



BUSINESS BRIEFS

Economic Development News from Central Pennsylvania

Volume 29 - Number 3
2011

In This Issue

[SEDA-COG Approved to Offer PIDA Loans](#)

[Pennsylvania's International Trade Program Receives Global Recognition](#)

[Commissioners OK \\$1.6 Million Rail Project](#)

[SEDA-COG to Offer CDBG Overview Program](#)



SEDA-COG Approved to Offer PIDA Loans

DCED grants SEDA-COG authority in 8 Counties



The PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) has granted SEDA-COG authority to provide PIDA loans in 8 of our 11 Counties: Clinton, Columbia, Juniata, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, and Union. Historically, PIDA loans were only available through County Industrial Development Corporations (IDCs). For projects located in Centre, Clinton, Lycoming, Mifflin, and Perry Counties, applicants still must apply through their County IDC. SEDA-COG will continue to work closely with the IDCs located in all 11 counties to cooperatively market the PIDA loan program.

Some of the highlights of the PIDA loan program include:

- Eligible applicants include for-profit manufacturing and industrial firms, research and development facilities, agricultural businesses, warehouse and terminal facilities, office buildings used as regional or national headquarters, and computer and clerical centers.

[West Branch of Susquehanna River is Designated as a National Recreation Trail](#)

[Annual Average Unemployment Rate](#)

[Quick Links](#)

[SEDA-COG](#)

[SEDA-COG Business Financing](#)

[SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority](#)

[SEDA-COG Community Development](#)

[Center for Trade Development](#)

[SEDA-COG Export Development](#)

[Susquehanna Greenway](#)

[National Recreation Trails](#)

- Eligible use of funds includes land and building acquisition, construction, and/or expansion of existing buildings.
- Loan amount up to \$2,000,000 (\$2,250,000 in certain cases) or 50%-70% of eligible project costs, whichever is less. Participation rates are based on the county where the project is located.
- The interest rate is fixed for the life of the loan and is based on the county where the project is located. Current rates range from 3.50% to 4.50%.
- The term of the loan can be up to 15 years.
- One full-time job must be created and/or retained for every \$35,000 of PIDA funds in a three-year period from the time of loan disbursement.
- DCED charges a 1% commitment fee. For loans approved through SEDA-COG, an additional 1% commitment fee is charged along with an ongoing monthly servicing fee equal to .05% of the loan that is built into the monthly payment.

Click [here](#) for more information about the PIDA loan through SEDA-COG.



Pennsylvania's International Trade Program Receives Global Recognition

by Jamie Yates, DCED



Pennsylvania's Center for Trade Development has earned the "Economic Development Leadership" award for its work to revamp the program's export promotion operations, Department of Community and Economic Development Secretary C. Alan Walker said in May.

"As the world's 18th largest economy, Pennsylvania must ensure that our businesses are positioned to compete in a global economy," Walker said. "Our export assistance program continues to be the national model for providing businesses with the support they need to grow and create jobs."

The award was presented by CoreNet Global, a leading association for corporate real estate and workplace professionals, service providers and economic developers. The Center for Trade Development will now compete for the top honor of CoreNet's "2011 Global Innovator's" award, which will be announced this fall.

Last year, the Center for Trade Development directly assisted over 1,350 companies through its 22 overseas trade representatives and its 10 regional export network partners across the state. The program directly generated \$483 million of new export sales for Pennsylvania businesses, supporting more than 6,400 jobs.



**Save The Date
For These
Upcoming
Events!**

Government
Contracting Express -
July 7, 2011

Government
Contracting Express -
July 8, 2011

Solar Energy
Workshop- July 8,
2011

CDBG Tools for
Compliance - July 19
and 20, 2011

IMC Intro to
Government
Contracting - July 25,
2011

**Interested in
Energy Financial
Assistance?**

Need technical

The Center for Trade Development, housed within the Department of Community and Economic Development's Office of International Business Development, helps Pennsylvania exporters expand their reach, capacity and capability to sell in new markets by providing clients with access to market research, partner search services, grants, and a full schedule of international trade shows and missions.

Pennsylvania businesses can use the Department of Community and Economic Development's free, interactive virtual trade advisor by searching keyword "virtual trade advisor" online at www.newpa.com. The advisor offers information about market statistics, trends, trade regulations, lead-generation and potential grants and financing, as well as local points of contact across the state.

For more information about the Office of International Business Development or other economic development services, visit www.newpa.com or call 1-866-466-3972.

For more information about the services provided by the SEDA-COG Export Development program, please [click here](#).

This article reprinted with permission from DCED.



Commissioners OK \$1.6 Million Rail Project

A \$1.6 million project is expected to attract businesses needing rail service to the Iron Town Commerce Center.



On Tuesday, May 24 the Montour County Commissioners approved an agreement with the SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority for the project to be funded by a \$750,000 grant obtained by state Senator John Gordner, R-27 of Berwick. That sum will be matched by complex owner Jim Miller Jr. and \$100,000 from the Authority.

The Authority hasn't had a rail customer in Montour County in at least 10 years, said George Fury, Authority property manager.

"This is a prime site," he said of the Iron Town complex.

The project will link Iron Town, at Railroad and East Market streets, with a North Shore Railroad line.

The state required the county to stand behind the project, said Matt Loper, an associate with Delta Development Group Inc., of Mechanicsburg.

assistance with a particular energy-related loan or grant?

SEDA-COG now offers assistance to businesses interested in pursuing grant and loan opportunities for renewable energy and energy efficiency and conservation projects.

For more information about the types of financial assistance services SEDA-COG can provide, contact Betsy Lockwood at elockwood@seda-cog.org or Ray Haden at rhaden@seda-cog.org or by phone at 570-524-4491.

"This is a true public-private partnership I think will work very well thanks to Jim Miller funding almost half the cost and legislators willing to work with the Authority," said Commissioners Chairman Trevor Finn.

"A lot of folks agree we are doing a good job with economic development," Finn said. "We have a great workforce here. I hope this brings something real big to Iron Town Commerce."

Commissioner Jerry Ward said the individuals at the meeting have shown foresight with this project. "This is a giant step in that direction," he said.

Fury explained the project would involve a bridge over Sechler's Run to access the property. That aspect is controlled by the Army Corps of Engineers and state Department of Environmental Protection, he said.

"We are in the process of permitting Sechler's Run and are looking at about a year," Fury said. "This time next year, we should be bidding and starting construction."

A track would cross Railroad Street. A spur on the complex would be rebuilt on a runaround track that would be continued across Railroad Street, he said. Track would be repaired and raised nine inches and Railroad Street repaved and drainage improved.

"There will be nice corridor improvements to that entrance to the industrial portion of town," Fury said.

North Shore would serve customers at the complex.

The Authority owns the rail and tracks. Through a contract agreement, North Shore operates the line and serves customers.

Miller, of MBC Development, has said about 50 percent of the complex has been occupied. He announced recently that Price Supply will be the fifth tenant. Price Supply provides more than 5,000 products from manufacturers to customers in the natural gas pipeline industry. Also occupying part of the complex is Go Coil LLC, another service company to the natural gas industry.

Old Forge Brewing Co. expects to expand its beer-making operation to the complex by August or September.



SEDA-COG to Offer CDBG Overview Program

SEDA-COG will offer a comprehensive overview of the commonwealth's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program at *Tools for Compliance*, a two-day training session July 19-20 in Lewisburg. SEDA-COG has

nearly 30 years of CDBG experience.

"County and municipal officials know how complex the CDBG program can be," said Bill Seigle, who heads SEDA-COG's Community Development program. "There are monitoring requirements, compliance issues and a number of related concerns.

"At *Tools for Compliance* we'll look at every aspect of the CDBG program, and respond to questions about specific, local situations."

The agenda for day one includes: Program history and regulations; eligibility and fundability; grant administration and citizen participation; environmental review.

Topics on the second day include: minority-and women-business enterprises; section 3; procurement; Davis-Bacon and related acts.

"The agenda has primarily been designed for elected officials, CDBG grant administrators, CDBG grant recipients," Seigle said. "Participants will also receive a bound desk reference, and a CD containing hundreds of pages of model documents, guidelines, and procedures developed through the experience of SEDA-COG's Community Development program."

Tools for Compliance will be held at the Union County Government Center, 155 North 15th Street. Registration is \$275 and the deadline to register is July 12. [Click here](#) for the registration form from the Community Development program's web site. Individuals may also call SEDA-COG directly at (570)524-4491.



West Branch of Susquehanna River is Designated as a National Recreation Trail



Deputy Secretary of the Interior David J. Hayes has announced the designation of the *Susquehanna River Water Trail - West Branch* as a National Recreation Trail (NRT), one of 41 trails being added to the National Trails System.

The West Branch water trail was recognized as one of only two NRTs designated this year in Pennsylvania. The trail joins a statewide network of 67 NRTs totaling more than 2,300 miles.

The designation of the *Susquehanna River Water Trail - West Branch* is part of a larger vision to create connected water trails along America's waterways with a network of public access points. "Today's new National Recreation Trails, built through partnerships with local communities and stakeholders, provide great opportunities for people to get outside, get active and have fun," said Deputy Secretary Hayes.

Starting as a narrow stream near Cherry Tree in the Allegheny Mountains, the West Branch of the Susquehanna River falls 228 miles through dense forests, rolling farmland, and historic towns to its confluence with the North Branch in Northumberland. "Paddling along the large remote stretches of the forested upper West Branch evokes the landscape as Native Americans may have seen it," said Trish Carothers, Program Director of the [Susquehanna Greenway Partnership](#).

"Yet the water trail is within six hours drive of 50 million people. This is a rare resource in our part of the country which should be enhanced and protected for our use and for future generations."

The West Branch Susquehanna Water Trail is part of a larger Susquehanna Water Trail network. With the addition of the West Branch water trail, the Susquehanna Water Trail now totals 494 miles, and is the largest river-based water trail system in the NRT program. Key partners that have helped the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership to make the water trail a reality include, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, PA Fish and Boat Commission, and the numerous public boat access owners.



