



NEWS

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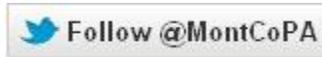
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Montgomery County Announces New Grant Program for Implementing County Comprehensive Plan

Norristown, PA (March 3, 2016) – The Montgomery County Commissioners today announced an exciting new grant program as part of the implementation of the county’s comprehensive plan, *Montco 2040: A Shared Vision*. The Montco 2040 Implementation Grant Program is intended to assist municipalities in making targeted physical improvements that achieve real progress toward the goals of the plan.

“This engaging new grant program will bring municipalities into the implementation process and offer an opportunity for them to target and advance their projects. The program promotes strong partnerships that will help realize the goals of the county’s comprehensive plan, enhancing Montgomery County’s quality of life,” said Jody L. Holton, AICP, Executive Director of the Montgomery County Planning Commission.

The program will focus on supporting local projects that specifically further the goals of the county comprehensive plan, which was adopted in 2015, and the plan’s themes of Connected Communities, Sustainable Places, and Vibrant Economy. Each theme contains several goals, and projects will be required to specifically address a goal within the themes.

While the program will be open to a wide array of projects fitting within the comprehensive plan, there will be specific focus categories announced each year that highlight recent county planning initiatives. In 2016, these focus categories will emphasize the county’s Sustainable Green Parking Lots guidebook, the new Walk Montco study, and the Turnpike Corridor Reinvestment Project study.

A total of \$1 million is allocated for 2016, with annual allocations expected over the next five years. Grant amounts are expected to be available between \$10,000 and \$200,000, but a realistic average award is around \$100,000. The first round of application reviews will begin on May 1, but applications will be accepted on a rolling basis through the end of the year.

The county is offering a workshop for municipal officials and staff on two dates – March 8 and March 9. Participants will have an opportunity to gain insight and hear details on the new funding program and will be invited to ask questions. The workshop can also be beneficial in helping municipalities prepare a stronger application. The workshops are highlighted below:

March 8, 2016 – 4:00 p.m.

Lower Frederick Township Building
53 Spring Mount Road
Zieglerville, PA 19492

March 9, 2016 – 4:00 p.m.

Montgomery County Fire Academy (Room 110)
1175 Conshohocken Road
Conshohocken, PA 19428

In addition to this new grant program, the Montgomery County Planning Commission has been tracking *Montco 2040's* implementation progress throughout 2015 and is looking forward to advancing the goals of the comprehensive plan in 2016.

Visit www.montcopa.org/Montco2040GrantProgram for the program guidebook; a brochure that gives an overview of the project including application information, project requirements, project review criteria, and the selection process; and a *Montco 2040* implementation update. The online application period begins on April 1.

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