



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **FAYETTE COUNTY ANNOUNCES LSA GRANT FUNDING RECIPIENTS**

**Uniontown, PA** – The Fayette County Board of Commissioners unveiled their 2024-25 Local Share Account (LSA) Award recipients during a ceremony Tuesday morning at the Gallatin Building in Uniontown.

Last fall, commissioners Scott Dunn, Vince Vicites and Dave Lohr selected the LSA grant recipients from a pool of 62 applicants. The chosen projects then were submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) for final approval.

Fayette County Redevelopment Authority Executive Director Andrew French, who served as master of ceremonies at Tuesday's event, noted the grants are funded via the county's portion of gaming tax revenues from Lady Luck Casino at Nemaquin Resort.

"The primary benefit is the flexibility of the program in terms of the types of projects and initiatives it's able to fund," French said. He added that though the DCED has final approval and certain requirements must be followed, "the actual types (of projects) are extremely flexible. I think you see that in the list of projects that were selected."

Commissioners awarded a total of \$619,160 to 25 applicants. The projects honored include:

- Hranec Corporation Business Expansion, \$25,000
- Nicholson Township Equipment Purchase, \$30,000
- Fayette County Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative, \$50,000
- Troop B Camp Cadet, \$10,000
- Crime Stoppers Community Awareness Project, \$10,000
- Franklin Township Act 537 Plan Revision Update, \$10,000
- Youghiogheny Trailrace Cooperative Trout Nursery, \$10,000
- Brownfield Community Center HVAC Improvements, \$25,000
- Masontown Senior Center Kitchen Equipment, \$13,000
- Vaganova Academy of Brownsville Outreach Performances, \$10,000
- Uniontown Hospital Imaging Equipment Purchase, \$50,000
- Carnegie Free Library Facade Improvement Project, Connellsville, \$25,000
- Connellsville Township VFD Building Improvements, \$35,000
- Sheepskin Trail Right-of-Way Acquisitions, 45,000
- Dunbar Township Building Energy Efficiency Improvements, \$28,000
- New Salem Community Park Upgrades, \$10,000
- Republic VFD Building Improvements, \$22,000

- Saltlick Lads and Lasses Little League Renovations, \$25,000
- Hopwood VFD Social Hall Improvements, \$14,000
- AME Zion Church Improvement Project, \$35,000
- Family Service Center Parking Improvements, \$16,000
- Davidson Avenue/Race Street Storm Sewer Improvements, City of Connellsville, \$37,202
- Beaver Creek Road Repairs, Henry Clay Township, \$22,000
- Liberty Street Sidewalk Improvements, Perryopolis Borough, \$13,000
- Route 201 Tank Solar Power Installation, \$20,000

All Fayette County municipalities, as well as nonprofit and community organizations and redevelopment authorities, are eligible to apply for the program and are encouraged to apply for multiple years. In fact, French said, commissioners have helped fund some projects, including Crime Stoppers and Troop B Camp Cadet, a weeklong summer camp sponsored by the Pennsylvania State Police, for a number of years.

“Just given the number of applications that we receive each year, and the level of funding that’s required, clearly demonstrates that there’s a need for this,” French said.

French noted the Youghiogheny Trailrace Cooperative Trout Nursery is a first-time recipient. “It’s not a large investment, but that will actually help support their operations for two seasons,” he said.

Commissioner Vicites said he and his fellow commissioners try to leverage the funding to maximize its impact.

“The LSA Program helps complete vital projects that are of interest to the community,” he said.

“Geographically, we have helped every area in Fayette County throughout the last several years with our program.”

Vicites said rather than focus only on fully funding projects, the commissioners also like to award grants to organizations that “just need a little extra bit.”

One such project is the Carnegie Free Library’s facade replacement. Library Board of Trustees President John Malone said the project will cost a total of about \$350,000. The board has applied for a number of other grants, including a \$175,000 Keystone Preservation Grant and a statewide LSA grant. The \$25,000 will help shore up the funding for the needed work on the historic building.

“We’ve got to get that fixed so the library can last another hundred years,” Malone said.

Commissioner Chairman Dunn said the LSA Program funds “projects of community importance,” including parks and playgrounds, as well as offsetting costs for crucial needs such as new water lines.”

“This reinvestment into our community helps make Fayette County a more attractive place to live and work,” Dunn said. He noted many municipalities simply do not have the resources to fund projects other than those that are strictly necessary.

The LSA Program, he said, can help “fund the wants and wish lists; the extra things that truly can transform a community.”

Commissioner Dave Lohr said Fayette County is fortunate to have the LSA program.

“I can’t overstate the importance of LSA as a mechanism by which the Commissioners are able to provide immediate, tangible support for community projects,” said Lohr. “With LSA funds, we’re able to help communities move forward with projects they could not otherwise afford that benefit those communities in the areas of community improvement, economic development, and the like.”

“I’m always mindful of my duty to be fiscally responsible, and I strive to get the most bang for the buck out of every available funding source and every project funded,” Lohr continued. “LSA grant recipients are right here at home, in this community, in the organizations serving this community. LSA funding directly impacts the community, and it’s the people of Fayette County, those who live and work here, who benefit.”

Since its inception, the Local Share Account Program has awarded more than \$6.7 million to 190 applicants. For more information, contact the Fayette County Redevelopment Authority at 724-437-1547 or visit [www.racfpa.org](http://www.racfpa.org).

To learn more about Fayette County, visit [www.fayettecountypa.org](http://www.fayettecountypa.org).

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