



Perry County

PENNSYLVANIA

Perry County Grants Advisory Group

Since taking office, the Perry County Commissioners have approved over \$5,500,000 in competitive state grant funds and \$1,782,690 in competitive loan funds. Before our terms in office, limited attention was focused on securing grant funding.

One of the first actions taken by the current Board of Commissioners was to hire Penn Strategies, to serve as the grant writing firm for all eligible organizations domiciled in Perry County. Unfortunately, while the numbers above demonstrate the success of that decision, there have been several incidents of multiple applications for the same "pots" of money, which essentially means that organizations are competing for the same funds. The Commissioners desire to develop a more straightforward strategy related to the pursuit of state and federal grant funding.

The Perry County Planning Commission, working through the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, has developed a solid and valuable Comprehensive Plan. This professional planning program has benefited the County significantly by recognizing the need to support local and regional planning efforts to allow for coordinated and effective growth.

PURPOSE

To coordinate grant funding for the county, and to avoid multiple entities within the county applying for the same programs, thereby reducing the chances of funding for all applicants, the Perry County Commissioners have established the Perry County Grants Advisory Group (PCGAG).

The purpose of the PCGAG is to serve as an advisory board to the Commissioners. They would be charged with providing non-binding counsel to the County Commissioners on all upcoming decisions related to economic development through their expertise and review of information on each project. They also would review all concepts for a grant application.

GOAL

As an advisory group to the County Commissioners, the PCGAG would be responsible for assisting in developing policies, programs, and grant applications that are consistent with the Perry County Comprehensive Plan and the economic development goals of Perry County as determined by the County Commissioners.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Advise and recommend projects to the Commissioners for grant funding.
- Consider new and unique approaches to economic development policy.
- Compare projects to the goals set forth in the Perry County Comprehensive Plan.

- Consider any requests for TIF, Local Economic Revitalization Assistance (LETA), and other federal or state tax abatement opportunities.

MEMBERSHIP

County Commissioners will determine membership but will include at least the following:

- the chief executive officer and/or staff member of The Perry County Economic Development Authority
- The Perry County Economic Development Corporation
- The Perry County Planning Commission.
- Nonprofit representative?
- Business representative?

Terms of these positions are at-will and those selected serve at the will of the Perry County Commissioners.

HOW DOES THIS IMPACT YOUR ORGANIZATION?

- If your organization wants to apply for state or federal funding for community projects, if vetted with a positive recommendation by the PCGAG to the County Commissioners, the County will submit your application and handle the compliances free of charge.
 - The County will also serve as a “pass-through” entity if applicable.
- The County will offer the staff and advocacy support of Penn Strategies free of charge to help develop your project and to fine-tune your application.
- This does not prohibit your organization from submitting grant applications. However, the projects will not be prioritized by the Commissioners to our legislative delegations in Harrisburg, Washington D.C. and to state/federal agencies.

NEXT STEPS FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION

Complete the Grant Pre-Application Form