

# County seeking \$1.3 million PHARE grant

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Lycoming County commissioners are expected to approve a \$1.3 million grant application for Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement funding for local projects.

PHARE funds were awarded last year for Memorial Homes, Grove Street Commons and neighborhood improvement project surrounding the former Brodart warehouse on Memorial Avenue.

If awarded during the second round of funding, Kim Wheeler, county department of planning and community development lead planner, said the money would be used for the same projects.

Plans call for more than 200 new or revitalized housing units within the city, according to Wheeler.

The PHARE money would come by way of excess Act 13 natural gas drilling distributions in Lycoming County. Municipalities are capped at receiving \$500,000 from Act 13. Any amount over that is funneled to PHARE.

Wheeler said that the county essentially is asking for that overflow money to be returned to the county for the housing projects.

The total cost of the housing projects equals about \$27.9 million, she said.