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**Westmoreland County Redevelopment Authority & Land Bank knows that when it comes to blight remediation & ARPA funds, communication is key**

**Greensburg, PA (August 23, 2022)** – In July, Westmoreland County Commissioners announced that \$10.4 million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds would be allocated to remediate blight in Westmoreland County through demolition and rehabilitation of blighted properties. With an understanding of how blight remediation improves resident’s mental health outcomes, increases business development and economic opportunities, and creates healthy and whole communities throughout Westmoreland County, the Redevelopment Authority and Land Bank wasted no time in connecting with ARPA-qualified communities to talk strategy.

On August 18 and 19, RA/LB hosted informational seminars for ARPA-qualified communities. Elected and administrative officials, code enforcement professionals, planners, administrators, first responders, and more gathered at Rodney’s in Irwin to discuss the role of community officials and of the RA/LB, who and what is eligible for ARPA funds, where to get started, and next steps to take.

Attendees were able to get answers to their ARPA-related questions from RA/LB staff and solicitors, explore additional resources, and network with other officials in Westmoreland County. Redevelopment Authority and Land Bank Executive Director Brian Lawrence is optimistic about what this funding can accomplish in Westmoreland County: “The Westmoreland County Commissioners have given our communities an unprecedented opportunity to change the trajectory of dozens of neighborhoods. These are the places that have been left behind by decades of economic restructuring. Eliminating blighted, vacant, and abandoned buildings at this scale will help reset market conditions, so that property values can stabilize. Ideally, this is the first phase of re-establishing long forgotten blocks and streets as safe, convenient, and attractive communities.”

The Westmoreland County Redevelopment Authority & Land Bank work hand in hand with local officials and like-minded organizations to carry out residential and commercial rehabilitation, blight demolition, acquisition and repurposing of vacant and tax-delinquent properties, accessible and affordable housing, training and education partnerships, historic preservation, and brownfield redevelopment, all to make the communities of Westmoreland County more desirable places in which to live, work, raise a family and prosper.

[ARPA Seminar Photo](#)

For more information on the Westmoreland County Redevelopment Authority & Land Bank, visit:  
[www.westmorelandredevelopment.com](http://www.westmorelandredevelopment.com)

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