Alice M. Davis, Ph.D., has been the Executive Director of the Susquehanna County Career & Technology Center in Springville, PA 18844 since 1998 and also serves as School Counselor Director for the school. Alice earned her doctorate in Workforce Education and Development at Penn State University. She earned a Supervisor's Certification in Guidance Services, a Master of Science in Secondary Administration, and a Master of Science in Counselor Education from the University of Scranton.

In her role as Executive Director, Dr. Davis orchestrated a building project adding a second building to the SCCTC complex which houses the administrative offices, conference rooms, a Practical Nurse suite, Business and Industry Lab, four new program areas and most recently a Business Development Incubator. She has increased the Adult Program and Certification Programs by leaps and bounds. Under her supervision industry credentials available to the SCCTC high school students has increased 10-fold. Dr. Davis’ vision for the career center is enhanced by her compassion. Any time a program can provide a service for the community, she asks that they do whatever is possible to incorporate it into their curriculum. Her belief stems around the notion that if we are to train a well-rounded employee, we must also instill a need to give back to the community.

Dr. Davis is very active in professional organizations. She has served as both President and Vice President of the Pennsylvania Association of Career & Technical Administrators; Chairperson of the Commercial and Education Exhibits Committee of the Pennsylvania Association for CTE; and President of the Endless Mountains Counselors Association. Dr. Davis is a member of the Association for Career & Technical Education, the Pennsylvania School Counselors Association, the Association for Supervision & Curriculum Development, the Northern Tier Industry Education Consortium, the Northern Tier Tech Prep Consortium Advisory Board, and the Keystone College President’s Advisory Council as well as a member of the Board of Trustees. She is also a Board Member of Mercy Tyler Home Health Board, the United Way of Susquehanna County, the Susquehanna County Economic Advisory Council, Inc., and the Susquehanna County Community Foundation.

Alice Davis is married to Raymond Davis, Esquire and lives in Meshoppen, Pennsylvania. She is the mother of four grown sons, Charlie, Frank, Marty, and Gavin and seven grandchildren.
I am truly excited about the opportunities that lie before us. Through our ongoing interface with Susquehanna County’s businesses and industries indications of continued and planned investment are encouraging. However, two critical issues remain top priorities to address. They are access to trained, reliable workforce and poor connectivity/lack of broadband. These problems are in most cases the primary reason that curtails or slows business growth in the County; thus, investment and job development are moderate at best. We are unable to prioritize one over the other, but the issues of broadband and workforce are closely related to the success of an existing or proposed business project. While we have small business, large manufacturing or agriculture, the mantra is the same.

The 2019 annual breakfast meeting features a great resource that exists in Susquehanna County. This is the Susquehanna County Career and Technical Center, located at Elk Lake School District. Dr. Alice Davis and her dedicated staff have done an outstanding job in preparing our secondary educational youth for the workforce. This is critical to using and retaining our precious resource before it leaves the County. However, access to government, educational, health care, business development, agriculture and activities of daily living. The rural dilemma of too many miles of road and low population density by nature is not conducive to profitable ISP business plan development. We want to build the middle mile to facilitate last mile development. The broadband issue is very detailed regarding our efforts to provide testimony and seek funding in our 2018 annual report, which can be found at www.scbprog.org.

On other opportunities, great strides have been made regarding the value-added natural gas development. By adding value to this precious resource before it leaves Susquehanna County, we maximize its impact to local investment and jobs. This is happening in improved distribution, LNG/CNG development, energy generation, seed stock for manufacturing and project development. This system has been subject to investment and planned improvements. Infrastructure development and continued securing of funding is always a high priority.

Continued face to face interviews with businesses is foremost to the strategic action plan for business development and the DCED Engage! Program is very effective in accomplishing that task. The new Pennsylvania Farm bill identifies $23 million for business plan development and focuses on hemp, hops, honey, and beekeeping. Specialty crops are a plan to bolster agriculture, because let’s face it, Susquehanna County is well positioned with an agricultural community, agricultural support services, proximity to market (Hershey, Philadelphia), and of course farmland and critically important water resources. We believe the future is bright for agriculture. And let us not forget that broadband is critical to its success.

Soon we will announce formal office hours in the County. However, it is our intent to be most effective by meeting directly with people and businesses on their own turf.

I count the County Commissioners, the Susquehanna County Economic Development Advisory Board and our legislators for their support in the continued economic development of Susquehanna County.
Revolving Loan Fund

The Progress Authority’s Revolving Loan Fund was set up as an economic development tool to assist businesses with their financing needs. The intention of the fund is to strengthen a financing package while taking a subordinate lien position behind a primary lending institution. Special consideration is given to projects that have more job creation. The rate is usually advantageous and the term is dependent on the type of collateral. The Progress Authority is a certified Area Lending Organization (ALO) as an Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), Industrial Development Authority (IDA) and General-Purpose Authority. We have a 20 member board who were appointed by our member municipalities and wear 3 hats representing the 3 separate entities. Our board is the same for the IDC, IDA and General-Purpose Authority.

General Guidelines

- Loan Size: $25,000 to $100,000 (Special consideration is given to projects with larger job creation)
- Collateral: Subordinate Lien Position on Real Estate, Equipment, Personal Guaranty is customary.
- Term: Equipment- up to 5 years
- Real Estate- up to 10 years
- Rate: Based on collateral and term.

The Loan Committee underwrites each loan request and makes a recommendation to the Executive Committee and Full Board of Directors for a final vote. If the loan is approved, the borrower’s legal counsel coordinates closing with the authority’s legal counsel when all closing requirements have been met. Loan payments are subsequently made to a local bank that administers the Authority’s loan fund. Applications are available online at www.cbprogress.org.

2018 In Review

2018 was an exciting year for the Progress Authority Revolving Loan Fund. $858,000.00 were lent to private businesses throughout Susquehanna and Bradford Counties. These funds helped leverage over $1,550,000.00 in private investment while creating 30 jobs and retaining over 97 jobs. The mix of industries that benefited from these loan funds was widely diverse. From Agriculture to Manufacturing, Tourism to Hometown Grocery Stores, the Progress Authority was able to help fund all of these projects.

Trehab Workforce Programs

by Dennis Phelps

Trehab is a subcontractor for Workforce Investment Programs, Adult, Dislocated Worker, Youth Programs and Programs that assist individuals on Public Assistance Programs. Programs are funded from PA Department of Labor and Health and Human Services via Northern Tier Planning Commission.

More important than ongoing program provision to residents of Susquehanna County is the importance of Effective Planning forward to assist individuals in need of employment related Programs.

Planning forward for Workforce Programs has traditionally included a strong interorganizational connection with the Progress Authority. The current economy has been in growth setting for 121 months, as detailed in the Economist, the workforce is aging. GDP growth is lower than previous expansions, and productive growth is slower than anticipated.

Low inflation has indicated a different economic dynamic than previous economic expansions; unemployment rate continues at low rate, lowest in a half century. All indicators are that familiar indicators of recession are not present and the good time will continue for years to come.

Again in conjunction with the Progress Authority, the questions arise, is the current economy a new norm? Or as when the positive economic growth run comes to a halt, how can Workforce Providers like Trehab be ready. As non-profits and government officials review current economic trends, a new historical norm will likely have a decidedly different end.

RLF Recipients:

Fiddle Lake Farm

Frugal Living
Engaging Small Business

Progress Authority, The University of Scranton Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and Northern Tier Regional Planning & Development Corporation (NTRPDC) have been teaming up over the past year to hold Business Walks in the Northern Tier as part of Engage!, a statewide initiative funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development designed to retain existing businesses in a community and to help them grow and expand.

To date, the partners have held 5 walks in Bradford and Susquehanna Counties alone, visiting over 20 business owners, and listening to them share their experiences. Each owner brought up opportunities they would like to pursue and/or challenges they would like assistance with, for which the partners had plenty of ideas to offer. Information was shared about programs and services to further assist and some businesses have engaged in follow up, receiving assistance ranging from digital marketing plans to regulatory issues, and more.

The partners recently received approval to conduct additional Engage! Business Walks over the next year.

Endless Mountains Health Systems IFIP Grant

In November of 2010, the Progress Authority facilitated a grant for Endless Mountains Health for $977,760 through the Infrastructure and Facilities Improvement Program (IFIP). This program is a multi-year grant program that provides grants to specific issuers of debt to assist with debt service payments. The purpose of funding must be for business site development and the grant cannot exceed the eligible tax increment amount generated by the project.

The grant is for 20 years with $48,888 drawn down each year. We are on the eighth payment and are reimbursing interest paid to the USDA, with $391,104 paid to date.

With food insecurity affecting almost 11% of the population of Susquehanna County, Cabot Oil & Gas has taken a proactive step in Governor Wolf’s “Setting the Table: a Blueprint for a Hunger-Free Pennsylvania.” Cabot recently pledged to donate $250,000 per year for the next six years to the CEO Weinberg Northeast Regional Food Bank, that serves Susquehanna, Wyoming, Lackawanna and Luzerne counties, under the Neighborhood Assistance Program. The Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development approves businesses tax credits through a long-term collaboration in producing a comprehensive, asset-based and relationship-driven approach to community development.

Food insecurity is defined as the state of being without reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food. While the statistics are one in six children in Pennsylvania struggles with hunger, the heartbreaking reality is, one in four Susquehanna County children have food insecurity. The number of students receiving reduced or free lunches in our six County schools tops 50% of the school aged population. Statistics show that hungry children do more poorly in school and have lower academic achievement because they are not well prepared for school and cannot concentrate. They also have more social and behavioral problems because they feel bad, have less energy for complex social interactions, and cannot adapt as effectively to environmental stress.

The Weinberg Regional Food Bank distributes nearly ten million pounds of food annually, provides training and capacity building to Food Bank member agencies, operates a community kitchen that prepares and delivers nutritious meals to community and school based programs during both, the school year and during the summer months and provides nutrition education at area schools, child care centers and Children’s Produce Markets and Mobile Food Pantries. The Neighborhood Assistance Program tax credits will be used to leverage additional donations of healthy, nutritious valuable food and grocery products as well as financial contributions to the Regional Food Bank. With businesses such as Cabot Oil & Gas taking advantage of tax credit programs offered through State agencies and crediting their resources into projects that affect the health and well-being of residents, I believe CEO Weinberg will reach their goal to end hunger in Northeast Pennsylvania by 2025.

Interning at the Progress Authority

While interning at The Progress Authority, I have had the opportunity to take part in a project that hits close to home. I grew up in the area I now live in. My part may not have been the largest, but it was still exciting to be part of the projects that will help benefit my community. For example, in order to successfully construct the gas-to-liquids facility in Wyalusing, Pa. Black and Veatch had to be sure they could properly house their workers in the area. I, along with a former intern, Robert, were tasked with gathering housing information within a 50 mile radius of the jobsite. While this job came off as insignificant and tedious, if the company did not have this information the project might not have been able to move forward as smoothly as it did. If the project did not move forward, Bradford County could have missed out hundreds of jobs and career opportunities.

My internship at the Progress Authority has also helped me improve upon my soft skills. Between attending meetings with people such as the Bradford County Commissioners, board members, and even the Governor of Pennsylvania, I now have a better idea of what it is like to act like a professional and deal with people properly. In college and in the working world, it is the exact opposite. Having the opportunity to work for a group where a missed deadline for a grant application, for example, could mean missing out on thousands of dollars. I now feel confident with my newly sharpened skills and knowledge in moving forward in my academic career as I work toward my degree.

Lastly, the Central Bradford Progress Authority has allowed me to see behind the scenes of what goes on in my community. I am a firm believer in being active in the community you live in and I could not think of a better place to do that than here. Growing up, I never knew about anything happening in my area until it happened. When I started at the Progress Authority, it fascinated me seeing what all takes place before a project is completed. I had no idea what it took to start a business, completing a grant application, issue a loan until I came and interned.

Industry Helping End Food Insecurity in N.E. PA

MaryAnn Warren

County Commissioner

...
Due to its popularity, first, in Texas and Louisiana, Cabot helped fund the creation of a new MOUL that is permanently stationed in the Appalachian Basin and plans to serve schools in Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia.

STEM & Energy Teacher Workshops
The purpose of the Energy & STEM Teacher Workshops is to enhance the curriculum for children from grades K-12. Our goal is to acquaint teachers and administrators with components needed for education about the energy industry and the integration of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) curriculum as they pertain to the regional job market.

Knowledge Boxes
The Knowledge Box is a free traveling classroom exhibit for students in grades 6-12 showcasing the oil and gas industry through interactive technology, hands-on activities, posters, and multimedia presentations. The curriculum in the Knowledge Box is correlated to State and National Standards. After completing a Project E3 Workshop, teachers are eligible to reserve the Knowledge Box for a period up to 30 days for their classroom use.

• The Knowledge Box enables students to:
  - Discuss the origin and natural gas
  - Discuss the importance of petroleum in our lives
  - Evaluate the economic and environmental impact/issues of fossil fuels
  - Understand the economic significance of the petroleum industry
  - List everyday objects made from petroleum

Lackawanna College School of Petroleum & Natural Gas
Located in the Marcellus Shale region of Pennsylvania, the Lackawanna College School of Petroleum & Natural Gas (LCPNG) is an ideal partner to support the growth of work-ready local residents for the region’s petroleum and natural gas firms. In addition to collaborating on curriculum and supporting lectures, field trips and intern opportunities, Cabot created a $2.5 million endowment for LCPNG scholarships, equipment, curriculum development, and long-term needs.

The school offers four associate’s degree programs in the field: petroleum and natural gas technology; natural gas combustion; petroleum & natural gas measurement, and petroleum and natural gas business administration. The curriculum is revised every year to align with what the industry needs at the moment. Learning from the industry perspective gives students a significant career advantage — nearly 100 percent of students who are actively seeking employment after graduation find it in the oil and gas industry — and more than 70 percent of the school’s graduates are hired by oil and gas companies.

“Our partnership with Cabot enhances tremendously the ability of the School of Petroleum & Natural Gas to provide a world-class education designed to prepare a ready workforce that fills the needs of the multiple companies across the industry,” said College President Mark Volk. “Beyond just an investment in Lackawanna College, through this collaborative effort, Cabot is making an investment in our students and our community.”

Internships
Since the creation of the endowment with LCPNG, Cabot has accepted sum- mer interns from Lackawanna College to gain real-world knowledge of the industry. Interns are paired with field operators who mentored them in the hands-on experience that is so valuable to the learning process. This also gives Cabot a unique opportunity to gauge the students who will be working at Lackawanna and help in the process of making hiring decisions.

Scholarships
In 2016, a pilot program was estab- lished between LCPNG and Susquehan- na County Career & Technology Center (SCCTC). This Pipeline Program allowed for 11th and 12th graders to take col- lege-level courses specific to the curricu- lum offered at LCPNG while still attending school at SCCTC. Cabot covered the costs associated with these courses, such as equipment, materials and text books used by students and faculty.

During the first year, 10 students participated in the program. The program will be expanded to additional career and tech- nology centers in the near future.

Northern Tier Industry & Education Consortium (NTIEC)
Cabot supports the Northern Tier In- dustry & Education Consortium (NTIEC) in their goal to create a highly skilled workforce in Northeastern Pennsylvania through the integration of school, employ- ment, and training processes.

During my first two months in Con- gress, I focused on giving voice to the issues that affect families in central and northeastern Pennsylvania that Wasing- ton too often overlooks.

Two of the top issues in rural Pennsyl- vania are the need for better access to high-speed broadband internet and supporting policies that attract good-paying jobs.

Expansion of broadband into areas like the 12th Congressional District could be a very real game changer for things like education, healthcare, and our economy.

Nearly 10 percent of all Americans lack access to high-speed broadband, with the vast majority of those living in rural areas like central and northeastern Pennsyl- vania. In a 2017 task force study report com- missioned by the Trump Administration, only limited access to broadband was noted as the main impediment to rural America’s overall prosperity.

The solutions to the problem of broad- band expansion into rural Pennsylvania are complex, but boil down to the need to create a more favorable regulatory environ- ment. Rolling back and streamlining reg- ulations will allow broadband companies to expand into underserved markets without government intervention.

Let me be clear: While rural Penn- sylvania—including many portions of the text supports more than 300,000 jobs, con- tributes $45 billion to the commonwealth’s economy, and saves the average household $1,100 every year in energy costs.

As a state lawmaker, I fought to sup- port Pennsylvanians’ natural gas economy and the thousands of jobs it creates, despite the continued threats of state level taxes and an onerous regulatory environment.

Leadership in Congress recently ap- pointed me to serve on the House En- ergy and Commerce Committee, where I have made it a priority to promote energy policies that address rising energy costs, promote good-paying jobs, and enhance national security by supporting American energy independence.

I look forward to ensuring that the federal government works with natural gas and other energy stakeholders to sup- port our home-grown energy industry and brings continued prosperity to our region.

The potential of rural Pennsylvania is only limited by the extent to which those in government do not want to engage in the hard work of finding the right solutions. I will not shrink from my responsibility to be a voice for the people of central and north- eastern Pennsylvania and ensure our eco- nomic future—and the family sustainabili- ty that goes with it—remains bright.
Susquehanna County has been busy administering Grant Programs around the County. Each year the County receives Community Development Block Grant Funding. The Susquehanna County Housing/Redevelopment Authority administers this funding on behalf of the County Commissioners.

Over the past five years, over $1.2 million has been brought back into the County through CDBG funding. Recent CDBG projects include Sidewalk improvement projects along Main Street and Jackson Streets in Thompson Borough, Paving of streets in the Borough of Susquehanna, a very successful Adult Education program administered by the Susquehanna County Career and Technology Center(SCCTC), and housing rehabilitation.

The Housing Rehabilitation program assists low income homeowners with much needed repairs to keep the home safe and up to code. Rehabilitation includes items such as new furnaces, siding, windows, electrical upgrades, among other improvements needed. In addition to these projects, some upcoming projects include demolition of blighted structures, storm drainage improvements, Continuation of the Adult Education, and housing rehabilitation programs.

Please contact the Susquehanna County Housing/Redevelopment Authority for more information on any of these programs.

The County has also been very lucky to receive PHARE Funding. PHARE stands for PA Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancements funding. This funding comes from Marcellus Shale Impact Fees. Act 13 of 2012, specifically allocates certain amounts from the impact fee into the PHARE Fund to address the need for affordable housing in the counties, where producing non-conventional gas wells are located. The County has received nearly $4.5 million of PHARE funds since the program started in 2012. This year the County was awarded $874,000.

The Trehab Center will be utilizing a portion of the funding for Rental and Utility Assistance. The Susquehanna County Housing/Redevelopment Authority will be using a portion of the funding for demolition of the old Hallstead School. This will make way for Phase 1 of additional affordable housing units in Hallstead. The Housing Authority plans to complete site work after demolition and construct one duplex at the site, consisting of 2 small ranch style homes with a garage for those over age 55.

The Authority is hopeful it will be able to construct 2 additional buildings for a total of 6 units at the site in later phases when funding is available.

The Authority was successful in removing blighted and unsafe factories in New Milford Pomona and Forest City Borough recently to make way for this very popular style of affordable housing on those sites while revitalizing our neighborhoods.

In addition Penn Dot Transportation Alternatives Funding of $767,000 has been secured for streetscape projects in Lanesboro Borough and Montrose Borough and those projects will be commencing soon.

Can Hemp Provide Opportunity in Susquehanna County?

The 2018 Farm Bill legalized the production of hemp in this country and producers nationwide including many in Pennsylvania have interest in this ‘new’ cash crop. In fact, hemp has a long history with human civilization as an industrial fiber stock, largely in the production of durable textiles and rope. Oil was also pressed from the seeds and used as a component of paints, inks, and lamp oil among other products. Hemp arrived in North America in the early 1600s and was a significant agricultural commodity throughout Pennsylvania during most of the 1700s and 1800s. The introduction of fine cotton as a fiber crop ultimately led to a decline in hemp production across the country. When the proliferation of higher ‘Tetrahydrocannabinol’ (THC)-containing “marijuana” hemp types and associated social concerns emerged in the 1930s, industrial genotype - hemp breeds were linked with their psychoactive cousins, and then all were outlawed at the state and federal level.

With changing legal status regarding the crop and renewed interest by producers, economic opportunity may develop for some local growers. Hemp can be grown for seed/oil, fiber, or cannabidiol (CBDs) extracted from the plant tissue. Industrial hemp is commonly grown specifically for a single end-product use (not unlike a specific tomato cultivar being grown for processing, rather than fresh eating). Hemp genotypes highly productive as a fiber source aren’t necessarily the optimum genotype for CBD or oil production. Some dual-purpose genotypes provide for fiber and seed/oil but current cultivars are not likely to excel for either end-product. Labor and production requirements vary widely between end-product production streams. Growers need to decide which production stream they wish to explore, research the market, and then develop a cultural plan that accounts for the equipment and resources needed to raise the crop profitably.

Hemp market development will take some time and may evolve uniquely for each hemp production stream. Whereas a corn grain crop can be harvested and delivered and sold to any number of mills in a reasonable transport distance, harvesting a hemp product and expecting the same opportunity to sell the crop at multiple locations will require the development of industry infrastructure. Competitive pricing will follow market development and industry infrastructure development. Some local producers have been approached by hemp integrators seeking to source CBD oils. In this scenario, the integrator enters into a contract with the producer; the contract spells out technical, cultural, and perhaps financial support for the producer to raise the crop. This arrangement ensures some level of income for the producer if yield goals and production parameters are met and guarantees the integrator a known source and quality of raw material. CBD cultivars vary in their traits and an integrator will often provide the specific seed to be planted.

Penn State Extension has been researching hemp since 2014, when the legal status of the crop enabled regulated cultivation under supervision of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. We are actively conducting research at our Southeast Agricultural Cultural Research & Extension Center in Landisville PA under the directions of Dr. Alyssa Collins. Dr. Collins and her team are conducting research that answers the questions producers and the industry are asking. An internet visit to Penn State Extension’s website (https://extension.psu.edu/industrial-hemp-production) will provide educational resources for producers and others interested in the commodity. We are also currently hosting regional educational workshops for producers to discuss the permitting process, legislation governing production, variety selection, cultural practices, and market value for the products.
### Loans Approved/Closed:

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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Zazerra's Market</td>
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<td>Endless Mountains Vet Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Dogz and a Guy</td>
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<td>Diaz</td>
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<td>BX3</td>
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<td>Party Plus</td>
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<td>Rock Ridge Competitive Grant</td>
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### Endless Mountains Health System:

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<td>IFIP Grant</td>
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<td>HRSA Grant</td>
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### Programs/Special Studies:

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<td>Enterprise Zone Designation</td>
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<td>Bradford/Susquehanna Joint RLF</td>
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<td>Susquehanna County Housing Study</td>
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<td>ARCU/USDA</td>
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### Small Water and Sewer Grants:

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<td>Harford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bridgewater</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Milford</td>
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<td>Hallstead/Great Bend</td>
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### ARC Grant Application:

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<td>Broadband Feasibility</td>
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### RCAP:

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<td>Public Safety and Continuation of Government Building</td>
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<td>Endless Mountains Hospital</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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### Route 29 Water/Gas Project:

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<td>PA American Water</td>
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**Grand total** $13,868,268

### Partnering Boards:

- Susquehanna County Commissioners
- Susquehanna County Planning
- PREP
- Forest City IDA
- Susquehanna County Rail Authority
- Montrose IDA
- Montrose Chamber
- Trehab
- Penn State Cooperative Extension
- Susquehanna County Farm Bureau
- Susquehanna County Career and Tech Center