

THE INSIDE STORY



Business Revitalization Program

In September 2007, Allegheny County Executive Dan Onorato launched “Allegheny Together,” a business revitalization program that encourages well-planned, well-designed and geographically-focused investment in established urban commercial districts. The County Executive also announced grants, tax abatements and no-interest loans for small businesses throughout the County.

The goal of Allegheny Together is to assist and encourage property owners and businesses to reinvest in traditional business districts by providing matching grants and low-cost financing. Eligible interior activities included: corrections of code deficiencies, compliance with Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry standards, modifications to provide disabled accessibility, improvements to provide energy efficiency, physical improvements to accommodate existing or potential business, and life safety code compliance. Eligible exterior activities included: façade improvements, streetscaping, business identification signage, awnings, and lighting that highlight architectural features and/or business signage.

Allegheny County committed \$660,000 in Community Development Block Grants for Allegheny Together over the next three years of the program, and the foundation community had contributed nearly \$530,000 to the program. There are 43 business districts in Allegheny County outside of the City of Pittsburgh. Small businesses represent 99 percent of the economic enterprises in Allegheny County and employ more than 265,000 residents.

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