



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FAYETTE COUNTY LAUNCHES VISIONING PROCESS TO GUIDE LONG-TERM GROWTH AND INVESTMENT

Uniontown, PA – Fayette County has formally launched a comprehensive countywide visioning process aimed at identifying long-term priorities, strengthening economic resilience, and positioning the county to compete for future state and federal investment. The initiative is fully funded through an external grant, ensuring that no local taxpayer dollars are being used for the effort.

A visioning plan of this type is especially important for small, economically challenged counties because it creates a clear, coordinated roadmap for progress rather than relying on fragmented or reactive efforts. It uses data, not assumptions, to define the county's real challenges and opportunities, and it demonstrates to state and federal funders that Fayette County is prepared, focused, and ready to compete. Without this kind of unified strategy, communities often miss out on transformational investment simply because they cannot show alignment or long-term planning.

To lead this work, Fayette County has contracted with Fourth Economy, a nationally recognized economic development consulting firm known for its work in rural community revitalization, workforce intelligence, strategic planning, and economic competitiveness. They have partnered with hundreds of counties and regions across the nation and have helped develop award-winning economic development strategies for communities throughout the country. Their expertise in transforming complex local challenges into clear, actionable strategies made them the ideal choice for this initiative.

The project brings together residents, businesses, local governments, nonprofit organizations, and regional partners to create an actionable roadmap for Fayette County's next decade. The initiative will analyze key issues, including housing, workforce development, business growth, infrastructure, outdoor recreation, and community revitalization.

The \$50,000 consulting engagement is funded entirely through a grant specifically designed to assist rural communities with planning and capacity-building, not through local taxpayer dollars.

"Comprehensive planning of this scale requires specialized expertise," said Fayette County Commissioner Chairman, Scott Dunn. "Fourth Economy brings proven experience, sophisticated data analysis, and nationally benchmarked best practices that simply aren't

available through in-house capacity. Their neutral, professional approach ensures the process is credible, inclusive, and positioned to attract future investment.”

This planning process will emphasize community engagement, economic data modeling, and the development of realistic strategies that align with market opportunities. These strengths will help Fayette County better understand its challenges and opportunities in areas such as workforce, housing, infrastructure, and business development.

“This visioning plan is essential to helping us clearly define Fayette County’s priorities and set a unified direction,” said Fayette County Commissioner Vice Chairman, Vince Vicites. “With Fourth Economy’s leadership and the support of grant funding, we have a unique opportunity to build a roadmap shaped by facts, community voice, and expert insight.”

The countywide visioning process will include public engagement opportunities, listening sessions, surveys, and stakeholder meetings. Community input will play a central role in shaping the final plan.

“Fayette County deserves a forward-looking, evidence-based plan that positions us for success,” said Fayette County Commissioner, Harry Kaufman. “This initiative, guided by a nationally respected team, is about building a stronger, more resilient, and more competitive future for everyone who calls Fayette County home.”

Additional information, including opportunities for residents to participate, will be announced in the coming weeks.

To learn more about Fayette County, visit www.fayettecountypa.org.

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This communication is part of the Fayette County PR Initiative, which is funded through the Fayette County Local Share Account (LSA) and Hotel Tax Grants in cooperation with the Fayette County Board of Commissioners, Fayette Chamber of Commerce, The Redevelopment Authority of the County of Fayette, The Redstone Foundation and other partners. This funding has been designated for the continued promotion and marketing of Fayette County, PA.

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