

CONTACT: SHELBY MICHALEK  
REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF WESTMORELAND  
smichale@co.westmoreland.pa.us  
724.830.3050

**Redevelopment Authority Receives \$100,000 for Accessible Housing Program**

**GREENSBURG (July 12)** The Board of Directors of the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Westmoreland (RACW) in partnership with Westmoreland County Land Bank (WCLB) today announced the agency has been awarded a \$100,000 grant through the Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement Fund.

The Accessible Housing Program is an initiative focused on low-to-moderate income residents within Westmoreland County. The Program has two major components - the rehabilitation of once blighted structures for single family occupancy, and installing accessibility modifications in residences of the permanently physically disabled.

The majority of the monies will be dedicated to the Homeownership Program, and already active and successful initiative within the Accessible Housing Program due to previous funding from multiple sources, including PHARE, Act 137 and PHARE RTT. To date, 8 total properties have been rehabilitated in Land Bank communities, with 1-2 more anticipated with the awarded funds. All renovations have increased adjacent property values and stabilized the neighborhood from further neglect.

The RACW will allocate the remaining Accessible Housing funds towards installing home modifications for permanently disabled individuals who earn less than 50 percent of the area's median income. This program will continue to be essential to our communities, already completing 45 modifications from previous PHARE monies leveraged with county funding. Applicants can apply for either a ramp or stair lift to assist with mobility freedom, keeping these individuals in their homes.

According to Authority Chairperson Donna Holdorf-Roadman, "This program will continue to address immediate housing needs in Westmoreland County, focusing on our most vulnerable residents". She continues, "We are proud of our past successes and look forward to making a larger impact".

Specific areas of need were targeted when applying, focusing on affordable housing options for individuals. "If you look at how the PHARE funding is spent, the uses are varied across rental housing and homeownership," said PHFA Executive Director and CEO Brian A. Hudson Sr. "Communities know best what their local housing needs are, and we rely entirely on their requests when determining how best to allocate this funding".

The governor named 211 housing and community development initiatives in 67 counties that will share a portion of the total \$51.2 million in PHARE funding for fiscal year 2018-19. "A major advantage of the PHARE program is that the decisions on how the funding should be spent are driven locally," said Governor Wolf. "Local municipalities determine how the funding can best preserve and expand the availability of affordable housing, and then they apply to PHARE to meet those needs. It's a system that works".

The focus of the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Westmoreland is on reenergizing the county's core communities and to implement programs intended to remove blight and improve conditions for low-to-moderate income residents throughout Westmoreland County.