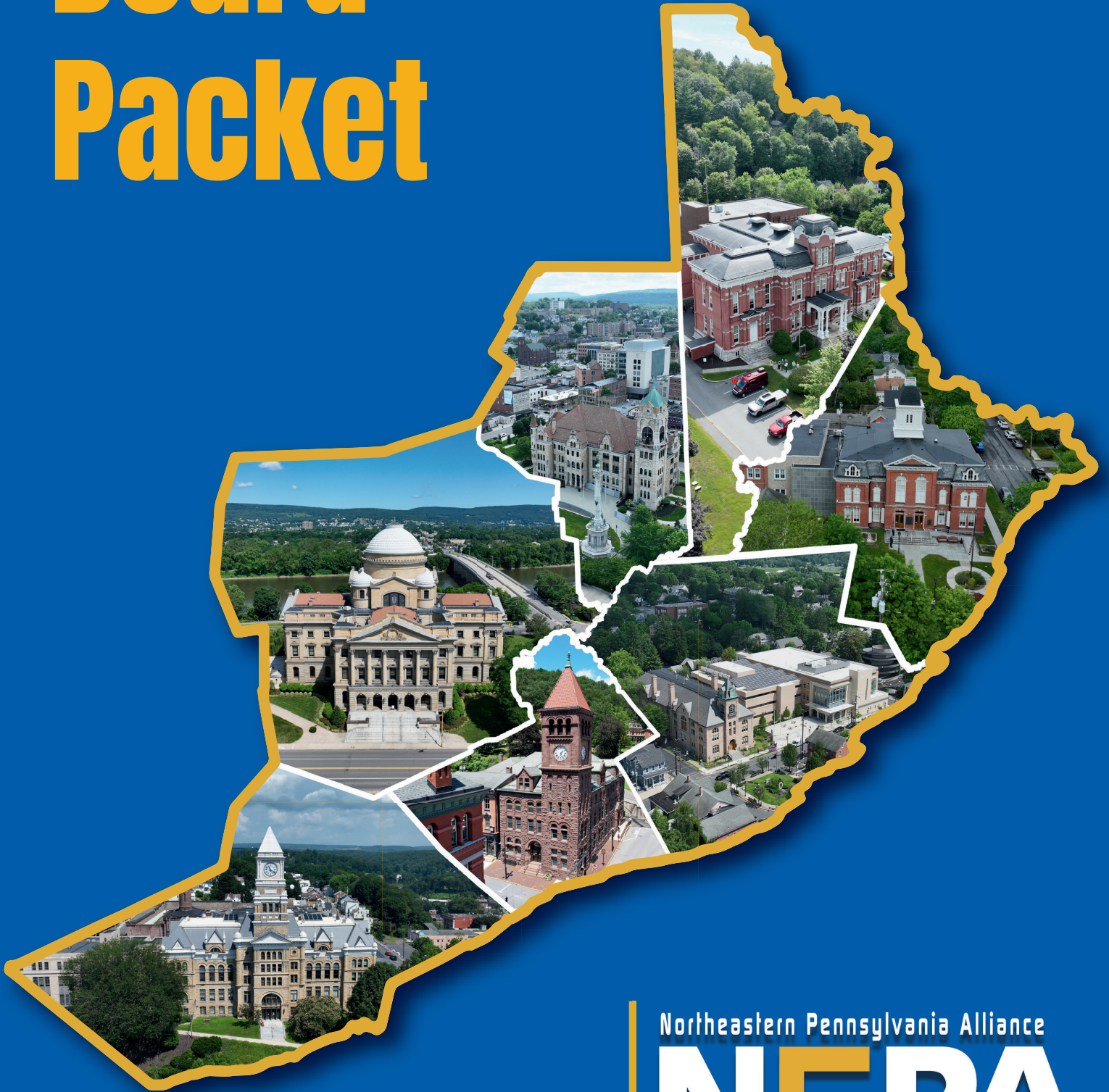


Board Packet



Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance

NEPA

March 4, 2026

NEPA's Board of Directors 2025-2026

CARBON COUNTY

Wayne Nothstein (County Commissioner)
(Executive Committee - 2nd Vice-Board Chairperson)
Harold Pudliner
Joseph Sebelin
Jared Soto
Garry Wentz

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Philip Condron
Tom Donohue
John McNulty
Kristen Magnotta
Dr. Katie Pittelli **(Executive Committee - Assistant Secretary)**
Vacant

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LUZERNE COUNTY

Stephen Barrouk **(Executive Committee - Board Chairperson)**
Lindsay Griffin-Boylan
Joseph Lettiere
Mary Malone
Michelle Mikitish
Kerry Miscavage

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MONROE COUNTY

Christopher Barrett
Michelle Bisbing
John Christy (County Commissioner)
Mary Frances Postupack
(Executive Committee - 1st Vice-Board Chairperson)
Debra Raneri

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PIKE COUNTY

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J.D. Donson
Matthew Osterberg (County Commissioner)
Jennifer Passenti
Anna Van Acker

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Robert Carl
Courtney Fasnacht
Micah Gursky **(Executive Committee - Assistant Treasurer)**
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WAYNE COUNTY

Jocelyn Cramer
(County Commissioner) **(Executive Committee - Secretary)**
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Craig Rickard
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Anthony Gabello
Vincent Galko
Larry Malski
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Alana Roberts

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EX-OFFICIO

Jeffrey Box
Megan Kennedy **(NCAC Board Chair)**
Kelly O'Brien **(PNE Board Chair)**
(John Augustine - Alternate)

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT
MARCH 4, 2026



AGENDA

- I. **Call to Order** – *Steve Barrouk, Board Chairperson*
 - * Sound & Video check

- II. **Pledge of Allegiance** - *Steve Barrouk, Board Chairperson*
 - * Introduction of new staff members: Bob Morgan, Miranda Slosky & Erica Yurkovic

- III. **Roll Call** - *Donna Hritz, VP, Communications & Operations*

- IV. **Board Discussion & Action Items**
 - * January 7, 2026, Meeting Minutes - *Steve Barrouk, Board Chairperson* 1-4
 - * Approval of the Financial Report - *Wendi Holena, VP & CFO* 5-6

- V. **Affiliate/Committee/Division Reports** 7-18
 - Business Development Services - *Steve Ursich*
 - Community & Economic Development Services - *Kurt Bauman*
 - Communications & Membership - *Donna Hritz*
 - Transportation Services – *Kate McMahon*

- VI. **Presentation** – *Historically Disadvantaged Business Assistance Program - Steve Ursich*

- VII. **President & CEO Report** - *Jeffrey Box, President & CEO*

- VIII. **Open Discussion** - *Steve Barrouk, Board Chairperson*



**Board of Directors Report
Minutes of
Wednesday, January 7, 2026**

OFFICERS

Steve Barrouk, Board Chairperson
Mary Frances Postupack, 1st Vice Board Chairperson
Commissioner Wayne Nothstein, 2nd Vice Board Chairperson
Cynthia DeFebo, Treasurer
Commissioner, Jocelyn Cramer, Secretary
Micah Gursky, Assistant Treasurer
Dr. Katie Pittelli, Assistant Secretary

CARBON

Jared Soto
Garry Wentz

LACKAWANNA

Phil Condron
Thomas Donohue
John McNulty

LUZERNE

Lindsay Griffin-Boylan
Mary Malone
Michelle Mikitish

MONROE

Michelle Bisbing
Debra Raneri

PIKE

Jennifer Passenti
Anna Van Acker

SCHUYLKILL

Courtney Fasnacht
Michael Tobash

WAYNE

James Hockenbury
Craig Rickard
Mike Rollison
Justin Taylor

AT-LARGE

Jason Bays
Chris Doherty
Anthony Gabello
Ben May
Alana Roberts

EX-OFFICIO

John Augustine
Jeffrey Box
Kelly O'Brien

STAFF

Kurt Bauman
Wendi Holena
Donna Hritz
Kate McMahon
Bob Morgan
Liz Sheeder
Steve Ursich

GUEST

Phil Keaney, J.H. Williams & Co.
Brian Funkhouser, Michael Baker International

Board of Directors Report
Minutes of
Wednesday, January 7, 2026

The NEPA Alliance held a Board of Directors Meeting on Wednesday, January 7, 2026, in-person and via video meeting. Board Chairperson Steve Barrouk called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Board Chairperson Steve Barrouk asked the Board of Directors to join him in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Donna Hritz conducted a roll call, acknowledging all participants attending the meeting in person and via video call.

ACTION ITEMS

Minutes - A motion was made by Michelle Mikitish and seconded by Jared Soto to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on November 5, 2025. **Motion carried.**

Review of the FY2025 Audit Report – Phil Keaney of J.H. Williams & Company reported that the financial statements and schedules for the year ending June 30, 2025, received a clean, unqualified opinion. He reviewed the various statements and opinions included in the NEPA audit and noted that the audit did not identify any instances of noncompliance.

A motion was made by Mike Rollison and seconded by Michelle Mikitish to accept the Fiscal Year 2025 Audit as presented. **Motion carried.**

Financial Report – Wendi reported that on the Statement of Activities as of November 30, 2025, NEPA has total revenues and total expenses of \$1.6 million. She further reported that there is a small increase in net assets of \$1,279. Wendi reported that NEPA is 5 months through the fiscal year. She noted that both the revenues and expenses are at 35%, slightly behind due to pass-through funding. Wendi further reported that NEPA has a healthy unrestricted cash balance of \$1.092 million and net assets of \$1.955 million. She stated that since the government reopened, NEPA has been able to receive contracts, submit applications, and invoice for payments. As a result, NEPA’s cash flow has improved.

A motion was made by Michelle Mikitish and seconded by Mike Rollison to accept the Financial Report as presented. **Motion carried.**

Resolution – 2026-1 – Authorizing the Filing of a Proposal to Submit a Local Share Account Statewide Grant Application to the Commonwealth Financing Authority as Fiscal Sponsor on Behalf of Keystone Human Services - Kurt reported that NEPA is applying as a fiscal sponsor on behalf of Keystone Human Services for the statewide Local Share Account (LSA) Grant Program, which is funded by revenue generated from gaming across the state. He noted that the application was filed in November on behalf of Keystone Human Services, a nonprofit organization based in Harrisburg, PA. The request totals \$221,664 to purchase disability-accessible vehicles for adults with disabilities for their offices located in Luzerne County. Kurt stated that, if the grant is awarded, NEPA would receive a 2% administrative fee.

Resolution – 2026-2 – Authorizing the Filing of a Proposal to Submit a Local Share Account Statewide Grant Application to the Commonwealth Financing Authority as Fiscal Sponsor on Behalf of Luzerne County Historical Society - Kurt reported that NEPA is applying as a fiscal sponsor on behalf of the Luzerne County Historical Society for the statewide Local Share Account (LSA) Grant Program. He noted that the Society recently purchased a church and plans to convert it into its

Board of Directors Report
Minutes of
Wednesday, January 7, 2026

headquarters. Kurt reported that the grant request totals \$986,529 for facility renovations and stated that, if awarded, NEPA would receive a 2% administrative fee.

A motion was made by Micah Gursky and seconded by Michelle Mikitish to accept the Local Share Account Statewide Grant Application on behalf of Keystone Human Services, and the Local Share Account Statewide Grant Application on behalf of Luzerne County Historical Society, as presented.
Motion carried.

Business Development Services - Steve Ursich reported that the government shutdown created delays in funding related to loan closings and stated that NEPA has several significant SBA loans upcoming. He noted that one of the most impactful developments for NEPA is a proposed increase in debenture sizes, including an increase to the maximum manufacturing loan from \$5.5 million to \$10 million, with other debentures increasing to \$7.5 million. Steve stated that this legislation has passed the House and is pending Senate approval. Steve also noted that in 2025, staff were focused on establishing the Economic Growth Fund (EGF) entity and that NEPA was able to secure two grant opportunities. Kurt reported that NEPA received \$80,000 in November through the Pennsylvania Community Development Bank to support website development, staffing, and application costs. He further noted that NEPA was invited by DCED to submit a full application for \$230,000 to support a two-year launch period and other needs associated with the new initiative. Kurt reported that the application will be submitted in early February, with approval anticipated in April. Steve noted that, as part of the EGF initiative, NEPA will be hosting two (2) housing roundtables in February.

Community & Economic Development Services - Kurt reported that 24 of the 76 applications have been submitted to the State and noted that these applications are from the NEPA region. He stated that, to date, 35 businesses have made pitches, resulting in six investment commitments. Kurt noted that a possible RCAP grant announcement may be made later this month. He also reported that several NCAC workshops are scheduled throughout the region in the coming months, with an RCAP workshop planned for late spring or early summer. Kurt further stated that the Tobyhanna Defense Technology Partnership has received more than \$180,000 in pledged support from various community partners and noted that depot employment currently stands at 2,700.

Communications & Membership - Donna reported that as of December 31, NEPA had 428 members, generating total revenue of \$279,336. She noted that NEPA's new membership campaign kicked off on January 1, with a continued goal of reaching 450 members. Donna stated that NEPA's Nominating process will begin later this month for those Board members whose terms expire on June 30. She noted that NEPA's social media metrics are located on page 20 of the Board packet.

Transportation Services – Kate reported that the development of the 2027–2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is ongoing. She noted that the TIP identifies the region's transportation projects and outlines available federal and non-federal funding for programmed project phases. Kate stated that the TIP includes bridge and roadway projects, as well as transit and interstate projects. She reported that the SR 2001 Section 405 Alternatives Study is complete and that a copy of the study is available on the NEPA website. Kate noted that Brian Funkhouser from Michael Baker International will be presenting at today's meeting. She further reported that the corridor study of Route 611 in Monroe County is underway, with \$200,000 in Supplemental Planning Funds secured for its development and a 20% match of \$50,000 provided by the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau. Kate noted that, due to new restrictions, the NEPA drone is grounded because it is foreign-made.

**Board of Directors Report
Minutes of
Wednesday, January 7, 2026**

Presentation – Brian Funkhouser, Project Manager with Michael Baker International, provided an update on the SR 2001 Alternatives Study. His PowerPoint presentation highlighted the study location and overview, corridor views using NEPA drone imagery, key study findings and recommendations, interim safety projects (top priorities), reconstruction projects, and cost estimating. A copy of the presentation is available upon request.

Kurt Bauman provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Pennsylvania Rural Care Collaboratives. He highlighted the Rural Health Transportation Program, including its vision, goals, and initiatives, eligible uses of funds, and the Pennsylvania Plan, which includes a \$900 million funding request. A copy of the presentation is available upon request. Jeff noted that additional details regarding the initiative are forthcoming.

Open discussion

President & CEO Report – Jeff reported that he will be on medical leave beginning in mid-February for knee replacement surgery. He thanked everyone for participating in today’s meeting. Jeff introduced Elizabeth (Liz) Sheeder, Government Procurement Specialist. Liz stated that she lives in the Back Mountain, recently graduated from King’s College, and is looking forward to working with everyone.

Commissioner Jocelyn Cramer reported that Wayne County recently opened a 24/7 Crisis Stabilization Center and noted that services are available free of charge to anyone for the next five years.

There being no further business, Board Chairman Steve Barrouk adjourned the meeting at 2:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Donna Hritz,
Vice President Communications & Operations
February 2, 2026

Statement of Activities

January 31, 2026

	Prior YTD	Current YTD	Budget	Percentage of Budget
Revenues:				
Grants/Projects	\$ 2,317,666	\$ 2,102,198	\$ 4,245,086	50%
Membership Fees	141,951	143,194	245,476	58%
Rental Income	13,485	7,851	20,558	38%
RLF Admin. Fees	43,774	55,445	80,000	69%
Match from Other Sources	48,668	41,300	91,500	45%
Other Receipts	37,537	39,453	60,200	66%
Contributed Services	13,244	16,477	23,500	70%
Total Revenues	2,616,325	2,405,918	4,766,320	50%
Expenses:				
Personnel	1,369,362	1,309,162	2,221,748	59%
Benefits	512,208	524,646	977,569	54%
Contractual	295,915	243,599	844,494	29%
Professional Fees	24,560	22,045	26,000	85%
Travel and Per Diem	37,637	21,611	81,709	26%
Meetings and Seminars	75,040	58,489	114,657	51%
Postage	2,471	1,989	2,800	71%
Supplies	30,833	11,440	27,375	42%
Publications and Memberships	37,276	41,295	70,544	59%
Printing	3,812	3,902	4,900	80%
Advertising	3,999	4,429	23,000	19%
Occupancy	41,243	25,348	67,860	37%
Equipment Rental & Maintenance	3,652	5,293	7,600	70%
Depreciation	34,818	35,219	60,376	58%
Telephone/Internet	18,978	17,098	30,010	57%
Insurance	248	56	40,800	0%
Information Technology	31,001	21,991	82,010	27%
Interest	20,784	19,459	32,926	59%
Other Costs	20,777	21,297	23,490	91%
Contributed Services	13,244	16,227	23,500	69%
Total Expenses	2,577,858	2,404,595	4,763,368	50%
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	\$ 38,467	\$ 1,323	\$ 2,952	

Net Assets	
Beginning Balance	\$ 1,954,485
Increase (Decrease)	1,323
Current Balance	\$ 1,955,808

Statement of Financial Position

January 31, 2026

Assets	Prior Year	Current Year	Liabilities	Prior Year	Current Year
Unrestricted Cash Invested	\$ 986,506	\$ 962,252	Accounts Payable	202,914	110,183
Restricted Funds Invested	76,269	93,409	Deferred Project Funds	76,269	93,409
Membership Fees Receivable	-	25,300	Employee Benefits Payable	231,056	225,893
Advances/Deposits/Prepays	48,556	73,861	Payroll Withholdings	5,971	6,858
Accounts Receivable-Projects	1,379,834	1,339,732	Deferred Membership Fees	97,432	138,704
Depreciable Assets (Net)	545,332	483,390	Capital Lease Payable	478,238	447,089
			Total Liabilities	<u>1,091,880</u>	<u>1,022,136</u>
			Net Assets *	1,944,617	1,955,808
Total Assets	<u><u>\$ 3,036,497</u> <u>\$ 2,977,944</u></u>		Total Liabilities & Net Assets	<u><u>\$ 3,036,497</u> <u>\$ 2,977,944</u></u>	

*Net Assets represents NEPA's equity. It is the surplus of Total Assets less Total Liabilities. Net Assets is not equivalent to cash.

**Board of Directors Report
 March 4, 2026**

International Business Development Program

This fiscal year, the International Business Development program has assisted 41 companies, processing 104 international projects through Pennsylvania’s Global Export Network. Staff also submitted 14 Global Access Program (GAP) grant applications. The GAP grant, administered by BusinessPA International, under a State Trade Expansion Program (STEP) award from the U.S. Small Business Administration, supports export promotion efforts. Additional assistance included technical support, export counseling, and participation in export education activities.

The International Business Development program will host a two-part Export Controls webinar series on March 17 and 24. The sessions will cover compliance requirements under the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) and the Export Administration Regulations (EAR).

<u>BusinessPA International - Regional Export Network Goals</u>		
Performance Measurement	Goal	YTD Totals
Active Clients	56	41
Export Actions	117	96
Exporting Companies	14	0
Export Sales	\$25,121,441	\$0
Projects	112	104
ATR Attributed Sales	\$10,299,790.81	\$0
New Clients	8	3
Total (weighted and capped measure) <i>Calculated 1/27/26</i>		50.61%

APEX Accelerator

Counseling Activity (12/11/2025 to 2/20/2026)
New Active Clients for the Period: 8
Active Clients for the Period: 88
Initial Introductory Counseling Sessions for the Period: 8
Follow-up Counseling Sessions for the Period: 189
Events: 4

The APEX Accelerator worked with new client registrations in the PA Supplier Portal to do business with the Commonwealth and System for Award Management to be able to sell to the Federal Government. Follow-up sessions support client registration updates, and new/renewal certification applications such as

**Board of Directors Report
 March 4, 2026**

but not limited to: HUBZone, 8(a), SDVOSB/VOSB, and WOSB. Support is also provided in areas not limited to solicitation reviews, bid matching, and marketing.

Contract Awards Activity (12/11/2025 to 2/20/2026)			
Award Type	Number of Awards	Number of Clients	Total Value
Federal Prime	147	23	\$28,661,324.88
State/Local Prime	0	0	\$0
Federal/State Subcontracts	11	1	\$4,243,618.62

During this period, Active APEX Accelerator clients received contract awards primarily from Federal Agencies acting as a prime contractor. Contract award reporting follows Department of Defense Office of Small Business Program terms. The APEX Accelerator worked with clients during this period on three types of SBA certifications for their business.

Set Aside Award Activity (12/11/2025 to 2/20/2026)		
Certification Type	Awards	Total Value
SD/VOSB	1	\$ 207,000.00
WOSB	1	\$ 207,000.00
HUBZone	3	\$ 2,890,152.00

Business Finance Center

The Business Finance Center has been able to close 8 loans totaling \$1,853,000. Through these loan closings, the small businesses are expected to create 16 jobs and retain 8 jobs in the next 3 years. Loans closed since that last meeting include the following business sectors:

- Retail Stores
- Self-Storage Facilities
- Professional Services

NEPA Alliance BFC continues to work through the backlog of applications in the SBA programs due to the government shutdown. There is also a backlog of loans to be closed for these programs. As interest rates begin to decrease, volume of loan requests have increased across all NEPA Alliance programs.

Board of Directors Report
March 4, 2026

SBA 504		
	Number	Balance
Approved Loans	21	\$ 26,924,000.00
Closed Since Last Meeting	3	\$ 1,202,000.00
Outstanding Loans	88	\$ 65,466,239.34
Total	112	\$ 93,592,239.34
SBA Community Advantage		
	Number	Balance
Approved Loans	4	\$ 560,200.00
Closed Since Last Meeting	2	\$ 266,000.00
Outstanding Loans	49	\$ 7,504,274.45
Total	55	\$ 8,330,474.45
PIDA		
	Number	Balance
Approved Loans	1	\$ 1,592,686.00
Closed Since Last Meeting	0	\$ 0.00
Outstanding Loans	21	\$ 8,291,311.33
Total	22	\$ 9,883,997.33
Internal Funds		
	Number	Balance
Approved Loans	3	\$ 301,000.00
Closed Since Last Meeting	3	\$ 385,000.00
Outstanding Loans	149	\$ 8,166,309.00
Total	155	\$ 8,852,309.00
NEPA BFC Active Portfolio	315	\$ 91,281,134.12

As of February 23, 2026, eight (8) LDD Customer Satisfaction Survey forms completed by NEPA clients who received assistance through NEPA’s Business Financing, APEX Accelerator and International Business Programs for assistance were received for the 3rd quarter of 2025-2026. Eight (8) clients indicated they were very satisfied/satisfied with the assistance they received through NEPA.

The following represents the number of responses from clients who indicated they were very satisfied / satisfied with the specific assistance they received:

	*Timeliness of Assistance	*Quality of Assistance	*Value of Assistance
Loans	4	4	4
APEX Accelerator	4	4	4
International	1	1	1

Board of Directors Report

March 4, 2026



NEPA Economic Growth Fund

- 1) Application: Submitted to United States Treasury for review
 - a. Expect approximately 90 review period
- 2) NEPA Economic Growth Fund Board
 - a. Finance Committee
 - b. Loan Committee
 - c. Capitalization Committee – comprised of full board
- 3) Grant Opportunities
 - a. DCED Pennsylvania Community Development Bank Grant
 - b. Appalachian Regional Commission Area Development Grant
- 4) Hosting Affordable Housing Sessions
 - a. Learn Regional Needs
 - b. Engage Developers and Practitioners
 - c. Held Round Table February 19, 2026

**Board of Directors Report
 March 4, 2026**

Community and Economic Development Services Division

COMMUNITY FINANCE & FUNDING

EDA

Economic Development District (EDD) for the Economic Development Administration (EDA), NEPA provides technical assistance to those organizations seeking EDA grant assistance.

Organization	Project	CO	EDA Grant Amount	Funding Leveraged	Status
SEDA-COG & NEPA	Data dashboard – CEDS Improvement project	RE	\$480,000	\$100,000	Awarded October 2023; Project will be completed by June 2026
Greater Scranton CofC	Scott Twp Industrial Park	LA	TBD	TBD	Considering application

Appalachian Regional Commission

As the designated Local Development District (LDD) for the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED), NEPA provides technical assistance to organizations seeking ARC grant assistance.

25-26 ARC Investment Package:

Organization	Project	CO	ARC	ARC Request Amount	Funding Leveraged	Status
Allied Services	Certified Nurse Aide Training Program	LA	AD	\$716,830	\$1,025,458	Full App in progress
CYC of Wyoming Valley	CYC Child Care Expansion Project	LU	AD	\$151,000	\$151,000	DCED Review
Junior Achievement of NEPA	Inspire to Hire	LU	AD	\$250,000	\$250,000	DCED Review
Johnson College	Workforce Training for a Future in Robotics	LA	AD	\$123,500	\$123,500	DCED Review
Kline Banks McAdoo Sewer Authority	KBM Authority Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan	LU/CA	AD	\$100,000	\$100,000	DCED Review
Lackawanna County	Lackawanna County Comprehensive Economic Development Assessment and Long-Term Strategy	LA	AD	\$100,000	\$100,000	DCED Review
Luzerne County Community College	LCCC Technology Enhancement Plan	LU	AD	\$235,000	\$235,000	DCED Review
Misericordia University	Alleviating Critical Shortages in Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Providers	LU	AD	\$125,000	\$125,000	DCED Review
Misericordia University	Certification Training Initiative Advances Innovation & Technology Infrastructure Security	LU	AD	\$125,000	\$125,000	DCED Review
NEPA	CDFI	RE	AD	\$235,000	\$300,000	Full

Board of Directors Report March 4, 2026

Organization	Project	CO	ARC	ARC Request Amount	Funding Leveraged	Status
						App in progress
NEPA	PREP	RE	AD	\$461,425	\$461,425	DCED Review
Pocono Family YMCA	Pocono Family YMCA Childcare Staffing and Capacity Expansion	MO	AD	\$391,875	\$391,875	DCED Review
Pocono Services for Families and Children, Inc.	Expansion of Early Learning and Ready Workers	MO	AD	\$200,000	\$200,000	DCED Review
SLIBCO	Carbondale Technology Transfer Center Merger	LA	AD	\$175,000	\$175,000	DCED Review
Wilkes University Cohen Center	Cohen Center for Entrepreneurship and Connected Devices Prototype Lab	LU	AD	\$460,000	\$460,000	DCED Review
The Wright Center	North Scranton Practice-Revitalizing, Enhancing, and Advancing Community Health	LA	AD	\$500,000	\$500,000	Full App in Progress
WVIA	WVIA Careers that Work/NEPA@Work Web Based Project	LU/RE	AD	\$146,424	\$146,424	DCED Review
Wyoming Valley Chamber	TechCelerator @ Luzerne County	LU	AD	\$236,000	\$236,000	DCED Review
Greater Wyoming Valley YMCA	Pittston YMCA Early Education Expansion	LU	AD	\$278,000	\$278,000	DCED Review
City of Carbondale	Enterprise Dr. Improvement Project	LA	LAR	\$1,219,629	\$25,000	Full App under DCED Review
Hazleton Area School District	New Access Road for Hazleton Area School District (HASD)	LU	LAR	\$1,723,372	\$2,565,757	DCED Review
Borough of Nesquehoning	Nesquehoning Borough Business Park – Industrial Road (extends between Stock Street (SR 0054) to Park Avenue) – Phase 2	CA	LAR	\$1,021,800	\$102,180	Full App in progress
Totals:					\$8,076,619	

ENGAGE

On behalf of the Northeast Pennsylvania Partnerships for Regional Economic Performance (PREP) partners, NEPA annually applies for the Engage! initiative. Engage! is a Pennsylvania statewide business retention and expansion (BRE) program designed to interact with targeted companies regularly and proactively. The overall goal of Engage! is to retain existing businesses and to help them grow and expand by building solid relationships with business owners or key decision makers and economic development partners. With the passage of a state budget in November, NEPA was invited to apply for \$195,000 for the 2025-2026 Engage! program year. In total, over 195 businesses across the region will be interviewed as part of the Engage! program during this program year, with 25 of those business visits being led by NEPA. Additionally, four business focus groups are scheduled to be held.

Board of Directors Report March 4, 2026

StartUp NEPA

NEPA has raised \$750,000 in support of our Angel Fund initiative. The official launch meeting was held in January 2022, and member meetings have been held monthly. To date, over 35 businesses have made pitches, and 8 investment commitments in 6 businesses have been made. NEPA staff continue to recruit new investors and vet potential pitches from businesses and entrepreneurs.

Business	Industry/Sector	Investment Amount	Location
Conservation Labs	Utility/Tech	\$50,000	Pittsburgh, PA
Buoy	Health	\$50,000 (1 st Round)	San Diego, CA
LifeAire	Indoor Air Quality	\$185,000	Allentown, PA
Gilson Snow Boards	Recreation	\$50,000	Selinsgrove, PA
UpContent	Tech	\$50,000	Pittsburgh, PA
Voxel Innovations	Electrochemical Manufacturing	\$80,000 (2 Rounds)	Raleigh, NC
Buoy	Health	\$50,000 (2 nd Round)	San Diego, CA

Community Financing Services: NEPA provides consulting and fiscal sponsorship services. A list of grants we have written is listed within the table below.

Client	Co	Grant Program	Amount Requested
Rising Light Ridge - Sewer Plant	LU	PA RACP	\$5,000,000
Diocese of Scranton (Holy Cross HS) – Facility Upgrades	LA	PA RACP	\$3,000,000
Diocese of Scranton (WB CYC) – Facility Upgrades	LU	PA RACP	\$1,563,555
Nativity Miguel School – Facility Upgrades	LA	PA RACP	\$3,140,167
Allied Health Services – Elevator Upgrades	LA	PA RACP	\$1,875,000
Integrative Counseling Services - Elevator Upgrades	LA	LSA (Monroe)	\$98,222
Leisure Lake – Sewer Infrastructure	MO	LSA (Monroe)	\$391,842
Keystone Human Services - Disability Accessible Vans	RE	LSA (Statewide)	\$221,664
Luzerne County Historical Society - Facility Renovation	MO	LSA (Statewide)	\$986,529

As an economic development organization, NEPA Alliance can serve as an applicant for the Statewide LSA program. This year, NEPA will serve as the applicant for two applications. One project was submitted on behalf of Keystone Human Services to purchase vehicles to transport disabled individuals, while the other was submitted on behalf of the Luzerne County Historical Society for renovations to their facility.

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA NONPROFIT & COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE CENTER

NCAC Membership: NCAC currently has 86 active members.

NCAC Technical Support Highlights:

- Rising Light Ridge: FDO Guided Tour
- Luzerne County Historical Society: Capital Stack Support
- Tespond: Fundraising/consulting services

Strategic Planning Services: NCAC partnered with Alan Dakey in early 2024 to provide in-kind Strategic Planning services to NECAC clients in need. Most recently, Alan completed a strategic plan

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with the Lackawanna Blind Association, and he is currently engaged with Monroe County Meals on Wheels. NCAC is proud to support the coordination and evaluation of these much-needed services. Mary Ann Iezzi, Executive Director of the Blind Association shared in her evaluation, *“The pro-bono services were invaluable...thanks to this support, we were able to focus on setting goals, identify priorities, and make sure we’re on track to long ter sustainability in order to better serve our community.”*

Expanded Workshop Calendar: In response to local demand and feedback from our clients and partners, NCAC has increased community workshop offerings for 2026. The following engagements are scheduled, with additional offerings in the works:

- 1/21: Finding the Funding and Grantwriting Basics Workshop (CA)
- 4/16: Perfecting Your Pitch (LU)
- 4/8: Hosting The Luzerne Foundation Nonprofit Accelerator Cohort 2 for an extended session on Grant Seeking & Prospecting
- TBD: Introduction to PA RACP Funding (LU)

TOBYHANNA DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY PARTNERSHIP / TOBYHANNA ARMY DEPOT

NEPA manages the Tobyhanna Defense Technology Partnership (TDTP), which was organized in 1992 to provide regional community support for the preservation and protection of Tobyhanna Army Depot from the base closure process known as Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC). NEPA received several grants from the Pennsylvania Military Community Enhancement Commission to support the Depot. The funding will be used for various initiatives including legislative outreach, economic impact studies, membership campaign, ambassadors program. To date, the TDTP membership campaign has received a commitment of over \$180,000 in pledges by various community partners in support of this project.

2026 Defense Communities Infrastructure Program (DCIP) Grant Assistance: The Defense Community Infrastructure Program is a competitive grant program designed to address deficiencies in community infrastructure that supports a military installation’s readiness and lethality. NEPA Alliance will assist with the creation of a DCIP proposal that will support Tobyhanna Army Depot. On January 6, 2026, NEPA, PMEDC, and Tobyhanna Army Depot leadership will meet with the Monroe County Commissioners and County Planning Office to discuss projects that will mutually benefit the Depot and the community. The release of the 2026 DCIP guidelines are expected in the Spring.

Tobyhanna Army Depot Ambassadors Program: NEPA has received funding from the Pennsylvania Military Community Enhancement Commission to create an ambassador program for the Depot. The ambassadors will be former Depot employees or other individuals with a connection to Tobyhanna Army Depot. The ambassadors will attend events to raise community awareness (such as rotary club meetings, chamber mixers, etc.) and to educate on career opportunities (job fairs, career days, etc.) for Tobyhanna Army Depot. This program is being developed with input from the TDTP Management Group and the Tobyhanna Army Depot Public Affairs Office.

RESEARCH & INFORMATION CENTER

Statewide CEDS Data Dashboard: NEPA has partnered with our sister agency, SEDA-COG, to develop an online CEDS Data Dashboard. This dashboard will be interactive and provide live data from various sources. This project is being funded through a grant from EDA. Initially, the scope of the project was to only create data dashboards for NEPA and SEDA-COG, however, the scope has expanded and it will now be a statewide tool. NEPA Alliance and SEDA-COG have selected T&M Associates to create our online

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dashboard. T&M was selected through an open and competitive RFP process. NEPA Alliance and SEDA-COG have met with T&M bi-weekly and developed a demo site.

2026 Pocono Economic Outlook Summit: NEPA Alliance will once again gather the data that will be used in the Pocono Economic Scorecard. NEPA is also heavily involved in the planning process for the event. The 2026 Economic Outlook Summit will be held at Kalahari on Friday May 15.

Economic Impact Modeling Services: NEPA provides economic impact modeling services, using IMPLAN software. Upcoming projects include the FY2024 Analysis of Tobyhanna Army Depot, Hazelnut data center project, and a university wide economic impact analysis for East Stroudsburg University.

Social Media

Last 30 Days

FACEBOOK



1,898 Followers
5 New Followers
9,585 Reach/Views

INSTAGRAM

1,911 Followers
2,665 Views



LINKEDIN



2,406 Followers
44 New Followers
3,475 Impressions

X (TWITTER)

1,897 Followers



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Transportation Planning Services Division

2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Development of the 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is underway. Meetings in District 4 and District 5 were held with the county representatives in the fall. Most of the projects on the TIP are carryover projects with very few new projects added. Staff has been in discussion with PennDOT, Carbon County representatives and LANTA regarding the use of CMAQ funds in Carbon County. Some CMAQ funds will be used to extend night and weekend transit service. A new project to address congestion in Weissport has been added. Work on the Community Demographic Analysis and TIP Narrative is ongoing. A meeting with Central Office, NEPA and District staff to review the draft TIP projects and discuss the TIP development timeline was held on February 3, 2026. The schedule for TIP adoption is below.

April 21- Draft TIP package is reviewed by NEPA MPO Technical Committee
May 11- TIP Public Comment Period Opens
May 19- TIP Public Meeting (in coordination with NEPA MPO meeting)
June 11- TIP Public Comment Period Closes
June 16- TIP Adoption by NEPA MPO Committees at Joint MPO Meeting

Long Range Transportation Plan Update

The update of the next LRTP is due by January 2028. The Planning Finding Letter from the 2025 TIP recommended that MPOs and RPOs begin the LRTP update process well in advance of the deadline. Our current consultant agreement with Michael Baker International expires in January 2027, before the LRTP development will be complete. At the December NEPA MPO meeting, Michael Baker International was selected as the consultant for another three-year open end consultant agreement. Staff is currently working with Michael Baker International on a new contract which is expected to commence on July 1st. Staff is also working with MBI to develop the scope of services for the Long Range Transportation Plan. A draft of the scope will be shared with the Technical Committee in the coming weeks.

Route 611 Corridor Study

The corridor study of Route 611 in Monroe County is ongoing. Data collection and a review of existing plans are complete. Seven intersections on Rt. 611 have been identified for analysis. Traffic counts and turning movements have been completed by Michael Baker International and the findings were reviewed by the Steering Committee at the meeting on December 4th.

A public open house was held in person on January 21st in Pocono Township. It was attended by over 50 people. The open house was covered by Channel 13 and the Pocono Record. Stakeholder interviews were also held in January. The wikimapping survey was open from January 9th to February 13th. The results can be accessed here: <https://new.wikimapping.com/rt-611-corridor-study>. The results of the public outreach efforts are being analyzed. A sketch plan with projections of future corridor development and traffic volumes is being developed. A second public open house is planned for later this spring to get feedback on the study recommendations. The study is expected to be completed by June.

Active Transportation Plan

The Active Transportation Plan was adopted by the Policy Board on June 17, 2025. NEPA staff has developed an Active Transportation page on the NEPA website with federal, state, and local resources. It can be found here- <https://www.nepa-alliance.org/active-transportation/>. One of the recommendations in the plan is to establish an Active Transportation Task Force to assist with the implementation of the plan. A meeting with the task force was held October 22nd to discuss activities for the coming year. Two

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in-person active transportation summits are being planned for next spring to share information about funding opportunities and provide education about bicycle and pedestrian topics. Another meeting of the Active Transportation Task Force is scheduled for March 5th.

Coordinated Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan Update

The Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan was adopted by the NEPA MPO on June 17, 2025. NEPA has retained Michael Baker/Rockland Planning to assist with plan implementation. The Transit Subcommittee completed a survey to determine priorities of the plan recommendations. A meeting of the Transit Subcommittee was held on February 11th in Jim Thorpe and virtually. As a result of the discussion, staff are planning to hold quarterly or biannual meetings of the transit providers in the NEPA MPO region and also invite providers from neighboring counties to encourage collaboration. A study of opportunities to improve the shared ride program is also under consideration.

NEPA MPO Outreach and Professional Development

NEPA staff continues to seek out opportunities to share the innovative work that we complete on behalf of the NEPA MPO. On January 15th, GIS Service Manager, Nettie Ginocchetti, presented at the Transportation Research Board Annual Symposium on NEPA's Drone Visualization Program. Nettie will also present at the GIS for Transportation (GIS-T) Symposium in Chicago on March 17th and at the Keystone GIS Annual Conference in State College in April. Kate McMahon will present at the Mid-Colonial District of Transportation Engineers Conference in April in Lancaster about the recent MPO projects.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

- Staff continues to update the HUB site for the transportation program- <https://nepa-gis-nepa-alliance.hub.arcgis.com/pages/transportation>.
- Staff has updated the mapping for the Route 611 Corridor Study- <https://arcg.is/10z0bP0>.
- Staff has created a Story Map for the development of the Active Transportation Plan- <https://arcg.is/1j5TTH0>. It has been shared on the Active Transportation page on the NEPA website.
- Staff has updated the Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) mapping with a dashboard of the 2024-2025 classes. It can be found [here](#). Mapping of the upcoming 2025-2026 classes is also available- <https://arcg.is/1DODPi1>.

Regional and Statewide Meetings

Staff attended the following regional meetings and conferences:

- Schuylkill Chamber Infrastructure Committee Meeting- January 8 and February 12
- Lackawanna Luzerne MPO Meeting- January 13
- Pike County Road Task Force Meeting- January 15 and February 19
- Carbon County Transportation Ambassadors Meeting- February 11
- Schuylkill Transportation System Advisory Committee Meeting- February 12
- PennDOT Planning Partners Call- February 18
- PennDOT Amtrak New York to Scranton Passenger Rail Public Meeting- February 19

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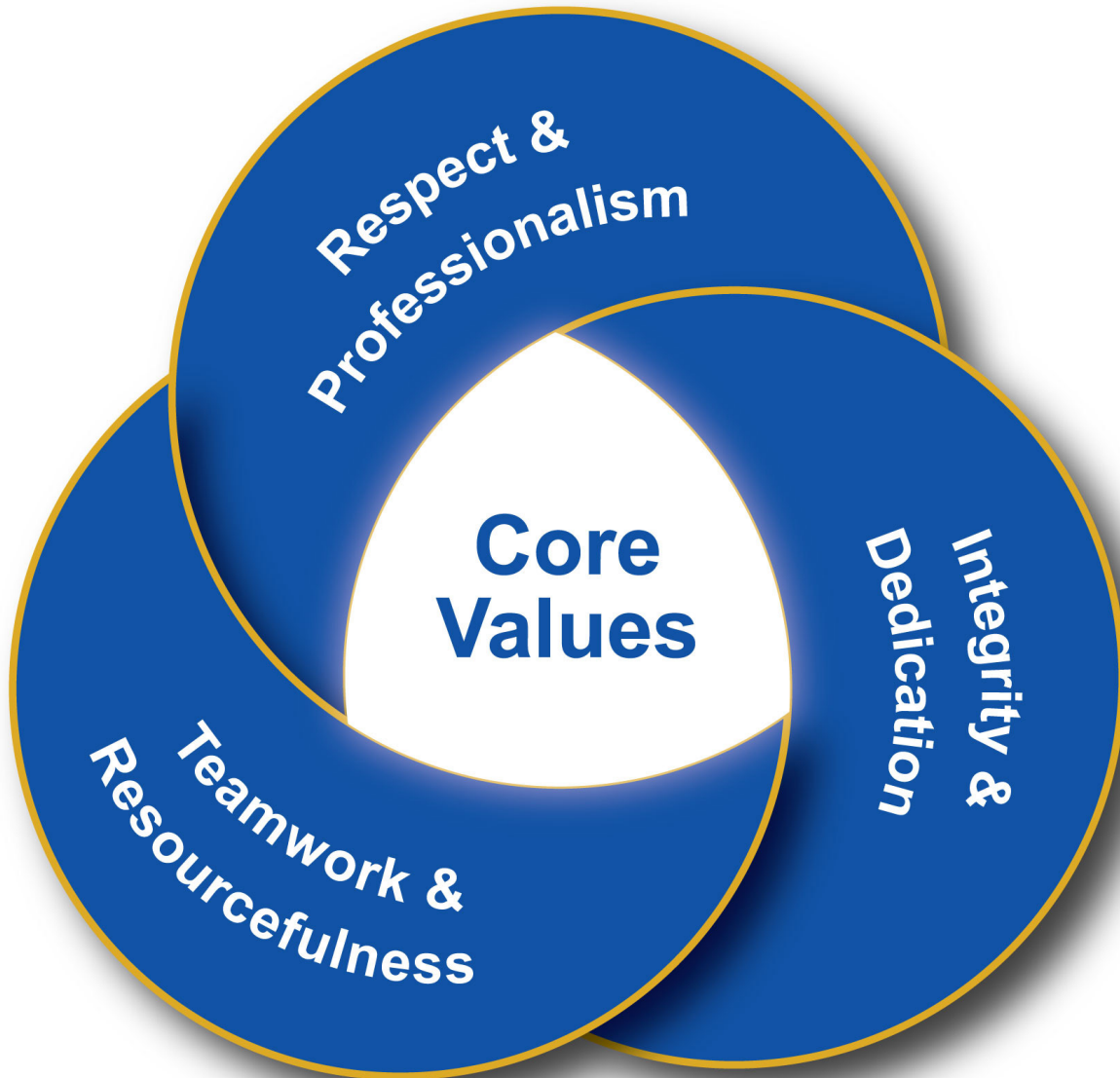
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NEPA's Mission

The Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance (NEPA) is a regional, multi-county, community and economic development agency providing leadership, planning, and services to businesses, communities, entrepreneurs and institutions lacking adequate access to capital and financial resources that enhance and revitalize distressed communities within the region.



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