



STEEL RIVERS
Council of Governments




2021
ANNUAL REPORT

**COLLABORATION LEADS TO
STRONGER COMMUNITIES**


ABOUT STEEL RIVERS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Steel Rivers Council of Governments (SRCOG) is a non-profit organization supporting 19 municipalities in the Mon Valley region of Allegheny County. We offer numerous services to help our members maintain and improve their communities in the short-term, while collaboratively developing dynamic strategies to tackle regional problems for the long-term.

What is a COG

 A council of governments (COG) is an organization of local governments that work cooperatively to maintain and improve their communities. COGs provide structured support for municipalities to collaborate on projects that create shared regional benefit. COG members can access shared equipment, facilities, and programs that a single municipality may not be able to obtain on its own.

About SRCOG

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SRCOG FIGHTS BLIGHT

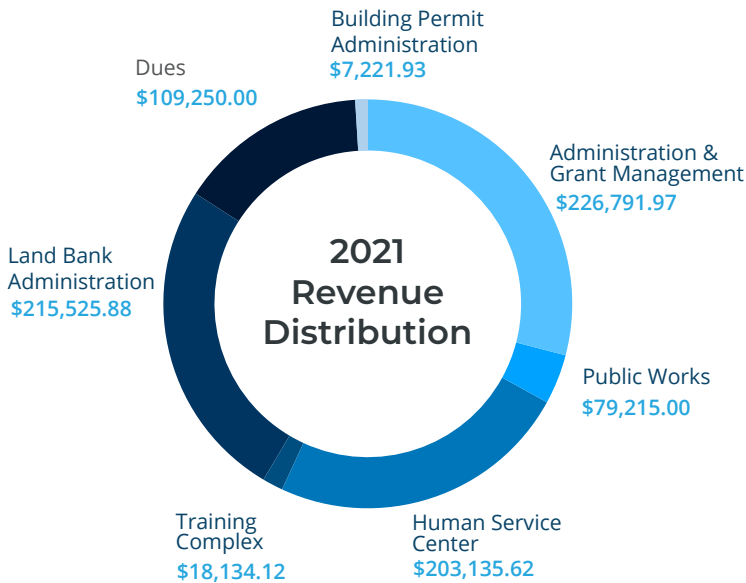
COMING SOON: CODENFORCE

SRCOG is supporting Turtle Creek Valley COG to develop a software platform that will increase the efficiency and effectiveness of strategic code enforcement efforts. The software will manage code enforcement workflow from inspection to citation, storing all documentation in a centralized place, avoiding the need for duplicate entry, and providing timely follow up reminders. The tool will be used by code enforcement officers, elected officials, and municipal staff to gain a real-time assessment of property conditions in their community and track all actions that have been taken to bring violations to compliance. In addition to the software, TCVCOG also offers a shared code enforcement service for municipalities that do not have their own code enforcement officers.



TRI-COG LAND BANK

Land banks are a powerful tool to help recover abandoned structures and land with clear, insurable title. Established by SRCOG and Turtle Creek Valley COG in 2017, Tri-COG Land Bank revitalizes neighborhoods by transitioning blighted properties to beneficial reuse. In 2021, TCLB acquired 24 properties and sold 18.



2021 HIGHLIGHTS



Street Sweeping
Rented for **133 days** by **12** communities in **2021**.



Regional Training Center
32 seat classroom and shooting range, used **180 days** by **22** organizations in **2021**. Closed 24 days for backstop improvements.

SRCOG PROVIDES INCREASED CAPACITY

GRANT ADMINISTRATION

SRCOG manages grants on behalf of its members, including advertising and bidding, awarding contracts, the final draw down of funds, and audit compliance. Over the years, SRCOG has secured and administered grants to repave roads, replace and install sewer lines, and build new play spaces for children. These funds are used for the demolition of blighted and abandoned buildings, which creates safer neighborhoods and improves property values.

COMMERCIAL TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

SRCOG owns and manages commercial truck scales and a public safety vehicle. Member police departments share this equipment to weigh commercial vehicles and enforce traffic safety regulations on our local roadways. This preserves both community safety standards and the roadways themselves.

RECREATION AND PUBLIC EVENTS

SRCOG owns and maintains tents and chairs that its member municipalities use for community events. Additionally, movie equipment is available for rental through SRCOG member, Borough of Port Vue.

HUMAN SERVICE CENTER

SRCOG's Human Service Center currently provides space to seven non-profit and human services organizations.

REGIONAL TRAINING COMPLEX

SRCOG manages a Regional Training Complex located in Elizabeth Township, available for police and fire departments, EMS, and municipal personnel to rent for trainings. The complex includes a classroom, firing range, tactical training building, and drivers' proficiency course.

STREET SWEEPING

SRCOG's Street Sweeping Program reduces stormwater pollution by removing silt, trash, and chemicals from streets and alleys before they enter the storm drainage system. This program also improves the attractiveness of member communities by removing litter and debris from roads, streets, alleys, and highways.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

SRCOG maintains a Geographic Information System (GIS), providing maps and services to its members as requested. SRCOG also uses GIS to support research projects and grant applications.

INTERCOG PURCHASING ALLIANCE

The InterCOG Purchasing Alliance pools purchasing power from participating COG communities to achieve cost savings and gain protections not found in other group bidding efforts.

WATERFRONT MAINTENANCE FUND

On behalf of Homestead, Munhall and West Homestead, SRCOG manages a fund and administers projects to maintain the multi-municipal business district that spans The Waterfront development. This program was initially funded through a Tax Increment Financing program that was developed to support the construction and maintenance of The Waterfront. In 2018, that program ended, and the three municipalities worked together to develop a strategy and to finance a shared \$750,000 annual maintenance fund.



Building Permits
31 permits issued in 2021:
25 for residential properties &
6 for commercial properties.



Human Service Center
Used by **7** organizations serving
over **600+** children & families.



Grant Administration
Value of grants administered:
• **CDBC: \$1,453,112.39**
• **GEDF & CITF: \$205,564.80**
• **Local Share: \$653,099.15**

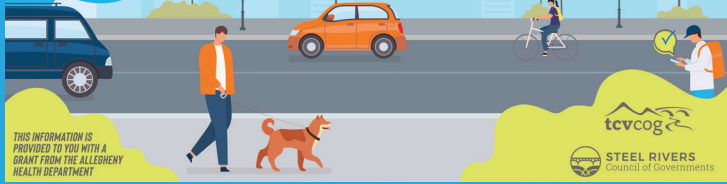
OUR CITY MAY HAVE
BEEN BUILT ON STEEL,
BUT OUR LUNGS
WERE NOT.

Together we can
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Our Vision

To make the Mon Valley the most collaborative and sustainable region in southwestern Pennsylvania.

Our Mission

To share resources, services, and ideas to drive positive change in our member communities.

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