Warren County Comprehensive Plan Update
Adopted Plan: September 2023 (amended June 2024)

This plan was prepared by:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Warren County Comprehensive Plan Update was prepared on behalf of the Warren County Board of Commissioners, by the Warren County Planning and Zoning Commission and the Planning and Zoning Department with the assistance of many groups, organizations and individuals.

In particular, the following persons deserve recognition for dedicating their time and efforts:

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

Tricia Durbin, Chair

Ben Kafferlin, Vice Chair

Jeff Eggleston

WARREN COUNTY PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT:

Dan Glotz, Director

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Todd Hendricks

Gary E. Olson

Jacob Pangborn

Gary Wareham

William B. Jennings

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY OF WARREN, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA APPROVING 2023 WARREN COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (Act 1968. P.L. 805, No. 247 as reenacted and amended) requires that counties prepare and adopt a comprehensive plan and that municipal plans be generally consistent with the adopted comprehensive plan; and,

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission, with assistance from staff of the Warren County Planning and Zoning Department, has the duty of preparing a new Comprehensive Plan for Warren County; and,

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission with the assistance of the staff has prepared a new County Comprehensive Plan in accordance with Section 209.1 and 301 of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code; and,

WHEREAS, the plan has been distributed to all municipalities and school districts in the county, adjacent counties; adjacent municipalities and adjacent school districts for review and comment; and,

WHEREAS, the following documents shall be included by reference; The Warren County Parks, Recreation and Greenways Plan of 2021, Warren County Stormwater Management Plan of 2010, Warren County All-Hazards Mitigation Plan of 2021, Warren County Community Wildfire Protection Plan of 2014, the Northwest Commission Long Range Transportation Plan of 2023, the Pennsylvania WILDS Design Guide; and

WHEREAS, the Warren County Planning Commission has held at least one public meeting in accordance with the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code and has been recommended for adoption by the Warren County Board of Commissioners; and,

WHEREAS, the Warren County Board of Commissioners has held a public hearing pursuant to the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code to consider public comments; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that in accordance with the Section 302 of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, the Board of Commissioners of Warren County accept and adopt the 2023 Warren County Comprehensive Plan.

Adopted this 27th day of September 2023.
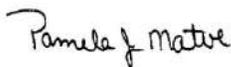
COMMISSIONERS OF WARREN COUNTY
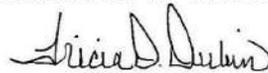
Tricia D. Durbin
Chair

Benjamin Kafferlin
Vice Chair

Attest:

Pamela J. Matve
Chief Clerk

Jeff Eggleston
Commissioner

RESOLUTION (AMENDMENT)

RESOLUTION #3268

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY OF WARREN, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA AMENDING THE 2023 WARREN COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (Act 1968. P.L. 805, No. 247 as reenacted and amended) requires that counties prepare and adopt a comprehensive plan and that municipal plans be generally consistent with the adopted comprehensive plan; and,

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission with the assistance of the staff has prepared a new County Comprehensive Plan in accordance with Section 209.1 and 301 of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code; and,

WHEREAS, the plan has been distributed to all municipalities and school districts in the county, adjacent counties; adjacent municipalities and adjacent school districts for review and comment; and,

WHEREAS, the following amendment has been made to include the addition of a Priority Focus Area item "Protect the tax base of the county"; and

WHEREAS, the Warren County Board of Commissioners has held a public hearing pursuant to the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code to consider public comments; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that in accordance with the Section 302 of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, the Board of Commissioners of Warren County accept and adopt the amendment to the 2023 Warren County Comprehensive Plan to include "Protect the tax base of the county.

Adopted this 12th day of June 2024.

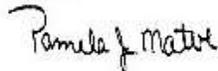COMMISSIONERS OF WARREN COUNTY

Kenneth L. Klakamp
Chair
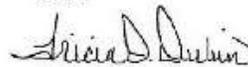
Tricia D. Durbin
Vice Chair

Attest:

Pamela J. Matve
Chief Clerk

Daniel Glotz
Commissioner

Contents

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Introduction

PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

What's all this, anyway?

The Comprehensive Plan is an official statement setting forth basic policies concerning physical development and social and economic goals within Warren County, Pennsylvania. It is typically general in nature, with both short-term and long-range goals in its recommendations, and considers all factors affecting growth and development. While some view its function as a general guide or framework for the future growth and development of a community, the plan does include specific recommendations for the County to take that will implement the vision set forth.

The Warren County Comprehensive Plan is a factual report that examines how the past has led to the present, as well as a tool that can be used to chart Warren County's path into the future. The plan has been developed using an implementable plan approach. This means that the process identified the most important issues facing the County and developed recommendations to address these issues. While the plan focuses on major issues and is not necessarily divided into plan elements, all the requirements of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) have been met.

The implementable plan approach

Use a simple linear approach that matches what elected officials and citizens think.

Focus on relevant, real community issues; not issues created as part of a template for all possible communities.
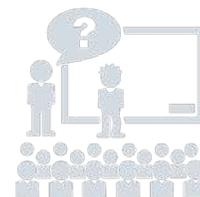
Prioritize a manageable amount of practical and workable recommendations that can be developed in much greater detail than traditional plans.

Integrate the recruitment of volunteers to create additional capacity for implementation and become cheerleaders for the vision and policy established by the planning process.

Garner support of many, creating ownership in the plan.

HISTORY

The earliest documented history of Warren County, Pennsylvania, dates back to the Paleo and Archaic eras uncovered during an archaeological dig at the Buckaloons in Brokenstraw Township, 8,000 BC. The 1941 Sugar Run Mounds excavation in the Kinzua area uncovered the existence of the Hopewellian peoples in the northeast corner of the county between 200 BC through 500 AD. A 1964 discovery by Dr. Stanley Lantz led to a 30-year excavation project that proved the existence of a prehistoric Native American culture that occupied the Middle Allegheny River region between 960 and 1360 AD.

In the Sixteenth Century, the Seneca tribe, part of the Iroquois Nation, controlled the area, and in 1749, French explorer Celeron de Blainville led an expedition sent by the new French government to establish sovereignty. Celeron buried a lead plate near the mouth of the Conewango Creek to signify France's sovereignty. During the ensuing years, after the French influence ended and the Revolutionary War had begun, Cornplanter, the most noted Seneca Chief, aligned with the British. After the war, Chief Cornplanter became a defender of the new American government and in 1796, the government gifted him and his heirs several parcels of land. The Cornplanter Grant, located in Warren County, became his home until his death in 1836.

In 1795, the town of Warren was laid out by General William Irvine and surveyor Andrew Ellicott. Warren's first structure was a log building erected by the Holland Land Company as a supply depot. In about 1806, the first settlers began to locate in Warren, and the town was incorporated as a borough in 1832. The earliest inhabitants were Scotch-Irish, followed by successive waves of immigrants from Germany, Sweden, and Italy.

In 1797, John Chapman, aka Appleseed, spent the winter in the Brokenstraw Valley bunking with Mathew Young, Youngsville's namesake, and planted his first apple orchard near Garland. This was the location of the first store in Warren County.

In 1800, Warren County was formed. Nine hundred two square miles were erected out of Lycoming and Allegheny Counties by an act of legislature. From 1800 to 1805, Warren County was attached to Crawford County for judicial purposes, and from 1805 to 1819, to Venango County. In 1819, after a sufficient increase in population, Warren County was established bordering on the north by New York State, on the east by McKean County, on the west by Crawford and Erie Counties, and on the south by Venango and Forest Counties. Originally, hardwood forest covered much of the western portion, while large stands of pine and hemlock grew in the creek alleys and southeast of the Allegheny River. The river and its three major tributaries in Warren County—the Conewango, Brokenstraw and Kinzua Creeks—were natural waterways for the rafting of lumber, which was the county's main industry for many years. Sawing and rafting of lumber continued to be a major activity late in the 1800s. Prior to 1830, only the keelboat provided two-way river transportation from Pittsburgh. Following 1830, with the arrival of the steamer "Allegheny," a succession of steamboats from Pittsburgh served as transportation until the early 1860s, just a few years after the Sunbury and Erie Railroad was completed from Erie to Warren.

Beginning in 1826, stagecoaches operated for over 75 years in Warren County, running between Dunkirk and Warren, Franklin and Warren, and Sugar Grove and Jamestown.

In 1854, the Miller and Younie families of Sugar Grove hosted the June 17 & 18 Abolitionist Convention that was attended by Frederick Douglas who later reported in his newspaper The North Star that it was, "The Crowning Convention of Them All!"

After the 1859 discovery of oil in neighboring Venango County, the Tidioute Grandin family became the second to drill for oil prompting the onset of many oil boom towns in the area. The first free flowing oil well in the world was drilled in Tidioute on August 13, 1860. In 1861, Henry R. Rouse suffered fatal burns in an oil well fire, leaving his estate to the improvement of roads and bridges and aiding the poor of Warren County. His legacy is still active today.

By the 1880s, Warren had become a hub of railroads leading in all directions, farming began to flourish, the manufacturing of furniture and other wood products expanded; large tanning operations in the Sheffield area expanded; the fabrication of products from iron began its steady climb; and, as time progressed, 13 refineries existed within an eight-mile radius of Warren.

In 1923, the Allegheny National Forest was established as a result of the 1911 Congressional Act. Due to 80 years of timber removal for many different uses, the once lush forest land had become greatly depleted leaving barren hillsides as far as the eye could see. The motto "Land of Many Uses" was adopted and the goal of a healthy, vigorous forest that provides wood products, watershed protection, a variety of wildlife habitats and recreational opportunities became sustainable. The establishment of the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s proved to be advantageous for the area's forests as well.

In 1965, the Kinzua Dam and Allegheny Reservoir were built to provide flood and pollution control from Warren to Pittsburgh. The dam became a great source of hydropower and one of the most popular recreational areas in the northeast United States. The remainder of the dry land was integrated into Mead Township, and the Cornplanter heirs were alleviated of their ancestral land.

In 1999, the National Park Service listed the Warren Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places, denoting almost 600 structures within the City of Warren as historically significant. In 2021, Tidioute and Youngsville were named "Heart & Soul" communities by PA Humanities and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

(Courtesy of The Warren County Historical Society)

PLANNING FRAMEWORK

The Comprehensive Plan serves as a blueprint for the County that anticipates and prepares for the future based on issues, trends, needs and opportunities identified during the planning process. This information comes from not only data collection and stakeholder outreach, but also from understanding the existing context of local planning. This document incorporates and updates the objectives, policies and land use recommendations of several previous studies, listed as follows among the elements that factored into the development of the Comprehensive Plan. Warren County has chosen to update various elements of its 2005 Comprehensive Plan through additional plans and studies.

Comprehensive Plan, 2005

The County's 2005 Comprehensive Plan established goals and existing conditions for various plan elements including:

- Land Use

- Housing

- Historic Preservation

- Transportation

- Community Facilities and Utilities

- Economic Development

The plan also developed an implementation plan that outlined priority recommendations for each plan element in terms of immediate, short term, long term, and ongoing time frames.

Community Wildfire Protection Plan, 2014

The strategy outlined in this document provides a realistic approach for reducing fires on federal lands by focusing on specific goals that address the multiple factors that influence fire treatments and by working collaboratively to achieve them.

Pennsylvania Wilds Design Guide, 2017

The Design Guide was created to encourage positive design characteristics for projects within the 12 county PA Wilds Region. It includes guiding principles along with guidelines and a toolbox with techniques to implement the strategies.
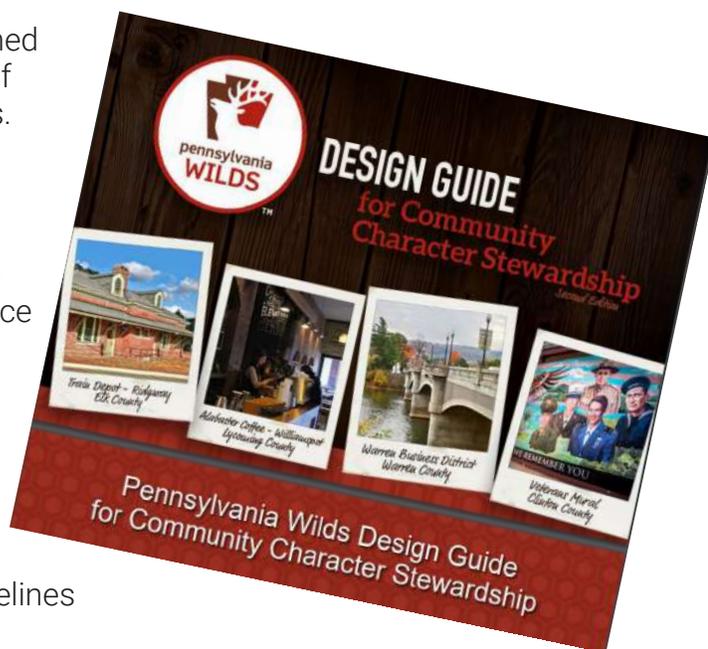
Warren County Human Services Summit Report, 2018

The Summit allowed a rare opportunity to bring together leaders from businesses, non-profit organizations and governmental agencies providing human services in Warren County, as well as, clients and family members of those receiving services. These individuals came together united by the goal of assessing the state of human services delivery in the Forest/Warren area and creating a plan of action to better engage youth and families with human service offerings. Fundamentally, they want to provide a more fulfilling and rich experience for service recipients and service providers.

Warren County Marketing Taskforce Report, 2018

This report was created to generate recommendations for Warren County to improve tourism, encourage economic development and investment, and workforce recruitment. These recommendations included actionable and achievable projects that can make an immediate impact on the aesthetics, efficiency, and effectiveness of the general efforts to market and promote the entirety of Warren County, Pennsylvania.

Warren County Hazard Mitigation Plan, 2021

The 2021 Warren County Hazard Mitigation Plan is a living document that reflects ongoing hazard mitigation activities and requires monitoring, evaluating, and updating to ensure the mitigation actions are implemented. To facilitate the hazard mitigation planning process and adhere to regulatory requirements, the plan will be reviewed annually, and any major revisions will be incorporated into the five-year update.

The Northwest Commission 2020-2045 Long Range Transportation Plan

The Long Range Transportation Plan serves as a guidebook for the Northwest Pennsylvania Region's transportation policy and project identification. The Northwest Region includes the five county area of Clarion, Crawford, Forest, Venango and Warren. The plan lists 136 transportation projects of which 15 are located in Warren County (see Appendices for full list).

THE PROCESS

Public involvement is the heart of the comprehensive planning process. It fosters a sense of ownership of the plan in those who contributed to the process. A plan shaped through citizen input is more likely to address the key issues resonating with residents and is more likely to lead to effective implementation. A well-conceived public participation process engages citizens and strengthens communication and coordination between the county and its municipalities.

The Warren County Comprehensive Plan was developed through a public involved planning approach, which is the most important component of an implementable plan. Residents, business owners, stakeholders and government officials were given multiple opportunities to voice their opinions and provide feedback throughout the process.

The Warren County Planning Commission staff directed the planning process and participated in regular work sessions to review progress and provide input on specific plan topics. The County Commissioners, Planning Commission Board and various stakeholders were also involved at various stages of the plan's development. The groups that were included in the process can be found in the appendices.

STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

Two stakeholder input sessions were held at the Youngsville Borough Building in October 2021. This purpose of these sessions was to involve key stakeholders throughout the County in the comprehensive planning process. These individuals were specifically invited to this meeting in order to gain their insight, knowledge, and expertise. The main purpose of these focus groups was to identify the major issues facing the county that should be addressed through the Comprehensive Plan. The discussions also focused on identifying assets that should be preserved.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Warren County Planning staff hosted 5 public open houses around the County in September/ October 2022 to gather public opinion on important elements of the plan. These meetings were held at locations throughout the County (Pine Grove, Tidioute, Mead, Columbus, and Youngsville) to give everyone the opportunity to participate. The meetings included a brief presentation on what was gathered to date as well as the following stations: Issues, Assets, Vision, and Targeted Areas for Development/Redevelopment. Attendees could visit the stations and interact one on one with County and consultant staff members.

COUNTY SURVEY

An electronic survey was available from April through October 2022. Over 220 people participated and provided their opinions on what major issues should be included in the plan, how important various transportation corridors and the Allegheny National Forest are for the County as well as where future development/redevelopment should be targeted.

PLANNING TIMELINE

Background research was conducted early in the planning process to collect existing conditions information, which was used to inform the development of goals and objectives. This included the review of existing County plans and documents as well as plans being undertaken by municipalities within the County such as the Warren City Comprehensive Plan and the Columbus Township Comprehensive Plan. Demographic and socioeconomic data was also collected from the US Census and other relevant data sources.

The visioning process occurred once initial background data was collected and assisted in developing a statement regarding the direction the County would like to go over the next 10-15 years. Focus areas for the plan were also developed during this phase.

Project Kick Off

Stakeholder Outreach; Visioning

May 2021   *Summer 2021*   *Fall/Winter 2021/22*

Review Existing Plans; Background Research

Kick-off

The final, and arguably most critical component of the Comprehensive Plan, is the Action Plan. The Action Plan identifies recommendations that should be taken by Warren County to track plan success.

The Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code contains the procedural requirements for adopting the Comprehensive Plan. The County provided the draft plan to all municipalities; County School Districts; adjacent counties, municipalities, and school districts; and the general public for review and then held a public hearing. The plan was adopted by resolution of the Warren County Board of Commissioners on September 27, 2023.

**Develop Vision/Goals
Public Survey**

**Draft and Finalize
Plan; Plan Adoption**

Spring/Summer 2022　　*FallWinter 202223*　　*Spring/Summer 2023*

**Public Open Houses
Develop Recommendations**

Adoption

USING THE PLAN

The Comprehensive Plan not only generates a path for the future, but additionally creates strategy and action steps to transform the vision to reality. The plan provides guidance to community leaders when they make decisions regarding a wide range of issues impacting the county's quality of life. This document can help Warren County and its municipalities make informed decisions regarding policies and regulations to guide future development as well as conservation efforts. In addition, the plan can help to build consensus and cooperation between all levels of government in the county. Thus, the plan offers a blueprint for the future that is relevant to different people in different ways. The following categories describe what the Comprehensive Plan represents from various perspectives and demonstrate how the Comprehensive Plan can help plan for the future.

Downtown Warren City Source : Gary Lester

County Government	Warren County will use its Comprehensive Plan as a unifying context for policy and program development. The Plan will set the course for staff and officials, ensuring that the County's work reflects the collective vision of people living and doing business here. Land use and economic development recommendations, among others, will provide concrete direction for the allocation of resources and energy in achieving the County's goals.
Municipal Government	Local land use controls are the most powerful means by which the Comprehensive Plan can be implemented. The Targeted Areas for Investment Map and related goals depend on decisions regarding zoning and subdivision and land development approvals, as well as resource targeting by the County and other agencies. The Plan does not carry the force of law, but it does provide local leaders with critical regional context to form their own planning processes. The County will collaborate with its municipalities to advance common goals.
Community Organizations	The Comprehensive Plan forms the foundation for more specific planning initiatives, such as single-topic or area-focused plans that local organizations may spearhead or partner with others to implement. The Plan signals to local nonprofit agencies, community groups and other organizations what priorities the County has established for its long term development. The plan also outlines strategies that represent potential partnership opportunities.
Residents and Business Owners	The vision and goals contained in this plan are based on an outreach process designed to reflect the collective values of people who live and work in Warren County. Property owners will play an important role in the implementation of the Plan as they develop, redevelop or conserve land. Hopefully residents and business owners will also monitor implementation activities to ensure that the plan is being utilized.

EXISTING TRENDS & CONDITIONS

Demographic trends

This section highlights demographic information for Warren County currently and over the past decade.

The highlights of existing trends and conditions help to understand what is going on within the County in regard to population characteristics, local economy, and the housing market.

The population decline experienced by Warren County has followed other counties in northwestern Pennsylvania with a decline of around 2,000 people per decade from 1980 - Present.

Population: 38,587

Land area: 884.14 sq. miles

Households: 17,124

Median household income: $52,034

| 1980 | 1990 | 2000 | 2010 | 2020 |

47,449

45,050

43,863

41,815

38,587

Total residents
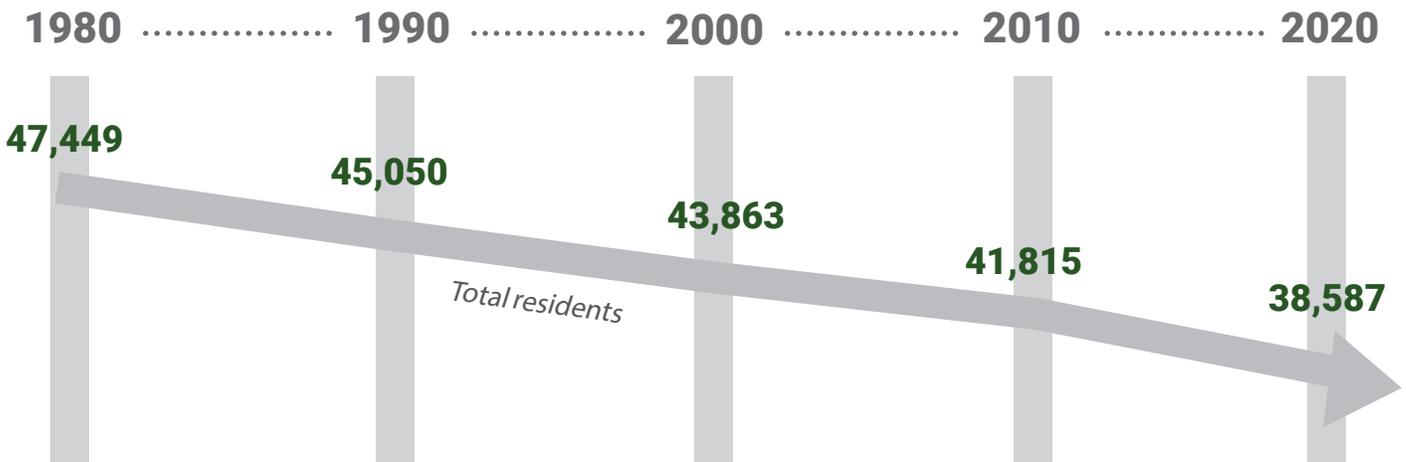
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Warren County's age distribution has been increasing, as is typical of most counties throughout northwestern Pennsylvania, with more older-aged people in 2020 compared to 2010. Ages 60 years and older has seen a significant increase over the last decade gaining 2,473 people (24.2%). The biggest loss was in the 45-54 age group, which decreased by 23.37% from 2010 to 2020. The median age rose from 44.2 in 2010 to 47.4 in 2020 as well.
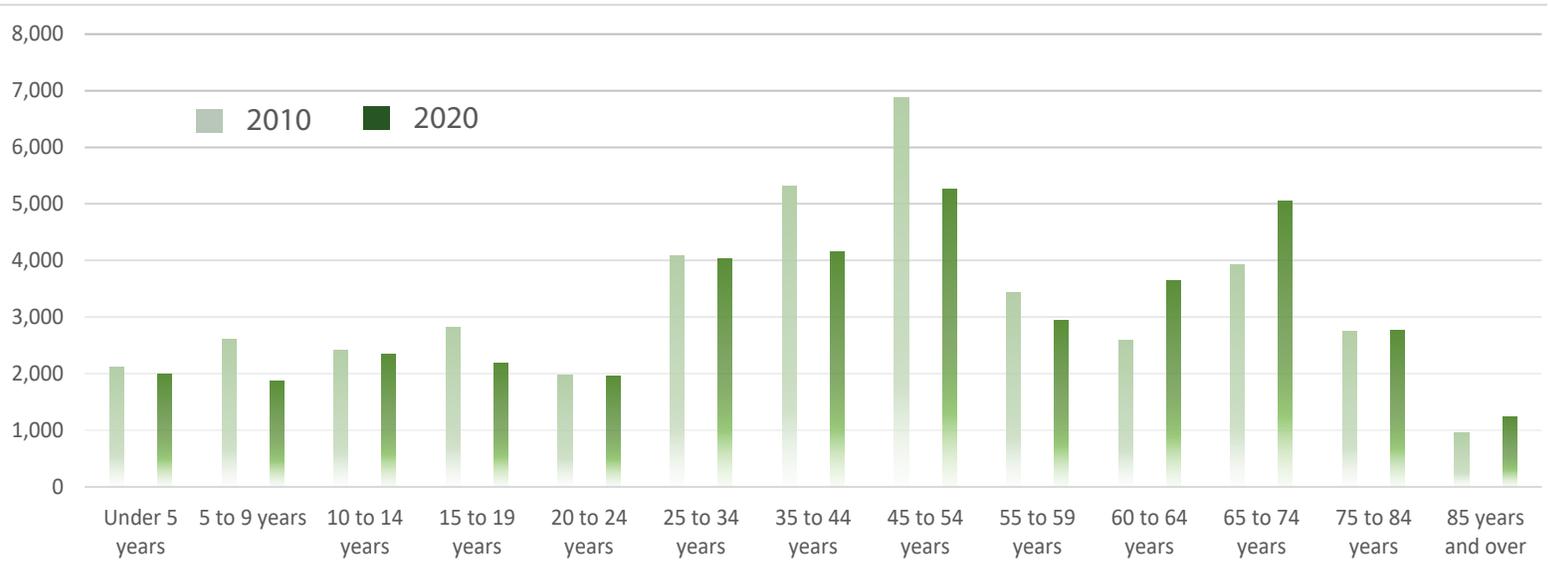
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Five-Year ACS

Household Type

Warren County household types have varied over the last decade. Households that have a male or female householder with no spouse present have risen slightly, while married-couple householders have decreased and non-family households have stayed fairly constant. In 2020, family households accounted for 65% and non-family households accounted for 35% of total households.
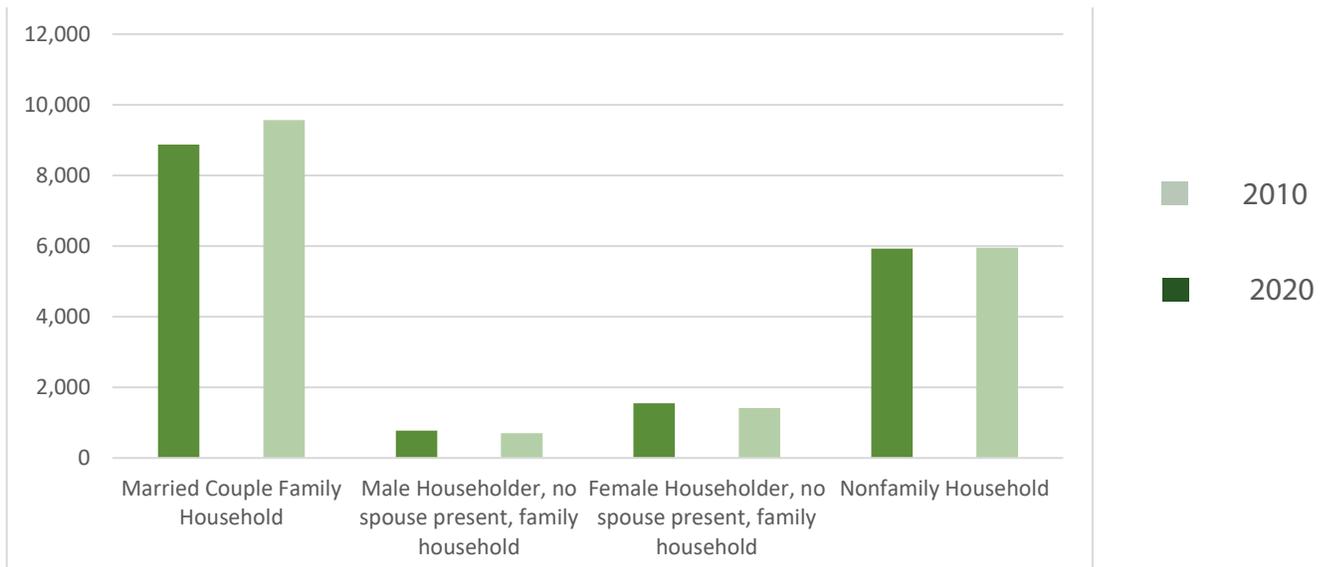
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Five-Year ACS

Diversity within Warren County from 2010 to 2020 has changed with every category except African American and Asian. White Alone had the most dramatic decrease by 11%. Other Races that saw increases include Hispanic or Latino (36%), Some Other Race Alone (145%), Two or More Races (387%).

Race	2010 Population	2020 Population
Total Population	41,816	38,587
Hispanic or Latino	305	415
Population of One Race	41,482	36,964
White Alone	41,031	36,447
Black or African American Alone	149	149
American Indian and Alaska Native Alone	80	76
Asian Alone	157	157
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander Alone	12	5
Some Other Race Alone	53	130
Two or More Races	333	1,623

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Five-Year ACS

Economic trends

The top sectors with high employment rates for Warren County residents include educational services, and health care and social assistance, manufacturing retail trade sector.

The US Census 2021 5-year estimate calculated that there were 17,642 people aged 16 years or older who were in the workforce in Warren County, 81.2% of which were filled by people who live and work there.

With regard to educational attainment, Warren County residents are more educated now than they were in 2010, with 93.2% of those age 25 and over having attained at least a high school diploma and 19.4% with a bachelor's degree or higher (compared to 88.9% and 16.9% in 2010).

11.6% 7.3% **81.2%**

☐ Live in Warren County and work elsewhere

☐ Live in Warren County and work out of state

☐ Live and work in Warren County
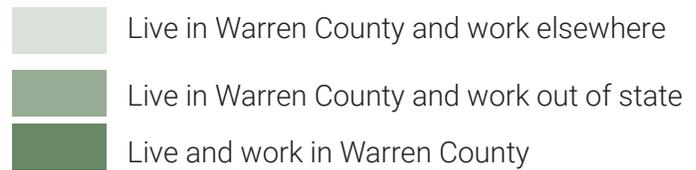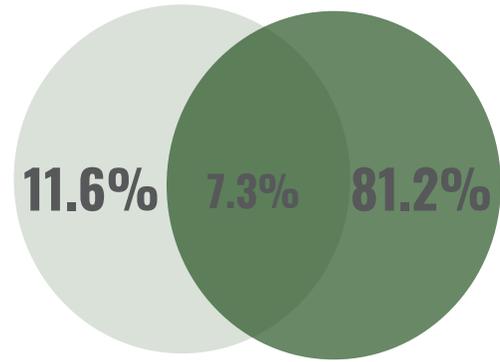
Income

More than half (51.5%) of households in Warren County earn over $50,000 per year, as shown at right. An additional 20.7% of households make less than $25,000, and 17.7% make more than $100,000.

The median household income in 2020 in Warren County is $52,034 which has risen approximately 23% over the last decade (compared to $41,286 in 2010).

Households by income level, 2020

Income level	
$200,000 or more	
$150,000 to $199,999	
$100,000 to $149,999	
$75,000 to $99,999	
$50,000 to $74,999	
$35,000 to $49,999	
$25,000 to $34,999	
$15,000 to $24,999	
$10,000 to $14,999	
Less than $10,000	

0.0%   5.0%   10.0%   15.0%   20.0%   25.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Five-Year ACS

36.2% of **residents work 10 to 24 minutes from home**

21.9% within 10 minutes

19.2% 25 to 44 minutes

5.0% 45 to 59 minutes
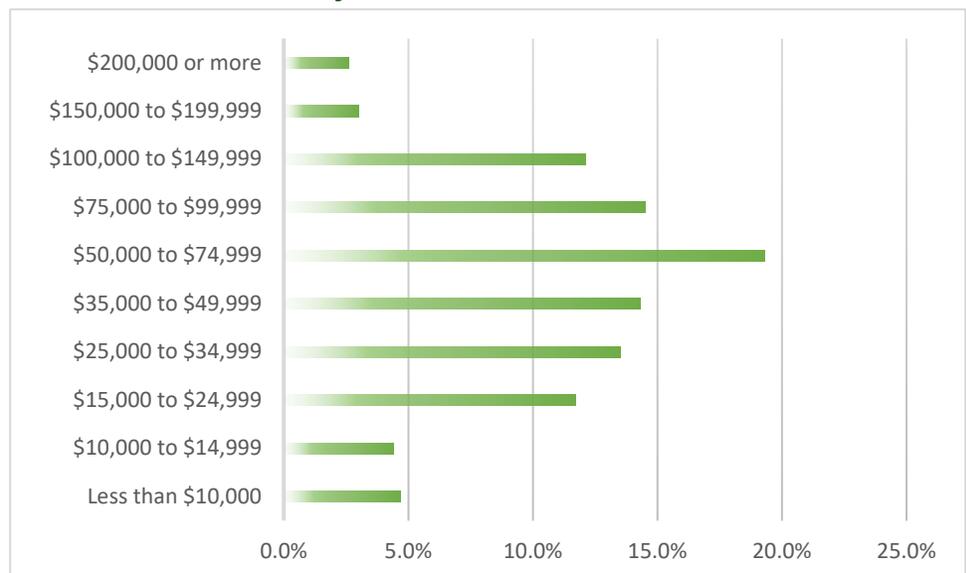
4.5% an hour or more
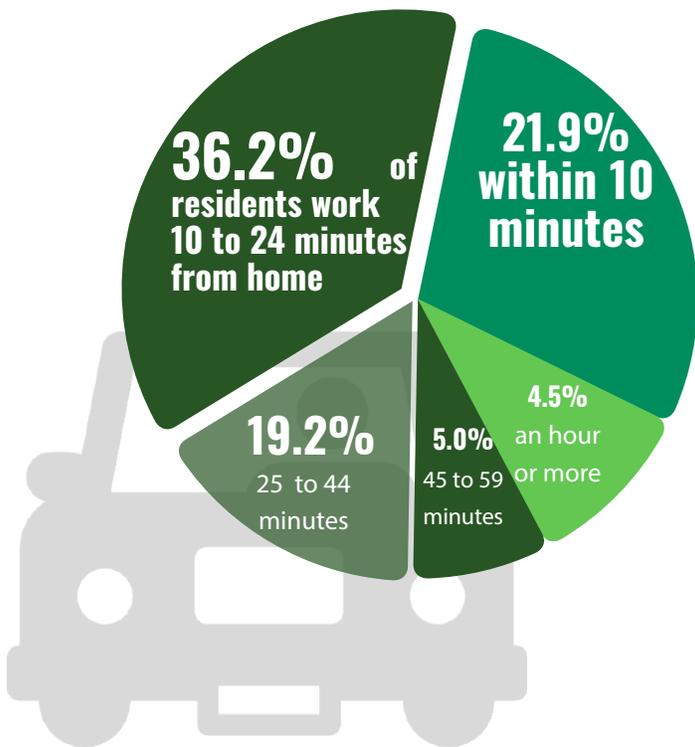
Employed workers in the County commute to a variety of destinations throughout the region. The County's transportation connections afford its workers access to a variety of job markets. 21.9% of the workforce have jobs within 10 minutes of home, as shown at left, while 36.2% work from 10 to 24 minutes away from their homes.

Poverty

Poverty levels in Warren County have risen slightly over the last decade (12.6% in 2020 compared to 12.0% in 2010).

According to the 2020 census, when comparing Warren County's poverty levels, the County is above the averages for Pennsylvania but lower than the United States.

	Warren County	Pennsylvania	United States
Poverty	12.6%	12.0%	12.8%
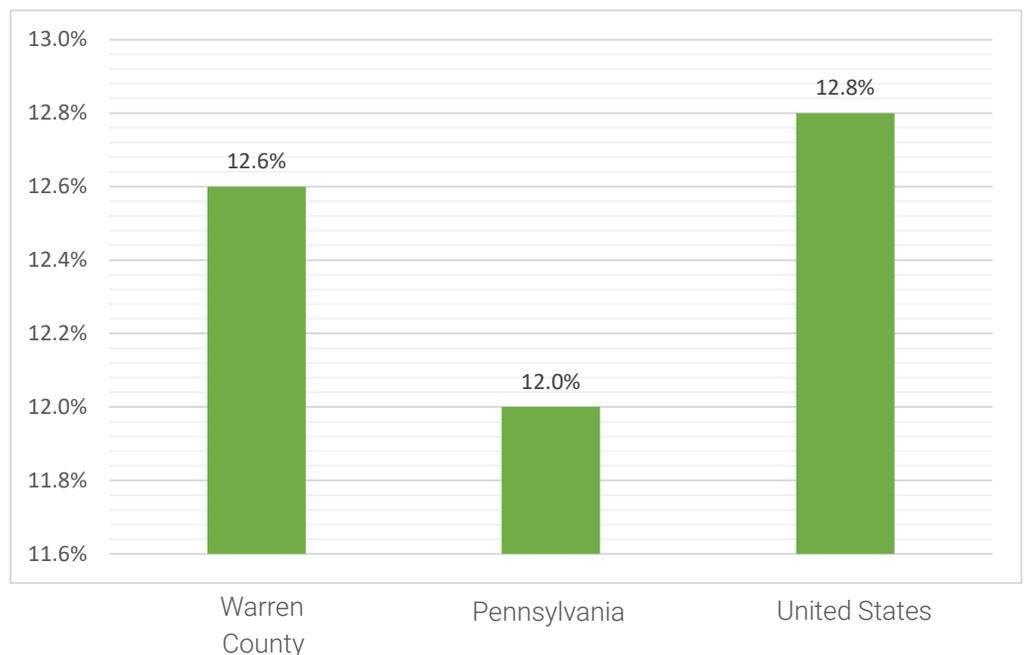
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Five-Year ACS

Housing trends

Total units

The Census Bureau counted 21,587 total housing units across Warren County in 2020, compared to 23,586 in 2010, a decrease of 8.5%.

As the graph below illustrates, housing units in Warren County were primarily constructed earlier than 1939, then steadily declined until an increase from 1960 to 1979, but has continued to decline since that time period.

The County's homes are
22.2% renter-occupied.

Year Structures Built, 1940 - Present

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Five-Year ACS

Costs

Across Warren County, household incomes have kept pace with rising housing costs since 2010. Self-reported housing values climbed by an inflation-adjusted 26.9% and the median rent similarly climbed by 23.7%, the County's median household income also rose by 26%.

Housing costs v. income, 2010 and 2020

	Median housing value	Median gross rent	Median household income
2010	$88,000*	$497*	$41,286*
2020	$111,700	$ 615	$52,034

*Adjusted for inflation
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Five-Year ACS

The Census Bureau estimates that 91.1% of Warren County residents remained in their homes between 2019 and 2020, while 5.4% moved homes within the County, 1.7% moved in from a different county, 1.7% moved in from a different state and 0.1% migrated from abroad.
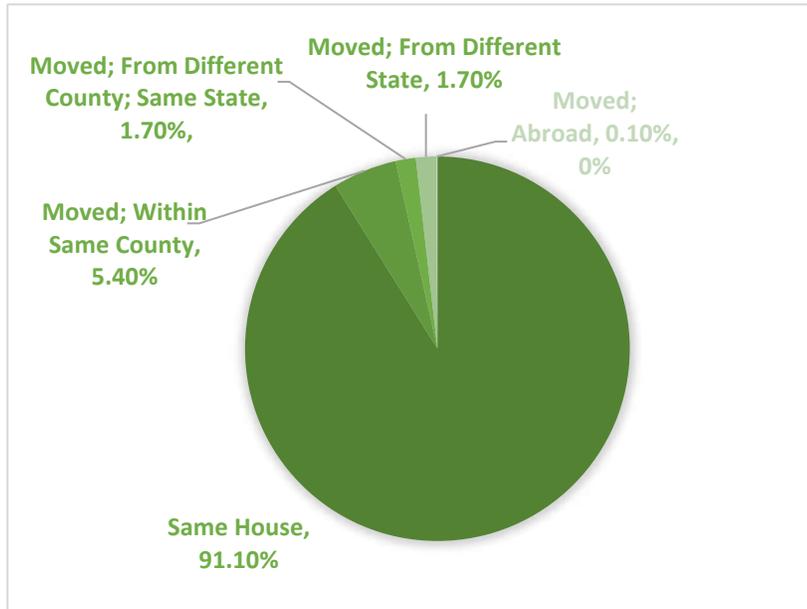
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Five-Year ACS

Housing type and occupancy

Warren County's predominant housing type is single-family detached structures, 78.3% of all homes in the County fell into this category. The next most common type is "Mobile home or other type of housing", which accounted for 7.5% of the housing units, followed by duplex units at 5.2%, and multi-family (10 or more apartments) at 3.6%.

As of 2020, the Census estimated that there were 4,969 vacant housing units in Warren County, comprising 23% of all housing units. Less than half of these were vacant for purposes such as being for sale or rent or for seasonal use, while the remaining units were vacant for "other" reasons, a category that tends to correlate with abandonment.

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Vision & Goals

OVERVIEW

The plan has Priority Focus Areas: Improving Infrastructure, Preserving Natural and Recreational Resources, Attracting New Businesses, Marketing Assets, and Focused Development. Each of these are accompanied by a Goal and subsequent recommendations. A statement was also developed for the plan that symbolizes the Vision for Warren County over the next 10-20 years.

Warren County Vision Statement:

Warren County will build upon its assets, protect its natural and recreational resources and promote its advantages to continue to be a vibrant and prosperous place to live, work and visit by encouraging projects and policies that will improve and build upon:

- **The County's natural beauty: the four seasons and its location nestled in the heart of the Allegheny National Forest**

- **The abundance of outdoor recreation: land and water opportunities such as flowing rivers; hiking and camping; hunting and fishing; municipal parks and local/regional trail access**

- **The historical heritage: historic architecture and ties to the oil and lumber industries**

- **The cultural and philanthropic community: Warren Gives; the Community Foundation; and the United Fund Torchlight Campaign**

- **The sense of community and small-town feel: community events such as Front Porch Days; long time residents and close-knit places where everyone knows their neighbors**

- **The affordability: low cost of living and housing**

- **The safety: low crime rates; municipal and county police forces; volunteer fire departments**

- **The entrepreneurial opportunities: most of the successful existing major businesses were started in Warren County and new creative businesses include Innovault Co-Working Space**

GOALS & GUIDING PRINCIPLES

A Place with a Healthy Economy

Goal: *Growing new opportunities while reinforcing strong connections with existing business and industry.*

Guiding Principles:

- Attract new businesses while supporting existing

- Revitalize downtowns and village centers

- Support existing and new workforce and job training initiatives

- Promote small business and entrepreneurial efforts

A Place with a High Quality of Life

Goal: Provide increased high quality of life for residents and visitors through the expanded infrastructure and promotion of County resources.

Guiding Principles:

- Increase broadband access

- Encourage the use of renewable energy sources

- Market County assets

- Support diverse housing options

A Beautiful Place to Visit

Goal: Expand opportunities to support tourism while protecting natural and recreational resources.

Guiding Principles:

- Promote tourism/recreation options
- Preserve rural character
- Utilize the Warren County Parks, Recreation and Greenways Plan as a guide for enhancing recreational facilities within the County.

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Priority Focus Areas

A Place with a Healthy Economy

Goal: Growing new opportunities and reinforcing strong connections with business and industry

Economic vitality will be an integral component of Warren County's future growth. Accordingly, a strategy for future prosperity must build upon the business and employment opportunities available here now and projected trends. The County's plan to provide a healthy economy is centered around the following concepts:

- Attracting new business and industry into the County to provide increased employment opportunities.

- Providing comprehensive workforce development and job training to equip students/ workers to increase the overall workforce participation rate and reduce the unemployment rate.

- Encouraging development/redevelopment in existing areas.

- Supporting entrepreneurial efforts to support small business development at the local level.

Support existing businesses and attract new business and industry into Warren County.

Target Areas:

The map on page 37 illustrates the Targeted Areas of investment for Warren County. They include the following:

- Columbus

- Sugar Grove

- US Route 62 Corridor (Russell/North Warren/Warren)

- US Route 6 (Starbrick Corridor/ Youngsville/Brokenstraw/Pittsfield)

- Sheffield/Clarendon Corridor

- Tidioute

Why this is important:

- The County's workforce is affected by an aging population. The median age in the county rose from 44 in 2010 to 47 in 2020.

- The County saw a net increase of over 100 jobs in each of the following industries over the last decade: Manufacturing; Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities; Finance and Insurance; Health Care and Social Assistance; and Public Administration

  The largest job losses occurred in the Retail Trade; Information; and Educational Services.

- Unemployment has declined by 1.7 percent over the last decade but is still slightly higher than the state.

- The top three industries by employment (over 1,000 jobs each) provide medium to low annual wages. These include manufacturing ($40,000); retail trade ($21,000); and health care and social assistance ($30,000).

- The top two industries by annual wage represent only a small share of total employment. These include utilities and mining, quarrying and oil/gas extraction; each of which employ less than 300 people.

What the County should do:

1. Coordinate community development efforts throughout the County.

   - Warren Worx (see graphic below) is a committee being developed by the Warren County Chamber of Business and Industry in conjunction with a number of partners such as Warren County, Warren City, the Warren County Visitors Bureau, the Warren County School District, and the Allegheny National Forest. The committee is still being developed and is looking for additional partners.

- The purpose of Warren Worx is to bring Warren County entities together on a regular basis with a common agenda to work collaboratively and reduce redundancy, primarily with projects and funding.

- The idea is for everyone to retain their independent organization, but dedicating time, resources and funding to agreed upon initiatives.

- This committee is an ideal partner to assist with implementing priority recommendations from the Comprehensive Plan (this may include action items from other Focus Areas in Comprehensive Plan).

WCCBI would act as facilitator/aggregator, providing oversite and direction

All entities build & agree to overall brand platform & key pillars

Consistency & alignment, no deviation

All entities go after funding, share resources, work to create efficiencies & remove redundancies

All entities keep their individual budgets & strategic plans but dedicate a piece (time & resources to fulfilling a key initiative

2. Market the availability and assets of existing downtown and employment centers.

- Develop marketing information that includes:

  » Information on incentive funding opportunities and other programs for business and industry looking to locate in Warren County.

  » A checklist for potential developers and businesses consisting of demographics, socioeconomics, site amenities, permitting, utilities, communication, tax rates and zoning.

  » A map identifying potential development areas including infrastructure and potential sites.

3. Work collaboratively with municipalities and other organizations to encourage the redevelopment of vacant and underutilized sites.

- The former Blair site, located on US 62 in Pleasant Township, has been identified as an opportunity for redevelopment. Currently the site is privately owned and about 400,000 square feet of the south building is being utilized for warehousing by several companies. Other options are being actively pursued for the remaining space in the north building.

- Plan for the reuse of retail centers as they become vacant and are no longer viable retail centers. With major retail closures all around the country, it is likely that the County will experience an increase in vacant shopping centers.

4. Support the expansion of public water and sewer coverage to encourage economic development in priority areas.

- The lack of infrastructure has been cited as an issue that limits economic development in the County.

- The Warren County Board of Commissioners and County Planning Commission along with Economic Development Organizations in the County should annually review and prioritize public infrastructure projects to expand coverage to future growth areas. This review should include input from the municipalities and municipal authorities/utility companies.

- Update and maintain the countywide geographic information system (GIS) maps showing coverage areas for public water and public sewer service to assist with marketing efforts of development sites. Ensure that the map is updated annually and provided to municipalities and other organizations for their review.

- The county should support a regional or countywide approach that aggregates infrastructure projects so larger funding sources can be pursued. Neighboring Counties, such as Crawford County, have expressed interest in partnering in this endeavor.

Issues/Obstacles:

- Location. Warren County is not located near any major interstate system, which can limit business and industry development.

- Cost. The cost to expand infrastructure is high and there is limited financing available.
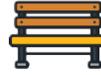
Benchmarks for Success:

- Decreased unemployment rate.

- Increased occupancy rates in business parks.

- Increased net jobs in target sectors.

- Increased median household income.

- Reduction in energy costs due to the installation of alternative energy systems.
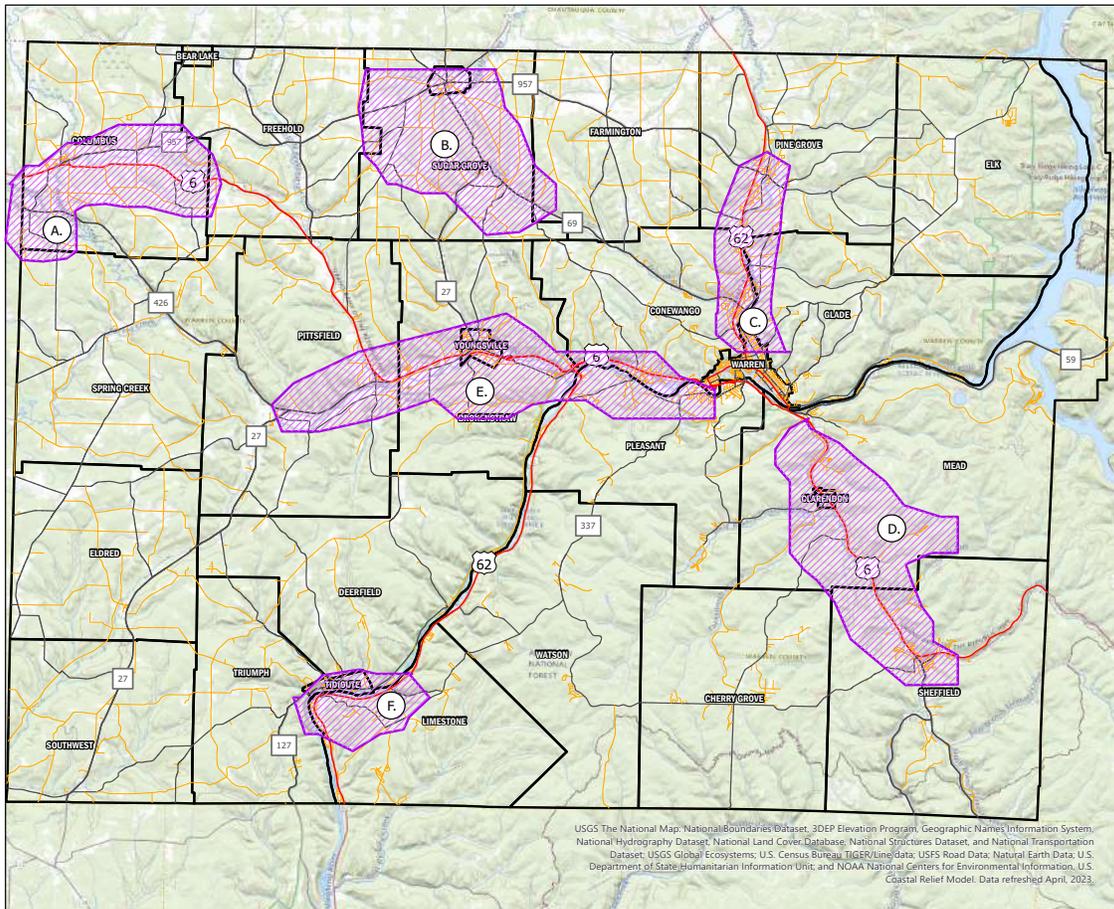
Warren County Targeted Growth Areas

Targeted Areas

A. - Columbus
B. - Sugar Grove
C. - Russell/North Warren/ Warren Rt 62 Corridor
D. - Sheffield/Clarendon Corridor
E. - Starbrick Corridor/ Youngsville/Brokenstraw/ Pittsfield Region (Rt 6)
F. - Tidioute

US Highway
State Roads
Local Roads

0   1.25 2.5   5
Miles

MACKIN
ENGINEERS & CONSULTANTS

Date: 7/17/2023

Improve workforce development and job training.

Target Areas:

- Countywide

Why this is important:

- Throughout the process, it was noted that there is a separation between available employment opportunities and workforce readiness. This could be due to a number of factors including lack of awareness, lack of skills, or lack of interest.

- The County's labor force participation rate is about 57%, compared to about 63% in the state and across the U.S.

- The median household income in the County is about $52,000, which is lower than the state at about $64,000.

- The County offers the following workforce development / job training resources:

  » The Northwest PA Job is the Workforce Investment Board for northwest Pennsylvania. They provide resources for employers, job seekers and youth. Some of the programs they offer are: incumbent worker training and career pathways which matches students with local apprenticeships.

  » The Northwest Commission has recently developed action teams to work on priority issues throughout the region. One of the action teams is focused on workforce development and education.

  » Warren Forest Higher Education Council strives to enhance personal and professional growth through identifying, coordinating and implementing quality and diverse educational training with equal access for all.

  » Warren County School District and Career Center offers training opportunities for high school students in various employment sectors (see Appendices for more information).

  » Northwest Pennsylvania Regional College, located in Warren, provides affordable and accessible post-secondary education. They offer Associate Degrees, Certificates as well as workforce training and support services.

What the County should do:

1. Coordinate with existing organizations on workforce development and job training programs.

   • As mentioned on the previous page, there are many organizations in the County and region focused on assisting with job connections and workforce development. The County should continue to support these efforts by serving on their boards and committees and providing resources when needed.

2. Assist with marketing available jobs.

   • Public input indicated residents who are in the market for positions are not aware of all available opportunities. Addressing this could be a matter of improving advertising and outreach. The Warren County Chamber of Business and Industry does provide information regarding job availability so working with them to broaden the outreach and provide additional training on 'how to look for a job" would be beneficial.

   • The marketing effort should be coordinated with workforce development organizations in the County and aimed at existing workers as well as college and high school students.

   • The County Library system can be further utilized as a resource to help job seekers by providing a place where people can use the internet to search for jobs.

3. Continue to support the school district, the workforce training organizations, and post-secondary institutions that offer job training and skills curriculum for junior and senior high school students (in addition to vocational schools).

   • The Bureau of Labor Statistics provides data that supports all the theories about the future of medicine. Employment of healthcare occupations is projected to grow much faster than the average for all occupations due to an aging population. This career should continue to be a focus for educational facilities.

   • The Warren County School District offers training in many occupations such as health care, metal shops, crafting and STEM fields in cooperation with the Warren County Career Center.

Issues/Obstacles:

   • Lack of interest to participate in workforce.

   • Regional competition. Other areas may have established employment opportunities taking away from the county's efforts.

   • Educational attainment. Warren County's Bachelor's Degree attainment is about half of the rate for Pennsylvania.

Benchmarks for Success:

   • Increased employment in a variety of industries.

   • Increased enrollment in job training.

Promote the redevelopment and revitalization of existing centers.

Target Areas:

- Downtowns and Village Centers

- Employment Centers

Why this is important:

- Supports smart growth concepts, which is an approach to development that encourages a mix of building types and uses, diverse housing and transportation options, development within existing neighborhoods and community engagement.

- Available capital and resources. Downtown and village areas have existing infrastructure in place (public water, sewer, cellular and broadband coverage). They also have an existing housing stock to accommodate workers and an available pool of potential workforce.

- City of Warren is the hub of Warren County and should be a partner in redevelopment efforts.

What the County should do:

1. Redevelop first. Focus on infill development before expanding greenfield development.

   - Develop mailers and associated information on the County's webpage targeted to light industrial users outside of, but near Warren County. The recipients should be medium to large size companies located in areas with higher land and tax costs.

   - Prepare a quarterly e-mail blast to commercial and industrial real estate brokers in the region to provide updated information concerning availability, lease and land purchase pricing and incentives associated with available light industrial/office space in Warren County.

2. Encourage downtown centers to reduce barriers to infill development by offering faster approval process.

   - Developers and real estate agents prefer to work in communities that have clear and concise regulations. There are some ways that the development process could be streamlined to make it easier such as defining and regulating minor subdivisions and land developments to reduce the approval process and/or allowing for exemptions from the land development approval process for minor expansions.

3. Assist the Downtown Centers with establishing/updating their vision and goals to encourage private investment that supports those visions.

- The City of Warren's recent Comprehensive Plan identified the Downtown as a primary area of focus for redevelopment.

- Tidioute and Youngsville are part of the Heart and Soul Program, which is a resident driven process that engages the entire population of a town in identifying what they love most about their community, what they want for the future and how to achieve their goals. This program could be encouraged in other small towns throughout the County.

4. Review and update the County zoning ordinance annually to ensure consistency with the Comprehensive Plan.

- Since many of the developed areas of the County have their own zoning ordinances (i.e. City of Warren and Youngsville Borough) the County should review the County ordinance to ensure that it complements these areas by encouraging higher density near them and accommodating new growth through compact and contiguous development. The ordinance should also be reviewed to ensure it is protecting the rural character of the County in the less developed areas.

Issues/Obstacles:

- Decreasing population base.

- Lower income and educational levels.

- Building condition and blight issues in some of the downtown areas.

Benchmarks for Success:

- Population stabilizes or increases.

- New job creation.

- New redevelopment projects.

Promote the redevelopment and revitalization of existing centers.

Target Areas:

• Downtown Centers and Village Centers

• Employment Centers

Why this is important:

• Small business development is vital to successful community development. Pennsylvania's small businesses (500 or fewer employees) are key to the state's well-being and account for a significant share of the state's economic production.

• Entrepreneurs over the age of fifty, also known as encore entrepreneurs, are one of the fastest-growing groups of entrepreneurs in the United States. With an aging population, Warren County should encourage its residents to pursue entrepreneurial activities.

• Traditional retail stores are on the decline due to changing shopping patterns with online options. Entrepreneurs can fill the gap with unique in person shopping opportunities.

What the County should do:

1. Encourage zoning ordinances are supportive of small businesses/entrepreneurial development.

   • To encourage entrepreneurs, zoning ordinances should permit small scale neighborhood commercial development/ redevelopment in appropriate areas/ corridors; allow for home businesses and live/work units; and accommodate mixed use development.

2. Partner with the Warren County Chamber of Business and Industry (WCCBI) and others to continue to promote locally grown, small successful businesses.

   • WCCBI strives to offer leadership and communication regarding business expansion, workforce development and the attraction of new businesses in Warren County. They assist with business plans and tuition reimbursement programs.

   • Work with the Chamber to develop an organized and sustained public education campaign to "buy local." The American Independent Business Alliance (AMIBA) offers free resources to organizations looking to start such a campaign.

3. Support efforts to encourage/expand new start-up businesses, business incubators and nontraditional work spaces within the County.

- Coworking spaces are increasing in popularity, not just for freelancers, but also for start-up businesses, entrepreneurs and major corporations. For some, coworking space is a better alternative to working from home. For others, it is a way to afford to start a company or just to encourage community and collaboration.

  » Innovault is an existing co-worker space in the City of Warren. They offer renovated shared workspace primarily for entrepreneurs, consultants, freelancers and remote workers.

- Makerspaces can be used to foster entrepreneurship and are being utilized as incubators for business startups. A makerspace is a collaborative work space inside a school, library or separate public/private facility for making, learning, exploring and sharing that uses high tech to no tech tools. These spaces are open to kids, adults, and entrepreneurs and may have variety of maker equipment including 3D printers, laser cutters, soldering irons and even sewing machines. These spaces are also helping to prepare those who need skills in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

- Gannon Small Business Center, Northern Area Regional College and the Warren/Forest Higher Education Council are great resources to assist start up businesses.

- The American Association of Retired Persons offers a wide range of work-related webinars, including a series on small businesses and encore entrepreneurship.

- The Warren County Development Association operates an Industrial Incubator to provide support for new businesses, assist with site acquisitions for expanding businesses, assist with facility retention and promote economic development.

Issues/Obstacles:

- County does not control zoning in all municipalities.

- Connecting interested entrepreneurs with the right resources.

Benchmarks for Success:

- Increased number of successful, small businesses.

- Existing and new businesses taking advantage of exsiting incubator spaces.

- Updated zoning regulations that remove barriers to small businesses and entrepreneurs.

- Co-working spaces increasing throughout the County.

- At least one maker space created in the County (City of Warren, Youngsville or Tidioute would be ideal locations).

Protect the tax base of the County.

Target Areas:

- Countywide

Why this is important:

- Approximately 32% of Warren County's total acreage is currently owned by the Allegheny National Forest, PA Game Commission and PA State Forest. While there are many benefits that come from the preservation of this land, these are all tax exempt entities and therefore are not contributing financially to the County.

- The US government has enacted several pieces of legislation to address the impact of tax exempt land on local municipalities and counties. These include the Twenty-Five Percent Fund (1908), the Payments in Lieu of Taxes Act (1976), and the Self Determination Act (2000). Unfortunately funds obtained from these sources has been inadequate to address the loss of tax revenue from the conversion of private property to public lands. In addition, some of this legislation has a sunset date, and is not guaranteed to continue to be reauthorized.

- Adding any additional tax exempt properties to the County will only continue to erode the tax base.

What the County should do:

1. Adopt a policy of "no net loss" of private property.

   - To maintain a reasonable balance of public and private land within the county and to ensure adequate tax revenue, the County should adopt a policy of "no net loss" of private property. This will help address the threat of the conversion of more private land and the loss of additional tax revenue.

Issues/Obstacles:

- The County does not have control over private property and the selling/donation of private land.

Benchmarks for Success:

- Maintain (and not increase) the percentage of non-taxable acreage within the County.

- Increase in tax revenue.

Ensure transportation projects align with smart and sustainable growth.

Target Areas:

- Countywide

- Upcoming transportation improvement projects in Warren County that are included on the Northwest PA Long Range Transportation Plan for 2020-2045 include:

    » A number of widening and resurfacing/paving projects.

    » Truck climbing lane on PA 59.

    » Signal improvements at Pennsylvania and Conewango Avenues in the City of Warren.

    » Intersection improvements at the US 62 and PA 957 intersection in Russell.

    » Construct missing ramps on the east side of the overpass at the US 6 and Main Avenue interchange in the City of Warren.

    » Intersection improvements at SR 1019 and Quaker Hill Road in the City of Warren.

    » Werner Park entrance improvements (US 62) in Russell.

    » Bike trail additions on east side of Irvine on the Bicycle Trail from Youngsville to PA 62.

    » Improved bicycle facilities connecting North Warren to the Hike Bike Trail

    » Bicycle and pedestrian improvements at intersection of US 6 and Kinzua Road.

    » Youngsville downtown streetscape and pedestrian facility upgrades.

    » PA 59 bicycle and pedestrian connectivity to Jakes Rocks.

    » A number of local bridge replacements.

    » US 62 Safety Study to address unsafe conditions. Currently programmed for slide repairs.

Why this is important:

- The Northwest PA Commission's region includes a 5-county area (including Warren County) located in the northwestern corner of Pennsylvania. It is one of the state's smallest transportation planning regions by population, yet consists of nearly 3,600 square miles of land area (or an area roughly half the size of New Jersey).

The region's location just off the shores of Lake Erie also makes it an area with one of the harshest environments in the state. The region is situated within the winter snowbelt, and annually receives upwards of 100 inches of snowfall, along with 40-48 inches of rain. PennDOT typically spends anywhere from 100 to 150 days a year de-icing the region's roadways. [1]

- An effective and efficient transportation network is vital to community revitalization and sustainable growth and development. PennDOT Connects is a program, launched in 2016, that aims to better transportation system and communities through collaborative planning. This program allows for the community to provide input into the project scopes earlier in the process and provides better understanding of local contextual issues.

What the County should do:

1. **Continue to lobby for projects on the Northwest Commission's Long Range Plan.**

   - Involving the public in the regional planning processes is a high priority and so the Northwest Commission has a Public Participation Plan (PPP). PPPs meet on an as-needed basis, generally when a major document (such as the long-range plan, the TIP, or the Air Quality Report) is under public review.

2. **Encourage communities to adopt Complete Streets ordinances.**

   - Complete Streets are designed and operated to enable safe access for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities. Complete Streets policies formalize a community's intent to plan, design and maintain streets so they are safe for all users.

3. **Continue to update the list of structurally deficient bridges.**

   - The Warren County Planning Department maintains a ranked list of structurally deficient bridges. This list is updated annually to assist with future planning and programming for funding.

Issues/Obstacles:

- Lack of funding and resources to address transportation deficiencies.

- Lack of ownership of state and local roads.

Benchmarks for Success:

- Reduced number of crashes/incidents.

- More efficient operations and traffic flow.

- Increase in a variety of modal travel.

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[1] www.northwestpa.org

A Place with a High Quality of Life

Goal: Providing high quality of life for residents and visitors through expanded infrastructure and promotion of County resources.

Warren County's bountiful natural resources represent some of its most defining features. Visitors and residents alike enjoy mountains, waterways, and other beautiful scenery. Strategic improvements to County communities could enhance the way of life they offer within this scenic setting, making it even more attractive to current and potential residents. The County's plan to provide a high quality of life is centered around the following concepts:

- Marketing the County's assets to attract people to live in Warren County.

- Increasing access to high-speed internet.

- Promoting alternative energy sources.

- Improving neighborhoods by providing for a variety of housing choices and maintaining housing affordability.

- Maintaining the rural character through land use policies that promote smart and sustainable growth and development and improve environmental quality.

- Ensuring that communities can provide the necessary public services and facilities to meet the needs of current and future residents.

Market the County to attract new residents and businesses.

Target Areas:

- Countywide

Why this is important:

- During the planning process, it was frequently mentioned that the County does not do enough to market its assets.

- Warren County has been losing population for the last several decades.

- Warren County has lost several major employers recently including Blair (Bluestem).

What the County should do:

1. **Develop a marketing campaign.**

   - Work with a professional marketing consultant to develop a brand, logo and marketing material for the County.

   - This campaign should be utilized to attract new residents and businesses by focusing on the assets of the County including an abundance of recreational/outdoor assets, rural lifestyle with access to more urban areas with cultural, business and historic resources

   such as the City of Warren.

   - Warren Worx, described on page 35, would be an ideal partner for this recommendation.

   - The City of Warren is undertaking a marketing campaign so efforts should be made to coordinate and be consistent, if possible.

2. **Ensure that printed material and the County's website is updated once a new marketing plan is in place.**

   - All documents that the County produces and any electronic material should include the logo/slogan and be consistent in the marketing message.

Issues/Obstacles:

- Funding.

Benchmarks for Success:

- New marketing campaign for the County.

- Consistent marketing message and material.

Encourage diversity in housing types.

Target Areas:

- More densely populated areas of Warren, Youngsville, and Tidioute as well as other Downtown Centers.

- Village Centers would also be appropriate because of existing infrastructure, more walkable neighborhoods and a mix of uses.

Why this is important:

- Even though the more densely populated areas of the County provide some variety in housing types, single family structures are still the predominant housing type.

- According to the National Association of Realtors, nearly 90% of households looking for homes in 2035 will be either under 35 or 70 and over, and both groups tend to buy less square footage. "What you have is everyone chasing the same type of home," says Rick Palacios, director of research at John Burns Real Estate Consulting. "More and more buyers of all ages want to avoid having to deal with a huge yard and all the upkeep and the costs to maintain [a larger] home."

- The effects of an aging population will be felt strongly in the downtown centers. As baby boomers retire, many choose to downsize from their traditional detached single-family home to a townhouse or condominium where exterior maintenance is provided.

What the County should do:

1. Encourage housing choice in new developments.

   - Beginning with municipalities where new housing would be well served by nearby jobs, schools, water/sewer infrastructure and amenities, the County should update the County Zoning Ordinance and/or review municipal zoning ordinances to identify and recommend eliminating barriers to the creation of a variety of housing types. This goes beyond ensuring that a variety of structure types (duplexes, triplexes, quads, townhouses, multi-family buildings) are permitted by right in one or more districts. The update and review should also ensure that:

     » Land is available to develop in districts where non-single-family housing types are permitted.

     » Dimensional and parking minimum requirements are not so high as to

create financial barriers to housing development.

» Dimensional requirements do not prohibit the creation of patio or courtyard homes, which are increasingly popular configurations for the growing number of households that prefer low-maintenance, single-family living.

» Adaptive reuse is allowed under certain circumstances, such as converting large single-family homes for other residential or mixed uses or adapting vacant schools or commercial buildings for rental units.

2. Ensure that residents can age in place.

• Besides retrofitting existing housing stock to better accommodate their needs, there is a need to offer a greater variety of senior appropriate housing options throughout the County. Senior housing is a term that can be applied to a broad spectrum of housing options to serve everything from active-adult to assisted living.

• Provide housing options near services for the continuum of care needed through aging years. Encourage senior housing to be located along transit lines, near neighborhood commercial centers and close to medical offices/services.

• Encourage the integration of senior appropriate housing, both active adult and assisted living, into the fabric of the community, thus offering multigenerational or lifelong housing opportunities.

• Update the County Zoning Ordinance to accommodate alternative senior housing options such as connected one-story homes (patio, carriage, etc.) and multi-generational housing, such as accessory dwelling units.

3. Develop a Countywide Housing Study.

• This type of study will help to understand the County's housing market and factors affecting availability, suitability and condition of affordable housing. The plan should contain an analysis of existing trends and expected future demand as well as a detailed action plan that will increase the possibility for all renters and owners to have access to affordable housing options throughout Warren County.

4. Convene a workgroup of housing providers, developers and real estate agents to meet on a regular basis to discuss trends, issues and potential opportunities regarding housing in the County.

• Hosting regular meetings with developers and real estate professionals would provide a forum to ensure that County and municipal regulations align with the market. The County can provide data to local developers to encourage the type of housing developments it would like to see.

Issues/Obstacles:

- Lack of population growth. Demand is not high for redevelopment due to the lack of growth.

- Cost (for rehab in particular). The cost of rehabbing or retrofitting an existing home is costly.

- Perception. Even though it is changing somewhat, a large number of people have a negative perception of urban, more dense areas.

Benchmarks for Success:

- Number of permits for new housing developments that include units other than single family detached homes.

- Number of zoning ordinances allowing more flexibility in housing development. This could include allowing Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs).

Expand broadband and cellular infrastructure.

Target Areas:

- Unserved and underserved areas throughout Warren County.

Why this is important:

- The effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic have only highlighted the need for improved and expanded broadband infrastructure in many counties and communities across the country. Warren County is no exception.

- The Internet is an essential service, similar to electric and phone service. Warren County is a significantly Rural County with 40%-60% of its population living in rural areas.

- Warren County is ranked as one of the lowest counties in Pennsylvania in terms of high speed internet access. Based on FCC statistics, as many as 43% of Warren County residents do not have access to high speed broadband.

- The Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority (PBDA) is an independent agency of the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). PBDA has created a broadband plan for PA and is responsible for funding broadband expansion projects in unserved and underserved areas throughout the state. In 2021 over $45 billion was allocated to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for the purposes of broadband expansion, adoption and literacy. PBDA secured over $6 million to plan for the distribution of implementation funds in 2024. Currently PBDA is working with Penn State Extension to review and update the National Broadband Map to ensure the accuracy of unserved areas in PA.

What the County should do:

1. Continue to monitor funding opportunities for broadband initiatives and expansion.

- According to the Pennsylvania Statewide Broadband Plan (2021), approximately 640,000 to 800,000 Pennsylvanians are unserved and lack access to high-speed broadband. As part of its new broadband initiative, Pennsylvania has established the Broadband Investment Incentive Program. The program provides $35 million in financial incentives to private providers to expand services into unserved or underserved areas in the Commonwealth.

- PBDA is working to a competitive grant program to incentivize broadband expansion in unserved and underserved areas. Thee grant programs will be developed. The first grant program, to be launched in 2023, is the Broadband Infrastructure Program. This will provide $200 million for the expansion of infrastructure for broadband access. [1]

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[1] dced.pa.gov/programs-funding/broadband-in-pennsylvania/pennsylvania-broadband-development-authority

- The Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee Program (Broadband Program), furnishes loans and loan guarantees to provide funds for the costs of construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment needed to provide service at the broadband lending speed in eligible rural areas.

- Many other funding opportunities exist and should be explored to determine if they fit for Warren County. These include federal sources listed in the table below.

Broadband Funding Summaries

Federal Communication Commission	NTIA	Rural Utilities Service	US Dept. of the Treasury
Connect America Fund Phase II	Broadband	Community Connect Grant Program	Capital Projects Fund
Rural Digital OpportunityFund	Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program NOFO1	Telephone Loan Program	
		Rural ECONNECTIVITY Program	

 Issues/Obstacles:

- Private enterprise. Currently, it is extremely expensive to private utility companies to extend to more rural areas and the population is not high enough to justify costs (i.e. low number of customers).

- Cost. In some areas, broadband may be available, but is cost prohibitive to individual consumers to pay to extend the lines for residential service.

- Subsidizing the capitalization of a provider network build is only one facet of a comprehensive broadband effort.

- Achieving sustainable builds that do not force overbuilds or overlap in competition in high cost/low revenue areas will limit the ability for a provider to sustain their infrastructure into the future.

 Benchmarks for Success:

- Increased access for broadband/cellular coverage throughout Warren County.

- Continuing engagement with providers.

- Engage a consultant to assist with project objectives.

- Quantify unserved areas with GIS mapping tools

- Document new subscriber builds.

Protect the rural character through sustainable land use policies.

Target Areas:

- Countywide

Why this is important:

- Maintaining the rural character was discussed as an important issue in multiple meetings during the planning process.

- Flooding is an ongoing problem throughout the County. The Warren County Stormwater Management Plan (Act 167) was adopted in 2010 and identifies specific problem areas. The Plan includes a model ordinance, which the municipalities were required to adopt.

What the County should do:

1. Encourage the development of conservation subdivisions in rural areas.

   - Conservation subdivisions can be encouraged through zoning ordinances (the County and municipal). Conservation subdivisions protect networks of open space by rearranging a development to keep open space connected and permanently preserved while maintaining (or increasing) the density of the desired development.

   - Conservation subdivision practices have been proven to ease tensions between developers and municipalities while preserving an average of 62% of residential land.

2. Encourage use of green infrastructure to help with flooding issues.

   - Green Infrastructure uses the natural environment as an alternative to building costly storm water infrastructure. Green infrastructure solutions provide clean water, preserve wildlife and conserve the ecosystem functions.

   - Stormwater runoff can often introduce pollutants into the water system as impervious surfaces such as roads and parking lots cause stormwater build up. As stormwater accumulates, floods and water damage can occur. Increasing the number of pervious surfaces is a natural way of managing this storm water and reducing floods and damage.

   - Rain gardens and rain barrels are additional initiatives that manage stormwater runoff. Rain barrels attach to downspouts and capture rainwater that could potentially run off into sewers

and streets. Rain gardens provide an attractive rainwater solution that also encourages the plants in the garden to use some of the stormwater retained in the garden.

3. **Prepare a checklist for reviewing municipal plans and ordinances, as well as subdivision and land development approvals.**

   • To ensure that municipal plans and ordinances are implementing the County's Vision, they should be required to provide a statement about how they are consistent with the County's plan and will further its implementation.

   • To assist with review, the County should prepare a review checklist that identifies the methods to achieve consistency. A similar checklist should be prepared to assist the County Planning Commission with their review and approval process for subdivisions and land developments.

 Issues/Obstacles:

   • Awareness – difficult to change mindset.

   • Interest - municipalities not experiencing development pressure may not see the value in adopting sustainable land use policies at this time.

 Benchmarks for Success:

   • Increase in Conservation Subdivisions (actual development and ordinances that allow / encourage it).

   • Increased acres of preserved farmland.

   • Decrease in major flood events throughout the County.

   • **Consistent review processes at County and local levels.**

Promote Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Station Development.

Target Areas:

- County destination centers such as local business districts, public facilties, recreational facilities, etc.

Why this is important:

- Various companies are estimating that 125 million electric vehicles will be in operation in the US by 2030, which translates into a need for 13 million EV charging stations.

- Cost of gas is also pushing more development and purchase of electric vehicles.

- Currently there are only two EV charging stations in the County (located at local car dealers).

What the County should do:

1. Continue to monitor EV charging station locations and support the expansion of this infrastructure in the County and region.

   - As discussed, there are currently only two EV stations in the County. As this infrastructure becomes more available, the County should be aware of the locations and gaps.

     A regional electric vehicle deployment strategy should be investigated as well. Crawford County has expressed an interest in this (through the work on their most recent Comprehensive Plan) due to the significance of Route 27 and Route8 providing direct access to Warren County from I-79 and I-80.

2. Monitor funding sources for this type of infrastructure.

   - In November of 2021, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) was enacted to provide transportation funding. Part of the funding included a new National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program. The NEVI will provide over $170 million over five years to support EV infrastructure and will be administered by PennDOT. Focus areas, according to PennDOT's EV Mobility Plan include public parks and public destination areas such as colleges, fairs and sporting venues. Grocery stores, shopping centers, airports, train stations and freight ports are also considered important locations. According to PennDOT's website, the opening of Round 1 applications will be announced late 2022 or early 2023. School Districts, Municipal Authorities and Political Subdivisions are typically the public sector entities anticipated to apply, however, private entities are also eligible

for funding. Focus areas for Round 1 include three priority groups: Priority I - interchanges that have been selected to satisfy 50-mile intervals along an Alternative Fuels Corridor; Priority II - interchanges that are in locations to existing sites; Priority III - interchanges that already have existing EV charging site(s).

Issues/Obstacles:

- Cost for installation of Fast Charging Stations.

- Coordination with local electric companies.

Benchmarks for Success:

- Increase in number of EV charging stations in the County and region.

Promote alternative energy solutions.

Target Areas:

- Countywide

Why this is important:

- According to the Environmental Protection Agency, local governments can dramatically reduce their carbon footprint by purchasing or directly generating electricity from clean, renewable sources.

- Benefits of renewable energy, such as solar and wind include:

  - Reducing some types of air pollution.

  - Diversifying energy supply.

  - Creating economic development and jobs in manufacturing, installation, etc.

  - Providing stable costs.

- The use of small solar and wind installations are becoming more popular as ways to decrease utility costs.

What the County should do:

1. Provide education on the importance of renewable energy sources.

   - Utilize the existing staff to spread the message throughout the County. Also work with the City of Warren as they are preparing a marketing campaign as well and they should be coordinated.

   - If needed, a marketing consultant could be utilized to assist with preparing professional brochures and other marketing items.

2. Utilize renewable energy sources when possible for County owned facilities.

   - Local governments can lead by example by generating energy on-site, purchasing green power, or purchasing renewable energy. Using a combination of renewable energy options can help meet local government goals especially in some regions where availability and quality of renewable resources vary.

3. Ensure alternative energy is addressed in the County zoning ordinance.

   - The County should review its zoning ordinance to ensure that alternative energy options, such as solar and wind are addressed. The County recently amended their Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance to include provisions for solar so this should be consistent with anything developed for zoning.

Issues/Obstacles:

- Initial cost of alternative energy options can be high.

- Lack of education regarding renewable sources.
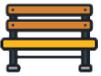
Benchmarks for Success:

- Increase in County facilities utilizing alternative energy sources.

- Increase in local ordinances addressing alternative energy.

- Increase in alternative energy usage across the county.

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A Beautiful Place to Visit

Goal: Expand opportunities to support tourism while protecting natural and recreational resources.

Within Warren County's borders are numerous historic sites such as the City of Warren Historic District; trails such as the Warren/North Warren Bike Trail, the Tidioute Riverside Trail, the Allegheny National Forest Trail System; the Allegheny National Forest; Chapman State Park; waterways such as the Allegheny River and Conewango Creek; and many other attractions such as municipal parks and pool facilities. As such, Warren County is well positioned to provide unforgettable memories for visitors. In turn, visitors provide valuable investment in the local and regional economy. Tourism represents a rich opportunity for growth within the County, as ongoing improvements to its recreational, cultural, historic, and other attractions will continue to draw travelers from other counties, states, and countries. The County's plan to provide a beautiful place to visit consists of:

- Capitalizing on the various outdoor recreation attractions, such as the local trails and the Allegheny National Forest, the beautiful waterways and others to drive tourism and economic development.

- Promoting all types of tourism, including heritage, agricultural and recreational-based. Ranging from Allegheny National Forest and other outdoor recreation sites, to many small mom and pop shops, tourism is a critical element of the County's economic vitality.

- Working with communities to ensure that they are well-equipped to handle the impacts of tourism and ensure that it supports community development efforts.

- Protecting the rural character from potential negative impacts to ensure that the outdoor-based attractions are sustainable for the long-term future.

- Improving the overall health and wellness of the County through providing a high quality parks and recreation network, encouraging active living and promoting sustainable land use policies such as requiring sidewalks, providing access to healthy food options, etc.

Facilitate and encourage high-quality indoor and outdoor public recreation amenities that serve County residents.

Target Areas:

- Recreational facilities

- Trail systems throughout the County

Why this is important:

- Warren County is well known for its recreation amenities and natural beauty. Providing high quality facilities at the County level was consistently mentioned at input sessions throughout the planning process.

What the County should do:

1. Implement the recommendations from the County's Park, Recreation and Greenways Plan.

   - Warren County adopted its Parks, Recreation and Greenways Plan in June of 2021. The plan addressed park and recreation facilities in the County and contained recommendations for increasing capacity, trails and connectivity and programs. The County should continue to follow the implementation plan and track success annually.

2. Implement the conceptual plan that was developed for the Farm Colony Drive property in Conewango Township.

   - As an early implementation project from the Parks, Recreation and Greenways Plan, a conceptual plan was developed for the Farm Colony Drive property.

   - The rendering included improvements for:

     » Stormwater improvements

     » Upgrades to ball fields

     » Park amenities for tournaments

     » Other park and recreation facilities (for non-baseball users)

     » Indoor facility for training

     » Areas for walking/hiking/outdoor education

     » Special needs facility

     » Concession, restrooms, and picnic pavilions

Issues/Obstacles:

- Funding.
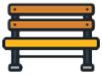
Benchmarks for Success:

- Recommendations implemented from the Park, Recreation and Greenways Plan.

Improve overall health by encouraging active living.

Target Areas:

- Countywide

Why this is important:

- It has long been understood that the design and land development patterns of a community are directly tied to the overall health of its citizens. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Healthy People 2010 report defines a healthy community as "one that continuously creates and improves both its physical and social environments, helping people to support one another in aspects of daily life and to develop to their fullest potential."

- According to Countyhealthrankings.org, an organization that annually ranks the overall health of counties throughout the United States, Warren County ranks 19 out of 67 counties in Pennsylvania in both Health Outcomes and Health Factors in their 2023 rankings.

  - » The overall rankings in health outcomes represent how healthy counties are within the state. The ranks are based on two types of measures: how long people live and how healthy people feel while alive.

For length of life, Warren ranks 19/67 and is 43/67 for quality of life.

  - » The overall rankings in health factors represent what influences the health of a county. The rankings are based on four types of measures: health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors, and physical environment. Some health factors are of concern in the County, particularly looking at the percentage of residents who smoke, and lack of access to exercise opportunities. In terms of clinical care, poor access to primary care physicians, dentists and mental health providers is a concern. Additional concerning factors include a higher unemployment rate and a higher percentage of children in poverty than PA and the US.

What the County should do:

1. **Educate local municipalities regarding requiring sidewalks, where appropriate.**

   - Municipalities have the ability to require sidewalks through subdivision and land development ordinances. Regulations that will fortify sidewalk networks include requiring sidewalks as follows:

     - » Along both sides of roadways in commercial and industrial areas. In residential areas, along all arterials and collectors and local streets with

at least one unit per acre. Along at least one side of the street in residential areas with less than one unit per acre.

» Allowing developers to propose alternative pathways, i.e. crushed stone/permeable material trails, in areas where sidewalks may not be necessary.

2. Develop a countywide health campaign to improve overall health and wellness of Warren County residents.

- Warren County can develop a campaign modeled after Live Well Allegheny, which aims to improve health and well-being of residents through collaborative work with partners, stakeholders and residents. The campaign includes initiatives to improve access to healthy foods, increase active lifestyles, quit smoking, etc.[1]

- The County should ensure that its website and print materials are marketing and publicizing programs available in the County on health and wellness.

- Consideration should be given to whether or not there is local support for and the feasibility to establish a year-round indoor Farmer's Market.

1 http://www.livewellallegheny.com

- Encourage and provide assistance to local municipalities operating or trying to develop community garden programs.

- Support / partner with hospitals, schools and local law enforcement and EMS providers to continue to provide educational outreach programs on the opioid epidemic.

Issues/Obstacles:

- Land use decisions are primarily made at the local level and the county has little control. However, Warren County does administer zoning for 13 of the County's municipalities.

- Lack of awareness regarding healthy life choices.

Benchmarks for Success:

- Improvement in County Health Rankings for Health Outcomes and Health Factors.

- Increased online presence and marketing of resources related to healthy living.

- The development of a countywide health campaign.

Promote Agri-Tourism programs.

Target Areas:

- Countywide: primarily the northern 1/3 of the County

Why this is important:

- Agriculture is also very important in the County.

- Agri-Tourism is growing in popularity across the country as a tourist attraction and as a tool to supplement income from traditional farming activities.

What the County should do:

1. **Work with local farmers to offer Agri-Tourism options and assist with marketing.**

   - According to the USDA, Agri-Tourism is "a form of commercial enterprise that links agricultural production and/or processing with tourism to attract visitors onto a farm, ranch or other agricultural business for the purposes of entertaining or educating the visitors while generating income for the farm, ranch or business owner".

   - Examples of Agri-Tourism include: pumpkin patches, corn mazes, u-pick operations, petting zoos, hayrides, cut your own Christmas tree farms, demonstration farms, on-farm farmers markets, garden tours, etc. Examples of Agri-Tourism already exist in the County and include: Three Pillarz Farm in Columbus (produce), Pine-Ton Farm in Lander (dairy), and Van Ord Farm in Lander (beef and poultry).

2. **Promote participation in the Agriculture Security Areas (ASA) program.**

   - The ASA Program is a tool that can be used to help protect farms from non-agricultural uses. The farm must contain 250 acres to be eligible, and the ASA provides protection from local ordinances and nuisance laws.

   - Currently five municipalities in Warren County have ASAs (see map on the next page. They are: Sugargrove Township, Freehold Township, Pine Grove Township, Pittsfield Township, and Glade Township.

3. **Enhance gateways into the County.**

   - Gateways, defined as the entrance into a place, should welcome residents and visitors to a place and most often include signage. This signage could also include information about tourist attractions, including agri-tourism locations.

   - Warren County currently has a number of signs at key locations into the County. These could be improved as well as extended to other key gateway locations. This could be folded into the Marketing Strategy discussed on page 48.

 Issues/Obstacles:

- Lack of funding.

- Lack of education – regarding the importance of these resources for economic development.
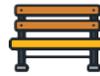
 Benchmarks for Success:

- Increased agri-tourism programs in the County.

- Farm businesses preserved.

Warren County Agricultural Security Areas (shown in dark green)
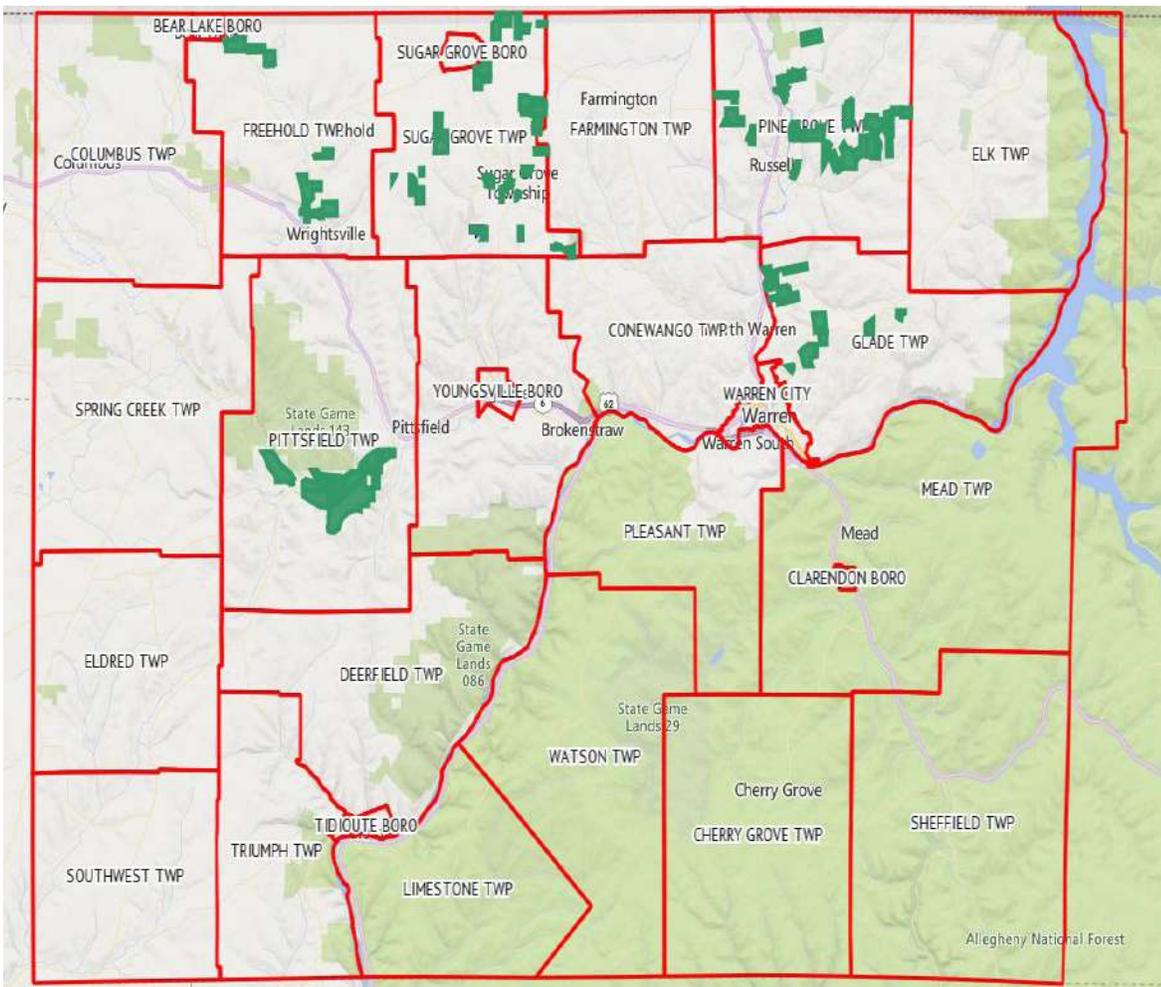
Protect the rural character of the County.

Target Areas:

- Countywide, but particularly in trail towns and areas surrounding major tourist attractions

Why this is important:

- Ranked #3 overall with the public meetings and online voting.

- Warren County is known for its abundance of natural resources but there is growing concern over protecting the rural character and natural areas from tourism.

- Research has shown that trash attracts trash and when a community is clean, it tends to stay clean. Conversely, if a community or area is littered or dumped on, then it sends a message that it is acceptable behavior.

What the County should do:

1. **Promote the values and benefits of preserving farmland and reducing ag-related pollution.**

   - Update the County website to include maps of preserved farmland and the benefits of preservation and methods to control agricultural pollution.

2. **Work with Countywide organizations such as the Warren County Conservation District to continue to protect natural resources in the County.**

   - The Conservation District's mission is: "To improve the environmental quality of Warren County by promoting the wise use, enhancement and understanding of natural resources".

   - Utilize their website and other outreach methods for promotion of events and education for general public.

3. **Continue to provide education and assistance with recycling and waste reduction.**

   - Expand the Countywide "Household Hazardous and Electronic Waste Collection Days." The County is holding two events for 2023 in Youngsville Borough.

   - Work with Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful (www.keeppabeautiful.org) to assist with education on littering and dumping as well as a partner for Countywide cleanup events.

Issues/Obstacles:

- Lack of education on the issues.

- Lack of resources.
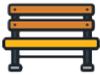
Benchmarks for Success:

- Expansion of recycling programs and hard to recycle days.

- Expansion of Countywide clean up days.

Implementation Plan

Implementation

Once the Warren County Comprehensive Plan is adopted, additional steps should be made to build on the success that has already taken place. The action steps in the plan have been developed to guide the County over the next ten years and to achieve the overall Vision of the Plan. The following steps should be taken by the Warren County Planning, and Zoning Department to track implementation moving forward:

1. Prepare an implementation update annually: Plan implementation should be tracked and publicized to market the County's progress with realizing the established Vision. This update should be included on the County website and provided to the municipalities. The annual update should:

    *   Identify actions taken by the County over the past year that helped to achieve the Vision and support the Goals set forth in the Plan.

    *   Survey municipalities and other County Departments to include projects that have been completed by organizations outside of the Department that implement the Plan.

    *   Include a list of priority projects to be undertaken in the next year.

2. Coordinate, conduct and promote educational outreach: Education is a critical component for successful Plan implementation. The County incorporated educational and outreach opportunities into the planning process and should continue this by implementing the following:

    *   Materials could also be created and taken to various events throughout the County to increase public awareness of the Comprehensive Plan and its purpose.

    *   Assist with and/or host municipal education workshops. These should be designed for local elected officials, planning commission members, zoning and code enforcement officers, and zoning hearing board members on land use regulations and tools, such as zoning, subdivision and land development, and property maintenance codes.

    *   Provide an online toolkit with model ordinances and links to organizations that can provide funding and technical support for plan implementation.

    *   Prepare a checklist for reviewing municipal plans and ordinances, as well as zoning requests and subdivision and land development approvals. To ensure that municipal plans and ordinances are implementing the County's Vision, they should be required to provide a statement about how they are consistent with the County's plan and will further its implementation. A similar checklist should be prepared to assist County Planning Commission with their review and approval process.

Implementation Matrix

The plan recommendations and implementation items are listed separately in three plan areas of focus. The Implementation Matrix on the following pages provides a full list of all the recommendations along with supporting information.

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Recommendation	Timeframe	Potential Partner Organizations	Cost	Funding Sources	Page #
A Place with a Healthy Economy					
Support existing businesses and attract new business and industry into Warren County.					
Coordinate community development efforts throughout the County.	Short Term (within 6 months to 1 year)	Warren County Chamber of Business and Industry; Warren County Tourism Bureau; Municipalities; Warren County School District; Community Foundation	Staff Time	N/A	37
Market the availability and assets of existing downtown and employment centers.	Short Term (within 6 months to 1 year)	Warren County Chamber of Business and Industry; Warren County Tourism Bureau; Warren County Redevelopment Authority	Staff Time	N/A	38
Work collaboratively with municipalities and other organizations to encourage the redevelopment of vacant and underutilized sites.	Short Term (within 6 months to 1 year)	Warren County Chamber of Business and Industry; Warren County Tourism Bureau; Warren County Redevelopment Authority	Staff Time	N/A	38
Support the expansion of public water and sewer coverage to encourage economic development in priority areas.	Medium Term (within 1-3 years)	Local Municipalities; Municipal Authorities; Crawford County	Dependent on project	See Appendices	38
Improve workforce development and job training.					
Coordinate with existing organizations on workforce development and job training programs.	Short Term (within 6 months to 1 year)	School District; Northern Area Regional College; Higher Education Council; Northwest PA Job Connect; PA CareerLink; Local Employers	Staff Time	N/A	41
Assist with marketing available jobs.	Short Term (within 6 months to 1 year)	School District; Northern Area Regional College; Higher Education Council; Northwest PA Job Connect; PA CareerLink; Local Employers; Warren County Chamber of Business and Industry	Staff Time	N/A	41
Continue to support the school district, the workforce training organizations, and post-secondary institutions that offer job training and skills curriculum for junior and senior high school students (in addition to vocational schools).	Short Term (within 6 months to 1 year)	School District; Northern Area Regional College; Higher Education Council; Northwest PA Job Connect; PA CareerLink; Employers in the Healthcare Profession	Staff Time	N/A	41
Promote the redevelopment and revitalization of existing centers.					
Redevelop first. Focus on infill development before expanding greenfield development.	Medium Term (within 1-3 years)	Local municipalities; Warren County Chamber of Business and Industry; Warren County Tourism Bureau; Redevelopment Authority	Staff Time	N/A	42
Encourage downtown centers to reduce barriers to infill development by offering faster approval process.	Medium Term (within 1-3 years)	Local municipalities	Staff Time	N/A	42
Assist the Downtown Centers with establishing/updating their vision and goals to encourage private investment that supports those visions.	Medium Term (within 1-3 years)	Downtown Centers (i.e. City of Warren, Tidioute, Youngsville)	Staff Time	N/A	43
Review and update the County zoning ordinance annually to ensure consistency with the Comprehensive Plan.	Short Term (within 6 months to 1 year)	N/A	Staff Time	N/A	43

Note: Light Green highlighted items represent regional opportunities with surrounding counties

Recommendation	Timeframe	Potential Partner Organizations	Cost	Funding Sources	Page #
Encourage and support small business development and entrepreneurs.					
Encourage zoning ordinances that are supportive of small businesses/entrepreneurial development.	Short Term (within 6 months to 1 year)	Warren County Chamber of Business and Industry; Warren County Tourism Bureau; Warren County Redevelopment Authority; Innovault	Staff Time	N/A	44
Partner with the Warren County Chamber of Business and Industry and others to continue to promote locally grown, small successful businesses.	Short Term (within 6 months to 1 year)	Warren County Chamber of Business and Industry; Warren County Tourism Bureau; Warren County Redevelopment Authority	Staff Time	N/A	44
Support efforts to encourage/expand new start up businesses, business incubators and nontraditional work spaces within the County.	Short Term (within 6 months to 1 year)	Warren County Chamber of Business and Industry; Warren County Tourism Bureau; Warren County Redevelopment Authority; Innovault	Staff Time	N/A	45
Protect the tax base of the County.					
Adopt a policy of "no net loss" of private property.	Short Term (within 6 months to 1 year)	Private property owners; State and Federal Agencies	Staff Time	N/A	46
Ensure transportation projects align with smart and sustainable growth.					
Continue to lobby for projects on the Northwest Commission's Long Range Plan.	Medium Term (within 1-3 years)	Northwest Commission; Local Municipalities; PennDOT	Staff Time	N/A	48
Encourage communities to adopt Complete Streets ordinances.	Medium Term (within 1-3 years)	Local Municipalities; PennDOT	Staff Time	N/A	48
Continue to update the list of structurally deficient bridges.	Short Term (within 6 months to 1 year)	Local Municipalities; PennDOT; Northwest Commission	Staff Time	N/A	48

Note: Light Green highlighted items represent regional opportunities with surrounding counties

Recommendation	Timeframe	Potential Partner Organizations	Cost	Funding Sources	Page #
A Place with a High Quality of Life					
Marketing the County to attract new residents and businesses.					
Develop a marketing campaign.	Medium Term (within 1-3 years)	Warren County Chamber of Business and Industry; Warren County Tourism Bureau; Warren County Redevelopment Authority	$25,000-$30,000	N/A	50
Ensure that printed material and the County's website is updated once a new marketing plan is in place.	Medium Term (within 1-3 years)	Warren County Chamber of Business and Industry; Warren County Tourism Bureau; Warren County Redevelopment Authority	Staff Time	N/A	50
Encourage diversity in housing types.					
Encourage housing choice in new developments.	Medium Term (within 1-3 years)	Local municipalities; Local developers	Staff Time	N/A	51
Ensure that residents can age in place.	Medium Term (within 1-3 years)	Local municipalities; Local developers	Staff Time	N/A	52
Develop a Countywide Housing Study.	Medium Term (within 1-3 years)	Warren County Housing Authority; Warren County Redevelopment Authority	$30,000-$50,000	Local and Grant Funding	52
Convene a workgroup of housing providers, developers and real estate agents to meet on a regular basis to discuss trends, issues and potential opportunities regarding housing in the County.	Medium Term (within 1-3 years)	Warren County Housing Authority; Warren County Redevelopment Authority; Local Developers; Real Estate Agents	Staff Time	N/A	52
Expand broadband and cellular infrastructure.					
Continue to monitor funding opportunities for broadband initiatives and expansion.	Short Term (within 6 months to 1 year)	PA Broadband Authority (PBA); Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC); Surrounding Counties; Northwest Planning Commission	PBDA Grant Program; ARC POWER grant	N/A	54
Protect the rural character through sustainable land use policies.					
Encourage the development of conservation subdivisions in rural areas.	Medium Term (within 1-3 years)	Local municipalities; Local developers	Staff Time	N/A	56
Encourage use of green infrastructure to help with flooding issues.	Medium Term (within 1-3 years)	Local municipalities; PA DEP	Staff Time	N/A	56
Prepare a checklist for reviewing municipal plans and ordinances, as well as subdivision and land development approvals.	Short Term (within 6 months to 1 year)	Local municipalities	Staff Time	N/A	57

Note: Light Green highlighted items represent regional opportunities with surrounding counties

Recommendation	Timeframe	Potential Partner Organizations	Cost	Funding Sources	Page #
Promote Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Station Development.					
Continue to monitor EV charging station locations and support the expansion of this infrastructure in the County.	Medium Term (within 1-3 years)	PennDOT: Public Parks; Private Investors; Crawford County	Staff Time	N/A	58
Monitor funding sources for this type of infrastructure	Short Term (within 6 months to 1 year)	PennDOT	Staff Time	N/A	58
Promote alternative energy solutions.					
Provide education on the importance of renewable energy sources.	Medium Term (within 1-3 years)	Local municipalities; Renewable energy suppliers	Staff Time	N/A	60
Utilize renewable energy sources when possible for County and municipal owned facilities.	Medium Term (within 1-3 years)	Renewable energy suppliers	Dependent on project, but would be a significant upfront investment	USDA Rural Energy for America	60
Ensure alternative energy is addressed in the County zoning ordinance.	Medium Term (within 1-3 years)	N/A	Staff Time	Program Grants	60

Note: Light Green highlighted items represent regional opportunities with surrounding counties

Recommendation	Timeframe	Potential Partner Organizations	Cost	Funding Sources	Page #
A Beautiful Place to Visit					
Facilitate and encourage high-quality indoor and outdoor public recreation amenities that serve County residents.					
Implement the recommendations from the County's Park, Recreation and Greenways Plan.		See County's Park, Recreation and Greenways Plan			64
Implement the conceptual plan that was developed for the Farm Colony Drive property in Conewango Township.		See County's Park, Recreation and Greenways Plan			64
Improve overall health by encouraging active living.					
Educate local municipalities regarding requiring sidewalks, where appropriate.	Short Term (within 6 months to 1 year)	Local municipalities	Staff Time	N/A	66
Develop a countywide health campaign to improve overall health and wellness of Warren County residents.	Medium Term (within 1-3 years)	Regional health providers	Staff Time	N/A	67
Promote agri-tourism programs.					
Work with local farmers to offer Agri-Tourism options and assist with marketing.	Short Term (within 6 months to 1 year)	Local farmers; Warren County Tourism Agency; Warren County Chamber of Business and Industry	Staff Time	N/A	68
Promote participation in the Agriculture Security Areas (ASA) program.	Short Term (within 6 months to 1 year)	Local farmers	Staff Time	N/A	68
Enhance gateways into the County.	Medium Term (within 1-3 years)	Local municipalities; PennDOT	$10,000-$15,000 per gateway	?	68
Protect the rural character of the County.					
Promote the values and benefits of preserving farmland and reducing ag-related pollution.	Short Term (within 6 months to 1 year)	Local agricultural land owners	Staff Time	N/A	70
Work with Countywide organizations to continue to protect natural resources in the County.	Short Term (within 6 months to 1 year)	Warren County Conservation District	Staff Time	N/A	70
Continue to provide education and assistance with recycling and waste reduction.	Short Term (within 6 months to 1 year)	Regional recycling companies; Local municipalities	Staff Time	N/A	70

Note: Light Green highlighted items represent regional opportunities with surrounding counties

APPENDICES

Table 9: Roadway Project Listing

County	Ranking (within category)	SR No.	Project Name	Observed Issue or Proposed Improvement, according to Public Preference
Clarion	1	208	PA 208 Pavement Conditions	Poor road condition, minimal shoulders
Venango	2	8	PA 8 Betterment	Widen roadway and add sidewalks (Rouseville Study with Rt. 8)
Warren	3	957	PA 957 Widening and Resurfacing	Widening and resurfacing of PA 957
Forest	4	62	US 62 Geometry in Tionesta	Roadway geometry and turning radii cause truck backups
Venango	5	8	Add Capacity PA 8 to I-80	Extend 4-lane to I-80 interchange
Clarion	6	68	PA 68 to I-80 Improvements	Various roadway/signal improvements to accommodate new traffic from approved developments off Commerce Road (add turning lanes or new pavement markings, adding stop sign, etc.)
Crawford	7	27	PA 27 Truck Climbing Lane	Construction of a climbing lane in the vicinity of the Wayland Road intersections was originally identified as a recommendation in the 1996 study.
Warren	8	4019	SR 4019 Shoulders	Widen shoulders along SR 4019 to accommodate Amish buggy traffic
Warren	9	957	PA 957 Pavement Conditions	Poor pavement conditions, plowing has removed top coat, 7'x2'x4" pothole)
Crawford	10	2040	SR 2040 Flooding	Spring Street Extension prone to flooding - option to elevate roadway
Warren	11	4009	SR 4009 Betterment	Narrow roadway in need of resurfacing, lacking shoulders; Deep ditching in the road could disable a vehicle
Venango	12	1007	SR 1007 Flooding	Beaver dams cause flooding
Warren	13	59	PA 59 Truck Climbing Lane	Truck climbing lane
Crawford	14	198	PA 198 Pavement Conditions	There has been an increase in freight traffic on this route. There is a weight restriction south of the fairgrounds that forces trucks onto this road segment. Poor pavement conditions.
Venango	15	3024	SR 3024 Drainage Issues	Dip in the road with drainage issues
Venango	16	427	PA 427 Flooding	Flooding during rainfall
Venango	17	4003	SR 4003 Drainage Issues	Erosion of roadway, undercut on right hand side, drainage issues
Venango	18	3026	SR 3026 Drainage Issues	Drainage issues - road washouts
Forest	19		Guitonville Road Flooding	Flooding issues
Crawford	20		Rocky Glen Rd Drainage	Restore roadway drainage ditch and berms. Line drainage ditch with the appropriate stone, concrete, culverts, or other method necessary to correct the constant erosion of ditch and berm.
Crawford	21	n/a	New Access Road in Vernon Twp	The access road would connect in east-west fashion Baco Road, Moss Road, Port Road and Airport Road for approximately .95 miles on new articulation, running between SR 98 and Cotton Road

Table 10: Intersection Project Listing

County	Ranking (within category)	Project Name	Observed Issue or Proposed Improvement, according to Public Preference
Venango	1	Front Street and Second Street Intersection Improvements	Front Street and Second Street Intersection Improvements in Oil City
Clarion	2	Main Street and 5th Avenue Intersection	Pedestrian safety improvements in Clarion
Crawford	3	1996 Safety Study Intersection Improvements	Improvements to the intersection of PA 8 and PA 27 were originally identified as a recommendation in the 1996 study in Titusville.
Venango	4	Liberty Street and PA 8 Intersection Improvements	Pedestrian safety improvements in Franklin
Warren	5	Pennsylvania Avenue and Conewango Avenue Signal	Signal improvements in Warren
Warren	6	5th Avenue and Conewango Street Intersection	Intersection safety improvements - additional left turn lanes and safety features in Warren
Venango	7	PA 8 and Front Street Intersection Improvements	PA 8 and Front Street Intersection Improvements in Franklin
Venango	8	Front Street, Wilson Avenue, First Street Intersection	Intersection Improvements in Oil City
Warren	9	US 62 and PA 957 Intersection	Poor sight distance at intersection due to high bank in Russell
Clarion	10	US 322 and PA 66 Roundabout	Potential roundabout location in Shippenville. Traffic can get backed up easily, especially when there is an accident on I-80. 2 manufacturing sites are located south of the intersection and trucks need a wider turning radius.
Crawford	11	PA 77 and PA 8 Intersection	Intersection improvement in Centerville
Venango	12	Pittsburgh Road and Pone Lane Intersection	Intersection improvements to accommodate left hand turns in Franklin
Crawford	13	Mead Avenue and French Creek Parkway Intersection	Possible road diet in Meadville
Venango	14	PA 8 and SR 3013 Intersection	Offset intersection with poor line of sight and geometric issues in Polk
Venango	15	US 322, PA 417 and Meadville Pike Intersection	Multimodal improvements at US 322, PA 417, and Meadville Pike intersection in Franklin
Crawford	16	SR 408 and Main Street Intersection	Intersection improvements in Hydetown
Forest	17	PA 899 and PA 66 Intersection	Intersection realignment in Marienville
Crawford	18	PA 27 and PA 8 Intersection	Intersection improvements in Titusville
Venango	19	PA 8 and Dollar General Intersection	Dollar General at this location has caused an increase in traffic turning off of PA 8 in Franklin
Warren	20	US 6 and Main Avenue Interchange	Construct missing access ramps on east side of overpass in Warren
Venango	21	PA 27 and Lesh Road Intersection	Intersection Improvements in Cooperstown
Crawford	22	PA 102 and Pennsylvania Avenue Intersection	Pennsylvania Ave and SR 102 offset intersection - sight distance issues in Meadville
Crawford	23	PA 77 and SR 1024 Intersection	Widening south side of Canadohta Lake Road for horse and buggy safety in Spartansburg. Site

County	Ranking *(within category)*	Project Name	Observed Issue or Proposed Improvement, according to Public Preference
			clearance on southern side of Rt 77 on curve heading east.
Crawford	24	PA 27 and PA 173 Intersection	The addition of an eastbound left turn lane at the intersection of PA 173 and PA 27 in Guys Mills was originally recommended in the 1996 study.
Crawford	25	Delano Rd and Perry Highway Intersection	Visibility poor in Cochranton
Venango	26	Rouseville Signal	Low traffic intersection; may not warrant the current traffic signal in Rouseville.
Warren	27	US 6 and PA 27 Intersection	Intersection Improvements in Rouseville
Crawford	28	US 322 and PA 173 Intersection	Intersection configuration - lumber trucks turning left onto 322, tight turning radius, sight distance in Cochranton
Warren	29	SR 1019 and Quaker Hill Road Intersection	Intersection improvement necessary due to sharp bend on SR 1019 and poor line of sight at intersection in Warren
Crawford	30	Waylands Corner Intersection	Intersection improvements in Meadville
Crawford	31	PA 408 and SR 1010 Intersection	Intersection improvements in Townville
Crawford	32	SR 3004 and Victory Boulevard Intersection	Intersection improvements to accommodate vehicles entering the PGW plant as well as traffic traveling on Adamsville Rd in Cochranton.
Warren	33	Werner Park Entrance (US 62)	Intersection Improvements in Russell
Venango	34	PA 27 and Cherrytree Plumline Road Intersection Improvements	Intersection Improvements in Titusville

Table 11: Safety Project Listing

County	Ranking (within category)	SR No.	Project Name	Observed Issue or Proposed Improvement, according to Public Preference
Venango	1	3024 8	SR 3024 and PA 8 Intersection	Documented fatalities, severe injuries, and observed near misses
Crawford	2		North Main Street Safety Improvements	Safety study completed by D-1 with many recommendations that don't require programming on TIP. Complete small improvements first, include in TIP for safety improvements.
Clarion	3		I-80 Interchange (Exit 70) Safety Improvements	Eastbound exit onto I-80 has poor visibility and a short merge lane mixed with heavy truck traffic. Improvements may include an accel ramp and funded via Interstate Management Program.
Crawford	4		At-grade Crossing in Cambridge Springs	At-grade crossing safety improvements; recommend application for RRX funding from PennDOT Central Office.
Clarion	5	338	PA 338 Sight Distance	Difficult to see oncoming traffic when turning onto SR 338 due to elevation. Project to include bank cutting at Knox Road and narrowing the intersection; possibly HSIP eligible.
Crawford	6	322 2005	US 322 and SR 2005 Intersection	Documented fatalities, severe injuries, and observed near misses
Crawford	7	2014	SR 2014 sight distance	Line of sight issues that would be beneficial to resolve.

Table 12: Bicycle/Pedestrian/Buggy Project Listing

County	Ranking (within category)	SR No.	Project Name	Observed Issue or Proposed Improvement, according to Public Preference
Clarion	1		Bike/Pedestrian Improvements along PA 68	Bicycle/pedestrian facilities connecting commercial district, hospital, and YMCA to downtown Clarion (MTF grant received for YMCA). Project to include safety and landscape improvements, bike signage and pavement markings, and replacing rumble strips.
Venango	2		Liberty Street Multimodal Improvements	Multimodal improvements along Liberty Street in Franklin
Clarion	3		Bike/Pedestrian Connectivity between Clarion and Trail 66	Improved bicycle/pedestrian facilities connecting downtown Clarion to Trail 66 trailhead, including safety improvements, sidewalks, curbing, ADA accessibility, bike signage and pavement markings, and landscape improvements.
Venango	4		Various Multimodal Improvements for Adult Living Community	Proposed adult living community - need sidewalks and transit service in Barkeyville
Venango	5		13th Street Multimodal Improvements	Multimodal improvements to 13th Street and 13th Street Bridge in Franklin
Venango	6		Bicycle Sharrows and Signage Improvements in Franklin	Sharrows and bicycle signage

County	Ranking (within category)	SR No.	Project Name	Observed Issue or Proposed Improvement, according to Public Preference
Warren	7		Bicycle Trail from Youngsville to PA 62 (Old 6)	Possible bike trail to east side of Irvine
Venango	8		Front Street (Oil City) Multimodal Improvements	Multimodal improvements along Front Street corridor
Clarion	9		Upgraded Trail 66 Facilities	Trail 66 road crossing safety improvements (signage, advanced warning signals) - possible TAP application.
Warren	10		On-road Bicycle Improvements along US 62	Improved bicycle facilities connecting North Warren to the Hike Bike Trail
Venango	11		8th Street Multimodal Improvements	Riverfront Park Bike Path and 8th Street mid-block crossing in Franklin
Venango	12		Front Street (Franklin) Multimodal Improvements	Multimodal improvements along Front Street
Venango	13		9th Street Bicycle Improvements	Sharrows and signs on 9th Street in Franklin
Crawford	14		Titusville Trail Town Master Plan	Implement infrastructure projects from Titusville Trail Town Master Plan
Warren	15		US 6 Bike/Ped Connectivity	Local business at intersection of US6 and Kinzua Rd and could be better connected to Warren via bike/ped improvements along US6
Crawford	16		Connect Ernst Trail and Bicentennial Park (PA 102)	Connect Ernst Trail in Vernon Twp with Meadville's Bicentennial Park, crossing Poplar Street Bridge.
Crawford	17		French Creek Pkwy Road Diet	District just completed a study on this corridor and may eliminate at least one lane (possible road-diet).
Crawford	18		Erie to Pittsburgh East Branch Trail Extension - Spartansburg to Centerville	Erie to Pittsburgh East Branch Trail Extension - Spartansburg to Centerville (remove conflict between cars and Amish buggies)
Venango	19		Elk Street Shared Lanes	Elk Street Extension - Shared Lanes in Franklin
Venango	20		Sandy Creek/Clarion Highlands Trail Crossing Improvements	Sandy Creek Trail/Clarion Highlands Trail Crossing - improved crossing facilities
Warren	21		Youngsville Revitalization Plan Streetscape Improvements and Bike/Ped	Downtown streetscape & ped facility upgrades (see Youngsville Revitalization Plan - 2008)
Venango	22		Erie to Pittsburgh Trail Gap Closure in Oil Creek State Park	Worst trail gap in Venango County - bicycle/pedestrian improvements along SR1007 to improve safety for Erie to Pittsburgh trail users. Also, debris from trees, slides, rocks.
Venango	23		Central Elementary School Pedestrian Improvements	Pedestrian safety improvements around Central Elementary School in Franklin
Crawford	24		Bicycle/Pedestrian Connectivity in Titusville	Pedestrians and bicyclists need passage over the Oil Creek at South Perry Street
Crawford	25		Erie to Pittsburgh East Branch Trail Extension - Centerville to Hydetown	Erie to Pittsburgh East Branch Trail Extension - Centerville to Hydetown
Crawford	26		Erie to Pittsburgh East Branch Trail Extension - Hydetown to Titusville	Erie to Pittsburgh East Branch Trail Extension - Hydetown to Titusville (Connect ETP Trail with existing Queen City Trail)
Clarion	27		Armstrong Trail Brady Tunnel Trail Gap	Armstrong Trail Brady Tunnel Trail Gap - DCNR Top 10 Trail Gap
Clarion	28		Clarion Highlands On-road Detour	Improved on-road bicycle facilities for Clarion Highlands Trail detour

County	Ranking (within category)	SR No.	Project Name	Observed Issue or Proposed Improvement, according to Public Preference
Crawford	**29**		Erie to Pittsburgh East Branch Trail Extension - Black Bridge to Spartansburg	Erie to Pittsburgh East Branch Trail Extension - Black Bridge to Spartansburg
Clarion	**30**		Bicycle/Pedestrian Connectivity to ATA Bus Stop	ATA has a bus stop near cottages in this area. Trails could connect the development to the hospital and serve as emergency access.
Warren	**31**		PA 59 Bike/Ped Connectivity to Jakes Rocks	There is community desire to link the newly constructed mountain bike trails (Jakes Rocks) to downtown Warren via PA 59.
Clarion	**32**		Erie to Pittsburgh Trail Gap Closure Emlenton to Foxburg	High priority trail gap in Erie to Pittsburgh Trail System
Clarion	**33**		Allegheny River Trail - Parker to Upper Hillville	Trail gap in Allegheny River Trail System - Parker to Upper Hillville
Venango	**34**		PA 417 Multimodal Improvements	Multimodal improvements along PA 417 in Rocky Grove

Table 13: Rail Bridge Project Listing

County	Ranking (within category)	Project Name	Observed Issue or Proposed Improvement, according to Public Preference
Venango	**1**	Rail Bridge Improvement - Sugar Creek	Bridge has a weight limit - should be upgraded to accommodate movement of freight (on 2015 LRTP and should be carried forward)
Venango	**2**	Rail Bridge Improvement - Oil City	Railroad bridge should be upgraded to accommodate heavier trains (on 2015 LRTP and should be carried forward)

Table 14: State Bridge Project Listing

County	Ranking (within category)	SR No.	Project Name	Observed Issue or Proposed Improvement, according to Public Preference
Venango	**1**	2004	State Bridge Replacement SR 2004 over Deer Lick Run	Bridge is weight posted - concerned it won't be replaced, there is no good detour

Table 15: Structurally Deficient Bridges

This table has been removed. See 2023 Warren County Bridge Ranking on the following page for more accurate information.

Table 16: Future Study Project Listing

| County	Ranking *(within category)*	SR No.	Project Name	Observed Issue or Proposed Improvement, according to Public Preference
Warren	**1**	62	Safety Study US 62	US 62 in Warren County has many observed issues (condition, safety, etc.) and many drivers use PA 27 as an alternate route. Currently programmed for slide repairs.

Rank	Bridge Id#	Municipality	Road Name	Deck Condition	Superstructure Condition	Substructure Condition	Culvert Condition
1	61 7222 0362 4001	Triumph Twp.	T-362, Youngsville Rd.	Poor	Poor	Serious	N/A
2	61 7210 0539 8007	Freehold Twp.	T-539, Valastiak Rd.	Poor	Serious	Poor	N/A
3	61 7201 0444 4002	Brokenstraw Twp.	T-444, Irvine Run Rd.	Poor	Poor	Serious	N/A
4	61 7209 0508 4002	Farmington Twp.	T-508, Ludwick Rd.	Poor	Fair	Serious	N/A
5	61 7218 0546 4003	Sheffield Twp.	T-546	Poor	Fair	Serious	N/A
6	61 7216 0395 4008	Pittsfield Twp.	T-395, Marshianne Rd.	Satisfactory	Fair	Poor	N/A
7	61 7216 0378 4009	Pittsfield Twp.	Depot Street	Serious	Satisfactory	Fair	N/A
8	61 7207 0355 4004	Eldred Twp.	T-355, Gossville Rd.	N/A	N/A	N/A	Poor
9	61 7207 0377 4005	Eldred Twp.	T-377, Eureka Rd.	N/A	N/A	N/A	Poor
10	61 7216 0397 4006	Pittsfield Twp.	Schell Rd.	Poor	Satisfactory	Poor	N/A
11	61 7216 0441 4003	Pittsfield Twp.	T-441, Barton Rd.	Fair	Satisfactory	Poor	N/A
12	61 7209 0589 4003	Farmington Twp.	T-589, Old State Line Rd.	Fair	Fair	Poor	N/A
13	61 7219 0306 4003	Southwest Twp.	T-306, Mount Hope Rd	Satisfactory	Good	Poor	N/A
14	61 7215 0621 4003	Pine Grove Twp.	T-621, Reynolds Run Rd.	Good	Very Good	Poor	N/A
15	61 7210 0561 4001	Freehold Twp.	T-561, North Rd.	Good	Very Good	Poor	N/A

2023 Warren County Bridge Ranking

Stakeholders who participated in the Comprehensive Plan Process

- Warren County Commissioners
- Warren County Planning Commission
- Warren County Planning Staff
- Warren County Council of Governments
- Warren County School District
- Warren County Chamber of Business and Industry
- Warren County Housing Authority
- Northwest PA Commission
- The Achievement Center
- Betts Industries
- Superior Tire
- Rosie Marketing
- Audubon Community Nature Center
- Cultured Travel
- Anchor Advisors
- Allegheny Outfitters
- Goat Fort
- Youngsville Borough
- Warren General Hospital
- University of Pittsburgh, Bradford
- Beacon Behavior
- Jefferson DeFrees Family Center
- Warren/Forest Economic Opportunity Council
- Experience Inc., Area Agency on Aging
- Warren/Forest Higher Education Council
- The Rouse Estate
- Allegheny Community Center
- City of Warren
- Northwest Job Connect

Warren County School District Fact Sheet
2022-2023 School Year
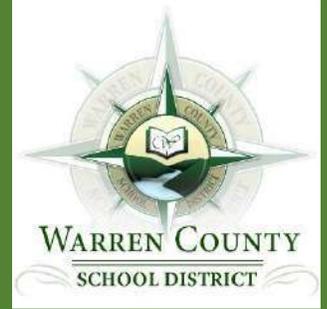
The mission of the Warren County School District is to support the personal and intellectual success and wellness of every student, every day.

The Warren County School District is located in Warren County, Pennsylvania, in the northwest corner of the state. The district is the second largest in the state, in terms of geography, and serves students across a 788 square mile area with four attendance areas: North, Central, East, and West. In addition, the district operates the Warren County Career Center, an area vocational-technical school.

Warren County School District Attendance Areas
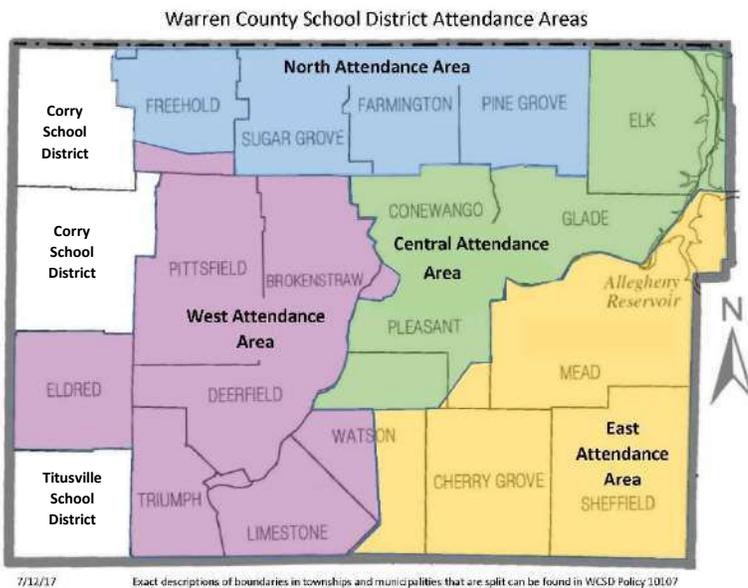
East Attendance Area
Sheffield Area Elementary School (K-5)
Sheffield Area Middle/High School (6-12)

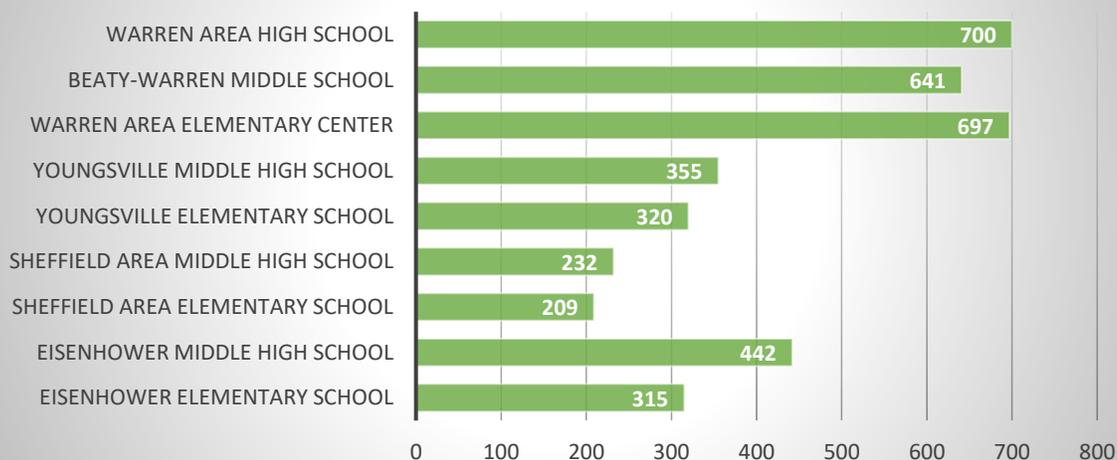| Central Attendance Area |
|---|
| Warren Area Elementary Center (K-4) |
| Beaty-Warren Middle School (5-8) |
| Warren Area High School (9-12) |

West Attendance Area
Youngsville Elementary School (K-5)
Youngsville Middle/High School (6-12)

North Attendance Area
Eisenhower Elementary School (K-5)
Eisenhower Middle/High School (6-12)

Student Population and Demographics

Based Upon October 2022 data

2022-2023 Enrollment by School

School	Enrollment
WARREN AREA HIGH SCHOOL	700
BEATY-WARREN MIDDLE SCHOOL	641
WARREN AREA ELEMENTARY CENTER	697
YOUNGSVILLE MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL	355
YOUNGSVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	320
SHEFFIELD AREA MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL	232
SHEFFIELD AREA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	209
EISENHOWER MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL	442
EISENHOWER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	315

District Data

Enrollment…………………………3911

Free Reduced Lunch %.........49%

EL Population %....................<1%

Gifted %...............................2%

Special Education %............23%
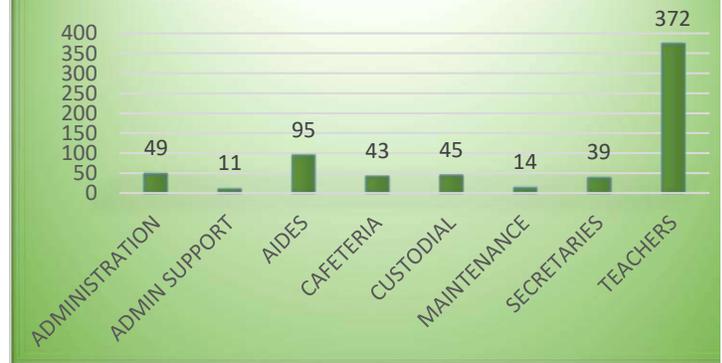
Warren County Career Center

309 students are enrolled at the Warren County Career Center in the following programs:

- ➢ Auto Body Collision
- ➢ Automotive Technology
- ➢ Building Construction Occupations
- ➢ Computer/Information Technology
- ➢ Electronics Technology
- ➢ Food Production & Management
- ➢ Health/Medical Assisting
- ➢ Machine Technology
- ➢ Marketing Technology
- ➢ Power Equipment Technology
- ➢ Pre-Engineering/Drafting
- ➢ Protective Services
- ➢ Welding Technology

Transportation

Every school day, 73 buses and 71 vans transport students over **10,170** miles to and from school.

2022-2023 Employees

Category	Count
ADMINISTRATION	49
ADMIN SUPPORT	11
AIDES	95
CAFETERIA	43
CUSTODIAL	45
MAINTENANCE	14
SECRETARIES	39
TEACHERS	372

Board of Education

Mr. Paul Mangione – President
Mrs. Donna Zariczny – Vice President
Mr. Cody Brown
Mr. Joseph Colosimo
Mr. Jeffery Dougherty
Mr. Kevin Lindvay
Mrs. Marcy Morgan
Mrs. Mary Passinger
Mr. Arthur Stewart

Mrs. Ruth Huck – Secretary
Mr. James Grosch - Treasurer

2022-23 General Operating Budget: $93,251,092

District Leadership

Mrs. Amy Stewart – Superintendent
Mr. James Grosch - Director
Mr. Gary Weber - Director
Dr. Patricia Mead - Director
Mr. Eric Mineweaser - Director

Warren County School District 6820 Market Street Russell, PA 16345-3406 (814) 723-6900

Pennsylvania Water and Wastewater Funding Sources

Compiled by the Environmental Finance Center Network, July 2020

Organization	Program (key words)	Gov. Entity	Non-Profit	For-Profit	Purpose or Use of Funds	How to Apply	Website	Contact
Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST) and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection	Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) *(water)*	✓	✓	✓	The DWSRF program offers low interest loans with flexible terms to assist a variety of borrowers for construction, expansion and maintenance of drinking water facilities (treatment plants, distribution mains, storage facilities), and improvements and upgrades to water quality systems.	Online Funding Request is a fully automated online system that allows you to electronically process data and perform required actions during the application process for requesting funds from PENNVEST. Apply here: https://www.pvportal.state.pa.us/PVLoginP	http://www.pennvest.pa.gov/Information/Funding-Programs/Pages/Drinking-Water-State-Revolving-Fund.aspx#.V2v0l_krIdU	Brion Johnson bjohnson@pa.gov 717-783-6798 *or* Robert Boos rboos@pa.gov 717-783-4493 333 Market Street, 18th Floor Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101
	Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) *(water, sewer)*	✓	✓	✓	The PENNVEST Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program provides funding to projects throughout Pennsylvania for the construction and maintenance of wastewater treatment facilities, storm water management projects, nonpoint source pollution controls, and watershed and estuary management.		http://www.pennvest.pa.gov/Information/Funding-Programs/Pages/Clean-Water-State-Revolving-Fund.aspx#.Vzs5qeSgbsI	
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation *(water, wastewater)*	✓	✓	✓	The Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 (WIFIA) established the WIFIA program, a federal credit program administered by EPA for eligible water and wastewater infrastructure projects. The WIFIA program offers loans with low, fixed interest rates and flexible financial terms. The minimum project size for small communities, population of 25,000 or less, is $5 million.	The WIFIA application process is two phases. Prospective borrowers must submit a letter of interest for their project to the WIFIA program by the announced annual deadline. For each selected projects, the prospective borrower may submit an application, negotiate loan terms, and close its loan. Please check the WIFIA website for more information about program deadlines.	https://www.epa.gov/wifia	Arielle Gerstein wifia@epa.gov 202-566-1868 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest Mailcode 4201T Washington, District of Columbia 20460
USDA Rural Development	Water and Waste Loan and Grant Program *(water, sewer)*	✓	✓		This program aims to develop water and waste disposal systems in rural areas and towns with a population not in excess of 10,000. The funds are available to public bodies, non-profit corporations and Indian tribes.	Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Paper applications are accepted, or applicants can register for and use RD Apply. Information is available here: http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rd-apply	http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-waste-disposal-loan-grant-program/pa	Amber Albright Amber.Albright@usda.gov 717-237-2295 *or* Barbara Lukens Barbara.Lukens@usda.gov 717-237-2294 359 East Park Drive, Suite 4 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17111
	Water and Waste Disposal Guaranteed Loan Program *(water, sewer)*	✓	✓		The purpose of this program is to provide a loan guarantee for the construction or improvement of water and waste disposal projects serving the financially needed communities of rural areas. This is achieved through bolstering existing private credit structure through the guarantee of quality loans. Guarantees up to 90% available to eligible lenders.		http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-waste-disposal-loan-guarantees/pa	
	Water and Waste Disposal Predevelopment Planning Grants *(water, wastewater)*	✓	✓		This program assists low-income communities with initial planning and development of an application for USDA Rural Development Water and Waste Disposal direct loan/grant and loan guarantee programs. The maximum is $30,000 or 75% of the predevelopment planning costs.		http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-waste-disposal-predevelopment-planning-grants/pa	

Pennsylvania Water and Wastewater Funding Sources

Compiled by the Environmental Finance Center Network, July 2020

Organization	Program (key words)	Gov. Entity	Non-Profit	For-Profit	Purpose or Use of Funds	How to Apply	Website	Contact
USDA Rural Development	Special Evaluation Assistance for Rural Communities and Households (SEARCH) (water, wastewater)	✓	✓		This program assists very small, financially distressed rural communities with predevelopment feasibility studies, design assistance, and technical assistance on proposed water and waste disposal projects.	Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Paper applications are accepted, or applicants can register for and use RD Apply. Information is available here: http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rd-apply	http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/search-special-evaluation-assistance-rural-communities-and-households/pa	Amber Albright Amber.Albright@usda.gov 717-237-2295 or
	Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants (water)	✓	✓		This grant program is designed to assist rural communities that have experienced a significant decline in quantity or quality of drinking water due to an emergency, or in which such decline is considered imminent, to obtain or maintain adequate quantities of water that meets the standards set by the Safe Drinking Water Act.		http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/emergency-community-water-assistance-grants/pa	Barbara Lukens Barbara.Lukens@usda.gov 717-237-2294 359 East Park Drive, Suite 4 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17111
	Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan (small business)	✓	✓	✓	This program improves the economic health of rural communities by increasing access to business capital through loan guarantees that enable commercial lenders to provide affordable financing for businesses in eligible rural areas. Lenders such as federal or state-chartered banks, savings and loans, farm credit banks, and credit unions can apply for the program. Businesses can qualify for loan guarantees.	Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and can be sent via mail. Information is available here: http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rd-apply	https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-industry-loan-guarantees/pa	Jeffrey Gatano Jeffrey.Gatano@usda.gov 717-418-7865 2120 Cornwall Road Lebanon, Pennsylvania 17042
	Water and Waste Disposal Revolving Fund (water, wastewater)		✓		This program helps qualified nonprofits create revolving loan funds that can provide financing to extend and improve water and waste disposal systems in rural areas.	Contact the Rural Development program specialist in your state or see contact information.	https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-waste-disposal-revolving-loan-funds/pa	Derek Jones derek.jones@wdc.usda.gov 202-720-9640 1400 Independence Avenue Southwest Washington, District of Columbia 20250

Organization	Program (key words)	Gov. Entity	Non-Profit	For-Profit	Purpose or Use of Funds	How to Apply	Website	Contact
Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED)	Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) (water)	✓			The CDBG funds enable communities to effectively address local community development needs, such as infrastructure, housing, and community facilities It also provides federal funds to develop viable communities through the provision of housing improvements and building suitable living environments, expand economic opportunities geared to low- and moderate income individuals, and improve critical community health and welfare infrastructure.	Please refer to the program guidelines at http://www.dced.pa.gov/cdbg for more details.	https://dced.pa.gov/programs/community-development-block-grant-cdbg/	Center for Business Financing 717-787-3405 Commonwealth Keystone Building 400 North Street, 4th Floor Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120 See this list for specific regional contact: https://dced.pa.gov/cdbg-grant-contacts-list/
	Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority (PIDA)	✓	✓	✓	The PIDA provides low-interest loans and lines of credit for eligible businesses that commit to creating and retaining full-time jobs and for the development of industrial parks and multi-tenant facilities. Loan applications are packaged and underwritten by a network of certified economic development organizations (CEDOs) that partner with PIDA to administer the program.	Loan applications are packaged by a CEDO that services the county your business is or will be located in. The CEDO will work with you to determine whether or not the PIDA loan program can assist with financing the needs of your business and will discuss with you in detail how the application process works.	https://dced.pa.gov/programs/pennsylvania-industrial-development-authority-pida/	Center for Business Financing 717-787-3405 Commonwealth Keystone Building 400 North Street, 4th Floor Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120 See this map for specific regional contact for PIDA: https://dced.pa.gov/cedo/
	Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) (water, sewer, energy efficiency)	✓			The CFA was established as an independent agency of the Commonwealth to administer Pennsylvania's economic stimulus packages. The CFA holds fiduciary responsibility over the funding of programs and investments in Pennsylvania's economic growth.	For application criteria and forms, access the DCED website. Deadlines can be accessed here: https://dced.pa.gov/download/?wpdmdl=68709	http://dced.pa.gov/programs-funding/commonwealth-financing-authority-cfa/	
Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED)	Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Area Development Fund (water, sewer)	✓	✓		ARC grants are administered either by ARC or by a federal agency selected by the grantee. The Commission administers most grants where the funds are for technical assistance, program operating costs, or equipment purchase, with no construction costs involved. ARC provides funds for basic infrastructure services, including water and sewer facilities that enhance economic development opportunities or address serious health issues for residential customers.	Potential applicants should contact their state ARC program manager to request a pre-application package. Program guidelines can be accessed here: https://dced.pa.gov/download/appalachian-regional-commission-arc-program-guidelines/?wpdmdl=82584	http://dced.pa.gov/programs/appalachian-regional-commission/	Neil Fowler nfowler@pa.gov 717-214-5395 400 North Street, 4th Floor Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120
	H2O PA Water Supply, Sanitary Sewer, and Storm Water Projects (water, wastewater, stormwater)	✓			The H2O PA Act was established by the General Assembly in July 2008. The Act provides for single-year or multi-year grants to municipalities or municipal authorities to assist with the construction of drinking water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer projects.	Applicant must submit the application at www.esa.dced.state.pa.us. Three copies of the application and the required supplemental information (please see Appendix I of these guidelines) should be mailed along with the signature page.	https://dced.pa.gov/programs/h2o-pa-water-supply-sanitary-sewer-storm-water-projects/#.WH6XqfIzWUk	H2O PA Program ra-dcedsitedvpt@pa.gov 717-787-3405 400 North Street, 4th Floor Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Pennsylvania Water and Wastewater Funding Sources

Compiled by the Environmental Finance Center Network, July 2020

Organization	Program (key words)	Gov. Entity	Non-Profit	For-Profit	Purpose or Use of Funds	How to Apply	Website	Contact
Economic Development Administration, Department of Commerce	Public Works Program (water, sewer)	✓	✓		This program empowers distressed communities to revitalize, expand, and upgrade their physical infrastructure, and generate or retain long-term, private sector jobs and investment.	Application packages are available at www.grants.gov. Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis until the publication of a new EDA Programs Federal Funding Opportunity.	https://www.eda.gov/funding-opportunities/	Chris Casper ccasper1@eda.gov 215-597-1074 900 Market Street, Room 602 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107
	Economic Adjustment Assistance Program (water, sewer)	✓	✓		This program assists state and local interests in designing and implementing strategies to adjust or bring about change to an economy. The program focuses on areas that have experienced or are under threat of serious structural damage to the underlying economic base.			
National Rural Water Association	NRWA Revolving Loan Fund (water, wastewater)	✓	✓		The Rural Water Loan Fund (RWLF) is a funding program specifically designed to meet the unique needs of small water and wastewater utilities. The RWLF provides low-cost loans for short-term repair costs, small capital projects, or pre-development costs associated with larger projects. The RWLF was established through a grant from the USDA/Rural Utilities Service, and repaid funds used to replenish the fund and make new loans.	Applications and supporting documents can be sent by mail or e-mail.	http://nrwa.org/initiatives/revolving-loan-fund/	Joseph Falcone jfalcone@prwa.com 814-353-9302 Ext. 102 138 West Bishop Street Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823
CoBank	Rural Water and Wastewater Lending (water, wastewater)	✓	✓	✓	CoBank works with rural water and wastewater not-for-profit systems, municipalities, and investor-owned utility companies to provide interim and bridge financing, refinance of existing debt, term loans for system upgrades, and lines of credit.	Applications are accepted continuously. Send inquiries to water@cobank.com	https://www.cobank.com/corporate/industry/water	Julia McCusker jmccusker@cobank.com 303-694-5858 6340 South Fiddlers Green Circle Greenwood Village, Colorado 80111
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission	Act 13 (Impact Fee) / Unconventional Gas Well Fund (water, sewer)	✓			Act 13/Impact Fee provides for the imposition of an unconventional gas well fee (also called an impact fee), and the distribution of those funds to local and state governments. Act 13/Impact Fee also contains provisions regarding how the impact fee may be spent. A significant portion of the funds collected will be distributed directly to local governments to cover the local impacts of drilling. Also, several state agencies will receive funding to be used for a variety of other purposes.	Application forms and deadlines can be found on website.	http://www.puc.state.pa.us/filing_resources/issues_laws_regulations/act_13_impact_fee_.aspx	Bureau of Consumer Services ra-act13@pa.gov 717-787-5000 P.O. Box 3265 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105
Army Corp of Engineers	Section 219: Environmental Infrastructure (water, wastewater)	✓			The Section 219 program provides planning, design, and construction assistance for water- and sewer-related environmental infrastructure and resource protection and development projects for local communities throughout the country.	The Corps must have an authorization from Congress to begin a project or study. To get a project or study authorized, applicants must submit a request for assistance to the upcoming Water Resource Development Act. Contact the Corps for more information.	https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Project-Partnership-Agreements/model_ra/section_219/	Dave Wethington david.m.wethington@usace.army.mil 202-761-1878 441 G Street Northwest Washington, District of Columbia 20314

Organization	Program (key words)	Gov. Entity	Non-Profit	For-Profit	Purpose or Use of Funds	How to Apply	Website	Contact
Small Business Administration (SBA)	504 Fixed Asset Program (Certified Development Company) *(small business)*			✓	The 504 Loan Program provides approved small businesses with long-term, fixed-rate financing used to acquire fixed assets for expansion or modernization. 504 loans are made available through Certified Development Companies (CDCs), SBA's community based partners for providing 504 Loans.	For additional information on eligibility criteria and loan application requirements, please contact your local Certified Development Company (CDC) at: https://www.sba.gov/offices/headquarters/ofa/resources/4049	https://www.sba.gov/offices/headquarters/ofa/resources/4049	Steven Dixel, District Director phila_do@sba.gov 610-382-3062 660 American Avenue, Suite 301 King of Prussia, PA 19406 *or* Kelly Hunt kelly.hunt@sba.gov 412-395-6562 411 Seventh Avenue Suite 1450 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 26301
	7(a) Loan Guarantee *(small business)*			✓	The 7(a) program is a flexible tool that can be used to finance a variety of business purposes. The proceeds of a 7(a) guaranteed loan may be used to purchase machinery, fixtures, and supplies; make improvements to land and buildings; finance receivables and augment working capital; acquire and start businesses; and refinance existing debt under certain conditions. The regular 7(a) program's maximum loan amount is $5 million. There is no minimum amount. Other, more specialized 7(a) programs have different terms and guaranty amounts.	Borrowers must submit SBA From 1919 for a 7(a) business loan to private lenders. The lender will review the application, complete SBA Form 1920, and then submit it to the SBA's Loan Guaranty Processing Center through SBA's E-Tran website.	https://www.sba.gov/document/?program=7(a)	Steven Dixel, District Director phila_do@sba.gov 610-382-3062 660 American Avenue, Suite 301 King of Prussia, PA 19406 *or* Kelly Hunt kelly.hunt@sba.gov 412-395-6562 411 Seventh Avenue Suite 1450 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 26301
	Community Advantage Pilot *(small business)*			✓	Community Advantage is a pilot initiative aimed at increasing the number of SBA 7(a) lenders who reach underserved communities, targeting mission-focused financial institutions which were previously not able to offer SBA loans. The maximum loan size is $250,000. Guarantee can be up to 85 percent for loans up to $150,000 and 75 percent for those greater than $150,000.	All small business applicants must complete SBA Form 1919, Borrower Information Form, and 2449, Community Advantage Addendum. Lenders must complete SBA Form 1920.	https://www.sba.gov/document/?program=7(a)	
	Microloan Program *(small business)*			✓	The purpose of the Microloan Program is to assist women, low income, veteran, and minority entrepreneurs, and other small businesses in need of small amounts of financial assistance. Under the Microloan Program, SBA makes direct loans to Intermediaries that, in turn, use the proceeds to make small loans to eligible micro borrowers.	For additional information on eligibility criteria, loan application requirements, participating micro lenders please visit www.sba.gov/pa	https://www.sba.gov/tools/local-assistance	

Organization	Program (key words)	Gov. Entity	Non-Profit	For-Profit	Purpose or Use of Funds	How to Apply	Website	Contact
Live Oak Bank	Water and Environmental Programs (water, wastewater)	✓	✓	✓	Live Oak Bank provides USDA-guaranteed funding for rural communities and utilities looking to construct, enlarge, extend or otherwise improve rural drinking water, sanitary sewage (wastewater), solid waste disposal and stormwater drainage facilities. USDA guaranteed loans support rural communities with populations up to 50,000, which was increased from 10,000 in the 2018 Farm Bill. USDA-guaranteed loans provide fixed rates and terms up to 40-years, along with federal 1926(b) protection against unauthorized annexation. Live Oak Bank was named the 2019 Commercial Lender of the Year by USDA Rural Development, and is based in Wilmington, NC.	Contact the program specialist to apply.	https://www.liveoakbank.com/energy-infrastructure-loans/water-wastewater-financing/	Matt Peeler matt.peeler@liveoak.bank 910-790-5867 1741 Tiburon Drive Wilmington, North Carolina 28403