



# **PACOG**

## **COOPERATION COLLABORATION COMMUNICATION**

PACOG's mission is to improve and strengthen intergovernmental cooperation in Pennsylvania.

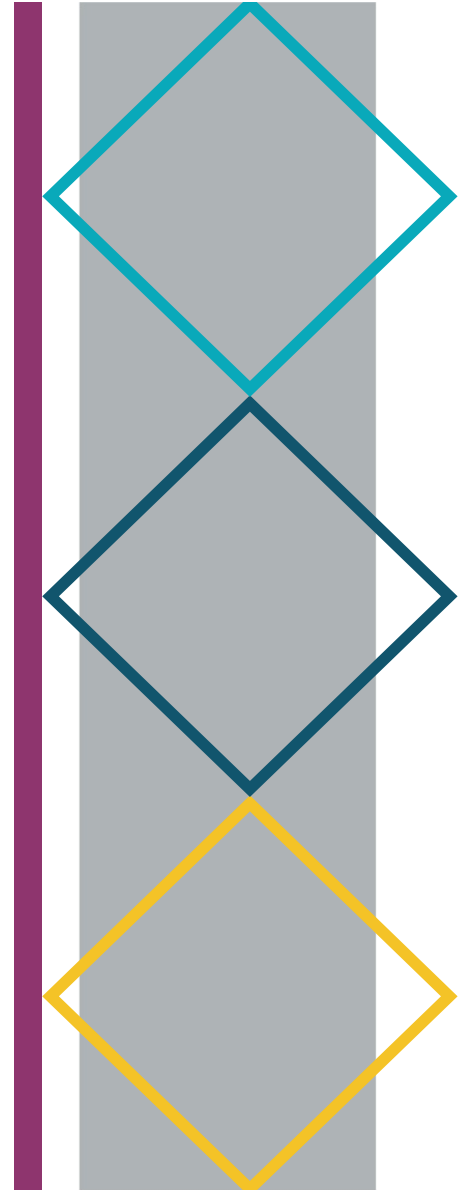
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# Become a PACOG Member

## Benefits Include:

- Education
- Networking
- Monthly Newsletter
  - Showcase for Projects-Programs
- Technical Assistance
- Regional Meetings
- Annual Conference
- Website [www.pacog.com](http://www.pacog.com)
  - COG Directory with Links to Other COGs
  - Webinar-Training Information and Videos
- Legislative Updates & Outreach

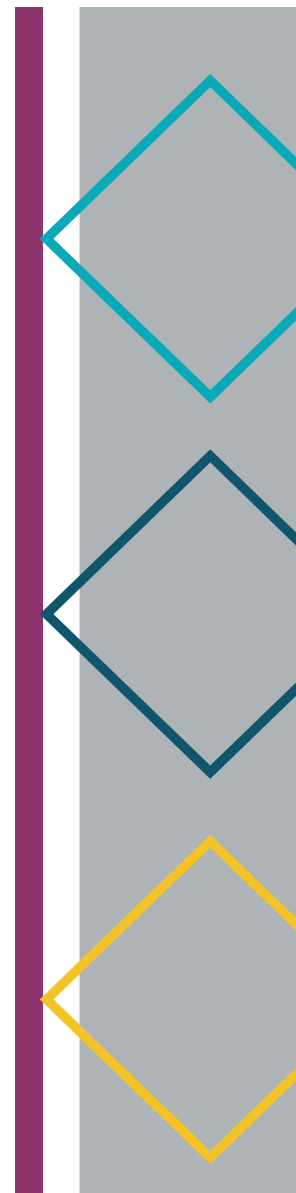




Upcoming  
webinar

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May 15, 2024:  
From Surviving  
to Thriving,  
Great Ideas for  
Making Ends  
Meet





# **WHAT'S UP IN HARRISBURG?**

## **A LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FROM THE SPRING SESSION**

4/17/2025

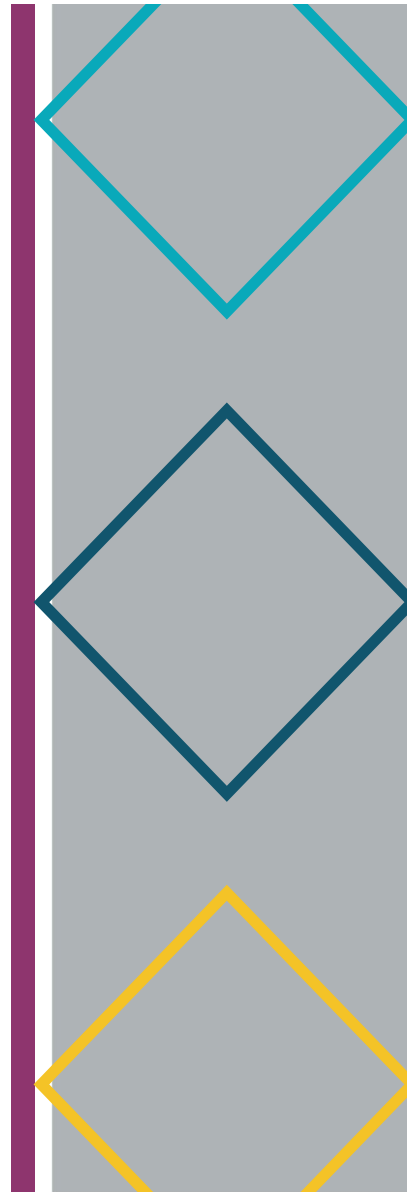


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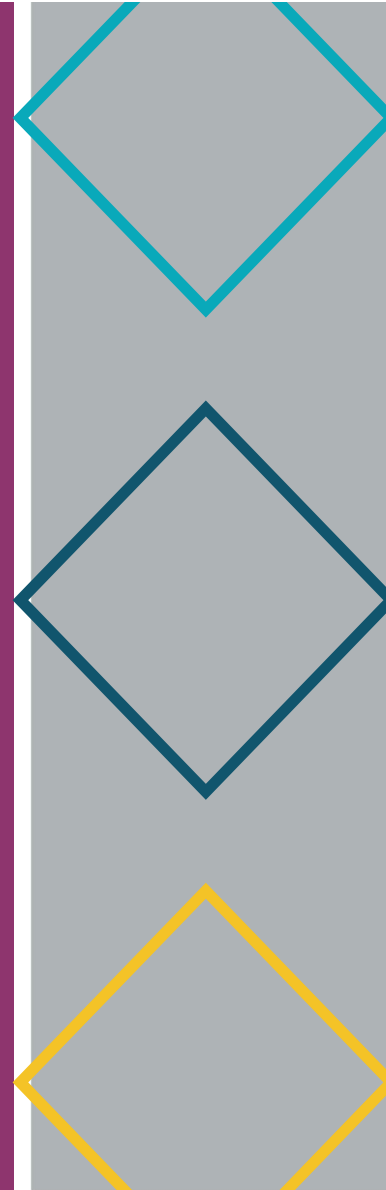
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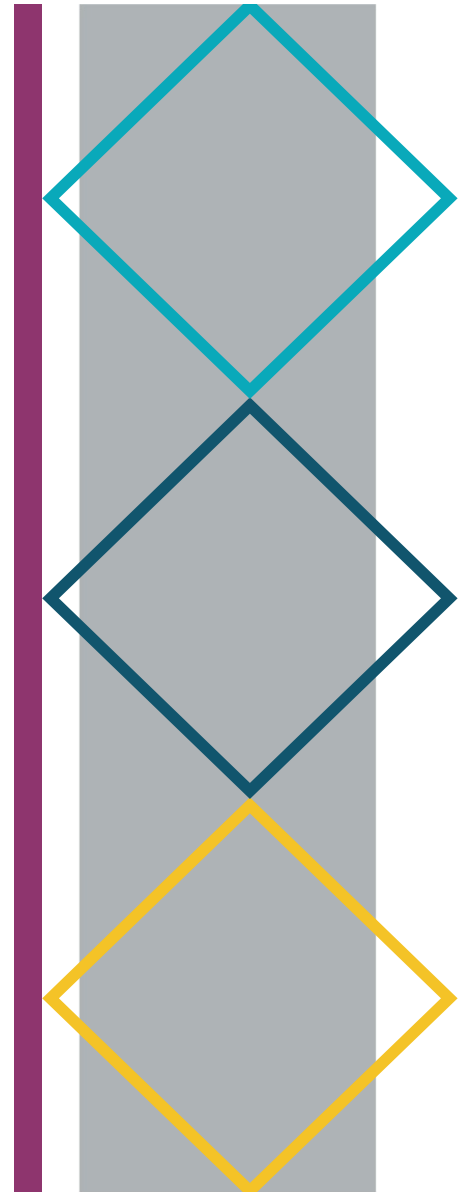
# Agenda

- Local Government Commission
- Local Control vs. Preemption
- Municipal purchasing
- Zoning, SALDO, and Land Use
- COG's status in legislation and funding opportunities
- Regionalization and municipal mergers
- Fire, EMS, and Police services.



# Local Government Commission

- A bicameral, bipartisan legislative service agency of the Pennsylvania General Assembly, whose ten Members, three from the majority party and two from the minority party in each chamber, collectively work by consensus for more effective and efficient local government .
- Provides research, drafting assistance, and inquiry responses to all members of the General Assembly.

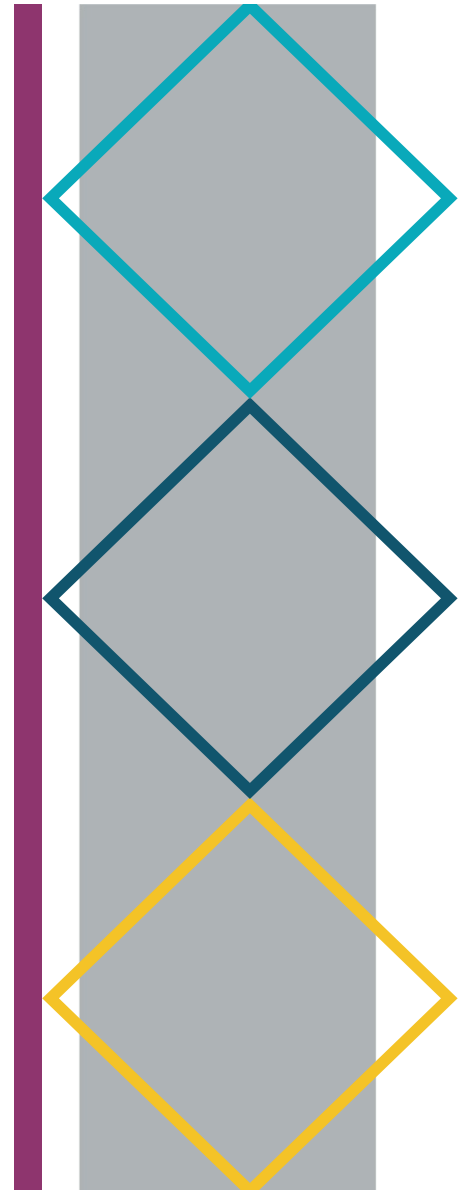


# Local Control vs. Preemption

**HB 403:** the governing body of any municipality or county **may not** adopt a rule, order, ordinance or policy under which it prohibits the enforcement of the laws of the Commonwealth or federal laws pertaining to immigrants or immigrations

**HB 899:** establishes paid sick leave in the Commonwealth, with the following exemptions:

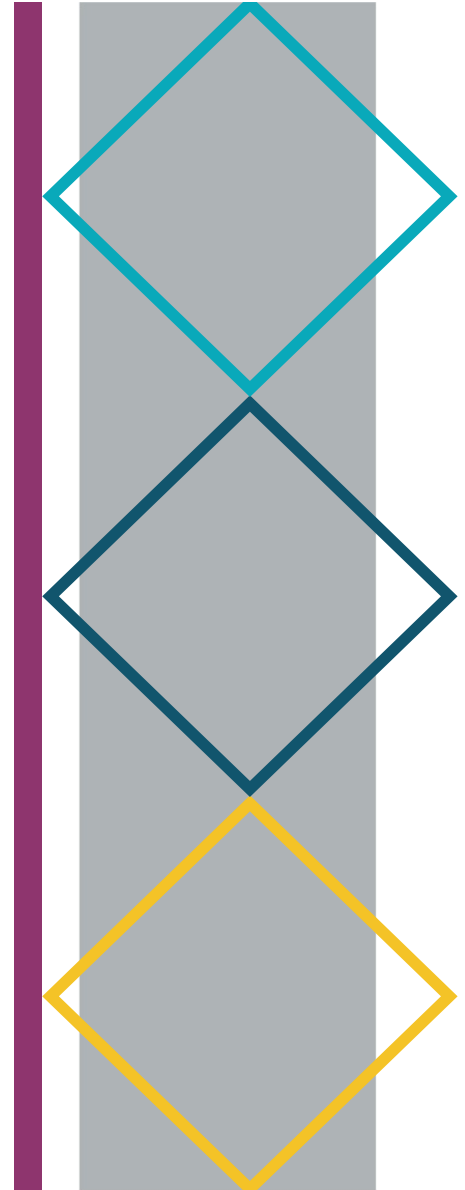
- **May not preempt** or otherwise apply to an ordinance or mandate enacted by a municipality affecting vacation, public health emergency leave or other form of leave offered by an employer within the municipality.
- **May not be construed to mandate** a municipality to adopt an ordinance applicable to an employer within the municipality relating to compensation, vacation or other forms of leave from employment.





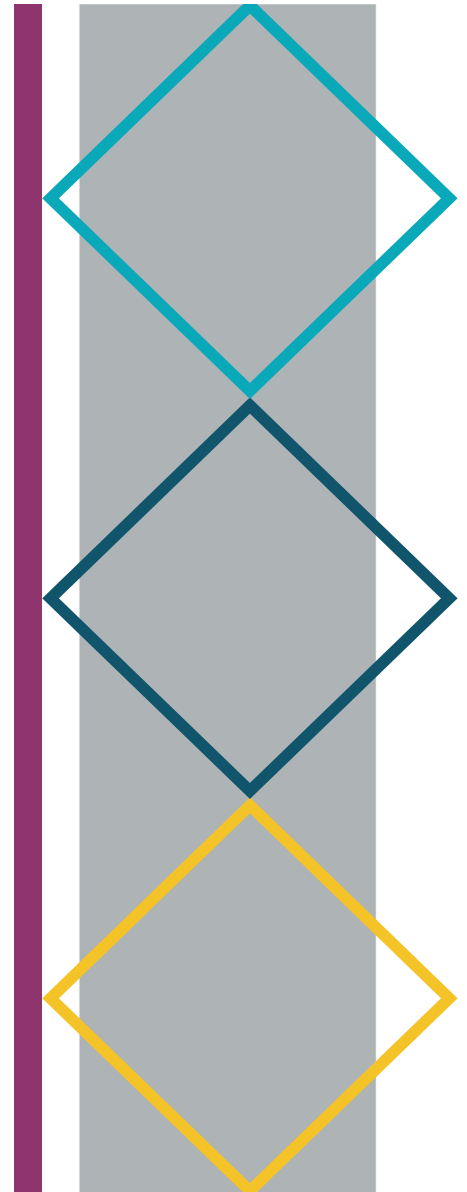
# Preemption Continued

- HB 548: Preemption of firearm and ammunition regulations
- SB 349: Expressly preempts local ordinances and regulations related to decommissioning solar energy facilities



# Municipal Purchasing

At this point in the session, there has been very limited language introduced dealing with municipal purchasing, although interest remains. It will be interesting to watch what may develop over the rest of the session.



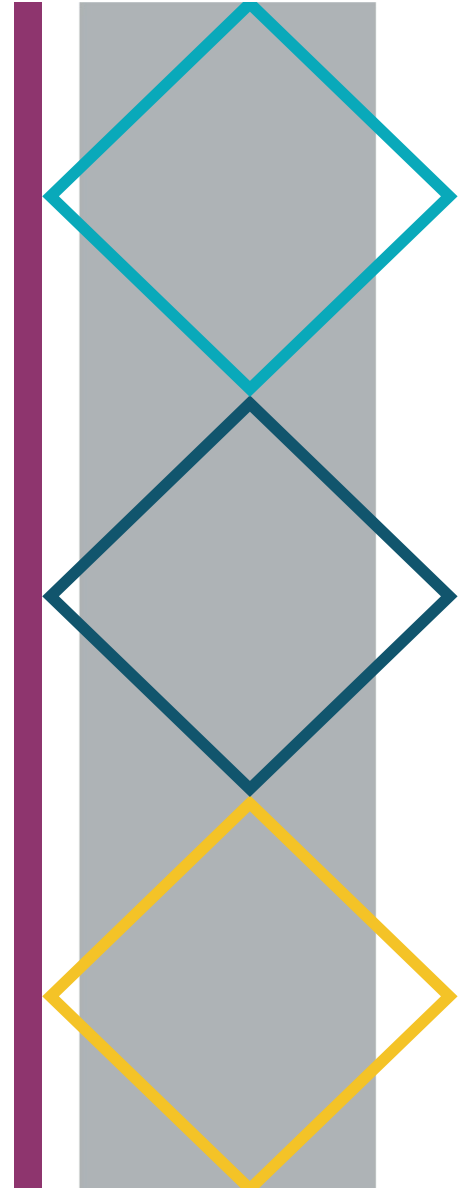
# Zoning, SALDO, and Land Use

HB 750: amends the Municipalities Planning Code to require electorate approval after the municipal governing body or planning agency approves an application for a plat containing a high impact warehouse or distribution center.

HB 273: providing grants to municipalities to establish code enforcement programs and to hire code enforcement personnel to help address blighted property conditions.

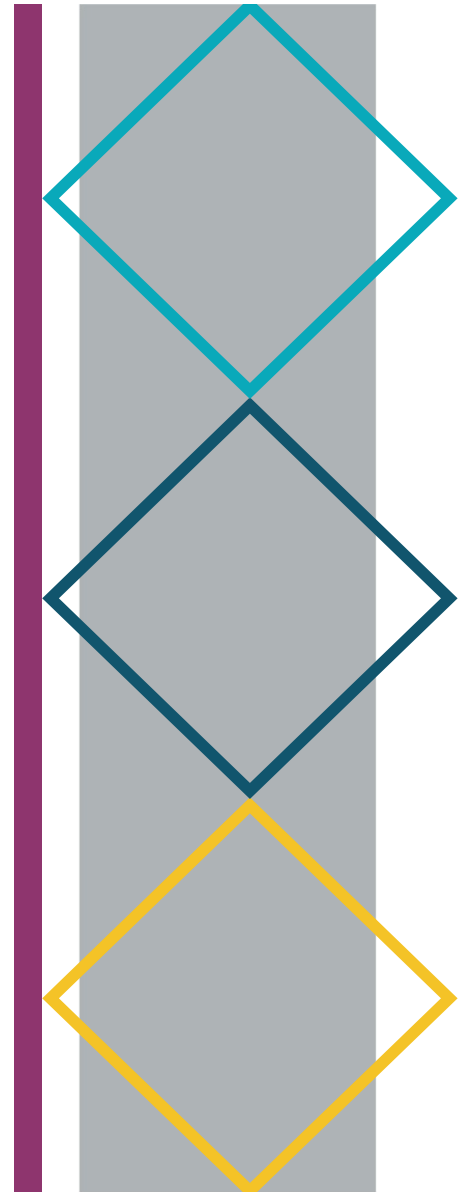
HB 369: allows municipalities of any size to establish a land bank.

HB 1062: Creates a statewide blight data collection system using property code violations. Managed by DCED, the Property Maintenance Code Violations Registry will be populated with property maintenance code violation reports filed by municipalities.



# COG's Status in legislation and funding opportunities

- [HB 232](#) of 2025: Regarding renewable energy backup systems- Lists COGs as a defined “eligible political subdivision”.
- [HB 597](#) of 2023: Regarding the powers and duties of counties in waste management planning - *Notes COGs as an appropriate agency to provide services.*



# Funding Opportunities

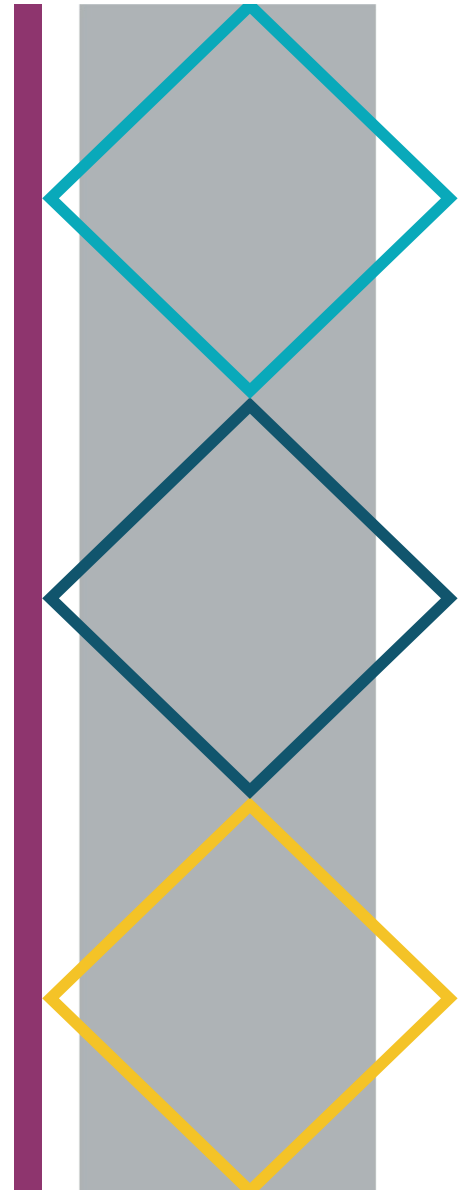
Local Shares Account- lists COGs as an eligible entity

Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP)

Municipal Assistance Program (MAP)- Notes that COGs may be eligible if they are authorized by participating municipalities

Multi-modal fund DCED- lists COGs as an eligible entity

Community Preservation Partnership Programs (DCNR)- It is recommended that COGs reach out to a regional advisor if interested

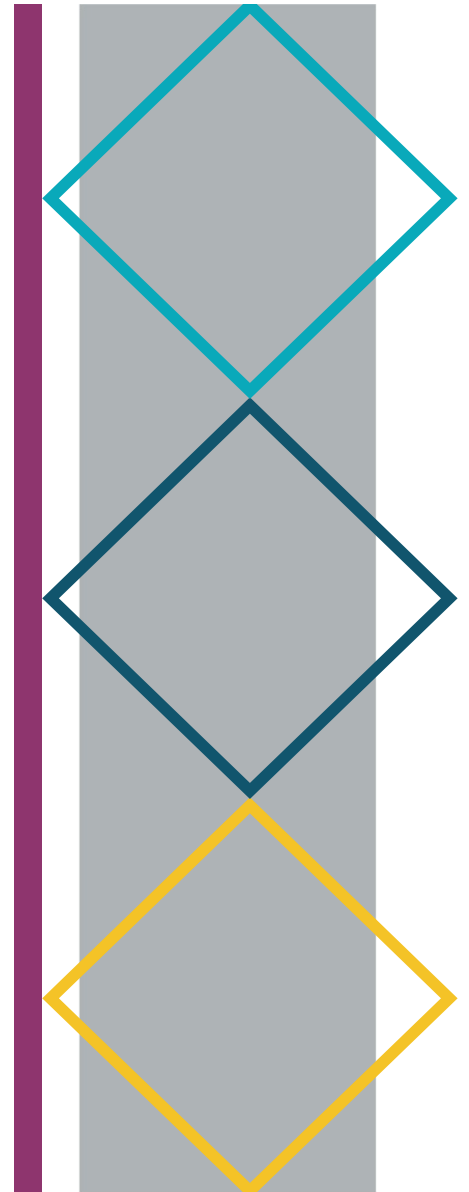


# Regionalization and Municipal mergers

While there is limited new legislation on this topic, interest continues to grow due to an increasing number of successful cases.

## Recent Merger Votes:

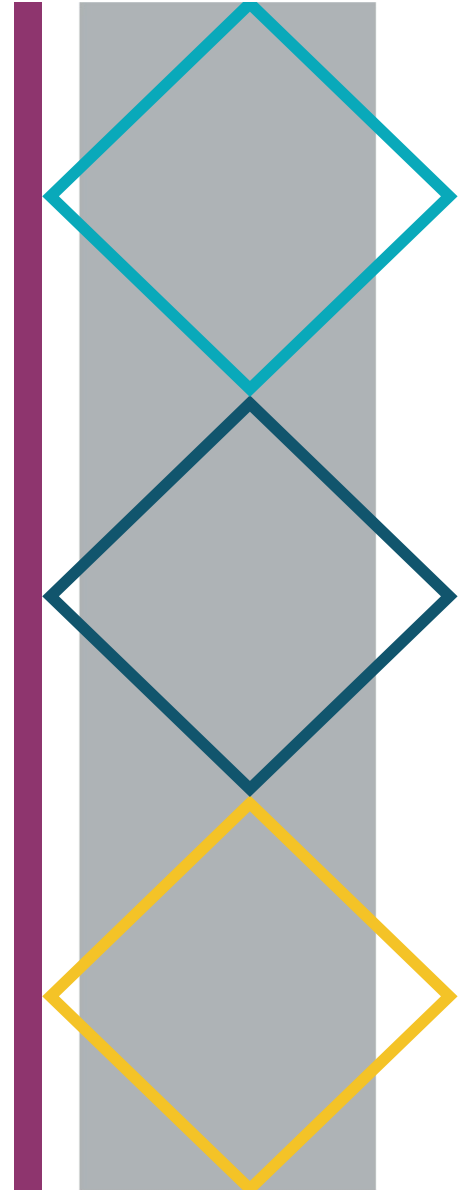
- Keating Township with Noyes Township (Clinton County) – Success
- Borough of Callimont with the Township of Larimer (Somerset County) - Success



# Department of Community and Economic Development

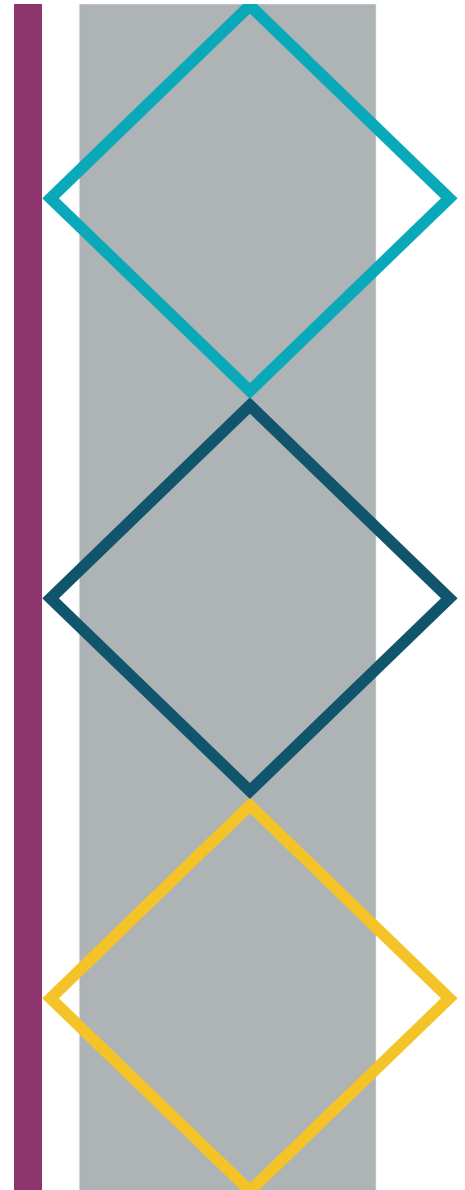
DCED offers ongoing support to municipalities exploring regionalization or merger efforts.

- The Governor's Center for Local Government Services is happy to provide technical assistance to interested municipalities.
- The Municipal Assistance Program (MAP) can be used to help plan out these efforts.



# Fire, EMS, and Police Services.

- [HB 1087](#) - Active Volunteer First Responder Education Tax Credit
- [SB 138](#) - HazMat responders in their tax exemptions for first responders
- Existing Volunteer Firefighter Tax Credit: [Act 172- 2016](#)
- DCED's [Governor's Center for Local Government Services](#) provides technical assistance for Fire/EMS mergers and consolidations.





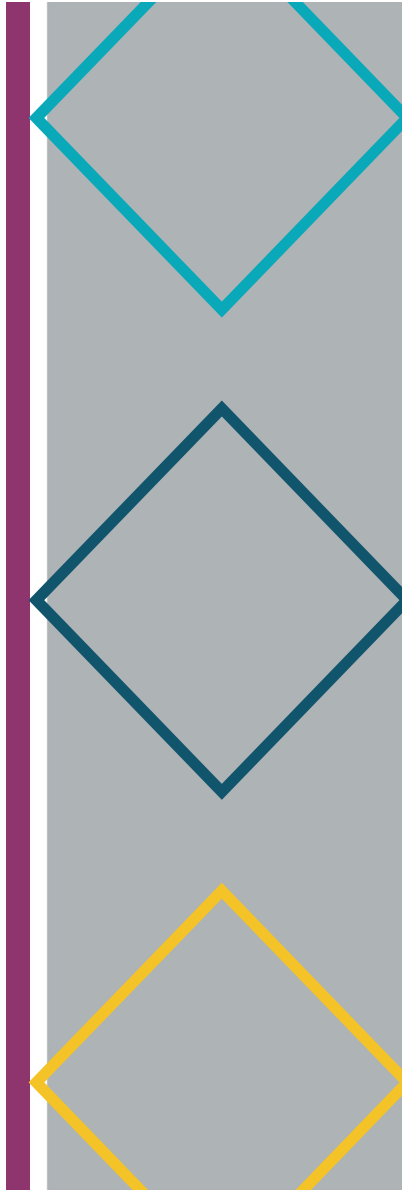
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