

CONTACT: **Ashley Vidale**
Communications Associate
avidale@co.westmoreland.pa.us
724.516.6225

Westmoreland County Redevelopment Authority & Land Bank Know: It Pays to Have a Plan

Greensburg, PA (October 03, 2022) – After the success of the Spring event hosted by The Westmoreland County Redevelopment Authority & Land Bank (RA/LB), Blight Boot Camp 2022, the united organizations are hosting a follow-up event aimed at giving attendees actionable, starting steps to continue the fight on blight in their communities. Blight is a common problem throughout Westmoreland County and the region: dangerous, crumbling, vacant, and abandoned properties littered throughout their towns and neighborhoods. These unsightly and hazardous properties are economically, socially, and physically costly to the communities they plague. Fighting blight isn't always easy, but the RA/LB aims to empower the municipalities and communities of Westmoreland County to remediate blight, revitalize their communities, and attract developers, residents, businesses, and tourists through effective, detailed, and scalable planning. This will be the theme of the RA/LB Fall Blight Remediation Event, *What Can a Blight Plan Do For You?*

This half-day conference will be held in the Event Center at WCCC Youngwood Campus on October 14, 2022, between 8:30am-1pm, and will feature presentations on the ins and outs of blight planning as well as an interactive, open blight Q&A session with a panel of regional blight experts and planners. About 75 attendees are projected to be at the event, composed of municipal officials, code enforcement officers, planners, solicitors, corporate partners, and more.

Said Brian Lawrence, RA/LB Executive Director, "Extensive research and planning internally allowed the Redevelopment Authority and Land Bank to identify areas that our organizations needed to strengthen and develop in order to achieve our unified mission of building healthy and whole communities and repositioning our towns by eliminating blight and its influences in Westmoreland County and beyond." He continued, "Having this information enabled us to build our own [strategic plan](#) of success for the organizations – we want to give municipalities and communities throughout the region the tools they need to build and customize their own plans of success based on the needs and resources of their communities."

The Westmoreland County Redevelopment Authority & Land Bank strive to work hand in hand with local officials and like-minded organizations to carry out blight demolition, residential and commercial rehabilitation, 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.

To learn more about the schedule, speakers, and topics of the Fall Blight Remediation Event, *What Can a Blight Plan Do For You?* visit www.tinyurl.com/BlightPlanning22