



# STEEL RIVERS

Council of Governments

# NEWSLETTER

## FOR MEMBER MUNICIPALITIES



### BOARD MEETING

SRCOG HUMAN  
SVCS. CENTER  
1705 MAPLE ST.  
HOMESTEAD

**THURS. NOV . 7  
6:00 PM**

[RSVP](#)

### TRI-COG LAND BANK

HOW LAND BANK  
MEMBERSHIP CAN HELP  
YOUR MUNICIPALITY

**NEW MEMBERS  
ANNOUNCED**

[LEARN MORE](#)



### ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIPS

MEMBERS OF THE COG  
CAN SPONSOR MUNICIPAL  
ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS  
POLICE DEPARTMENTS AND  
WATER AUTHORITIES AS  
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

[LEARN MORE](#)

**SPONSOR A  
LOCAL  
ORGANIZATION**

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO VIEW CURRENT PROJECTS**

BRADDOCK HILLS BOROUGH, CITY OF CLAIRTON, CITY OF DUQUESNE, DRAVOSBURG BOROUGH, ELIZABETH BOROUGH, FORWARD TOWNSHIP, GLASSPORT BOROUGH, HOMESTEAD BOROUGH, LIBERTY BOROUGH, LINCOLN BOROUGH, CITY OF MCKEESPORT, MUNHALL BOROUGH, PORT VUE BOROUGH, SOUTH VERSAILLES TOWNSHIP, VERSAILLES BOROUGH, WEST ELIZABETH BOROUGH, WEST HOMESTEAD BOROUGH, WHITAKER BOROUGH AND WHITE OAK BOROUGH



# NEWSLETTER

## UPCOMING EVENTS

11/07/24 BOARD MEETING

11/21/24 MANAGERS MEETING



## BOARD MEETINGS

where borough voices are heard

Each month, the Steel Rivers COG Board meets to discuss plans that directly benefit all of its members, and to vote on proposals to set those plans in action. Your presence at board meetings ensures that your municipality's interests get noticed, and that your residents experience the full benefit of the COG's efforts. It is worth your time to be a part of these productive conversations.

At the November 7 Board Meeting, we will discuss, among other topics, **how the proposed property tax in crease and the County Homestead Exemption might affect your municipality.**

Contact **Penny Donaldson** at the SRCOG office to confirm your attendance at the November 7 Board Meeting and the November 21 Managers Meeting.



## TCLB

Tri-COG Land Bank

what membership can mean for your municipality

Modern land banking, focused on managing vacant properties in urban areas, developed as a movement in the early 1970s. The central goal of a land bank is to transfer properties that are vacant, abandoned, and tax delinquent back to productive use that benefits communities.

The **Tri-COG Land Bank (TCLB)** was founded in 2017 by Turtle Creek Valley Council of Governments and Steel Rivers Council of Governments. Born from years of research and advocacy, TCLB addresses the prevalent problem of vacant and abandoned properties within their member communities. TCLB analyzes property data to help member municipalities make strategic decisions about prioritizing and target properties.

**TCLB is pleased to welcome the Boroughs of Munhall and Braddock as their newest members.** Munhall and Braddock will join TCLB in January of 2025..

COG members who are not yet Land Bank members are encouraged to consider this opportunity. Land Banking can help with neighborhood preservation and restoration, site development, economic development, and more. To learn more about TCLB and how they can help your community, **contact them online** or reach out to **Natalie Boydston**, Director of Program Operations.

## UNITING COMMUNITIES,



CELEBRATING PROGRESS

Since 1988, the **Mon Valley Initiative** has assisted communities along the Monongahela and Youghiogheny Rivers by providing affordable housing opportunities, workforce development and financial coaching, housing counseling, and more. The Initiative engages over 100 volunteers, and partners with local grass-roots organizations to provide a diverse range of services to communities in our COG and throughout the Mon/Yough region.

Recently, MVI hosted their annual dinner during which they recognized the work of individuals and organizations who have joined them in their mission to unite communities and create positive change. Read more about the **MVI Award winners** on their website.



Left, Mon Valley Initiative staff celebrates this year's Annual Dinner and Community Awards

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We have enjoyed another year of progress and productivity with each member municipality. Remember that membership dues will be invoiced in December and payments are due in January.

The COG looks forward to extending services to more area organizations in the form of Associate Memberships. Organizations that operate under the supervision of the municipality, such as a police department or water/sewage authority, are eligible for associate membership. **Current associate members include the Clairton Municipal Authority and the Elizabeth Borough Municipal Authority.** If your council would like to nominate an organization to be considered for Associate Membership, or you have questions about membership details, contact An Lewis at the COG office.

## GRANT APPLICATIONS CURRENTLY OPEN

### Active Allegheny Grant Program (ACED) application deadline November 8

AAGP provides funds for planning and designing transportation projects that provide opportunities for connectivity and physical activity. The City of Duquesne is currently working on an application for this grant.

### Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Year 51

application deadline November 15

### Local Share Account (LSA) State-wide application deadline November 30

### Grants opening soon:

Mon Valley Clean Air Fund - opens January 2025

GTRP - opens February 1, 2025

Multimodal Transportation Fund - opens March 2025

**REMEMBER, THE COG CAN APPLY TO ALMOST ANY GRANT ON BEHALF OF MEMBER MUNICIPALITIES** and manage the project for a small administration fee. If you would like the COG to apply to a grant on your behalf, your submission deadline will be one week prior to the published deadline. Contact [Jennifer Kwiatek](#), Government Grants Coordinator, for more details.

# CURE MON VALLEY HALLOWEEN EVENTS

CURE Violence is an internationally tested model that treats the spread of violence like a disease and disrupts it through credible violence interrupters, prevents it by connecting those most at-risk to services via outreach workers, and changes community norms around violence. The program focuses on those at highest risk of victimization from or perpetration of gun violence, primarily older youth and young adults ages 15 through 34. In 2022, SRCOG was awarded a contract with the Allegheny County Department of Human Services to implement CURE Violence in four Mon Valley communities. They recently hosted Halloween events to connect with the community and spread awareness of their anti-violence efforts. To find out how CURE can help your community, contact Natalya Luttinger, Community Violence Reduction Initiative Program Manager.

