

**WV Neighborhood
Investment Program
Fiscal Year 2021
Annual Report**



**Michael Graney, Executive Director
West Virginia Department of Economic Development**



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NEIGHBORHOOD INVESTMENT PROGRAM

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Introduction

In 1996, the West Virginia State Legislature enacted the Neighborhood Investment Program (NIP). It was the intent of the Legislature that this act *"encourage private sector businesses and individuals to contribute capital to community-based organizations which establish projects to assist neighborhoods and local communities,"* thus increasing the capacity of such organizations to serve low-income persons and highly-distressed neighborhoods. In the twenty-five years it has been operating, the NIP has successfully attained the goals of the enabling legislation.

In 2011, the West Virginia Legislature reauthorized the NIP through 2016. This legislation also increased the amount of credit available to applicants from \$2.5 million to \$3 million annually. The legislation was reauthorized in 2016 for an additional 5 years, with the tax credit amount remaining at the \$3 million mark. The directive of the Legislature changed the scope of NIP to give preference to those organizations offering "Emergency Assistance" or "Direct Need". Direct Need means to assist in helping people get off of government assistance programs.

In FY 2021, the NIP once again achieved record success and remains a significant incentive for donors to contribute to local non-profit organizations. The growth of the program has been such that the demand for the credits outpaced the supply of credits by **45%** in FY 2021. During FY 2021, 199 applicant organizations requested an average of \$29,655 in tax credit per project for a total requested amount of \$5,901,250.00.

The NIP Advisory Board voted to approve 199 projects at an average award of \$15,075.

A total of \$3,000,000 in NIP tax credit was allocated for FY 2021 and participant organizations again utilized a record-setting 100% of the available credit for the fifth year in a row. These credits leveraged \$6,566,984.59 in donations and helped to serve over 600,000 low-income West Virginia citizens.

NIP Advisory Board Summary

First Congressional District	Second Congressional District	Third Congressional District
Susie Nelson Independent Non-profit (June 30, 2022)	Vacant Low-income Citizen	Vacant Private Sector
Vacant Low-income Citizen	Sally Blessing Independent Non-profit (June 30, 2022)	Angie Swearingen Democrat Non-Profit (June 30, 2023)
Wendy Scatterday Independent Non-profit (June 30, 2023)	Rebecca Conrad Independent Low-income Citizen (June 30, 2021)	Sandy Dunn Republican Private Sector (June 30, 2023)
John Nicholson Republican Private Sector (June 30, 2024)	Vacant Private Sector	Vacant Low-income Citizen

NIP Procedural Rule §145-7-4 specifies membership and term requirements for the NIP Advisory Board as follows:

- The Board shall consist of 13 members: the Director of the Development Office plus 12 members appointed by the Director.
- The Director shall serve as chair but shall not vote unless it is necessary to break a tie.
- Four members will be officers or members of boards of directors of unrelated corporations that are currently licensed to do business in West Virginia.
- Four members will be executive directors, officers, or members of boards of directors of unrelated not-for-profit organizations which currently hold charitable organization status under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code and which are currently licensed to do business in West Virginia.

NIP Advisory Board Summary—continued

- Four board members will be economically disadvantaged citizens of the State, with an annual gross income of not more than 125 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).
- No more than four of the 12 appointed members may be from the same Congressional District.
- No more than seven of the appointed members may be from the same political party.
- Members are eligible for re-appointment, but no member may serve more than three consecutive terms.
- Board members shall be appointed for three years. Board appointments shall begin the 1st day of July in the year of appointment and end the 30th day of June of the third calendar year in which the appointment took effect. Appointments to fill unexpired terms shall be for the duration of the term.

The Advisory Board met on August 31, 2020, to review project applications for FY 2021. A total of 199 applications were received requesting a total of \$5,901,250.00 in tax credit. A total of 199 applications were approved by the Board totaling \$2,991,100 with \$900 remaining unallocated. Of the total \$3,000,000 credit allocation, \$3,000,000 was issued during the year by organizations to eligible donors representing 100% of the credit issued for the fifth time in a row in the organization's 25 year history.

The Advisory Board met again on March 29, 2021 addressing the issue of reallocation. The process of recapturing credit from projects and reallocating it to other organizations is outlined in NIP Procedural Rule §145-7-4.8.b as follows: "If the amount awarded by the Board is less than the full amount sought by the project transferee, the Board may also approve a supplemental amount of credits to become available on or after March 30 of the state fiscal year if sufficient credits remain unallocated as of that date or if credits have been returned from previously approved projects: Provided, that the project transferee receiving supplemental credit approval shall, on or before March 15 of the state fiscal year, have issued *one hundred percent* of the credits they were initially awarded."

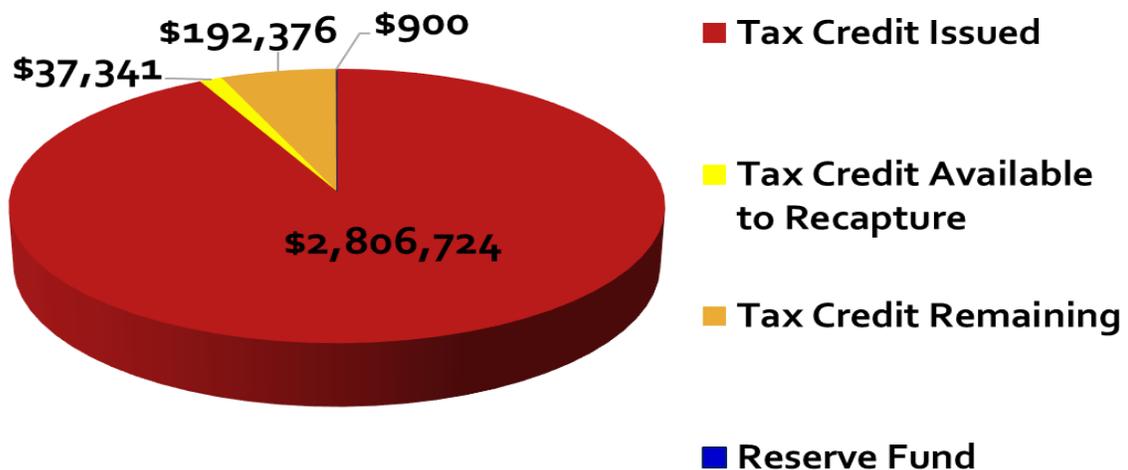
NIP Advisory Board Summary—continued

The NIP Procedural Rule continues (regarding reallocation) in §145-7-4.8.d, stating, "Project transferees may return credits to the Development Office that they do not anticipate using in the fiscal year in which they were awarded. Project transferees that have issued *less than seventy percent* of their authorized credits prior to March 15 of that state fiscal year in which they were awarded, and *do not have sufficient written documentation to show the clear intent of a donor to contribute*, may be directed by the Director of the Development Office to return any unused or uncommitted credits previously authorized by the Board. "

At the March meeting, the Board approved the recapture/return of \$37,341.50 from seven projects that had issued less than 70 percent of their awarded credit by March 15, 2021. After reviewing the eligible NIP participant organizations, using pre-set formularies, the Board was able to approve supplemental credit awards to twelve organizations for the entire amount that was available for redistribution (\$38,241.50) including the \$900 withheld at the initial allocation. Charts on the following two pages provide statistical data for the reallocation process for the past 17 years.

FY 2021 NIP Statistics

NIP Tax Credit Status 3/16/21



Returned/Recaptured Credit Statistics

Fiscal Year	Unallocated Credit	Returned Credit	Recaptured Credit	Available for Redistribution
2003	\$0	\$17,520	\$210,475	\$227,995
2004	\$0	\$8,091	\$178,824	\$186,915
2005	\$0	\$43,569	\$144,508	\$188,077
2006	\$0	\$635	\$132,400	\$133,035
2007	\$0	\$112,114	\$81,652	\$193,766
2008	\$0	\$36,245	\$181,673	\$217,918
2009	\$0	\$69,285	\$277,021	\$346,306
2010	\$0	\$47,078	\$253,835	\$300,913
2011	\$0	\$27,298	\$216,460	\$243,758
2012	\$0	\$102,464	\$251,155	\$353,619
2013	\$0	29,150	\$241,605	\$270,755
2014	\$0	\$42,700	\$63,695	\$106,395
2015	\$5,100	\$0	\$61,525	\$66,625
2016	\$16,450	\$3,500	\$43,300	\$63,250
2017	\$6,165	\$5,450	\$62,064	\$73,679
2018	\$15,400	\$0	\$39,400	\$54,800
2019	\$5,000	\$28,160	\$42,245	\$75,405
2020	-0-	\$11,000	\$40,615.62	\$51,615.62
2021	\$900	\$4,500	\$32,841.50	\$38,241.50

Supplemental Credit Statistics

Fiscal Year	Supplemental Credit Requested	Supplemental Credit Awarded	Projects Receiving Supplemental Credit	Total Supplemental Credit Issued	Percentage Issued
2003	\$585,563	\$227,995	35	\$219,023	96%
2004	\$1,626,581	\$186,915	43	\$116,149	62%
2005	\$1,195,033	\$188,077	25	\$175,716	93%
2006	\$1,411,087	\$133,035	20	\$119,677	90%
2007	\$963,094	\$193,766	20	\$189,890	98%
2008	\$1,025,473	\$217,918	20	\$204,020	94%
2009	\$1,086,565	\$346,306	32	\$317,697	92%
2010	\$1,223,611	\$300,913	20	\$279,110	93%
2011	\$1,259,619	\$243,758	25	\$243,758	100%
2012	\$1,291,342	\$353,619	19	\$353,619	100%
2013	\$1,696,483.50	\$270,755	22	\$257,358	95%
2014	\$1,418,739	\$106,395	6	\$102,214	96%
2015	\$1,206,000	\$66,625	3	\$66,625	100%
2016	\$2,887,051*	\$63,250	3	\$63,250	100%
2017	\$2,076,250*	\$73,679	3	\$73,679	100%
2018	*	\$54,800	8	\$54,800	100%
2019	*	\$75,405	12	\$75,405	100%
2020	*	\$51,615.62	21	\$51,615.62	100%
2021	*	\$38,241	21	\$38,241	100%

Supplemental Credit Statistics

More projects are becoming eligible for supplemental credit awards each year while the amount available for reallocation continues to decline significantly. This is due to an increased awareness of the tax credits by the public and more efficient use of the credits by the participating organizations.

*As of 2016, participants must use 100% of their credits to be eligible for reallocation. By direction of the Advisory Board, It is now calculated by the NIP staff for those eligible and not requested by the participant.

Technical Assistance

Increasing the awareness and understanding of the NIP continued to be a priority in 2021, along with a focus on increasing usage rates by participant organizations. NIP staff was unable to host the two workshops in 2021, due to COVID-19 restrictions which educates applicants and participants about the program. Again this year we posted the PowerPoint workshop presentation for all participants to review on our webpage and then they were to complete a questionnaire and attach it to their application. The workshops were designed to provide guidance to organizations regarding the rules of the program and to better prepare organizations for writing their NIP application. In addition to the presentation, NIP staff was available by email and telephone messages at all hours prior to the due date of the application, to provide assistance. NIP staff, in conjunction with the West Virginia Department of Commerce's Communications Department, marketed the workshops statewide in an effort to facilitate public awareness.

Providing NIP information and technical assistance to participants, donors, media outlets, and other interested parties was an integral part of the program in FY 2021. Staff continued to provide specific technical assistance through both one-on-one communication and via the WVDO website. Staff also collected a Mid-Term Report and a Final Report from NIP participants and kept the NIP Advisory Board updated regarding progress of approved projects throughout the year. NIP staff also verified and processed required paperwork and fees for 3,481 NIP eligible donations.

The workshop held in South Charleston in May of 2019.



FY 2021 NIP Direct Program Expenses

Category	Expense
Personnel	\$82,990.36
Fringe Benefits	\$22,889.36
Current Expenses	\$9,703.51
TOTAL	\$115,583.23

The West Virginia Department of Economic Development (WVDED) provides a great deal of indirect support for the program as well. In particular, the following divisions of the WVDED and the Commerce Communications office provide services in support of the NIP:

- **Executive Director's Office:** The Executive Director, or his or her designee, chairs the NIP Advisory Board. This office also provides legal advice and assistance, as well as managing legislative issues.
- **Administration:** This division provides general accounting services and manages the NIP certification fee account, travel related expenses (for both NIP staff and Advisory Board members), and workshop expenses.
- **Community Development:** NIP staff members are housed in this unit, which offers office space, clerical support, and additional staff support as necessary to administer the program efficiently.
- **Commerce Communications:** This agency provides design services for NIP brochures and mailing materials, as well as issuing all press releases and announcements regarding the program, along with maintaining the NIP website.

Administration of the Neighborhood Investment Program is truly a team effort. The ongoing support of the aforementioned WVDED/Commerce organizational units are integral to the continued success of the program.

According to West Virginia Code, NIP certification fees are collected to offset the administrative costs of the program. Program revenues for FY-2021 were \$180,253.72 while direct program expenses were \$115,583.23.

NIP Credit Statistics

Statistics that are currently tracked for the Neighborhood Investment Program (NIP) include the number of applications submitted for review, amount of credit requested, counties represented, number of applications approved, amount of credit awarded, amount of donations leveraged, amount of credit issued to donors, and the amount of certification fees collected.

The following three pages contain the aforementioned statistics for each year since the program's inception. The information is broken out as follows:

- Table 1 - Application Statistics
- Table 2 - Approval Statistics
- Table 3 - Credit Distribution

The Neighborhood Investment Program has benefited our University's students through the Southern Counties Scholarship, which is focused on Logan, Boone, Mingo, Lincoln, and McDowell Counties. One of those students is Brittany Graham, of McDowell County. She is a first generation college student, who is majoring in Biology with a minor in Psychology. Since being on campus, Brittany has enjoyed being part of different biology research projects. She recently presented at the 18th Annual West Virginia IDeA Network for Biomedical Research Excellence (WV-INBRE) Summer Research Symposium presented in July at Marshall University. This scholarship has helped reduced her financial burden and made it possible to move forward in earning her degree. She will graduate in 2020 thanks to funding

West Virginia State University



Application Statistics—Table 1

Program Year	Number of Applications	Number of Counties Served	Total Amount of Credit Requested	Average Amount of Credit Requested
1997	97	23	\$7,369,600	\$75,975
1998	92	28	\$6,384,080	\$69,932
1999	103	34	\$8,145,690	\$79,084
2000	74	26	\$3,526,044	\$47,649
2001	76	25	\$5,193,221	\$68,332
2002	84	31	\$5,038,025	\$59,976
2003	102	42	\$4,953,955	\$48,568
2004	128	55	\$7,985,241	\$62,385
2005	128	55	\$6,544,070	\$51,125
2006	137	55	\$7,283,960	\$53,558
2007	145	55	\$5,628,703	\$38,818
2008	162	55	\$6,235,056	\$38,488
2009	164	55	\$7,649,339	\$46,642
2010	197	55	\$9,364,182	\$47,533
2011	181	55	\$7,919,127	\$43,646
2012	182	55	\$8,732,821	\$47,802
2013	214	55	\$10,157,595	\$47,465
2014	217	55	\$8,464,264	\$39,005
2015	227	55	\$7,506,900	\$33,070
2016	227	55	\$7,272,475	\$32,037
2017	213	55	\$6,385,000	\$29,977
2018	212	55	\$6,505,157	\$30,684
2019	222	55	\$6,722,557	\$30,282
2020	222	55	\$6,598,400	\$29,722
2021	199	55	\$5,901,250	\$29,655

Approval Statistics - Table 2

Program Year	Number of Approved Applications	Number of Counties Served	Amount of Credit Available	Average Amount of Credit Awarded
1997	69	23	\$1,999,377	\$28,976
1998	73	25	\$2,000,000	\$27,397
1999	77	25	\$1,999,878	\$25,972
2000	61	25	\$2,000,000	\$32,787
2001	73	25	\$2,000,000	\$26,316
2002	81	31	\$2,000,000	\$24,691
2003	102	42	\$2,000,000	\$19,607
2004	116	55	\$2,000,000	\$17,241
2005	119	55	\$2,000,000	\$16,806
2006	128	55	\$2,000,000	\$15,625
2007	140	55	\$2,000,000	\$14,285
2008	158	55	\$2,000,000	\$12,658
2009	161	55	\$2,500,000	\$15,527
2010	180	55	\$2,500,000	\$13,888
2011	177	55	\$2,500,000	\$14,124
2012	179	55	\$3,000,000	\$16,759
2013	204	55	\$3,000,000	\$14,706
2014	201	55	\$3,000,000	\$14,925
2015	203	55	\$3,000,000	\$14,778
2016	200	55	\$3,000,000	\$14,917
2017	200	55	\$3,000,000	\$14,969
2018	200	55	\$3,000,000	\$14,975
2019	200	55	\$3,000,000	\$14,450
2020	200	55	\$3,000,000	\$14,945
2021	199	55	\$3,000,000	\$15,070

Credit Distribution Statistics- Table 3

Program Year	Amount of Donations Raised	Amount of Credit Issued to Donors	Percentage of Credit Issued to Donors	Certification Fees Collected
1997	\$408,507	\$204,253	10%	\$12,112
1998	\$1,148,194	\$573,986	29%	\$34,445
1999	\$1,603,798	\$801,899	40%	\$48,113
2000	\$2,144,097	\$1,072,048	54%	\$64,322
2001	\$2,466,005	\$1,233,002	62%	\$73,980
2002	\$3,097,307	\$1,518,056	76%	\$92,484
2003	\$3,308,327	\$1,625,990	81%	\$98,238
2004	\$3,369,305	\$1,657,617	83%	\$100,478
2005	\$4,112,131	\$1,843,528	92%	\$111,135
2006	\$4,195,365	\$1,919,585	96%	\$115,748
2007	\$4,345,145	\$1,939,193	97%	\$118,841
2008	\$4,148,178	\$1,932,485	97%	\$116,397
2009	\$5,870,091	\$2,428,528	97%	\$145,774
2010	\$6,067,098	\$2,417,649	97%	\$144,728
2011	\$4,934,920	\$2,368,811	94%	\$143,194
2012	\$5,720,020	\$2,828,735	94%	\$172,012
2013	\$6,149,680	\$2,909,406	97%	\$174,721
2014	\$6,095,092	\$2,927,006	98%	\$177,279
2015	\$6,488,731	\$2,967,575	99%	\$183,074
2016	\$6,350,612	\$2,973,386	99%	\$177,101
2017	\$6,438,892	\$3,000,000	100%	\$180,123
2018	\$6,993,971	\$3,000,000	100%	\$179,406
2019	\$6,752,130	\$3,000,000	100%	\$180,383
2020	\$6,914,281	\$3,000,000	100%	\$180,468
2021	\$6,566,985	\$3,000,000	100%	\$180,254

Legislative Updates

The NIP was reauthorized during the 2016 Legislative session for an additional five years through the passage of S. B. 293. Funding levels for the program remained unchanged at \$3 million annually. The Neighborhood Investment Program expired on July 1, 2021. Therefore, it was up for reauthorization during the 2021 legislative session, and it passed. The program remains at \$3,000,000 and will run through June 30, 2026.



Car seats provided by *Gabriel*



Appalachian Outreach delivers Supplies to Family Resources



Project Impacts

A wide variety of projects participated in the Neighborhood Investment Program during FY 2021. These project types included, but were not limited to:

- Emergency assistance provided
- Direct needs met that provide self-reliance and independence from government assisted programs
- Affordable housing initiatives
- Counseling and housing assistance for victims of rape, domestic violence, and elder abuse
- Leadership and education programs for at-risk youth
- Transportation assistance providing vehicles to low-income individuals
- Free medical clinics for low-income persons
- College scholarship programs for low-income students
- Drug/alcohol prevention and recovery programs
- Homeless shelters and related services
- Non-medical caregiving services for the elderly and disabled
- Hospice services for low-income patients
- Arts education programs for low-income children
- Community Foundations serving non-profits in rural West Virginia

Funds raised through the NIP incentive help participant organizations provide these much needed services. The list above is just a small sampling of the types of programs that participate in the NIP. There is no simple way to describe the extent of the work these organizations do to help the less fortunate from distressed areas in West Virginia. The services they provide are essential in maintaining a strong social and economic infrastructure in West Virginia - creating stronger, healthier, more informed citizens that are capable of self-sufficiency and contributing to their communities. The following is a small glimpse of the impact the NIP had on projects during FY 2021.

Project Impacts— continued

Housing needs are met:

On 9/11/18 a two-story home caught on fire at 2:30 pm in Kanawha Co. A family of 5 lived in the home and their annual household income was \$12,140. The Dunbar Fire Dept. responded to the fire. The owner of the home was not home but his fiancé was & had to be hospitalized. Pets were lost. The owner did not have insurance and did not have a recovery plan. The client stayed in the burned-out home due to lack of family, resources, and money. The utilities were turned off due to the fire. The Red Cross suggested they stay in a shelter and helped him with resources. The ARC case worker helped him create a recovery plan and provided funding to help the owner obtain initial needs like food, medicine, clothing, etc. After follow-up, the case was closed October 8th. On November 2, the case was re-opened. The family needed help with funding gap for a place to stay. More funding was provided to help the family obtain shelter. The final review was done November 28 & the case was officially closed.

- American Red Cross

Employment opportunities helped:

Due to the significant epidemic of drugs in WV and our region, many persons involved with the judicial system, who are now trying to find jobs and get back on their feet, are struggling with major health problems. It is difficult to feel confident seeking a job when one has no teeth or poor teeth. One of the direct service project grants that we supported was a project involving clients of the Mid-Ohio Valley Drug Court. As the Court seeks to help indigent citizens re-establish their lives, we provided funding to purchase dentures for clients in need of replacement teeth. We received a touching letter from an individual who was provided with dentures. She wrote, "I want to let you know how much I appreciate my new smile. I haven't been comfortable smiling in a very long time until now. It has given me back my self-esteem and my self-confidence. There are really no words that I can describe how truly grateful I am. Thank you so much."

- Parkersburg Area Community Foundation

Adapting to life and helping others:

A graduate of Augusta Levy Learning Center returned to ALLC this summer for help with socialization, schoolwork, and for behaviors that were occurring while in the community. Since this adolescent has been participating in the Independence through Intervention program, he has been volunteering at Wheeling Catholic Charities with other students from the program. He has been packaging meals independently and has engaged in no behaviors while out in the community. He was even able to recognize that several of the trays were missing the vegetable and was able to communicate that to the other volunteers. His mother reports that being able to participate in this program has decreased behaviors when venturing out into the community and allowed them to do more things as a family.

- Augusta Levy Learning Center

Conclusion

The Neighborhood Investment Program has proven in its 25 years of existence to be a significant force when it comes to encouraging businesses and individuals to contribute to their local non-profit organizations. The NIP encourages community development by providing the incentive many businesses and individuals need to get involved in their local organizations which are primarily providing services for emergency assistance, direct needs, and many other services to low income individuals or distressed neighborhoods. By working to build these relationships, the NIP helps to increase the capacity of our communities to support projects which serve our most economically distressed citizens and neighborhoods.

*Berkeley County
Meals on Wheels Program*



*Brian's Safehouse
Resident in Training*



*Good Shepherd Interfaith
Volunteer Caregivers redoing
Bathroom for handicapped*

