

## McKean County CARES

# COVID-19 County Relief Block Grant

### Background

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law on March 27, 2020. The \$2 trillion economic relief package aims to protect the American people from the public health and economic impacts of COVID-19. The CARES Act provides economic assistance for local governments and American workers, families, and small businesses.

### Purpose

Act 24 of 2020 was signed by Governor Wolf on May 29, 2020. This legislation provides \$625 million in CARES Act funding by means of block grants for counties in the Commonwealth - with populations less than 500,000 - through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). This funding is strictly for support of COVID-19-related activities to offset the cost of direct county COVID-19 response; assist businesses and municipalities; provide behavioral health and substance use disorder treatment services; fund nonprofit assistance programs; and deploy broadband to unserved or underserved areas.

### County Application & Contract with DCED

On Thursday, June 11, 2020, DCED released guidelines for the **COVID-19 County Relief Block Grant** (CRBG) program. On Wednesday, June 17, 2020, the McKean County Board of Commissioners submitted an application for \$3,668,797 CRBG funds. On Tuesday, June 23, 2020, the Commissioners approved a contract with DCED for the full CRBG fund amount and an accompanying resolution.