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and Chief Clerk*

J. DAVID SMITH
Solicitor

Telephone (570) 320-2124
Fax (570) 320-2127

COUNTY of LYCOMING
48 WEST THIRD STREET
WILLIAMSPORT, PA 17701

www.lyco.org
county.commissioners@lyco.org

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CONTACT: John Lavelle, Deputy Director
Department of Planning & Community Development

570-320-2139

MEDIA RELEASE

Lycoming County Announces Housing Starts Grant Initiative

WILLIAMSPORT, Lycoming County - The Lycoming County Board of Commissioners are seeking projects that address the ongoing market rate housing issues experienced nationally and felt locally within our region. Recent housing market analysis findings and stakeholder feedback cite a need for an increase in modernized housing stock to better diversify our current real estate market. This program is intended to complement already established housing efforts which currently offer programs for income-based housing rehabilitation, affordable housing, and senior housing; as well as to spur an increase in development and help reduce the impact of inflation on new home prices.

The Housing Starts Grant Initiative will offer a financial incentive to cover the cost of required improvements, connections to public water & sewer facilities, or demolition in order to spur growth in the market rate housing sector. All proposals must be within the County's [designated growth](#) areas and propose a minimum of 10 buildable lots / units or a minimum of 3 infill units of constructed housing within established communities. Compelling proposals will receive grant assistance to cover one-third of the total cost of eligible items up to \$500,000.

The Lycoming County Commissioners have developed an application process to receive formal requests from interested parties. The County will review project submissions on a rolling deadline. Grant awards will be issued to proposals that the Commissioners deem eligible and viable on a first come first serve basis until the budgeted funds are allocated. The County anticipates a budget of \$2,000,000 for calendar year 2022 and an additional \$2,000,000 in calendar year 2023. This program is entirely funded with Act 13 natural gas impact fee revenue.

Interested parties can begin to submit applications to the County on October 1, 2022. Application materials and instructions are available on the County's website at <http://www.lyco.org/grants>. Those who have further questions should contact John Lavelle, Deputy Director for the Lycoming County Department of Planning and Community Development by phone at 570-320-2139 or by e-mail at housingstarts@lyco.org.

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