



NTRPDC update



SERVING BRADFORD, SULLIVAN, SUSQUEHANNA, TIOGA, AND WYOMING COUNTIES

NTRPDC Receives USDA Support



Congressman Chris Carney, left, presents NTRPDC with a \$98,000 Rural Business Enterprise Grant. Also pictured left to right: Paulette Potter, Loan Program Manager; Tom Williams, USDA State Director; and Kevin Abrams, Executive Director

Congressman Christopher Carney and Thomas Williams, USDA Rural Development State Director, visited NTRPDC on August 23 for a check presentation and project award announcement.

The \$98,000 Rural Business Enterprise Grant will be used to develop a revolving loan fund for start-up and

existing small businesses. Paulette Potter, Loan Program Manager, said the grant will be used to help recapitalize existing revolving loan funds. The current portfolio services 123 active loans totaling \$10.8 million.

NTRPDC was also selected from among 11 applicants in Pennsylvania to participate in

USDA's Stronger Economies Together program. This pilot program is designed to help regional teams develop new approaches to strengthen and enhance regional economic development activities.

"We already have a strong partnership with our board and other organizations in the region. This program will help us find new ways of thinking about regional economic development and how we can work together to manage our changing economy," said Jill Koski, Economic Development Program Manager.

The region's leadership team is comprised of representatives from each county, including county commissioners, county planners, chambers of commerce, post secondary education, and other economic development organizations.

Upcoming Meetings

Full Commission Meeting
October 29, 11:00 a.m.,
Towanda Country Club, Wysox

County Outreach Meetings
all start at 9 a.m.

- Sullivan County – October 1
- Bradford County – October 22
- Susquehanna County – November 5

NTRPDC Executive Board
10:30 a.m.,
NTRPDC Conference Room

- September 24
- November 19

RTAC Meetings
10:00 a.m.,
NTRPDC Conference Room

- October 18
- November 8

LLRC Meetings
9:00 a.m.,
NTRPDC Conference Room

- October 8
- November 12

LMC Meetings
10:30 a.m.,
NTRPDC Conference Room

- September 28
- October 26

Financial Management and Reporting Seminar: Making Sense of Your Dollars and Cents

November 9, 2010, 1 - 3 p.m.
At NTRPDC, Towanda
\$15 per person
Pre-pay and register by November 5

Contact Susan Dillon
University of Scranton
Small Business Development Center
570-724-7703

Recent Loan Closings

Five loans totaling \$375,000 were closed in July, August, and early September.

- \$200,000 Small Business First Loan and \$100,000 Revolving Loan Fund Loan to **Masters RMC, Inc.**, in Susquehanna County for construction of a new facility. 35 jobs retained, 15 created.
- \$25,000 Small Business Loan to **Soil Services** in Sullivan County for working capital and equipment needs. 5 jobs retained, 1 created.
- \$25,000 Small Business Loan to **Five Star Field Services Appalachia, LLC**, in Bradford County for working capital. 7 jobs retained, 15 created.
- \$25,000 Small Business Loan to **Taurus Services Company, Inc.**, in Wyoming County for the purchase of equipment. 24 jobs retained and 1 created.

Health Care Industry Worker Training Funded

\$75,000 in Worker Training Grant funding awarded for 2010 - 2011.

The Northeast Regional Health Care Industry Partnership was awarded \$75,000 in Worker Training Grant funding for 2010-2011. These funds will be used to upgrade the skills of local workers in the health care field. The grant will cover 75 percent of the cost of training with the remaining 25 percent paid by the employer. Again this year, multiple employer trainings will be given first consideration for funding. To date,

several trainings have been completed or scheduled.

CNA training at Memorial Hospital in Towanda started June 7 and ran for four weeks. "Key Concepts in Dementia Care" is scheduled for October 21, 2010, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Pennsylvania College of Technology's North Campus in Wellsboro. Presented by the Alzheimer's Association, this training will cover dementia basics, communication, be-

havioral management, and end-of-life care.

Last year, Health Care Worker Training Grant funds were used to upgrade the skills of 223 employees in the Northeast region, with a total of \$123,295 expended. Trainings included CNA, Supervisory/Manager, Worker Retention, Dementia/Alzheimer's, CNA Instructor Certification, and various Direct Care Worker trainings.



Grant funds are used to upgrade the skills of local workers in the health care field.



Summer Employment Program a Success

Way to Work 2010 provided employment for 140 teens and young adults.

This summer, 140 teens and young adults participated in a summer job funded by WIA, ARRA, and TANF Emergency Contingency funds. Prior to starting work, participants completed 30 hours of classroom training, during which they created resumes and cover letters, learned interviewing techniques, became certified in CPR and First Aid, took field trips to local employers/colleges, and explored ca-

reers in high-demand occupations. After completing classroom training, participants were placed at job sites based on their interests and abilities. In addition to traditional work sites, each county had at least one "roving crew" that worked outdoors performing community beautification projects. This year, TANF Emergency Contingency funds (TANF ECF) were used to pay the wages of most participants. This fund-

ing was provided by the Department of Public Welfare. Even though most of the in-school youth participants have returned to the classroom and are no longer working, we will continue to fund work experiences for the out-of-school population through TANF ECF funds as available. TANF ECF funding is scheduled to end September 30, 2010.



"The greenhouse project is a great example of community collaboration."

Tom Wisnosky,
Project Supervisor

Wyoming County Success Story

Participants in the Way to Work Employment Program were busy this summer building an operational greenhouse at Tunkhannock Area High School's Tiger House. The greenhouse project enabled students to develop vocational skills while introducing them to the world of work.

The greenhouse will be used to grow plants and produce while teaching students about renewable energy. The technology used in the greenhouse includes a solar-powered generator, which will help educate students on renewable energy resources. In addition to generating electricity, the equipment will be connected to other classrooms throughout the school. For example, students in physics classes will be able to track the amount of energy produced in different sunlight conditions.

The students will grow fruit, vegetables, and herbs in the greenhouse, with produce to be used in their catering business. The flowers and plants that are grown will be used for projects such as planting downtown flower boxes and other city beautification projects. Participants' wages were funded with TANF Emergency Contingency Funds and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds. The materials used to build the greenhouse were provided by Chesapeake Energy.





Left to right: Doug Cummings and Lee Cummings, Channel Veneers; Shoaib Raza, Furniture Pakistan; Larry Nelson, PA DCED; and Marcos Perez, Channel Veneers.

Overseas Markets for Northern Tier Lumber

Region hosts a buyer from Pakistan.

In July, Northern Tier hardwood companies hosted Shoaib Raza, Management Associate of Furniture Pakistan and the procurement officer for a WoodBank (warehouse). Mr. Raza was in Pennsylvania for a three-week mission in cooperation with the PA Hardwoods Development Council and the PA DCED's Center for Trade Development. The purpose of the mission was to introduce Mr. Raza to Penn-

sylvania lumber suppliers, and to begin sales from Pennsylvania to the warehouse in Pakistan. While in the region Mr. Raza visited Deer Park Lumber, Cummings Lumber, Channel Veneers, and Barefoot Flooring.

As a result of this mission, a positive relationship was established between this potential market and Pennsylvania lumber suppliers.

Thanks to our newest members for supporting NTRPDC's work in the Northern Tier:

Larson Design Group – Platinum

Borton-Lawson – Gold

Growth Resources of Wellsboro – Bronze



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