



Applications Being Accepted for a New Westmoreland County Demolition Program

The Westmoreland County Board of Commissioners today announced applications are now being accepted for the Act 152 County Wide Demolition Program that was authorized by Resolution #45-2017, enacted on November 16, 2017. The program, which shall be known as DEMOFUND, was established in order to help remediate blight and alleviate the costs associated with the demolition of abandoned and blighted property throughout the County. Funding for the program was made available through Pennsylvania Act 152, which authorizes the County to collect a fee of \$15.00 for each deed and mortgage recorded, with said fees to be used exclusively for demolition.

"We are fortunate Westmoreland County is a beautiful place with many thriving communities; however, we recognize the need to address distressed areas in a direct and proactive manner," said Commissioner Gina Cerilli, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners. "My commissioner colleagues and I want to make sure resources are available countywide to support our municipalities in the removal of structures impacting our neighborhoods and their property values."

All municipalities, which include any city, township, borough, or home rule within Westmoreland County, are eligible to apply for demolition projects through DEMOFUND. Although blighted properties may be owned by the municipality, a non-profit agency, a for-profit agency, or a private resident, the municipality must serve as the applicant for the funding.

Eligible projects will include any blighted residential, commercial, institutional, or industrial property. Activities that may be funded under DEMOFUND include the proper removal of hazardous materials, the disconnection of utilities, the obtaining of proper demolition permits, the razing of structures, the proper disposal of demolition waste, the backfilling and regrading of the site, the placement of cover materials such as seeding or gravel, and site clean-up.

Applicants may request a maximum of \$25,000 per application. For multiple residential unit projects as well as commercial, institutional or industrial projects included in a redevelopment plan or neighborhood stabilization project or those having significant economic or community development impact, amounts greater than \$25,000 will be considered.

Applications will be evaluated and scored by the Westmoreland County Department of Planning and Development, and the Redevelopment Authority of Westmoreland County will provide program delivery services for successfully awarded applications. The deadline for applications is January 1, 2019.

DEMOFUND program guidelines, along with project applications, have been sent to each municipality within the County. Furthermore, the County will be hosting an informational Q&A meeting for municipal officials and/or their engineers. This meeting will be held on November 2, 2018 at 9:00 o'clock in the Westmoreland Development Council's board room located at 40 N. Pennsylvania Ave., Fifth Floor, Suite 520 Greensburg, PA. Guidelines and applications may also be found on the County's website www.co.westmoreland.pa.us.

Program inquiries should be directed to:

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