



# COMMISSIONERS OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **CUMBERLAND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ANNOUNCE LAND PARTNERSHIPS GRANTS**

### **COMMISSIONERS ENCOURAGE STATE OFFICIALS TO AVOID ANOTHER BUDGET IMPASSE**

**Cumberland County, PA** - The Cumberland County Board of Commissioners issued a letter today to members of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, and Senate and the Governor that emphasizes the need for the Commonwealth to have a completed and adopted budget for fiscal year 2016-2017 by the June 30, 2016 deadline. **CARLISLE** – The Cumberland County Board of Commissioners awarded \$141,200 in Land Partnerships Grants in November December 2015. The award included \$131,300 in Act 13 Marcellus Shale Legacy funds and a \$10,000 anonymous donation to the Land Partnerships Program. Land Partnerships is a countywide strategy addressing agriculture preservation, natural resource protection and creation of parks, trails & greenways. The grant program provides financial assistance to municipalities and non-profit organizations to implement local projects which satisfy the goals of the Land Partnerships Plan.

The requests for grant funding totaled approximately \$296,000, with individual requests ranging from \$8,000- \$61,500. Grant applications were reviewed and ranked by a grant review committee which then presented their recommendations to the Board of Commissioners for awarding the grant monies. This year's Land Partnerships Grant awards included 3 non-profit organizations and 84 municipalities. Highlights of the grant awards are as follows:

**Central Pennsylvania Conservancy** - \$37,000 for the acquisition of approximately 30 acres of land at the headwaters to the Letort Spring Run

**Mechanicsburg Museum Association** - \$20,000 for the development of a new park facility - Frankenberger Gardens

**Silver Spring Township** - \$20,000 for improvements to a Nature Preserve to include access road, parking, signage and trail development

**Cumberland Valley Rails to Trails Council** - \$12,200 for improvements to Allen Road segment of CVRT to include trail surfacing and parking lot

**Mt. Holly Springs Borough** - \$15,000 for construction of a walking trail around the parameter of Butler Park

**Shippensburg Township** - \$22,000 for construction of trailhead/restroom facilities at mile 0 in downtown Shippensburg

**West Pennsboro Township** - \$15,000 for improvements to township park – restoration of basketball and tennis courts including new fence and upgrade to sewer to restrooms

“The grant program has been extremely successful in seeding conservation and recreation projects across the County. It is a competitive program and the total requests for grant funding exceeded grant funds available by more than double this year,” commented Stephanie Williams, Greenway & Open Space Coordinator.

For more information about the Land Partnerships Grant Program in Cumberland County or to make a donation, visit online at [www.ccpa.net/landpartnerships](http://www.ccpa.net/landpartnerships), or contact Stephanie Williams, Cumberland County Planning Department, at 717-240-5383.

There is much concern surrounding the potential for another State Budget Impasse and State funding is essential to delivering Human Services programs for Mental Health and Intellectual Development Disabilities, Drug & Alcohol, Children and Youth, and the Office of Aging & Community Services.

While Cumberland County was able to endure the 2015 State Budget Impasse using reserves to meet cash flow requirements in order to continue services to its most vulnerable citizens, it was not without adverse programmatic effects. During the 2015 State Budget Impasse, services were held to a bare minimum. This created unfortunate set-backs to some consumers who experienced an interruption of critical services in therapies and/or treatment that left a negative impact on their journey to rehabilitation, recovery, self-management, community integration and independence. Disruption to our most fragile citizens who are in need of vital support systems will only generate waves of personal and financial loss that compounds far into the future. Providers experienced financial burden when payments for services rendered had to be withheld due to the lack of funding.

Cumberland County Commissioners are urging our legislators to the implementation of measures to ensure the continuation of funding to critical County Human Services programs should there be another State Budget Impasse. Commissioners are also calling on the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP) to provide direction to counties on this issue. CCAP can leverage available resources to support existing proposals or develop new strategies that outline priority needs for our legislators prior to the State budget deadline. Time is of the essence to develop strategies that seek to avert another impasse and interruption of critical funding for County administered Human Services programs.

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