



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION AMERICAN RESCUE ACT PLAN FUNDING



Under the American Rescue Plan, EDA was allocated \$3 billion in supplemental funding to assist communities nationwide in their efforts to "build back better" by accelerating the economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic and building local economies that will be resilient to future economic shocks.

American Rescue Plan funding enables EDA to provide larger, more transformational investments across the nation, while utilizing its greatest strengths, including flexible funding to support community-led economic development.

With an emphasis on equity, EDA investments made under the American Rescue Plan will directly benefit previously underserved communities impacted by COVID-19.

EDA is making a Coal Communities Commitment, allocating \$300 million of its \$3 billion American Rescue Plan appropriation to ensure support for these communities as they recover from the pandemic and create new jobs and opportunities, including through the creation or expansion of a new industry sector. This commitment will be fulfilled through \$100 million in Build Back Better Regional Challenge grants and \$200 million in Economic Adjustment Assistance grants.

Deadlines vary based on each program. The following are the various programs and their deadlines:

- Economic Adjustment Assistance - March 31, 2022
- Travel, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation - January 31, 2022
- Indigenous Communities - September 30, 2022
- Build Back Better Regional Challenge (Phase 1) - October 19, 2021
- Statewide Planning, Research and Networks - October 31, 2021
- Good Jobs Challenge - January 26, 2022

For more information about the ARPA funding opportunities available through EDA, please visit [Funding Opportunities | U.S. Economic Development Administration \(eda.gov\)](https://www.eda.gov/funding-opportunities).

ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION (AML) PROGRAM

The Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR) under the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), administers and oversees the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program in Pennsylvania and the Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization (AMLER) funds. The bureau is responsible for resolving abandoned mine land (AML) problems such as mine fires, mine subsidence, dangerous highwalls, open shafts and portals, mining impacted water supplies and other hazards which have resulted from past coal mining practices in accordance with requirements established by the federal Office of Surface Mining (OSM) under authority of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) (PL 95-87, as amended).



SMCRA defines three priorities and establishes that expenditures of moneys from the fund shall reflect the following priorities in the order stated:

- Priority 1 (P1) - the protection of public health, safety, and property from extreme danger of adverse effects of coal mining practices.
- Priority 2 (P2) - the protection of public health and safety from adverse effects of coal mining practices
- Priority 3 (P3) - the restoration of land and water resources and the environment previously degraded by adverse effects of coal mining practices including measures for the conservation and development of soil, water (excluding channelization), woodland, fish and wildlife, recreation resources and agricultural productivity.

Two categories of projects are accepted through the program:

1. "Category A" Projects (Reclamation with Development)
2. "Category B" Projects (Reclamation for Potential Development)

When PADEP-BAMR performs any work, it must prove the P-2 site was not mined for profit after 8/3/1977. The 8/3/1977 federal OSMRE eligibility date only applies to work being performed by PADEP-BAMR funded by OSMRE. BAMR is permitted to utilize P3 spoil piles to backfill P1 and P2 dangerous highwalls.

BAMR does not own any surface or mineral properties. For information on county by county AML identified problem areas, please visit [here](#).

Guidelines for the AML program can be found [here](#). For more information about AML and other programs, please visit DEP's [website](#).

STEM TALENT CHALLENGE



The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) [launched the STEM Talent Challenge](#) to support programs to train science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) talent and fuel regional innovation economies across the nation.

The \$2 million [STEM Talent Challenge](#) will provide funding for work-and-learn programs to

increase America's STEM-capable workforce in emerging and transformative sectors such as space commerce, aeronautics, digital manufacturing, biotechnology, advanced manufacturing and cybersecurity.

Competition applicants may request up to \$250,000 for implementation of a 24-month workforce program that complements their region's innovation economy. The deadline to apply is Oct. 12, 2021.

For more information regarding the challenge visit the guidelines [here](#).

For more information, visit www.eda.gov/OIE/STEM.

LOCAL TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LTAP)



LTAP is returning to in-person classes this fall!

Southern Alleghenies, in partnership with the planning offices of Blair and Cambria

Counties, is offering in-person LTAP courses in 2021.

LTAP Training Information

Registration: Register for In-Person Trainings on the LTAP website (<http://gis.penndot.gov/LTAP>). If you need assistance with registration, please contact LTAP at LTAP@state.pa.us or call 1-800-FOR-LTAP or 717-787-5243. You may also contact Matthew Bjorkman of SAP&DC at (814) 949-6553. mbjorkman@sapdc.org.

Upcoming Training Sessions:

- **Seal Coat** – October 14, 2021, 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM, Penn Highlands Community College, Ebensburg, PA.
- **Active Transportation** – October 20, 2021, 8 AM – 12 PM, Huntingdon Borough Building, Huntingdon, PA.
- **Winter Maintenance 101** – October 21, 2021, 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM, SAP&DC Office, Altoona, PA.
- **Project Oversight** – October 22, 2021, 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM, Penn Highlands Community College, Ebensburg, PA.
- **Stop Signs & Intersection Traffic Control** – November 4, 2021, 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Logan Township Municipal Building, Altoona, PA.
- **Asphalt Roads Common Maintenance Problems** – November 10, 2021, 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Logan Township Municipal Building, Altoona, PA
- **Drainage: The Key to Roads That Last** – November 30, 2021, 8 AM – 3 PM, Berlin Borough Buildings, Berlin, PA.

Technical Assistance

In the past year, LTAP experts have spent 125 hours conducting 30 tech assists with municipalities in our region! LTAP provides free technical assistance to municipalities to trouble shoot specific roadway issues. PennDOT LTAP technical experts are available by phone, by e-mail, and in person to help you trouble shoot you specific maintenance and safety problems. Technical assistance topics can include (but are not limited to):

- Guiderails/Roadside safety
- Speed/Traffic Calming
- Traffic Studies
- Pavement Management

- Winter Management (including snowplow driver training)
- Posting and Bonding
- Bridge and Culvert Management

If you have a specific problem or issue that you would like help with, logon to the LTAP website and request a technical assistance under the “My Tools” drop down. If you would like help requesting a technical assistance, contact Matthew Bjorkman at (814) 949-6553 or mbjorkman@sapdc.org.

Visit our
Website

Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission (SAP&DC)
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