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## **Community Bike Works Awarded \$1.4 Million for Capital Expansion**

**Funds secured by Rep. Wild will support new Easton and Allentown hubs to support students of Lehigh and Northampton counties**

Community Bike Works has been awarded \$1.4 million in Community Project Funding through the office of Congresswoman Susan Wild to support the organization's mission of teaching life lessons through bicycles to young people across the Lehigh Valley.

Funds will be used to renovate the organization's new Easton bike shop/youth center, and to purchase and renovate a new bike shop/youth center in Allentown's Franklin Park neighborhood. These hubs will be critical to furthering the work of the organization, which is in its 26<sup>th</sup> program year.

- In Easton, Community Bike Works is working with the Greater Easton Development Partnership and the City of Easton to develop a bike shop/youth center at 921 Spruce Street in the West Ward. GEDP purchased the Spruce Street building and is a critical partner in the renovation process. Community Bike Works began offering its programs to Easton youth this summer; instructors are offering classes from partner sites while the Spruce Street building is completed.
- In Allentown, a new facility will replace Community Bike Works' flagship location. The organization hopes to secure a larger space, with more room for additional students and additional programs, that is closer to Allentown's Franklin Park. The current bike shop has been on Madison Street in the Franklin Park neighborhood since 2000.

Community Bike Works teaches life lessons through bicycles in its flagship Earn a Bike and Junior Earn a Bike programs and a range of cycling and leadership programs. Once the Easton

bike shop is fully operational, Community Bike Works will engage more than 650 young people a year in Earn a Bike across its three bike shop locations and in-school programming.

**"The secured funding means even more high-quality support for students across the Lehigh and Northampton Counties,"** said Kim Schaffer, Executive Director of Community Bike Works. **"This money will go towards our ultimate mission – engaging students in youth bike mentoring to ensure they have the tools they need to succeed. Community Bike Works sincerely thanks Rep. Wild for fighting for this critical funding."**

**"We are excited to welcome Community Bike Works to Easton and are grateful to Representative Wild for identifying this need and providing funding to advance the Easton expansion,"** said Jared Mast, Executive Director of the nonprofit GEDP. **"The programming and activities that will be offered to families will complement our grassroots community revitalization efforts in the West Ward neighborhood by providing recreation, meaningful connections and life skills for youth."**

The project is one of nine in PA-07 for which Rep. Wild was able to secure funding.

**"I am proud to deliver vital funding to community projects that will provide much-needed updates, amenities, and support for the people of PA-07,"** said Rep. Wild. **"The pandemic has exposed where our community is need of key investments, so I couldn't be happier that all of these projects are true community endeavors that will ensure hardworking Pennsylvanians are supported and that our community has the tools it needs to build back better."**

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In Community Bike Works' flagship Earn a Bike program, students ages 9-17 are paired with mentors for 12 weeks of lessons in tool use, bike mechanics, and safety. While learning how to repair a bike of their own, youth also practice skills including teamwork, communication, perseverance. At the end of the class, students earn their refurbished bike and a new helmet. All students are encouraged to engage in our additional cycling and leadership programs. More information about Community Bike Works can be found at [www.communitybikeworks.org](http://www.communitybikeworks.org). For regular updates, follow Community Bike Works at [www.facebook.com/communitybikeworks/](https://www.facebook.com/communitybikeworks/)

GEDP is a volunteer-driven, nonprofit organization focused on Easton's economic well-being, historical integrity, vibrant culture, and hospitality. It is comprised of Easton Farmers' Market, Easton Main Street Initiative, Easton Public Market, West Ward Community Initiative, Easton Garden Works, Easton Murals, the Easton Ambassadors and other events and programs. For more information, visit [eastonpartnership.org](http://eastonpartnership.org).