

Fay-Penn is a local nonprofit that has worked steadily since 1991 to support job creation and business investment across the region. Through partnerships and projects, the council continues to play a role in helping businesses expand and stay in the area.

Fayette Wins Big with EPA Brownfields & PA SITES Grants

Fay-Penn Economic Development Council has secured two major wins for Fayette County in 2025—one at the federal level and one at the state level. These grants represent more than just funding: they signal confidence in Fayette County's potential, provide critical infrastructure for business growth, and create momentum to redevelop underutilized land into productive assets.

EPA Brownfields Grant

Fay-Penn, along with the Connellsville and Uniontown Redevelopment Authority's, was awarded \$1.2 million from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under its Brownfields program. This grant funds assessments of Fayette County brownfield sites—properties potentially complicated by hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants. These funds enable recipients to inventory and characterize sites, conduct site assessments to determine contamination, develop cleanup and reuse plans, and conduct community involvement activities.

WHY IT MATTERS TO FAYETTE COUNTY:

1. De-risking Land & Creating Shovel-Ready Sites

- One of the biggest obstacles to attracting industrial or manufacturing investment is the lack of ready-to-go sites. Raw land may need road access, stormwater drainage, utility hookups, environmental remediation, grading, etc.

2. Attracting Businesses & Jobs

- When a site is ready to build, with roads, utilities, and environmental burdens addressed, companies can move faster. That's a big selling point in site selection decisions.
- Over time, these grants can catalyze private investment, spur construction jobs, and anchor long-term employers in Fayette County.

3. Leveraging Further Investment

- The public dollars can act as seed or enable funding. Once infrastructure is in place, private developers or businesses can commit capital more confidently.

PA SITES Grant

- The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania selected Fay-Penn for a \$821,524 grant through its new PA SITES (Pennsylvania Strategic Investments to Enhance Sites) program.

- The grant is earmarked for Phase I development of the Lemont Rail Park site in



- North Union Township, specifically to build an access road and stormwater infrastructure to “pad-ready” some portion of industrial/rail-adjacent land.
- Across the state in this first round, the PA SITES program awarded \$64 million to 11 projects, aiming to create shovel-ready industrial sites to attract new businesses and investments

With these grants, Fay-Penn can transform a dormant or underutilized property into a destination for industry. The Lemont Rail Park could become a landmark project: a site where quality infrastructure meets rail access and environmental readiness.

Fay-Penn Welcomes New Staff



Jerrod Murtha, Deputy Director

Jerrod Murtha has been appointed Deputy Director at Fay-Penn, bringing more than 20 years of commercial lending experience and a strong record of community involvement to support the organization's mission of driving economic growth and improving quality of life in Fayette County.



Crystal Simmons, Director of Grants

Crystal Simmons joins Fay-Penn as Director of Grants, building on her extensive experience in community and economic development with the Uniontown Redevelopment Authority to strengthen funding resources and support impactful projects throughout Fayette County.



Regina Harris, Accounts Receivable Specialist

Regina Harris has been named Accounting Specialist, bringing broad experience in financial reporting, payables, and receivables, along with strong technical skills and a commitment to using data to guide sound business decisions.

For more details on our new staff and positions, please go to our website at faypenn.org

State Outdoor Recreation Director Highlights Tourism's Economic Potential in Fayette County

This summer, Fayette County welcomed Dr. Nathan Reigner, Pennsylvania's first Director of Outdoor Recreation, for an engaging discussion on tourism's role in strengthening local economies. His visit brought together community leaders, business owners, and residents to explore how the county's natural beauty, historic landmarks, and recreation assets can drive sustainable growth.

Dr. Reigner emphasized that tourism is more than visitors passing through; it supports small businesses, creates jobs, and builds community pride. He noted how outdoor recreation, heritage tourism, and cultural attractions draw visitors from across the region and beyond, generating new opportunities for local entrepreneurs and helping communities thrive.

Fayette County Commissioner Scott Dunn and Fay-Penn Economic Development Council Executive Director Tim Flecker joined Dr. Reigner for a county tour, including stops at Washington Run Park and the reconstructed grist mill once owned by George Washington in Perryopolis.

Participants discussed strategies to expand tourism initiatives, such as improving trail connections, developing new attractions, and investing in visitor

amenities, while emphasizing collaboration among government, nonprofits, and the private sector.



The Sheepskin Trail remains one of Fayette County's most valuable recreation assets. Fay-Penn will construct five new miles of trail after commissioners approved a \$1 sale of three county-owned parcels along the route. The transfer allows Fay-Penn to place utility lines across the properties, improving infrastructure by extending natural gas, broadband, and water access to the southern end of the county. Fay-Penn will also restore affected areas to meet standards outlined in the county's 2018 feasibility study.

Housing, Population, and Quality of Life: Building the Foundation for Economic Growth in Fayette County

Economic development is often defined by business attraction, job creation, and investment. But lasting prosperity in Fayette County depends on more than industrial parks and incentives. It requires the full ecosystem that makes a community an appealing place to live and work. Three key components, housing, population, and quality of life, form the foundation that businesses consider when deciding where to locate and grow.

Housing: A Place for Workers to Call Home



Housing is essential to economic growth. Without enough quality options, businesses struggle to recruit and retain workers. Fayette County faces the challenge of updating and diversifying its housing stock to create opportunities for first-time buyers, young professionals, and families, while expanding market-rate rentals for new residents. Modern, affordable housing signals stability, attracts investment, and allows workers to live near their jobs.

Population: Attracting and Retaining Talent



A growing, engaged population drives economic vitality. Businesses seek communities with a strong workforce and active consumer base. Fayette County's population trends point to the need for strategies that retain young residents and attract new families. This means not only creating jobs but also offering the lifestyle and amenities that appeal to today's workforce.

Quality of Life: The Deciding Factor



More than ever, people choose where to live based on quality of life. Access to recreation, cultural opportunities, good schools, healthcare, safety, and modern infrastructure all play a role. Fayette County's natural assets, from the Youghiogheny River to Ohiopyle State Park and the Laurel Highlands, position it well for growth.

The Bigger Picture



When housing, population, and quality of life align, communities thrive. Investing in these pillars strengthens the local economy and creates a vibrant, sustainable Fayette County where businesses and residents can grow together.

PRIME INDUSTRIAL BUILDING FOR SALE OR LEASE

72,805 SF BUILDING ON THE SHEEPSKIN TRAIL, UNIONTOWN

**South Union Township
Fayette County, PA**

Contact Earl Miller for more
information at
earlm@faypenn.org.



Helping Businesses Grow: Fay-Penn's Revolving Loan Program

Access to capital can make all the difference for a business or organization ready to expand, modernize, or get started. Fay-Penn's Revolving Loan Program is one of the most effective tools we offer to help Fayette County grow.

The program provides flexible loans that complement traditional financing. By partnering with banks, credit unions, and other lenders, Fay-Penn helps bridge funding gaps so more organizations can invest in facilities, property, renovations, and expansion projects that create jobs and strengthen the local economy.

Over the years, the program has supported hundreds of businesses and nonprofits—from family-owned shops to manufacturers, schools, and community organizations. Each repaid loan goes back into the fund, allowing new projects to benefit and keeping momentum building across the county.

FAY-PENN LOAN SNAPSHOT

Some Fay-Penn stats since 1993

- 304 loans
- \$47,702,209 through FP Revolving Loan Fund
- \$106,218,084 in total projects
- 5,906 jobs helped created/retained

Building a Stronger Future

In addition to funding, Fay-Penn provides business guidance throughout the loan process to help entrepreneurs and community leaders succeed.

If your business or organization is ready to expand or take on a new project, contact Fay-Penn to learn how the Revolving Loan Program can help turn your plans into reality.

RECENT SUCCESS STORIES

Mt. Moriah Christian School

Mount Moriah Christian School used the Revolving Loan Program to purchase a facility that allowed them to open a second campus and serve more families in Fayette County.

Connellsville Chamber of Commerce

Used the program to buy and improve a new downtown building, enhancing its ability to serve local businesses and support economic growth.



Learn more at faypenn.org or call Bryce Landman
724-437-7913, ext. 217.



1040 Eberly Way • Suite 200
Lemont Furnace, PA 15456
724.437.7913
info@faypenn.org
faypenn.org



Fay Penn Staff

Timothy Flecker – Executive Director
Jerrod Murtha – Deputy Director

Traci Fenner – Human Resources Administrator & Office Manager
Regina Harris – Accounts Receivable Specialist
Misty Hiltabidel – Business Development Coordinator
Twila Kendall – Technical Specialist
Bryce Landman – Business Development Coordinator
Earl Miller – Director of Real Estate
Brenda Sapic – Senior Accounting Assistant
Lori Scott – Director of Business Development
Crystal Simmons – Director of Grants
Dr. Glenn Valdiserri – Director of Finance
Kimberly Wyda – Accountant AR