

Tioga County Enterprise Zone

Tioga County Development Corporation
Tioga County, Pennsylvania

In February 2007 the **Tioga County Development Corporation (TCDC)** received designation of the **Tioga County Enterprise Zone** through the State. The **Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED)** administers the **Pennsylvania Enterprise Zone Program (EZP)** through the **New Communities Program**.

The **Tioga County Enterprise Zone (TCEZ)** is comprised of eighteen (18) municipalities throughout Tioga County which encompasses twelve (12) Areas eligible for EZP activities. The municipalities and Areas have been strategically selected to participate in the **Tioga County Enterprise Zone** along the primary highway network including: US Route 15 (future I99), PA Route 49 and US Route 6.

Liberty Township
Mansfield Borough
Tioga Borough
Elkland Borough*
Westfield Borough*
Wellsboro Borough

Liberty Borough
Richmond Township
Lawrence Township*
Knoxville Borough*
Westfield Township*
Charleston Township

Blossburg Borough
Rutland Township
Lawrenceville Borough*
Deerfield Township*
Delmar Township
Tioga township

* Previous **49 CORRIDOR** Enterprise Zone Municipalities

County & School Districts

The **Tioga County Enterprise Zone** municipalities and Areas are located within portions of the County of Tioga, Northern Tioga School District, Southern Tioga School District and Wellsboro Area School District. The **TCEZ Advisory Council** will be comprised of individuals from these 18 municipalities, County and school districts taxing bodies as well as several business leaders.

The **Tioga County Development Corporation** will serve as the Legal Applicant, Grant Recipient and Administrator of the **Tioga County Enterprise Zone**. The **Tioga County Revolving Loan Fund** Committee will recommend loans to the **Tioga County Development Corporation** Board of Directors for Action.

This contiguous combination of eighteen (18) municipalities, three public school districts and the County of Tioga will make the **Tioga County Enterprise Zone** an attractive area for businesses to grow and expand in and attract new businesses to Tioga County.

"The Enterprise Zone Program is a grant program designed to assist financially disadvantaged communities in preparing and implementing business development strategies within municipal Enterprise Zones. It is a private sector-driven program, compatible with public sector purposes and designed to increase the quantity and quality of available job opportunities within an Enterprise Zone." The purpose is to create a positive, business-friendly economic climate, in a particular geographic area, to stimulate industrial growth and expansion which will improve the overall economy of the EZP.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's **Enterprise Zone Program** is comprised of three (3) Phases and encompasses a seven (7) year time frame:

PHASE I

Planning Assistance Grants are provided through DCED to prepare **Business Development Strategies**. These strategies must be based in a structured survey of local businesses and reflect the needs of the local private sector.

PHASE II

Designation as an Enterprise Zone by DCED if the Business Development Strategy is approved.

PHASE III

Designated Zones Benefits:

- Priority Consideration by State to facility identified business investment and job creation opportunities, such as, PIDA, IDP, ECC, CJT, NAP and Transportation Assistance through PennDOT
- Eligible to apply for competitive grants that are loaned at below-market rates to specific businesses within the Zone through the **Tioga County Enterprise Zone** RLF Program with priority placed on assistance to businesses involved in industrial, manufacturing and export services
- Local Enterprise Zone Coordinator is prepared to pursue business development opportunities and are sensitive to the needs of zone firms
- State Tax Credits for real property improvements
- Customized Job Training funding for training for eligible businesses

A **Tioga County Enterprise Zone Advisory Council** will be established, comprised of persons from the participating municipalities representing the private and public sector and serve as the Executive Policy Body for the Zone. The municipalities, the Northern Tioga School District (NTSD), Southern Tioga School District (STSD), Wellsboro Area School District (WASD) and the County of Tioga all serve on the Council representing the three local taxing bodies. The Council will elect an Executive Committee. The *Tioga County Development Corporation* administers the EZP. Final action will be by the *TCDC* Board of Directors.

Competitive Grants of up to \$500,000 are available to the Zone. This Grant is loaned out to a manufacturing firm investing in the Zone. The principal and interest is returned into a local Revolving Loan Fund to be re-lent to other manufacturing and export firms in the Zone. Additional funding for fixed rate low interest loans is available for any industry/manufacturer in the **Tioga County Enterprise Zone**.

The municipalities along the **Tioga County Enterprise Zone** have an opportunity to actively foster and promote the economy of Tioga County, through the operation of the **Tioga County Enterprise Zone**. The primary benefits of the EZP are for the industrial and manufacturing firms within the Zone. As the industrial base grows, the commercial, retail and service sectors will experience the benefits of a strong industrial base. Job creation, job retention, business expansion and an increased tax base with additional taxes for the participating taxing bodies and the Commonwealth would be the primary objectives of the **Tioga County Enterprise Zone**.

Municipalities and public projects seeking state grant/loan funding receive a priority rating. The **TCEZ** through *TCDC* will provide a letter of participation for such projects.

Questions and information concerning the Program may be directed to: *Tioga County Development Corporation (TCDC)*, Robert J. Blair, President/Chief Executive Officer.

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