

**SLATE BELT RISING  
REQUEST FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS  
2024-2025**

The Slate Belt Rising Steering Committee invites all Slate Belt serving organizations, residents, and business owners to propose community-driven projects for implementation between July 1, 2024, and September 30, 2025. All projects should focus on improving the quality of life for Slate Belt residents and should align with at least one of the three priority areas identified by the Slate Belt Rising Community Plan (listed below).

Our flexible funding approach reflects Slate Belt Rising's commitment to community-driven initiatives. We welcome proposals from diverse entities, including non-profit organizations, businesses, and individual community members. This flexibility aims to empower all stakeholders to actively participate in shaping the future of the Slate Belt. Whether you represent an established organization or a local business or are a passionate resident with a transformative idea, we encourage you to submit proposals that align with our priority areas.

In addition, Slate Belt Rising recognizes the strength that collaboration brings to community initiatives. To amplify impact, we encourage potential applicants to reach out to discuss their projects. If you have a project idea and wish to explore potential partnerships or align with similar initiatives, we are here to connect you with like-minded individuals and organizations.

Completed proposal application forms should be submitted to Slate Belt Rising Director Brian Fenstermaker by email ([bfenstermaker@caclv.org](mailto:bfenstermaker@caclv.org)) by Friday, March 28, 2024, for review.

All applicants are encouraged to discuss their projects with the appropriate sub-committee at their monthly meetings. Please contact Brian Fenstermaker at [bfenstermaker@caclv.org](mailto:bfenstermaker@caclv.org) or 484-523-0900 for meeting locations and/or virtual meeting access.

**Affordable/Quality Housing**

February 14 at 9 am

March 13 at 9 am

**Regional Cooperation,  
Vibrant Economic Climate,  
and Community Engagement**

February 22 at 9 am

March 28 at 9 am

**Program Sustainability**

February 14 at 10:30 am

March 13 at 10:30 am

For assistance with writing a proposal or to discuss project ideas, please feel free to reach out to Brian Fenstermaker at [bfenstermaker@caclv.org](mailto:bfenstermaker@caclv.org). Proposal writing assistance is available to any individual or organization that needs it.

## **About Slate Belt Rising**

Slate Belt Rising (SBR), a program of Community Action Lehigh Valley, is a neighborhood revitalization initiative designed to integrate and capitalize on the substantial assets of the individual Slate Belt boroughs of Wind Gap, Pen Argyl, Bangor, and Portland. While SBR specifically targets these four boroughs, some initiatives promote development and the coordination of services for the entire region.

Slate Belt Rising is a six-year neighborhood revitalization program and a program of Community Action Lehigh Valley in partnership with the Boroughs of Bangor, Pen Argyl, Portland, and Wind Gap, supported by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development and with funding from Fidelity Bank, First Northern Bank & Trust, and WM (Waste Management).

The Slate Belt Rising Community Plan 2022-2028 establishes goals and strategies to guide the implementation of projects, which are selected and supervised by a Steering Committee comprised of community stakeholders and neighborhood residents, local governments, small business owners, corporate contributors to the NPP, and local non-profits.

Through a comprehensive public input process, *Slate Belt Rising* identified three interconnected areas in which to invest resources and support collaborative projects: Vibrant Economic Climate, Quality, Affordable Housing, and Regional Cooperation & Community Engagement.

## **Slate Belt Rising Priority Areas**

The Slate Belt Rising Community Plan established three priority areas which are briefly described below. Additional information can be found in the plan.

### **Vibrant Economic Climate**

**Objectives:** Improve commercial districts to promote economic development and enhance community pride. Develop the entrepreneurial talent of the Slate Belt and create opportunities for small business success. Promote opportunities for shopping, dining, and recreation that leverage the history and authentic charm of the Slate Belt's Boroughs.

### **Regional Cooperation & Community Engagement**

**Objectives:** Promote regional planning, cooperation, and coordination of services throughout the Slate Belt. Improve the region's recreational opportunities and leverage the natural beauty of the Slate Belt.

### **Quality, Affordable Housing**

**Objectives:** Create strong, attractive neighborhoods with affordable and well-maintained housing options for both owners and renters. Develop, in partnership with the County of Northampton and Slate Belt Boroughs, a rental registration process and landlord database to track property locations and conditions.

## INFORMATION FOR SLATE BELT RISING SUBGRANTEES

### **AGREEMENTS FOR 2024-2025**

Agreements for 2024-2025 programs will be sent out once projects are approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (anticipated date: Fall 2024).

### **FLYERS AND OTHER PRINTED/DIGITAL MATERIALS**

As you are preparing flyers or other printed or online materials for your program(s) please be sure to recognize the financial support of Slate Belt Rising by using the following:

*This program was made possible in part by Slate Belt Rising, a community revitalization program of Community Action Lehigh Valley for the Boroughs of Bangor, Pen Argyl, Portland, and Wind Gap, with support from Fidelity Bank, First Northern Bank & Trust, and WM (Waste Management).*

These materials should also include the Slate Belt Rising logo, which will be provided upon request.

### **DATA COLLECTION**

Subgrantees must collect data on the residency of any program participants and report on the total number of Southside residents served by programming. Subgrantees should also collect photo release forms for any program participants photographed during program activities (forms are available for use).

### **FINAL REPORT**

A report will be due by November 15, 2025. Please send it to Brian Fenstermaker ([bfenstermaker@caclv.org](mailto:bfenstermaker@caclv.org)) The report will require:

1. Number of Slate Belt residents served
2. Digital photos (and copies of the photo releases)
3. A short narrative detailing the program's successes and any challenges that were faced.