

ANNUAL REPORT

2026



BUSINESS



COMMUNITY

TRANSPORTATION

Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance

NEPA

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE

NEPA Alliance continues to provide quality services to our businesses, communities and governments in Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Schuylkill and Wayne counties.

The NEPA staff has accomplished all of the goals set by our funding partners, and we continue to serve our region with quality business, community, economic development and transportation services.

The following pages of our Annual Report chronicle the success of our programs for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2026.

- NEPA leveraged \$4 million in ARC grants for regional and local organizations.
- NEPA Business Development Programs assisted our clients in creating or retaining 983 jobs in our region.
- NEPA's Business Finance Center provided \$2.52 million in loans, generating an additional \$10.34 million in investment for small businesses. Through our affiliate, NEPA Alliance Business Finance Corporation, a certified SBA Development Corporation, we closed 17 SBA 504 loans totaling \$12.4 million, leveraging \$21.1 million. Additionally, we closed 8 SBA 7(a) loans for \$1.16 million, bringing in an extra \$1.16 million to support regional businesses.
- NEPA's International Business Development Program completed the year at 124% of the goal established by Business PA International and reported sales of \$123,917,578.
- NEPA's government contracting program, APEX Accelerator, supported 328 jobs through \$178,228,426 in government contracts awarded in our region and assisted 374 businesses.
- The NEPA Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) serving Carbon, Monroe, Pike and Schuylkill counties with transportation planning approved the Transportation

Improvement Program (TIP) for 2027-2030 in the amount of \$589.8 million.

- NEPA manages the NEPA PREP Partnership (Partnerships for Regional Economic Performance), which is a collaboration of eleven (11) economic development agencies within our region. NEPA leveraged \$891,360 in state funding to support the initiative.
- NEPA assisted business and nonprofit clients leveraging \$3.1 million in PA Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) grants.
- The Nonprofit & Community Assistance Center (NCAC) provided 401 counseling sessions including customized grant, capital and fundraising development strategy guidance.
- NEPA leveraged a \$195,000 Department Community and Economic Development grant to continue Engage! a business retention and expansion program. NEPA and partners interviewed over 220 companies in the region to assist with growth and expansion strategies.

We thank all of our volunteer Board and Committee Members for their service and dedication to making Northeastern Pennsylvania a great place to live, work and play. We also thank our legislative delegation at the federal, state and county levels for their continued support!



Mary Frances Postupack
Board Chairperson
2026-2028

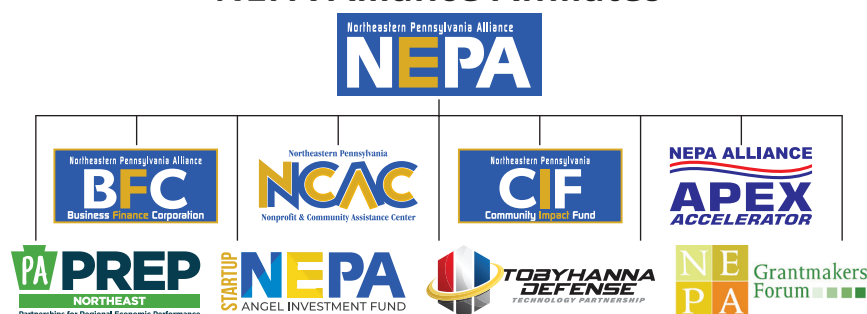


Stephen M. Barrouk
Past Board Chairperson
2024 - 2026



Jeffrey K. Box
President & CEO

NEPA Alliance Affiliates



STAFF, OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS



OFFICERS

Stephen Barrouk, Board Chairperson
Mary Frances Postupack, 1st Vice-Board Chairperson
Comm. Wayne Nothstein, 2nd Vice-Board Chairperson
Cynthia DeFebo, Treasurer

Comm. Jocelyn Cramer, Secretary
Micah Gursky, Assistant Treasurer
Katie Pittelli, Assistant Secretary
VACANT, Past Board Chairperson

DIVISIONS

Executive Leadership

Jeffrey Box - President & CEO

Administrative Services

Wendi Holena - Vice President/CFO
 Judith Doblix - Senior Accounting Manager
 Joseph Farrell - Accounting Manager
 Jordan Schultz - Accountant
 Miranda Slosky - Accountant

Business Development Services

Stephen Ursich - Vice President
 David Nat - Business Finance Manager
 Donovan Klem - Business Finance Manager
 Kenneth Doolittle - Business Finance Manager
 Kristie Miller - Business Finance Specialist
 Carrie Sykes - Business Finance Specialist
 Paula Terpak - Commercial Loan Portfolio Specialist
 Daniela Dominques - Business Finance Specialist
 Bob Morgan - Government Procurement Specialist
 Elizabeth Sheeder - Government Procurement Specialist
 Deborah Langan - Senior International Business Development Manager

Community & Economic Development Services

Kurt Bauman - Vice President
 Erica Yurkovic - Community & Economic Development Services Manager

Communications & Operations

Donna Hritz - Vice President
 Michael Skowronski - Information Technology Manager

Transportation Planning Services

Kate McMahon - Vice President
 Daniel Yelito - Transportation Services Manager
 Annette Ginocchetti - Transportation GIS Manager
 Jonathan Shaw - Transportation Services Manager

CARBON COUNTY

Commissioner Wayne Nothstein**

Harold Pudliner (2026)
 Joseph Sebelin (2027)
 Jared Soto (2026)
 Garry Wentz (2027)

LACKAWANNA COUNTY

Philip Condron (2026)
 Thomas Donohue (2027)
 Kristin Magnotta (2026)
 John McNulty (2026)
Katie Pittelli (2027)**
 VACANT

LUZERNE COUNTY

Stephen Barrouk (2027)**

Lindsay Griffin-Boylan
 Joseph Lettiere (2026)
 Mary Malone (2027)
 Michelle Mikitish (2026)
 Kerry Miscavage (2027)

MONROE COUNTY

Christopher Barrett (2026)
 Michelle Bisbing (2027)
 Commissioner John Christy
Mary Frances Postupack (2027)**
 Debra Raneri (2026)

PIKE COUNTY

Cynthia DeFebo (2027)**

J.D. Donson (2027)
 Commissioner Matthew Osterberg
 Jennifer Passenti (2026)
 Anna Van Acker (2026)

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY

Robert Carl (2026)
 Courtney Fasnacht (2026)
Micah Gursky (2027)**
 Bud Quandel (2027)
 Michael Tobash

WAYNE COUNTY

Commissioner Jocelyn Cramer**

VACANT (2027)
 Craig Rickard (2026)
 Mike Rollison (2027)
 Justin Taylor (2026)

AT-LARGE

Jason Bay***
 Chris Doherty***
 Anthony Gabello***
 Vincent Galko***
 Larry Malski ***
 Ben May***
 Alana Roberts***
 VACANT***

EX-OFFICIO

Jeffrey Box, NEPA President & CEO
 Megan Kennedy, NCAC Board Chair
 Kelly O'Brien, PNE (John Augustine alt.)

EMERITUS

David Donlin
 Ernest Preate

**Officer

*** Chairman's Appointments
 () terms expire June 30th

BUSINESS FINANCE CENTER



The NEPA Business Finance Center includes fifteen (15) loan products, as well as the NEPA Alliance Business Finance Corporation (NEPA BFC). The NEPA loan products provide low-cost, fixed-rate financing generally up to 50% of the total financing requirements with a maximum loan amount of \$5,500,000. Job retention/creation criteria apply.

The NEPA Alliance Business Finance Corporation is an SBA 504 lender. There are numerous advantages associated with the program including subordinate lien position, fixed interest rates that are market based and longer repayment terms with a maximum 25-year loan maturity. The loan structure of a 504 loan preserves working capital as the borrower's cash equity can be as low as 10%. Many business sectors can qualify for this program.



NEPA provided The Nyx with an Appalachian Regional Commission loan for the purchase of equipment associated with the business purchase at their location in Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania.

LOAN PROGRAM RESULTS:

- **Businesses Counseled:** 98
- **Closed Loans:** 46
- **Value of Closed Loans:** \$16,070,100
- **Leveraged Funds:** \$32,580,010
- **Created/Retained Jobs:** 287

PARTNERSHIPS FOR REGIONAL ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE (PREP)



In 2025-2026, the Northeastern Pennsylvania Regional PREP collaborative continued to provide integrated assistance to many businesses throughout the seven-

county Northeastern Pennsylvania region.

Additional Impacts:

- PREP Partners sponsored 68 training workshops that were attended by 4,894 individuals;
- 882 new clients were assisted by PREP Partners and 1,426 clients received counseling;
- 80 loans were closed;
- 90 business plans/projections/research were developed; and
- 86 location leads were provided.

PREP Regional Partners are:

- CAN DO, Inc.
- Carbon Chamber & Economic Development
- Greater Wyoming Valley Chamber of Commerce
- Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance
- Pike County Economic Development Authority
- Pocono Mountains Economic Development Corporation
- Scranton Lackawanna Industrial Building Company
- Schuylkill Economic Development Corporation
- The University of Scranton Small Business Development Center
- Wayne Economic Development Corporation
- Wilkes University Small Business Development Center

NEPA ALLIANCE APEX ACCELERATOR

For the program year 2025-2026 the APEX Accelerator received funding in the amount of \$321,609 from the Department of Defense with matching funds from the Appalachian Regional Commission and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development for a total funded award of \$582,790.

The APEX Team, working with our Economic Development Partners, participated in several speaker/exhibitor event opportunities during the 2025-2026 program year. Of note were:

- 2025 NEPIRC Manufacturing Day
- Tri-State Delta Mega Matchmaker
- Northeastern Infrastructure
- Monthly CMMC Webinars
- ERDC-WERX and the DoD's/DoW's Webinar
- Mentor Protégé Program Conference
- Ben Franklin Institute Networking Event

The NEPA Alliance APEX Accelerator is actively working with 374 business clients. For the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, the APEX Team achieved the following performance metric results:

• Client Counseling Sessions:	736
• One-on-One Counseling Hours:	266
• Client Contract Awards:	\$178,228,426
• Events:	30
• Jobs Supported:	328

Throughout the year, the APEX Team continued their success supporting regional businesses in the government and defense contracting spaces. By assisting small businesses with federal, state, and local registrations, socio-economic certifications, and bid reviews, the NEPA Alliance APEX Accelerator staff has helped small businesses break into the government contracting space.



Northeastern Infrastructure receives contract award.

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

NEPA provides international trade assistance to businesses in Northeastern Pennsylvania with the goal of helping to generate international sales and increase regional employment. As the Regional Export Network (REN) coordinator for the BusinessPA's Export Assistance Program, NEPA serves as the first point of contact for international trade in the region.

2025-2026 Outcomes

Companies Assisted	52
New Companies Assisted	7
International Projects	163
Export Clients Reporting Sales	20
Export Sales Reported	\$123,917,578
Export Actions	167
Percentage of Goals Achieved	124%
Jobs Supported	368

BRINGING THE WORLD TO NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

In conjunction with Business PA International, NEPA hosted the annual "Bringing the World to Northeastern Pennsylvania" event on Thursday, September 18, 2025. This is the International Business Development Program's premier annual event, during which NEPA hosts Pennsylvania's Authorized Trade Representatives (ATRs) for one-on-one meetings with companies. Nineteen businesses participated, resulting in more than 110 individual meetings with the ATRs.



APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION



**Appalachian
Regional
Commission**

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

FUNDED PROJECTS FY 2025-2026

Organization	Project	ARC Grant Amount
NEPA	PREP	\$461,425
Community Foundation of Monroe County	Ready Community Foundation	\$25,000
Misericordia University	Advancing the Education and Workforce Development of Nursing Professionals	\$75,000
Johnson College	Workforce Training for a Future in Robotics	\$107,225
Lehigh Valley Health Network	Recovery to Work Ecosystems	\$100,000
Wayne County Community Foundation	Internal Capacity Building	\$22,850
Wayne County	Recovery-to-Work: Building a Comprehensive Recovery-to-Work Ecosystem	\$143,640
City of Carbondale	City of Carbondale Capacity Building for Planning, Community & Economic Development	\$300,000
Lehigh Valley Health Network	Healthcare Futures	\$286,000
Volunteers in Medicine	Increase Access to Free Healthcare	\$199,994
St. Joseph's Center	Workforce Development Training Center	\$100,000
City of Carbondale	Enterprise Dr. Improvement Project	\$1,219,629
Borough of Nesquehoning	Nesquehoning Borough Business Park – Industrial Road (extends between Stock Street (SR 0054) to Park Avenue) – Phase 2	\$1,021,800
Total		\$4,062,563

COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

NEPA Alliance has created the 2025-2030 Northeastern Pennsylvania Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for our region. To create the CEDS, NEPA held a series of three meetings and received input from over 100 community leaders.

TOBYHANNA DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY PARTNERSHIP

NEPA manages the Tobyhanna Defense Technology Partnership to provide regional community support for the preservation and protection of Tobyhanna Army Depot from the base closure process known as BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure). The Partnership launched a membership campaign to raise funds



that will be used to help sustain and grow Tobyhanna Army Depot. The Depot has an economic impact on the region of over \$2.3 billion. The Tobyhanna Defense Technology Partnership is funded in part by the Pennsylvania Military Community Enhancement Commission.

NONPROFIT & COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE CENTER (NCAC)

The Northeastern Pennsylvania Nonprofit & Community Assistance Center (NCAC) is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) affiliate agency of NEPA that assists nonprofit organizations and communities.



NCAC PROGRAM TOTALS 2025-2026

Program	Totals
Nonprofit Counseling Sessions	179
Customized Funding Searches	65
Foundation Directory Software Visits	61
Workshop Participants	96
Total Assistance Provided	401



NCAC & NEPA hosted The Luzerne Foundation's Nonprofit Accelerator class

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NEPA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)

The Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance operates the Northeastern Pennsylvania Metropolitan Planning Organization (NEPA MPO), providing transportation planning and programming services for Carbon, Monroe, Pike and Schuylkill counties. As part of the planning process for the MPO, two MPO committees are convened: the NEPA MPO Technical Planning Committee and NEPA MPO Policy Board. The committees:

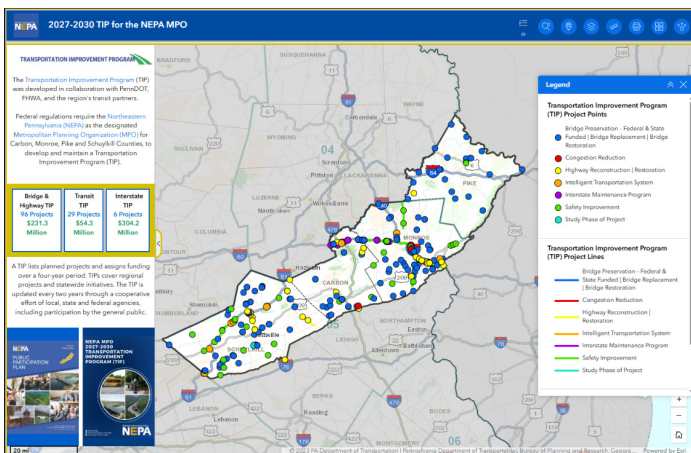
- Assist and advise NEPA with assessing the transportation needs of the MPO counties;
- Approve and manage the four-county regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) which funds highway and bridge projects, transit system improvements and other transportation programs over four years; and
- Review and recommend projects for grant programs including the Transportation Alternatives Set Aside Program, Multimodal Transportation Fund Program and Green Light-Go Program.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

The NEPA MPO 2027-2030 TIP was approved in June 2026. The TIP was developed by the MPO committees in collaboration with PennDOT, FHWA and the region's transit partners. The 2027-2030 TIP includes:

The NEPA 2027-2030 TIP totals \$589.8 million and includes:

- 96 Bridge and Highway Projects totaling \$231.3 million
- 29 Transit Projects totaling \$54.3 million
- 6 Interstate Projects totaling \$304.2 million



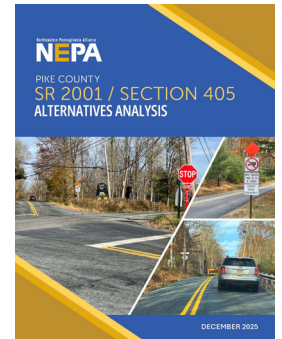
PA 611 CORRIDOR STUDY

PA 611 in Monroe County is poised for continued growth and development, resulting in increased congestion and safety concerns on the roadway. As a result, NEPA obtained supplemental planning funds from PennDOT for a corridor study of PA 611 in Pocono, Hamilton and Stroud Townships. Matching funds were provided by the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau. The study, which was completed in June 2026, identifies roadway, intersection and land use/policy recommendations to address the current and projected challenges of the PA 611 corridor and the Pocono Region at large.



SR 2001 ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS

Reconstruction of SR 2001 in Delaware Township to address the roadway's narrow lane widths, steep grades and sharp curves, and high truck traffic has been a top priority for Pike County for many years. Unfortunately, there is a considerable cost of reconstructing the entire 4.4 mile stretch of SR 2001. NEPA obtained supplemental planning funds from PennDOT to complete a study of SR 2001 to identify alternatives which include phasing and smaller, lower-cost safety improvements. The study was completed in December 2025.



GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS)

GIS is a computer application used to store, view and analyze geographic information through a number of formats, including computer generated maps. During the year 2025-2026, NEPA has completed and continued several GIS projects including:

- TIP Project and Community Demographic Assessment Mapping
- Drone Mapping and Visualization Program
- PA 611 Corridor Study Website

LOCAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LTAP)



NEPA coordinates the PennDOT Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) throughout our region, serving our local governments with road maintenance and safety training sessions at no cost to attendees.

2025-2026 LTAP Training
Individuals Trained: 282



LTAP Erosion and Sediment Control Class in Luzerne County

REGIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

The NEPA Alliance Regional Leadership Award is presented annually to an agency, group or individual demonstrating a significant contribution to regional growth, development or cooperation within the seven-county NEPA region. This year's award recipient was PNC Bank for their contribution to the regional economy and involvement in the regional community of Northeastern Pennsylvania.



From left: Jeffrey Box, NEPA Alliance; Tom Lystash, PNC Bank; Stephen Barrouk, NEPA Board Chair; and Donna Hritz, NEPA Alliance.

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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 50 businesses have made pitches, and 6 investment commitments 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	San Diego, CA
LifeAire	Indoor Air Quality	\$185,000	Allentown, PA
Gilson Snow Boards	Recreation	\$50,000	Snyder/Union Counties PA
UpContent	Tech	\$50,000	Pittsburgh, PA
Voxel Innovations	Electrochemical Manufacturing	\$50,000	Raleigh, NC

ENGAGE! AND GET CONNECTED PROGRAMS

The Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance serves as the Northeast Regional Coordinator for the Engage! program, which is funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development (PA DCED). The Engage! program is a Pennsylvania statewide business retention and expansion program designed to interact with targeted companies regularly and proactively. During FY 2025-2026, there were:

- 220+ Engage! surveys completed
- 2 Engage! focus groups with over 15+ businesses participating

FUNDING PARTNERS



www.arc.gov



dced.pa.gov



www.northeastprep.net



www.penndot.gov



www.eda.gov