



REQUEST FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS 2025-2026

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, 2025, and September 30, 2026. 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) by Wednesday 30, 2025, for review.

All applicants are encouraged to attend and discuss/brainstorm their projects with the appropriate sub-committee at their monthly meetings. Please contact Brian Fenstermaker at bfenstermaker@caclv.org or 484-523-0900 to RSVP. All meetings are held virtually via Zoom.

Affordable/Quality Housing

March 13th at 9:00 a.m.

April 9th at 9:00 a.m.

Regional Cooperation/Vibrant Economic Climate/Community Engagement

March 27th at 9:00 a.m.

April 24th at 9:00 a.m.

Program Sustainability

March 12 at 10:30 a.m.

April 9 at 10:30 a.m.

For assistance with writing a proposal or to discuss project ideas, please feel free to reach out to Brian Fenstermaker at 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 for our Neighborhood Partnership Program (NPP) from Fidelity Bank, First Northern Bank & Trust, and WM.

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.

INFORMATION FOR SLATE BELT RISING SUBGRANTEES

AGREEMENTS FOR 2025-2026

Agreements for 2025-2026 programs will be sent out to subgrantee's once projects are approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (anticipated date: Fall 2025).

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.

These materials should also include the Slate Belt Rising logo and Community Action Lehigh Valley, 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 Slate Belt residents served by programming. Subgrantees should also collect photo release forms for any program participants photographed during program activities (forms will be provided by SBR).

FINAL REPORT

A final report will be due by November 15, 2026. Further, SBR may send a questionnaire requesting additional information after the submittal of the report to solicit feedback and understand the impact of a project

Please send reports to Brian Fenstermaker (bfenstermaker@caclv.org) In addition to any other information subgrantees wish to provide the report at a minimum is required to include:

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

Questions

Questions about the request for proposal process should be directed to SBR Director, Brian Fenstermaker. bfenstermaker@caclv.org or 484-523-0900

