five interrelated community problems: 1) lack of economic opportunity; 2) regional fragmentation 3) poverty and lower than average income; 4) unaffordable, aging, and deteriorating housing stock; and 5) crime. As a result, this project will enhance inter-municipal cooperation to improve that appearance and utilization of commercial districts, upgrade the quality of the housing stock, increase home ownership rates, improve residential and commercial property values while simultaneously decreasing the rate of crime, poverty, unemployment, and commercial and residential vacancies. SBR will resolve community problems by the following outcomes: Organize 1 landlord/tenant rights workshop; Implement Wind Gap's Master Park Plan focusing on the creation of a trail in Wind Gap Park; Continue the regional branding and marketing strategy; Host 1 regional event in 2020; Host an annual meeting/networking event to celebrate the accomplishments of SBR; Encourage civic engagement among middle school-aged youth by hosting a "Mayor for A Day"; Educate 35 youth on healthy eating by expanding community gardens throughout the four boroughs; Provide 6 scholarships to students through the Slate Belt Rising Scholarship Program; Provide swim lessons to 15-22 SBR borough youth with the local YMCA; Install 12 cigarette butt receptacles in the SBR boroughs; Engage 15 new stakeholders as volunteers; Host 1 trade-related training for contractors in the Slate Belt; Build staff capacity through attendance at professional conference; Launch fundraising campaign printing/postage.</p>
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<p>Habitat for Humanity Berks County - Reading, Berks County</p>	<p>NPP 1/6</p>	<p>\$100,000</p>	<p>HFHBC plans to create a 6-year strategy for housing development and neighborhood revitalization in the city of Reading, creating safe affordable housing. HFHBC will construct and sell nine new homes and nine renovated homes over the next six years. The project will result in the creation of an estimated 18 homes. Low-income families of 50%-80% AMI will have the opportunity to purchase a fully-renovated home. 80% AMI will have the opportunity to purchase a fully-renovated home. This project is part of a larger plan called the Buttonwood Gateway project a development project that includes the HFHBC homes and 48 rental residences, a community center, park and vegetable garden. HFHBC will provide strives to create healthy communities that start with affordable homeownership combined with access to employment, healthcare and education. Habitat for Humanity also in partnership with Berks Couty Pre-Trial Services (BCPS) to provide criminal offenders returning to the community the chance to develop employment skills in the building trades industry. HFHBC's six-year housing strategy will have three phases. Each Phase will be two years. Every two years HFHBC will construct and renovate 6 homes. Which for an annual budget equates to 3 new houses annually. The annual cost to build and renovate these homes is estimated to be \$481,800. To fund the construction of the homes, HFHBC's sources will include: NPP business contributor annual contribution of \$125,000, A loan from the Reading Housing Authority, HOME funds received annually from the City of Reading for home renovations, HFHBC annual budget dollars for construction and operating costs when needed, Each new build will be sold for an estimated \$85,000. Phase 2 (Years 3 and 4) and Phase 3 (Years 5 and 6) will follow the same uses and sources trajectory as the above described Phase 1 (Years 1 and 2). After the 6-year housing development strategy is complete, HFHBC will have constructed and renovated 18 homes and sold them to families between 50%-80% AMI in the City of Reading.</p>
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<p>Bucknell University - Snyder County</p>	<p>SPP</p>	<p>\$17,250</p>	<p>Over 900 employees of Wood-Mode Inc. were laid off in May 2019. For 77 years, Wood-Mode was the largest employer in Snyder County and its closure is a devastating blow to workers and to the community at large. In April 2019, the unemployment rate in Snyder County was only 3.3%, below the U.S figure of 3.6%, and Pennsylvania's rate of 3.8%. However, the sudden loss of 938 jobs from Wood-Mode's closure comprised a devastating loss for the county. With the closing of this single manufacturing location, it is estimated that 2.4% of the total population joined the ranks of the unemployed... not far from an overnight doubling of the unemployment rate. In 2017 the Bureau of Economic Analysis recorded the total number of jobs in Snyder county at 23,496, with 4,278 in manufacturing. The closing of this company eliminated almost one quarter of the manufacturing jobs in the county. The SBDC's NAP project will complement and support current and planned activities with the county and state. The outcome data for this project will focus on economic development measurements of recovery and entrepreneurship. Possible new businesses that may be started range from mechanical or electrical contractors, crafters of artisan wood specialty products, re-finishing and restoration expert services; the design and manufacture of consumer goods, and diverse pursuits related to the rich agricultural heritage of this region. The following are projected outcomes: Number of Workshops: 2, Number of Outreach Events: 2, Number of residents served/impacted by project: 20, Number of new business start-ups: 2, Number of Quality Jobs Created: 5, Number of Quality Jobs Retained: 10. Individuals will participate in intake and follow-up outcomes surveys that assess the quality of service, customer satisfaction, and economic impacts achieved. These outcomes can be benchmarked for efficacy methods assessment with statewide and national outcomes measurements conducted by the SBDC program.</p>
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<p>Housing Association & Development Corporation - Allentown, Lehigh County</p>	<p>SPP</p>	<p>\$37,500</p>	<p>Residents lack the skills to compete for good jobs. ASD accounts for about one-third of Lehigh County students in grades 7-12, ASD reports 80 percent of the dropouts. Suburban districts experience, on average 13 to 14 dropouts a year. In Allentown about 410 students drop out each year. PDE publishes four-year cohort graduation rate statistics for each school district across PA. According to the statistics of School Year 2014-2015, 84.75% of all students across PA graduated in a four-year time frame. ASD graduates 63.63% in four years. Parkland SD had a 94.27% completion rate and Whitehall had a 91.10% completion rate. The unemployment rate those between the 16 and 24 in Allentown is 28.8 percent – 45 percent higher than the Lehigh County rate of 19.8 percent and 51 percent higher than the state rate of 19.1 percent, according to the 2013 American Community Survey. Clearly, young people, by the scores, need re-engagement in education, job skills and a step up to living-wage jobs. Architectural plans are nearly complete and ready for submission for building permits to add a second floor addition to the storage garage that HADC owns at 302 North 5th Street, immediately around the corner from our office. This addition is designed to provide much needed program space for our YouthBuild Program. HADC will commence with construction this year. This project will certainly utilize the YouthBuild students in the construction of the facility and provide an excellent, additional learning opportunity. HADC’s work crew will also provide additional construction support, working side by side with the YouthBuild students and enhancing their workforce experience and construction skill development. HADC also obtained some local foundation support to develop the project and to purchase a platform chairlift to accommodate the potential of enrolling students who may have physical disabilities.</p>
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<p>Kutztown University Foundation - Reading, Berks County</p>	<p>SPP</p>	<p>\$99,375</p>	<p>Over the past decade, Reading experienced a significant growth of Latino's to the community. Although, these new immigrants helped to keep the city housing stock filled and they helped to replace many of the small businesses that were moving out to the suburb malls and outlets the infrastructure and bilingual business resources to support these new entrepreneurial minded residents was not in place to support the new Latino businesses that were launching. As a result, the city experienced a higher than normal failure rate with new businesses because many lacked awareness of how to comply with city zoning and codes. The LBRC services has resulted in many success stories demonstrating that professional consulting and technical assistance increases the chances of success of new businesses. Now that the failure rate of these startup businesses has been normalized the problem now experienced relates to these firm's scalability when compared to other business demographic groups. This new program is designed to promote high growth within the DID in downtown Reading by expanding bilingual training education and consulting. New programs for this proposal include workshops and consulting that utilize the Growth Wheel business advising online platform for entrepreneurs seeking to grow. In addition, a new computer lab will be installed at our 606 Court Street office located at the Greater Reading Chamber Alliance. This lab will be available for the REGI program but it will also be accessible for the REGI clients to utilize for specialized training with their employees. The new programming also includes a Entrepreneurs Growth conference in downtown Reading that will target commercial developers, retailers on Penn Street, and high growth entrepreneurs who desire to learn more about accessing equity financing and WedNet funding for workforce initiatives. Expected program results: 100 residents served through programming along with assisting 15 new business starts.</p>
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<p>Lehigh Riverport Investors Fund, LP - Bethlehem, Northampton County</p>	<p>EZP</p>	<p>\$399,541</p>	<p>The Riverport Public Market redevelops an abandoned building into a farmer's market in S. Bethlehem and creates at least 174 jobs, 24 of which are full-time meeting the goals of the "Jobs That Pay" initiative. The market's common space will be a venue for community engagement focused on meeting the needs of residents in Southside Bethlehem. We will partner with area non-profits to offer job training and other resident focussed programs. Vendors will offer fresh produce, meats, and prepared meals. Two restaurants will also occupy the 23,000sf space that includes a mezzanine and a full-size demonstration kitchen. Courtyard seating top the amenities, making the market a fun and distinctive experience for shoppers. This 1.598m project is a fantastic investment in the community and the region. The market will create many opportunities that will greatly improve the quality of life for Southside Bethlehem residents. 1 abandoned property will be renovated and refurbished. 174 jobs will be newly created; 24 full time positions (\$35,000+) plus benefits, 150 new part-time positions will be created to support 35 vendors to run 7 day a week, 12 hour day operations of market. 35 vendors (12 new) will establish businesses at this location. 100 construction workers be employed during the 5 month construction period. Engineering, Architectural and Legal professionals will be engaged. 6,374 Southside Bethlehem residents will have "walkable" access to healthy fresh produce, meats and dairy in an area defined by the Department of Agriculture as a "food desert". Residents will be able to use their SNAP benefits to purchase eligible food items, nearly 30% of the Southside population in enrolled in SNAP. At least 20 various community programs will be offered at the market, possibilities include job training/ business incubator programs, health screenings, healthy food cooking demonstrations etc.</p>
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<p>Reading City Investments, LLC - Reading, Berks County</p>	<p>EZP</p>	<p>\$500,000</p>	<p>Within the upcoming fiscal year, we will invest \$9,980,000 to convert the abandoned, former A.W. Golden Cadillac dealership into the only shopping center providing crucial community resources within walking distance in this area. A grocery store anchor tenant will provide access to fresh, wholesome foods, thereby filling the void in this federally designated food desert. There is no other shopping within walking distance of this neighborhood, which houses Oakbrook Housing Project, the largest public housing project in the area with over 4,000 residents. The shopping center will also provide access to other needed neighborhood services such as a pharmacy, barbershop, daycare, numerous quality restaurants, and other retail that will further contribute to the overall health and vibrancy of the community. Our project will create 150 employees within one year of project completion, and 250 total jobs within three years of completion. A majority, if not all, of these new hires will come directly from the local community, thereby prioritizing local talent in hiring and procurement. Many of the jobs will be available to youths and untrained individuals living within walking distance of the site who otherwise may never have the opportunity to learn basic job skills. The jobs created through this project have an average salary of \$25,000 - \$30,000. Per the 18th Ward Area Comprehensive Plan, Reading's local median income is \$26,784, meaning that the jobs created by this project provide family sustaining wages that are on par with the city's demographics and meet the livable wage requirements of Governor Wolf's "Jobs That Pay" initiative. This project is expected to generate over \$1.3MM annually in additional local tax revenue for the City of Reading.</p>
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<p>Acme Structures X, Inc. - Reading, Berks County</p>	<p>EZP</p>	<p>\$289,500</p>	<p>This project will revitalize a historically significant commercial building built in 1916 located at 147 North 5 Street in in the heart of Reading. The building is listed on the National Historic Preservation list of properties designated for preservation. Multiple tenant businesses including the AARP Foundation, Cody Adoption Agency and legal and architectural firms have committed leases. 10 full-time jobs providing livable wage jobs will be created through the renovation of this deteriorated 12,000 sf structure. This project squarely aligns with the City of Reading Comprehensive Plan to “create a balance of small and large businesses as part of promoting ‘mixed use’ developments. This project is expected to dollars into the region, increase employment and property values. The quality of life for residents and visitors of Reading will be improved by this downtown investment in a beautiful historic building. A historic property in Reading’s central business district will be renovated for commercial use. The project is an adaptive reuse of a dilapidated building. Reading’s 5th Street will benefit from the greater traffic to frequent businesses at and surrounding this landmark. 10 new jobs will be created, the average positions will pay \$34,800. This project will allow for the retention of 8 jobs, for a total of 18 jobs that will be generating income. ~25% of Reading’s population is aged 50 years and older (www.censusreporter.org). Since there is a sizeable demographic of residents who are retired, or are approaching retirement age, the AARP tenant will have viable population to work with immediately. The Cody Adoption Agency tenant will be busy connecting Reading youths in foster care to find permanent, loving home. All told, thousands of Reading residents will be positively impacted by this project.</p>
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<p>Lot 62 Associates, LLC - Bethlehem, Northampton County</p>	<p>EZP</p>	<p>\$500,000</p>	<p>One of the most distressed communities in the region can be found on the Southside of Bethlehem. According to data from the 2010 census/American Community Surveys put out by the City of Bethlehem, in the census tract that comprises a large part of Southside Bethlehem (Census Tract 113), median household income is roughly 64% of the median household income for the Lehigh Valley MSA. In this neighborhood, about 30% of all people live below the poverty line. The proposed development project will increase local tax revenues, bring significant private investment, and generate new employment opportunities in a community that needs them. The City of Bethlehem and Bethlehem Economic Development Corporation have invested heavily in the revitalization of Southside Bethlehem. One such project is an industrial park known as LVIP 7 which is being developed by Lehigh Valley Industrial Park at a portion of the former-Bethlehem Steel site. Lot 62 Associates LLC has proposed constructing a new approximately 88,000 square foot manufacturing, office and warehousing facility at LVIP 7 Lot 62. A lease has already been signed with high-end aquarium equipment maker EcoTech Marine, who will use 37,717 square feet of the building for a mix of manufacturing/office uses beginning January 1, 2021. EcoTech will be locating 30 office and 33 production employees at the site. The additional space is projected to produce another 48 jobs, bringing the total number of jobs at the site to 111. Once initial LERTA tax abatements have been phased out, it is estimated that the project will generate \$480,000/year in state and local taxes.</p>
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<p>ODG 100-116 Northampton, LLC - Easton, Northampton County</p>	<p>EZP</p>	<p>\$500,000</p>	<p>Easton is a growing area with a considerable need for continued investment. Northampton County faced significant economic setbacks, but is slowly recovering and the city of Easton, is aiding the entire Northampton County by providing strong jobs, housing, dining and entertainment to residents and those moving to the area for new economic opportunities. Easton experienced a significant downturn due to loss of the manufacturing industry from the 1970's onward. Recently, there is renewed economic strength in Easton, and as such the economic forecast is slightly improving after the 2008 recession, however unemployment continues to remain higher than similar areas of Pennsylvania. New job creation is needed, especially to increase living wage jobs in the downtown area, one of the hardest hit in the recession. From the start of the project through construction completion, about 30 construction and other jobs will be created. These jobs include both professional and labor-based employment. Once the building is fully occupied, an additional 120 jobs will be created to manage the building and work in the office, retail spaces and restaurant. Not only will the project create new job opportunities in a part of Easton and Lehigh Valley sorely in need of them, it will also bring additional employees to the downtown, thereby putting "feet on the street" to patronize other businesses in downtown Easton. In this way, the project will have spin off economic development benefits that extend well beyond the project site itself. Upon full build out, the project is expected to generate approximately \$700,000 annually in tax revenue to the City, County, and Easton Area School District.</p>
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