



**PRESS RELEASE
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Grant Funds Will Clean Up Flood Damage and Supply Jobs

The Central Pennsylvania Workforce Development Corporation (CPWDC) has received a \$730,749 grant to clean up areas flooded during Tropical Storm Lee in Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder and Union Counties. Funds will be used to provide temporary employment for eligible dislocated workers to participate in cleanup projects for public and non-profit entities.

Initially funds will be used to hire five crews of 6 laborers to clean debris, rebuild damaged structures and performing general grounds work. More may be filled as additional projects are identified and more funding is secured. Temporary full-time employees will be hired for up to six months. All participants will receive training including OSHA, First Aid/CPR and chainsaw training and receive PA CareerLink[®] services throughout the program.

According to Penny Hess, program coordinator for the grant, "these funds represent a win-win for our communities affected by the September flooding. We can provide some temporary relief and job search assistance to individuals struggling to find employment in this economy while supplying the much needed labor to support cleanup efforts across the region."

By working with the County Commissioners, local governments, County Conservation Districts and County Emergency Management Agencies, over 30 potential projects, ranging from those to be completed in days to those that will require months of work, have already been identified across the region.

Individuals interested in learning more about the temporary positions should contact their local PA CareerLink[®]. Local contact information can be found at www.pacareerlink.state.pa.us. Nonprofit organizations and public agencies interested in securing cleanup assistance for flood-related projects can contact Penny Hess at 570.387.6288.

The Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry is coordinating the grant effort across six workforce investment areas in Pennsylvania through National Emergency Grant (NEG) funds issued by the US Department of Labor.

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Equal Opportunity Employer.

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