# Bucks County Municipal Economic Development Initiative

The Bucks County Board of Commissioners are pleased to announce a new initiative that will focus County resources on ensuring the continued and expanded economic prosperity of Bucks County and its 54 municipalities. Bucks County's adopted economic development goals were established in the 2009 report of the Economic Development Advisory Board, *An Action Plan for Progress*. One of the six goals – Engaging our Municipal Partners – is the foundation for this new program.

There is applicability for every municipality in Bucks County. From rural farming communities in Upper Bucks County to the crossroads shopping centers and borough Main Streets in central Bucks to the older industrial areas in Lower Bucks County, each community needs to look ahead at the businesses and enterprises that create jobs, community character, and the ability to provide needed community services for residents. This program is voluntary for all Bucks County municipalities.

Bucks County will assist municipal governments by devoting resources to ensure Bucks County's continued economic vitality and growth. The staff of the Bucks County Planning Commission will provide guidance, data, and expertise on commerce, zoning, land use planning, smart growth initiatives, transportation, community goals, and community character to municipalities that request help. This program will also help communities become more vibrant, livable, and attractive places to work, live, and visit. The hallmarks of this program are:

***Services*** Visioning sessions and community outreach through meetings and surveys

- Data collection and analysis
  - Demographics – Population and employment
  - Transportation – traffic, PennDOT proposed transportation improvements, pedestrian and sidewalk assessments
  - Land use surveys and assessments
  - Parking
  - Commercial and industrial usage and land availability
- Surveys of residents and businesses
- Business Profile and market area
- Assessment of zoning and planning tools to identify business incentives or impediments
- Helping municipal officials understand the impact of their programs and decisions on commerce: regulations, taxes, use of incentives
- Information and connections to other agencies/groups that can assist with business development
- Targeting types of assistance to meet community goals

***Access to Grant Information*** availability and application assistance.

***Information*** on what other agencies and groups are doing and how this may affect municipal efforts.

***Applicability***

- Main Street/downtown revitalization
- Reuse of industrial areas
- Village centers
- Strengthening transportation corridors, transit lines, and transit-oriented development standards
- Agriculture and rural enterprises
- Tourism
- Reuse/revitalization of shopping centers

For more information or to sign up for the program please contact our Planning Commission office:

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**Bucks County Board of Commissioners**

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