



## THE NORTHERN TIER REPORTER

*Serving Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna,  
Tioga, and Wyoming Counties*

Volume 1 • Issue 1 - What is NTRPDC, and How do our Programs Help the Regional Economy?  
A Look Back at October – December 2004

### **AN OVERVIEW:**

*The Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission (NTRPDC) is dedicated to developing people, businesses, and communities for a globally competitive region. Our mission is to help businesses expand their markets, generate employment, improve the local economy, and plan for the future development of the Northern Tier Region. Supported by federal, state and local funding sources, we can assist businesses and communities through export development, government procurement assistance, entrepreneurial development, loan and grant assistance, regional transportation planning, information technology, community development, industrial site selection assistance, Keystone Opportunity Zone program, workforce development, and Team Pennsylvania.*

### **BUSINESS FINANCING:**

Our business loan program at NTRPDC offers financing for new or expanding businesses. Working through our own Revolving Loan Fund and other sources of business financing, we develop the best package for each business. NTRPDC closed five loans this quarter totaling \$992,500. This includes a Small Business First Loan to Jack and Carol Wheeler. Within three years of opening their successful first bakery, “The Endless Mountain Bakery”, in Troy, they opened the “Endless Mountain Bakery Café Too” in Sayre.

### **INCENTIVE GRANTS:**

Although, the economy as a whole has not had a very successful year, we are constantly striving to improve economic stability and community development. We provide incentive grants for site development, training, and information technology development. During the fourth quarter of 2004, three site development grants were approved totaling \$12,400. All the funding will be used for feasibility studies for sites located in Mansfield, Tioga County and Sayre, Bradford County. Thirty-one grants were awarded to local governments and businesses to help them purchase computer hardware and software. For example, Exeter Township in Wyoming County received a grant for QuickBooks software and Leona Meat Plant located in Troy, received a grant to help create two websites.

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:**

We provide community development technical assistance by preparing grant and loan applications for municipal governments, utilities, and other non-profit organizations and sometimes overseeing their administration. Within the last quarter of 2004, we prepared

13 grant or loan applications which totaled \$662,000 in requested funding. Actual grants awarded totaled \$95,000. These funds were able to assist the Borough of Elkland, Mehoopany Township Municipal Authority and the Overfield/Northmoreland Police Department.

### **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT:**

The Northern Tier Workforce Investment Board and the CareerLinks across the region have collaborated to create a regional Rapid Response Team. The team, consisting of a representative from each of the five counties, presents the resources available to workers who have, or are about to, lose their positions.

Unfortunately, several rapid response meetings had to be held during the quarter. MT Picture Display, located in Horseheads, New York, closed which affected 120 employees that reside in our region. Approximately 30 people were laid off at Canton Manufacturing and 90 people were let go from Eagle Family Foods in Tioga County. The team represents all of the partners and the multitude of services provided through the CareerLink system. These include, but certainly are not limited to: filing for Unemployment Compensation, job search assistance, resume writing, to training and education. Any employer facing a layoff is encouraged to contact their local CareerLink or the Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission at 570.265.9103. CareerLinks are located in Dushore, Sullivan County; Great Bend, Susquehanna County; Towanda, Bradford County; Tunkhannock, Wyoming County; and Wellsboro, Tioga County.

This is introductory issue of the Northern Tier Reporter electronic newsletter. We plan to provide you with updates on our programs, success stories, information about our regional economy, upcoming events, etc... We urge you to contact us if you have any comments or questions.

For a schedule of upcoming events visit:

<http://www.northerntier.org/meetingSchedules.php>

For more information, visit our website at <http://www.northerntier.org/>

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