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## **Lt. Gov. Austin Davis Highlights Shapiro-Davis Administration's Support for Community Revitalization Projects Across the Commonwealth**

*LG Davis Visits Community Action Lehigh Valley, which will serve more than 200 young people through programs like the Youth Police Academy and James Lawson Freedom School.*

**ALLENTOWN, PA** – Projects to revitalize communities and support young people and low-income families in the Lehigh Valley are getting a boost from the Shapiro-Davis Administration, which recently approved more than \$5.5 million in funding through the Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP), which provides state tax credits to businesses that contribute to nonprofit organizations.

**Lt. Gov. Austin Davis** joined state and local leaders at a news conference today in Allentown to highlight the NAP investments, including a project by Community Action Lehigh Valley that will help youth in center city Allentown.

“When I was growing up in McKeesport, I spent many days at my local Boys and Girls Club, so I understand how important it is for young people have safe and supportive places to go after school and in the summer months,” said **Davis**. “The Shapiro-Davis Administration is making communities safer and giving kids more opportunities by investing in afterschool and summer programs, through our new BOOST initiative, but also with NAP tax credits. I’m grateful for the companies that are supporting this project in Allentown, as well as the work of Community Action Lehigh Valley, for investing in Pennsylvania’s most precious resource – our children.”

Community Action Lehigh Valley will serve more than 200 young people through programs like the Youth Police Academy and James Lawson Freedom School. They plan to create a new youth center and employ an outreach worker with funding contributed by Capital Advantage Insurance Company, City Center Investment Corporation, PNC Community Development Banking, Peoples Security Bank & Trust Company, Truist Bank, Wells Fargo, Alvin H. Butz, Inc., Duggan & Marcon, Inc., PPL Electric Utilities and United Concordia Insurance Company. These companies will receive a total of \$617,500 in state tax credits to support this project.

“The expansion of the PA DCED Neighborhood Assistance Program from \$36 million to \$72 million is a powerful investment in Pennsylvania communities,” said **Community Action Lehigh Valley CEO Dawn Godshall**. “This funding allows Community Action Development in Allentown, Bethlehem and Slate Belt Rising to deepen their impact — strengthening families, stabilizing neighborhoods, and creating real pathways to

opportunity. We are grateful to Governor Shapiro, Lieutenant Governor Davis and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, for recognizing that when we invest in community-led solutions, we build stronger, more equitable futures for everyone.”

In addition to this project, [there are 36 additional NAP projects across the Lehigh Valley, including Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Monroe, Northampton and Schuylkill counties](#). Some of the other approved projects include funding for Second Harvest Food Bank of the Lehigh Valley and Northeast Pennsylvania, a job training and leadership development program by the Pottsville Area Development Corporation in Schuylkill County and security upgrades for Safe Berks’ confidential safe house in Reading.

In December, [the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development \(DCED\) announced the approval of \\$70 million](#) through the NAP to support 405 projects across the Commonwealth.

“The Neighborhood Assistance Program is a powerful tool that creates better quality of life for our residents by encouraging businesses to reinvest in the communities they call home,” said **DCED Deputy Secretary of Community Affairs and Development Rick Vilello**. “I’m thrilled to be here in the Lehigh Valley to celebrate this award that will enrich the lives of young people in the community and provide new resources for them to prosper.”

The NAP’s funding was doubled from \$36 million to \$72 million in the 2024-25 enacted state budget, and the Shapiro-Davis Administration secured continued funding for the program in the 2025-26 state budget. More information is available in the [NAP impact brochure](#).

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