ANNUAL REPORT 2026

Pocono Mountains
Economic Development
CORPORATION











FUELING THE ECONOMY IN MONROE COUNTY



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I reflect on our past year and my first full year in this new role, I am reminded that economic development is a process, not one particular program or initiative. It's about people, opportunity, and building a stronger future for our communities. We continue to work alongside local businesses, municipal leaders, educational institutions, workforce partners, and community organizations to create opportunities that benefit residents and employers alike.

The Pocono Mountains Economic Development Corporation remains committed to fostering sustainable economic growth by supporting business expansion, attracting new investment, encouraging entrepreneurship, and strengthening partnerships throughout the region.

Our small business lending program is helping to support existing and new businesses in the county. Our grant work is allowing businesses, non-profits, public safety and municipalities to get funding for a myriad of projects. And our work to support critical infrastructure improvements in the county will improve traffic safety and alleviate congestion.

Our success depends on collaboration and partnerships along with the ongoing financial support of the Monroe County Commissioners. The accomplishments highlighted in this report reflect the collective efforts of dedicated public and private sector partners who share a vision for a thriving Monroe County economy.

As we look ahead, we recognize both the opportunities and challenges that accompany growth.

Population shifts, evolving workforce needs, technological advancement, and changing market conditions require thoughtful planning and strategic leadership. PMEDC remains focused on identifying opportunities that will diversify our economy, expand quality employment options, enhance our competitiveness, expand the tax base and preserve our quality of life.

On behalf of our Board of Directors and staff, I extend my sincere gratitude to our members, partners, elected officials, community leaders, and business community for their ongoing support and collaboration. Together, we are working to create an environment where businesses can succeed, communities can prosper, and future generations can build their lives and careers right here in Monroe County.

Thank you for your continued confidence in our mission. We look forward to building on this year's progress and advancing new opportunities in the year ahead.



Michelle Bisbing

MICHELLE BISBING

PRESIDENT

POCONO MOUNTAINS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

MONROE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chair	**John D. Christy**
Vice Chair	**David Parker**
Commissioner	**Sharon S. Laverdure**



Monroe County Commissioners (left to right) Sharon Laverdure; John Christy, Chair and David Parker, Vice Chair

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman	**Gary Olson**, ESSA Bank & Trust (Retired)	**Patrick Briegel**, Pocono Management Associates LLC
Vice Chairman	**Robert Hay**, Keller Williams Real Estate	**Dawn Hart**, Bulldog Liquidators
Secretary	**Brian Coyne**, SER Commercial Real Estate	**Troy Nauman**, Nauman Companies
Treasurer	**Russell Scott III**, Dunbar Enterprises, Inc.	**Robert Weseloh**, LTS Homes (Retired)
Assistant Treasurer	**Janet Weidensaul**, Monroe County Commissioner (Retired)	
Assistant Secretary	**Richard Mutchler**, Biospectra	

PMEDC STAFF

President	**Michelle Bisbing**
Vice President	**Rachel Hendricks**
Economic Development Specialist	**Kwanza S. Smith**
Office Administrator	**Lisa Caldera**



EVENTS

Report to Business

The Pocono Chamber of Commerce held their annual Report to Business at Kalahari Resorts & Conventions in January. Michelle Bisbing, PMEDC President, was interviewed by host George Roberts discussing some of the projects that PMEDC was involved with over the previous year and their impacts on the community.





Pocono Creek Hospital & Health Center Opening

The Lehigh Valley Hospital-Pocono Creek and Health Center, the Poconos' newest hospital and health center located on Golden Slipper Road in Bartonsville, officially opened in February. The Monroe County Industrial Development Authority (MCIDA) is the grantee for a $1 million Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program grant for the Health Center interior build-out.

Monroe County Transit Authority Groundbreaking

Federal, state and local officials gathered in April to break ground on the new Wayne P. Mazur Sr. Bus Depot at their Swiftwater location. The facility will include renovated service, operations, and dispatch areas, upgraded infrastructure, additional restrooms, and construction of a covered bus storage garage for added security and protection from the weather. MCIDA is the grantee for a Monroe Local Share Account grant of $509,000 supporting construction of the project.





MCHA Heritage Center Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting

In May, the new Heritage Center at the Stroud Mansion opened and a ribbon cutting was held to mark this historic milestone. The 13,000 square foot addition includes a research library, community room for events, offices, and additional storage space which complements the Stroud Mansion Museum. MCIDA was the grantee for a $1.5 million Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program grant and three Local Share Account for Monroe County grants totaling $322,000.



Messer – Engage Visit

Each year PMEDC makes outreach visits to companies throughout the county to discuss their challenges and any opportunities for growth. Our team met in June with representatives of Messer in the Pocono Mountains Corporate Center East, Tobyhanna. Messer is an industrial gases company serving other industries such as healthcare, manufacturing, aerospace, pharmaceuticals, electronics and more.



Business Financing Workshop

PMEDC partnered with the Pocono Chamber of Commerce to present a Business Finance Workshop in June. PMEDC and regional partners NEPA Alliance, MetroAction and PA Department of Community & Economic Development offered attendees information on funding options to grow their businesses.

EVENTS



Tobyhanna Army Depot Ribbon Cutting – Expansion of Advanced Manufacturing Capabilities

On June 30 of this year, Tobyhanna Army Depot marked its expansion of advanced manufacturing capabilities with a ribbon cutting ceremony. This launched a new mission designed to deliver rapid, innovative and on-demand support directly to the joint force.

PEDA Spring Conference

While attending the PEDA Spring Conference in April, Michelle Bisbing joined the PA Economic Development Association Executive Committee for a photo with Secretary Rick Siger. PEDA is the statewide association dedicated to serving economic development professionals and provides opportunities for collaboration with Secretary Siger's team at the Department of Community and Economic Development.



Membership Luncheon at Monroe County Historical Association

PMEDC held a Membership Luncheon in October at the Stroud Mansion's new Heritage Center addition, featuring Amy Leiser, Executive Director of the MCHA. Amy provided a history of the Stroud Mansion and how the Heritage Center came to be. Attendees were able to tour the museum and shop in the Museum Store. MCIDA played a role in the Heritage Center project, being the grantee for their $1.5 million RACP grant and three Monroe LSA grants – one for construction ($212,000) and two for Furnishings and Equipment ($110,000).





Pocono Family YMCA Groundbreaking

The Pocono Family YMCA in Stroudsburg held a groundbreaking on September 14. This marked the beginning of construction and a new chapter in the history of the Pocono Family YMCA. The $21 million capital project represents one of the most significant investments in the future of the YMCA. PMEDC's role represents $4.4 million in funding for the project, which includes a Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program grant and two Local Share Account for Monroe County grants.

IMPACTS:

Total grant dollars delivered to Monroe County projects over the past year:	Number of Active Projects:	Number of Pending Applications for Funding:	Property Taxes generated annually from PMEDC Projects:
$17,031,312	132	49	$890,796,759

PRESENTATIONS

Rotary Club of the Stroudsburgs

Michelle Bisbing was invited to give a presentation to the Rotary Club of The Stroudsburgs in March. The presentation covered project highlights from 2025, current projects, and the services we provide.

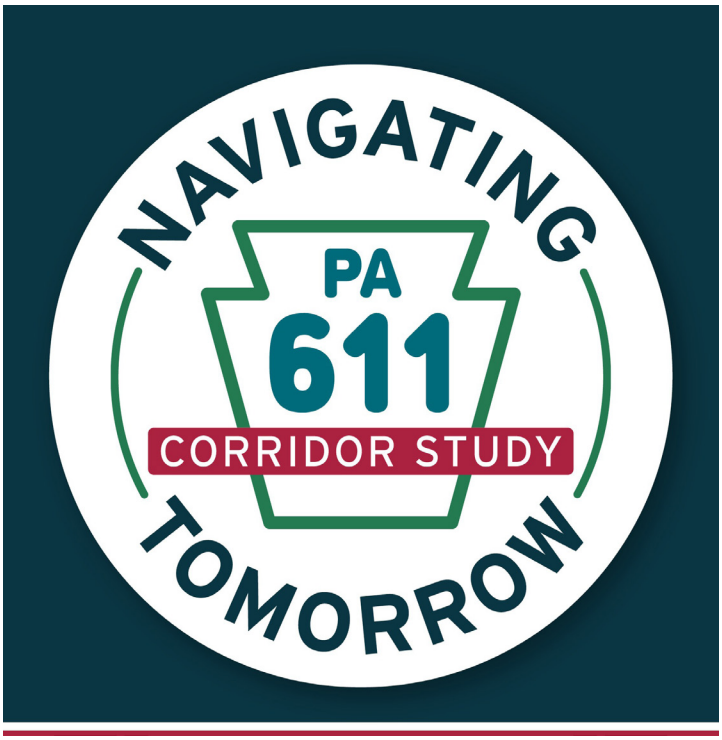




League of Women Voters Annual Meeting

Monroe County Commissioner Sharon Laverdure invited Michelle Bisbing to join her for a presentation at the Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters. In addition to providing information on our services and projects, Michelle addressed many questions from the audience.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING



Route 611 Corridor Study

Following months of data collection and public open houses, the Route 611 Corridor Study, led by NEPA Alliance and consulting firm Michael Baker International, was completed and released. It was a comprehensive study of a highly traveled segment of SR611 from Bartonsville to Tannersville. The final report includes low, medium and high priority recommendations with the rationale for each recommendation. Michelle Bisbing served on the Steering Committee. The final report can be found on the NEPA Alliance website: www.NEPA-Alliance.org



Mount Pocono Active Transportation Plan

The Borough of Mount Pocono engaged consultants from Barry Isett & Associates to guide the development of an Active Transportation Plan for the Borough. After several meetings of the Steering Committee and public open houses, the plan was drafted, making a variety of recommendations. Michelle Bisbing served on the Steering Committee. The final plan was released in August and was adopted by Borough Council in October.

FUNDING APPROVALS

LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT FOR MONROE COUNTY

24 new projects approved in May 2026 totaling $3,832,014

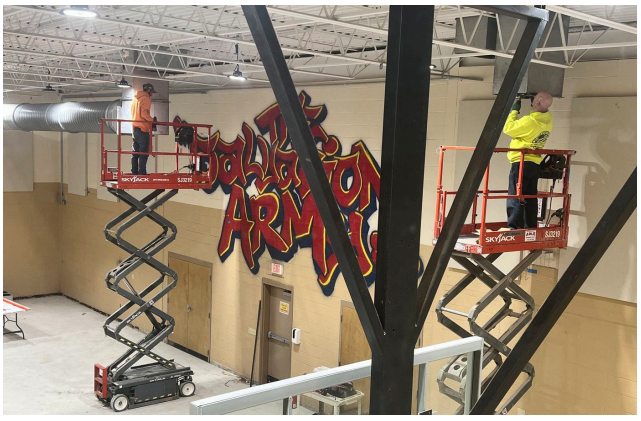
Currently administering $7.7 million of approved Monroe LSA grants



- **Economic Development –** Elysian Nørdic Spa: *Rooted in the Nordic tradition of alternating heat, cold, and rest, the adults-only destination will introduce a nature-immersive wellness experience, featuring 11 hydrothermal baths and 14 outdoor thermal experiences. These will range from open-air soaking pools and invigorating cold plunges to aromatic steam rooms, specialty saunas, and a frost cabin. The $65 million project will employ more than 100 staff members. Project includes a 40,000-square-foot Nordic Lodge, constructed from locally sourced materials and home to a bistro and bar, wellness boutique, and tranquil relaxation spaces.*



- **Public Interest –** Pocono Mountain Regional Emergency Medical Services Building: *After years of planning, the PMREMS building project got underway in September 2025. The project included demolition and rebuild of their existing facility in Tobyhanna. The project was supported by three Monroe Local Share Account grants through MCIDA totaling $885,000.*



- **Community Improvement –** Salvation Army Renovations: *Project included the installation of a new elevator, bathroom renovations, replacement of entry doors and upgraded cooler in the Soup Kitchen Pantry. Project commenced in October 2025 and is almost complete.*

LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT STATEWIDE

Seven new projects approved in September 2026 totaling $1,836,116

- **Exits 298/299 Improvements Project – Traffic Lights**

  The project includes the installation of five coordinated traffic signals and signage in intersections that are part of the overall Tannersville/Scotrun I-80 existing project. These improvements will improve safety, traffic flow and improved resident and visitor experiences while traveling through that area of Pocono Township.



MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION FUND

Two new approvals in March 2026 totaling $750,000

Administering seven MTF grants totaling $4.3 million



- **Ertle Development LLC** – Highway Occupancy Permit Improvements at Bartonsville Ave.: *Project included two deceleration lanes and added ADA accessible crosswalks at the intersection of State Route 611 and Bartonsville Ave. in Pocono Township. These improvements will provide better safety for motorists and pedestrians in that area while allowing for additional development and economic activity.*

REDEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE CAPITAL PROGRAM

Administering 18 RACP projects totaling $39.3 million

Pocono Raceway: *The $1 million RACP grant supported several improvements at Pocono Raceway, including the construction of the Activities & Welcome Center in the heart of the infield; construction of a new elevated steel viewing area called the Paddock; and a new Victory Lane that includes a concrete stage and steel trussing to hang communications equipment and marketing materials.*



MARKETING AND OUTREACH

- **Social Media:** *LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook*



- **SBDC Business Consulting:** *Leigh Fennie, SBDC Business Consultant, meets with clients each month at the PMEDC office. In October 2026, she met with Dee Raneri of Foxtail Builders and introduced us all to their newest staff person, Irais Rosas Perfecto. Irais will be implementing new services related to the Historically Disadvantaged Business Program. Those services will also be offered at the PMEDC office in the coming months.*



- **Governor's Cup** – *NE PA ranks #6 in US for ED by Site Selection Magazine and East Stroudsburg Micropolitan ranks among the Top in the US*

- **PMEDC Podcast:** *The June 2026 episode focused on Local Share Account program funding, both for Monroe County and Statewide. Michelle Bisbing was joined by Program Managers Jonathan Brett and Brett Ennis from the PA Department of Community and Economic Development. The discussion focused on the program requirements, the application process, program compliance, timing and required documentation. This and other episodes can be found at www.pmedc.com/podcast.*



BUSINESS FINANCING

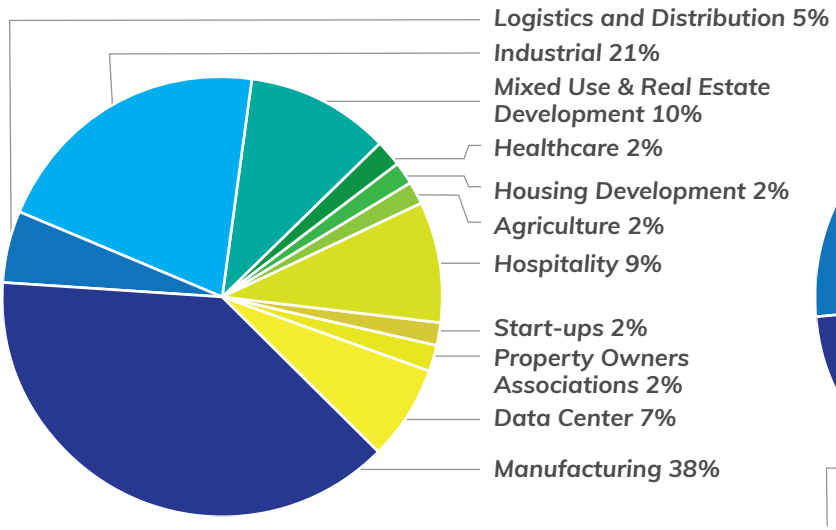


MOBIL Loan to Kasa's: *In April, Pocono Mountains Industries closed a $100,000 small business loan through our MOBIL Program for JT Management Group. The MOBIL loan leveraged a larger overall financing package of over $1 million for the purchase of an existing business better known as Kasa's Pizza in Cresco. The business employs 20 and anticipates hiring 10 additional employees over the next 3 years.*

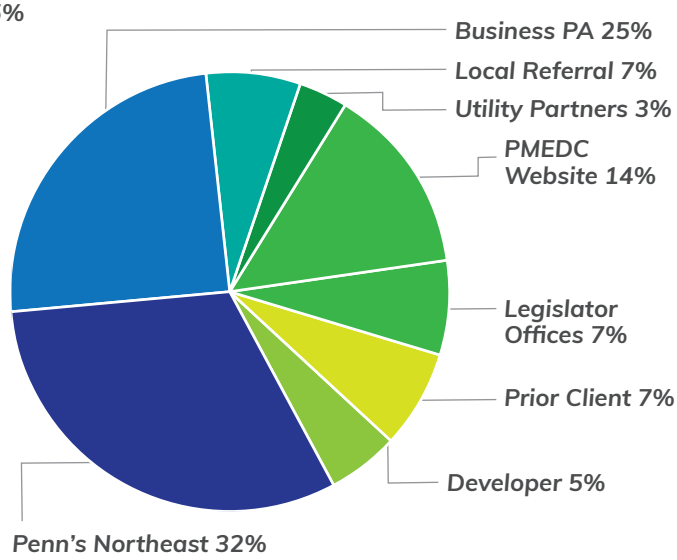
Since PMEDC and MCIDA began direct lending, these efforts have led to the creation of 33 jobs!

PROSPECT LEAD & REVENUE SOURCES

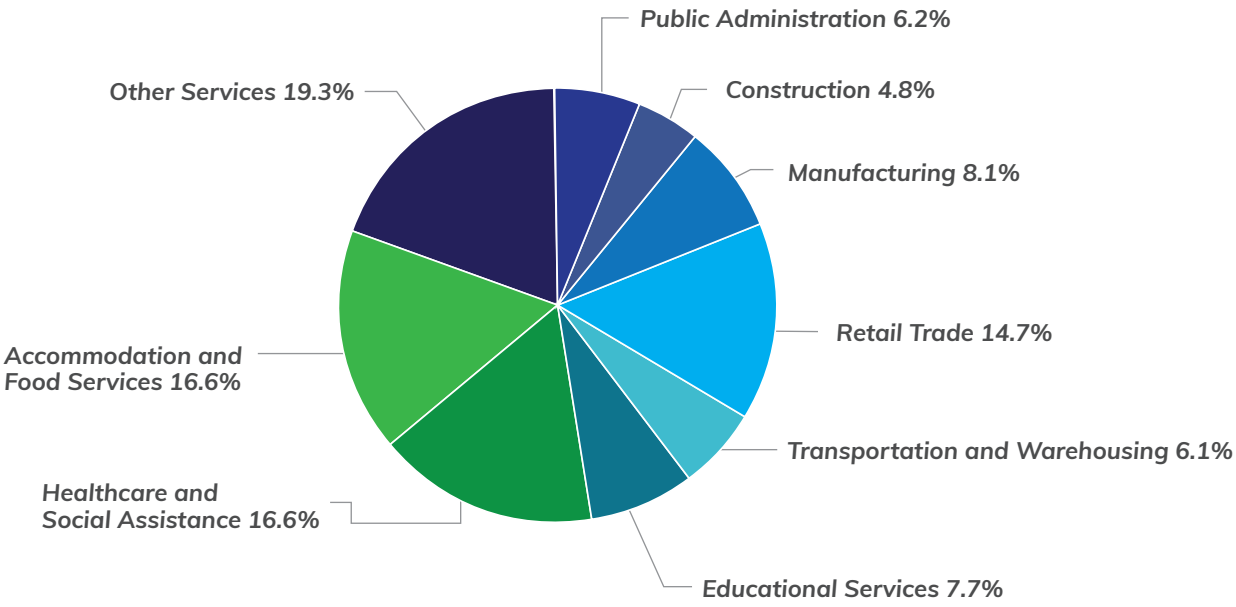
PMEDC Prospect Lead Industry Sectors



PMEDC Prospect Lead Sources



Total Workers for Monroe County, Pennsylvania by Industry



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