

Press Release



For business and local editors

PHFA Announces 2013 PHARE funding recipients

Westmoreland County receives \$400,000 to improve housing.

Greensburg, Pa., on October 10, 2013, the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA) announced the recipients of funding for projects to improve the availability and affordability of housing in the Marcellus Shale regions of the state. Westmoreland County received an award of \$400,000 for its application for the “Monessen Transitional Neighborhood Stabilization Program” that will be funded through the Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement (PHARE) Fund and Marcellus Shale impact fees. The PHARE Fund is authorized under the Act 10 of 2010 (“PHARE Fund”) and the Marcellus Shale Impact Fee Act (“Impact Fee Act”), Act 13 of 2012.

The county’s Department of Planning & Development will collaborate with the City of Monessen and Mon Valley Initiative to implement the project which is multi-phased and designed to stabilize a transitional city neighborhood and further on-going revitalization efforts currently being implemented in Monessen. Project phases include the acquisition of tax delinquent properties, demolition of the dilapidated structures on those properties, construction of rental housing and for the provision of funding to eligible first-time homebuyers for down payment and closing cost assistance.

“The Marcellus Shale industry has brought jobs and economic development to our area at a time when many communities are struggling,” said County Commissioner Charles Anderson. “Our goal is to ensure that as the industry continues to grow, our municipalities can provide the resources and infrastructure needed to accommodate both current residents and new workers. Act 13 funding and PHARE funding will assist greatly with that effort.”

Further details will be made available as the program guidelines are developed.

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