



Pennsylvania  
**Department of Community  
& Economic Development**

**FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY**

Wednesday, September 4, 2024

**Contact:** Penny Ickes, [dcedpress@pa.gov](mailto:dcedpress@pa.gov)

**MEDIA ADVISORY: TOMORROW – LUZERNE COUNTY – Shapiro Administration Will Announce \$36 Million Investment to Support Projects that Assist Low-Income People and Improve Pennsylvania Communities**

**Wilkes-Barre, PA** – On Thursday, September 5, Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) **Secretary Rick Siger** will join local leaders to announce \$36 million in new awards through the [Neighborhood Assistance Program](#) (NAP), which provides tax credits to businesses that contribute to nonprofit organizations' efforts to support neighborhoods and communities across Pennsylvania.

Governor Josh Shapiro's bipartisan [2024-2025 budget](#) includes a doubling of the Neighborhood Assistance Program from \$36 million to \$72 million — a significant win for the nonprofits that provide vital services to neighborhoods in distress, create jobs, and revitalize communities.

During his visit, Secretary Siger will meet with representatives of the Diamond City Partnership and the owner of [Building Blocks Early Learning Center](#) which was attracted to downtown Wilkes-Barre as the result of a project completed with NAP support, meet with members of the [Downtown Ambassador Team](#) which helps maintain business district enhancements through NAP support, and visit a downtown movie theatre which will be revitalized with assistance from the NAP program.

**WHO:**

Rick Siger, DCED Secretary  
Representative Eddie Day Pashinski  
Mayor George Brown  
Larry Newman, President, Diamond City Partnership

**WHEN:**

Thursday, September 5, 2024, at 10:30 AM

**WHERE:**

116 South Main Street (outside courtyard area), Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702

**VISUALS:**

Secretary Siger and local leaders will make formal remarks, then visit the above-mentioned NAP projects. Participants will be available for interviews before and after the walking tour, which will occur rain or shine.

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