

# Press Release



*For business and local editors*

## **Westmoreland County Residents May Be Eligible to Receive Funding for Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation**

*Funding is now being extended to other parts of the county.*

**Greensburg, Pa.**, On May 2, 2014, the Westmoreland County Department of Planning and Development announced changes affecting the recipients eligible to receive funding for owner-occupied housing rehabilitation. Westmoreland County residents may be eligible for funds to rehabilitate homes they own and live in through a new program managed by the Westmoreland County Housing Authority through its Rehab Program. The Westmoreland County Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Program will use funds made available through the 2012 Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement (PHARE) Fund and the Marcellus Shale Impact Fees.

Westmoreland County was just one of 19 counties in the state to receive 2012 PHARE funds to improve the availability and affordability of housing in the Marcellus Shale region of the state. The program was first offered to residents in those townships in Westmoreland County most impacted by Marcellus Shale drilling activity including Derry, Hempfield, Sewickley, South Huntingdon and Washington Townships. Funding is now being extended to all of the county.

“This program is a bona fide case in point on how the impact fees collected from drilling companies engaged in the Marcellus Shale industry can improve the availability and quality of housing for the residents of Westmoreland County,” said County Commissioner Charles Anderson. “Eligibility for the program is based on Westmoreland County residency, household income, and owning and living in a home that is code deficient and in need of rehabilitation.” Rehabilitation assistance will be targeted to homes that may need a new roof, rewiring, plumbing fixtures, new HVAC, or help with water damage.

Income eligibility is based on the county’s annual median income (AMI). A portion of the grant is required to be expended on households with annual incomes below 50% of AMI. The balance of funds can be used for households with an annual income of up to 200% of the AMI.

For more details about the program, contact the Westmoreland County Housing Authority Rehab Program office at 724.832.9460. Interested residents will need to complete a standard rehabilitation application form, provide income verification and demonstrate the ability to repay loans.

Details about the program and an application form are available online at  
[www.AffordableHomesWestmoreland.com](http://www.AffordableHomesWestmoreland.com).

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***For more information please contact:***

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