

Unlocking Economic Development Opportunities



117th Congress

Sponsor: Congressman Paul Tonko (D-NY)

“With visionary leadership and equitable investment in our communities, shovel-worthy projects can transform our Capital Region and help people, businesses, and industries grow and thrive.”

❖ Paul Tonko

Historic federal investments are here

- In 2021, Congress passed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which included **\$550 billion in new federal funding** for roads and bridges, water infrastructure, clean energy, and much more
- House Democrats know that communities that address failing infrastructure and pursue community and economic development projects attract new families, jobs, and businesses
- That’s why House Democrats are working hard through legislation like the BIL to **deliver aid directly to communities** so they can pursue these critical projects

We must make it easier to access these funds

- There are **more than 400** federal economic and community development programs
- Across our nation, however, many small, rural, and disadvantaged communities with critical infrastructure needs lack the resources to identify the right programs and apply for funding
- Meanwhile, the federal tools designed to support development in these communities often entail **complex and costly application processes** spanning numerous federal agencies
- For too many, it is nearly impossible to identify the right programs or spend the time and resources needed to apply

Congress Must Ensure Equity and Access!

The Access for All Communities Act:

- ❖ Consolidates information on federal economic development grant opportunities for capacity-constrained communities in a public database
- ❖ Requires the Department of Commerce to regularly update the database and make recommendations on future policy actions to facilitate increased access to its program

The Community Leaders in Economic Development (Community LED) Act:

- ❖ Bolsters the economic development workforce through AmeriCorps partnerships with local governments and organizations
- ❖ Provides AmeriCorps servicemembers with training on the federal grantmaking process to serve them in their placement sites and throughout their future careers

With equity and access, we can open the doors of opportunity and ignite our entire nation’s strongest recovery. Congress must act now!

Connect with Congressman Paul Tonko on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram: @RepPaulTonko