



## PA WILDS RESOURCE GUIDE

*Below is a listing of programs available to place-based businesses, entrepreneurs, nonprofits and governments across the Pennsylvania Wilds, including business loans, grants and tax credit programs, technical assistance, marketing resources and recognition programs.*

*Some grant programs may require collaboration with a nonprofit organization. Every effort is made to ensure that program details are current, but applicants should double-check information with program managers before applying. Programs may have additional requirements.*

*Inclusion here does not imply endorsement.*

*Have an update or a new program you think should be listed here? Email details to [cszymanik@pawildscenter.org](mailto:cszymanik@pawildscenter.org).*

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### BUSINESS LOANS

**The PennCAP Program:** The Pennsylvania Capital Access Program (PennCAP) provides a loan guarantee to small businesses based on a portfolio concept. The Pennsylvania Economic Development Financing Authority (PEDFA) provides capital to guarantee loans made through participating lending institutions in conjunction with the program. The program is a partnership between the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development and participating PennCAP banks. Most companies authorized to do business in Pennsylvania will qualify for a PennCAP loan. Start-up businesses may be financed through PennCAP. PennCAP proceeds can be used for the purchase of land, buildings, machinery, equipment and working capital. The maximum PennCAP loan amount is \$500,000. Minimum loan amounts are established by each participating bank. For more information, call 717-783-1109, 866.GO NEWPA or visit [www.newPA.com](http://www.newPA.com)



**Local Development Districts:** Fifty-two counties in Pennsylvania are served by Local Development Districts (LDDs), multi-county organizations providing services in such areas as community and economic development, transportation, international trade, strategic planning and much more. Counties share information through their LDD, respond to common concerns, and develop solutions to today’s critical issues. There are 4 LDDs serving counties in the Pennsylvania Wilds.

| <b>PA Wilds Region Local Development Districts</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
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| <p><b>Northwest Pennsylvania Regional Planning &amp; Development Commission:</b> The Northwest Commission is based in Oil City and offers a variety loans to for profit businesses with less than 100 employees where assets and job benefits are located in its footprint area. Loans can be used for land, buildings, machinery, equipment and working capital. Other eligibility, requirements and interest rates vary greatly.<br/>Serves: Warren, Clarion and Forest Counties<br/>Website: <a href="http://www.northwestpa.org">www.northwestpa.org</a><br/>Loan Program Manager: Amanda Slider,<br/>814-677-4800 x115 or <a href="mailto:amandas@northwestpa.org">amandas@northwestpa.org</a></p> | <p><b>North Central Regional Planning &amp; Development Commission:</b> North Central, located in Ridgway, has a suite of low-interest loan programs to support small business development that creates and retains jobs. Its loan programs are designed to leverage private financing and fill the gap when bank financing and equity and are not able to completely finance a business project.<br/>Serves: McKean, Potter, Cameron, Elk, Jefferson and Clearfield Counties<br/>Website: <a href="http://www.ncentral.com">www.ncentral.com</a><br/>Loan Director: Jennifer Hibbard, 814-773-3162 x3049 or <a href="mailto:jhibbard@ncentral.com">jhibbard@ncentral.com</a></p> |
| <p><b>Northern Tier Regional Planning &amp; Development Commission:</b> Northern Tier offers loans up to \$100,000 to for-profit businesses that need aid for startup or expansion. Northern Tier also provides technical assistance to help identify new opportunities for business growth.<br/>Serves: Tioga County<br/>Website: <a href="http://northerntier.org">northerntier.org</a><br/>Phone: 570-265-1510</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p><b>SEDA - Council of Governments:</b> SEDA-COG is based in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, and offers a variety of low-interest loan programs to start-ups and existing businesses. They can package First Industries loans and other state loan programs and also have other pools of money to draw upon.<br/>Serves: Lycoming, Clinton and Centre Counties<br/>Website: <a href="http://www.seda-cog.org">www.seda-cog.org</a><br/>Phone: 570-524-4491</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

**The Progress Fund:** The Progress Fund is a non-profit financial institution is based in Southwestern Pennsylvania but offers loans across the PA Wilds region. The Progress Fund specializes in loaning to tourism businesses (past clients include a canoe livery, vodka distiller, historic tavern, art studio, hardware store, cabins, white water rafting company, coffee shop, winery and others). Find them online at: [www.progressfund.org](http://www.progressfund.org).



**Small Business Pollution Prevention Assistance Account (PPAA) Loan Program:** PPAA provides low interest loans to small businesses undertaking projects (located within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania) that reduce waste, pollution or energy use. Loans will be used to fund 75 percent of the total eligible project cost, up to a maximum of \$100,000. Small businesses with 100 or fewer full-time employees are eligible. The loan interest rate is 2% and has a maximum term of 10 years. This funding can help small businesses comply with environmental regulations while receiving the economic benefits of preventing pollution and using energy more efficiently. Visit the [PPAA Loan](#) website for additional information.

## GRANTS AND TAX CREDITS

**Small Business Advantage Grant Program:** This grant provides assistance to small businesses in Pennsylvania with under 100 full time employees to incorporate pollution prevention or energy-efficient equipment or processes to increase the business's competitiveness while simultaneously improving the environment of Pennsylvania residents. Average grant amount is \$5,800. Go to [www.depweb.state.pa.us](http://www.depweb.state.pa.us) and click on Citizens and then click on "Grants, Loans and Rebates" on the third box in the first column and then click on Small Business Ombudsman's Office under Related Information for more information. You can also obtain information by contacting 717-772-5160 or [epadvantagegrant@pa.gov](mailto:epadvantagegrant@pa.gov).

**Lumber Heritage Region Mini Grants:** The Lumber Heritage Region of PA, Inc. occasionally offers a mini-grant program for eligible projects throughout the region. Funding for the Lumber Heritage Region, LHR, Mini-Grant Program is provided through the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Bureau of Recreation and Conservation (BRC) and therefore must adhere to all statewide rules and regulations. Eligible applicants for the program would include non-profit 501(c)3 organizations, municipalities, COG's, Conservation Districts, Educational Institutions, and Housing and Redevelopment Authorities. The project must be located within the boundaries of the Lumber Heritage Region. To learn more visit [www.lumberheritage.org/grants/](http://www.lumberheritage.org/grants/).

**PA Wilds Mini Grants:** PA Wilds Center operates regular mini grant programs for businesses, nonprofits and communities. The focus, amount and timing of the mini grant offering changes depending on funding source and other parameters, but the program is always tied to PA Wilds strategies. Past offerings have included signage grants, design assistance grants (connected to the PA Wilds Design Guide for Community Character Stewardship), and grants that advance nature and heritage tourism projects in the region. To stay up to date on mini grant offerings, sign up for our e-newsletter on the homepage of [www.pawildscenter.org](http://www.pawildscenter.org), or check out the "Mini Grants" under the site's 'Programs & Services' tab.

**River Sojourn Grants:** The PA Organization for Watersheds and Rivers offers competitive grants for single and multi-day paddling events on Pennsylvania rivers. Sojourns must incorporate significant educational programming, and be open to all participants (i.e., private trips are not eligible). To learn more, go to: <http://pawatersheds.org/>.



**Rehabilitation Investment Tax Credit Program:** This program offers federal income tax credits as an incentive for private property owners to rehabilitate historic properties for income-producing uses. Generally speaking, if you rehab the building to the requirements you're eligible to get 10 to 20 percent of your costs returned at tax time. This program does not provide funding up front. It is important to research and apply to this program prior to starting work. The National Park Service administers this program at the federal level. Visit [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov) for details.

**PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources (DCNR):** DCNR offers competitive grant opportunities that may be of interest to local governments and recreation and conservation organizations through its Community Conservation and Partnerships Program (C2P2). C2P2 grants fund projects related to parks, recreation and conservation, including planning, acquisition, and development of public parks; recreation areas; motorized and non-motorized trails; river conservation and access; and conservation of open space. Grants also support regional and statewide partnerships that build capacity to better develop and manage resources. Applications for DCNR's C2P2 grants are accepted once a year, typically during the spring. In addition, DCNR also offers special grants periodically. Learn more at [www.dcnr.pa.gov/Communities/Grants/](http://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Communities/Grants/), or by contacting your Regional Advisor:

- Northwest Region (includes Warren, McKean, Forest, Elk, Clarion, Jefferson + Clearfield): Erin Wiley Moyers at (814) 226-2329 or [ewiley@pa.gov](mailto:ewiley@pa.gov)
- Northcentral Region (includes Potter, Cameron, Clinton, Centre, Tioga, Lycoming): Wes Fahringer at (570) 401-2465 or [mfahringer@pa.gov](mailto:mfahringer@pa.gov)

**Art Works Grant Program – The National Endowment for the Arts:** Art Works is the National Endowment for the Arts' principal grants program for organizations. Through project-based funding, NEA supports public engagement with, and access to, various forms of excellent art across the nation, the creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence, learning in the arts at all stages of life, and the integration of the arts into the fabric of community life. Projects may be large or small, existing or new. These grants support artistically excellent projects that celebrate creativity and cultural heritage, invite mutual respect for differing beliefs and values, and enrich humanity. Matching grants generally range from \$10,000 to \$100,000. A minimum cost share/match equal to the grant amount is required. The NEA funds projects only. Projects may consist of one or more specific events or activities. Projects do not have to be new. Excellent existing projects can be just as competitive as new activities. Visit [www.arts.gov/grants-organizations/art-works/grant-program-description](http://www.arts.gov/grants-organizations/art-works/grant-program-description) to learn more.

**Challenge America Grant Program – The National Endowment for the Arts:** The Challenge America grant categories for offers support primarily to small and mid-sized organizations for projects that extend the reach of the arts to underserved populations – those whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited by geography, ethnicity, economics, or disability. Age alone (e.g., youth, seniors) does not qualify a group as underserved; at least one of the underserved characteristics noted above also must be present. Grants are available for professional arts programming and for projects that emphasize the potential of the arts in



**PA WILDS CENTER**  
FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP



community development. Challenge America grants are limited to specific types of projects and are for a fixed amount of \$10,000 and require a minimum \$10,000 match. Within the Challenge America category, the Public Art project type is intended to support primarily visual arts projects, which may be temporary or permanent, such as murals, sculptures, multi-media, or environmental art, developed through a meaningful community engagement process. Evidence of community involvement should be apparent in the planning, design, or fabrication of the work, and should include a professional lead artist. A policy limits consecutive-year funding. Learn more at [www.arts.gov/grants-organizations/challenge-america/grant-program-description](http://www.arts.gov/grants-organizations/challenge-america/grant-program-description).

**The Our Town Grant Program – The National Endowment for the Arts** – Supports creative placemaking projects that help to transform communities into lively, beautiful, and resilient places – achieving these community goals through strategies that incorporate arts, culture, and/or design. Creative placemaking is when artists, arts organizations, and community development practitioners deliberately integrate arts and culture into community revitalization work. This funding supports local efforts to enhance quality of life and opportunity for existing residents, increase creative activity, and create or preserve a distinct sense of place. Our Town requires partnerships between arts organizations and government, other nonprofit organizations, and private entities to achieve livability goals for communities. Our Town offers support for projects in two areas: Arts Engagement, Cultural Planning, and Design Projects (matching grants range from \$25,000 to \$200,000) and Projects that Build Knowledge About Creative Placemaking (matching grants range from \$25,000 to \$100,000). Learn more at [www.arts.gov/grants-organizations/our-town/introduction](http://www.arts.gov/grants-organizations/our-town/introduction).

**Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts:** Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts (PPA) is a partnership between local organizations and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA), a state agency whose mission is to foster the excellence, diversity and vitality of the arts in Pennsylvania and to broaden the availability and appreciation of those arts throughout the state. Operating in all 67 counties in Pennsylvania, PPA re-grants funds to support a wide variety of local and community arts activities. The PPA Program is administered by 13 local partners statewide. PPA offers both Project Stream and Program Stream grants for art-related projects and organizations. Project Stream describes grants up to \$2,500. Program Stream grants provide ongoing support to arts organizations and arts programs that have been selected after transitioning from Project Stream grants. Learn more on the [PPA website](#), or see the chart of PPA Partner Contacts on the following page.



**PA Wilds Region PPA Partner Contact Information**

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| <p><b>BRADFORD COUNTY REGIONAL ARTS COUNCIL:</b><br/>         Serves: Lycoming and Tioga<br/>         PPA Contact: Renae Chamberlain<br/>         Website: <a href="http://www.bcrac.org">www.bcrac.org</a><br/>         Phone: (570) 268-2787<br/>         Email: <a href="mailto:ntpaie@bcrac.org">ntpaie@bcrac.org</a><br/>         Fax: (570) 265-4558<br/>         Address: 601 Main Street, Towanda, PA 18848-1613</p>                                             | <p><b>GALAXY, THE ARTS IN EDUCATION PROGRAM OF CENTRAL IU #10</b><br/>         Serves: Centre, Clearfield and Clinton<br/>         PPA Contact: L. Renee McQuown, Program Coordinator<br/>         Website: <a href="http://www.ciu10.org/domain/57">www.ciu10.org/domain/57</a><br/>         Phone: (814) 342-0884, x 3099<br/>         Email: <a href="mailto:rmcquown@ciu10.org">rmcquown@ciu10.org</a><br/>         Fax: (814) 342-5137<br/>         Address: 345 Link Road, West Decatur, PA 16878</p> |
| <p><b>ERIE ARTS &amp; CULTURE</b><br/>         Serves: Warren<br/>         PPA Contact: Melinda Meyer, Grants Manager<br/>         Website: <a href="http://www.erieartsandculture.org">www.erieartsandculture.org</a><br/>         Phone: (814) 452-3427<br/>         Email: <a href="mailto:melinda@erieartsandculture.org">melinda@erieartsandculture.org</a><br/>         Fax: (814) 452-3128<br/>         Address: 3 E. Fourth Street, Suite 10, Erie, PA 16507</p> | <p><b>ELK COUNTY COUNCIL ON THE ARTS</b><br/>         Serves: Cameron, Clarion, Elk, Forest, Jefferson, McKean, and Potter<br/>         PPA Contact: Tia DeShong<br/>         Website: <a href="http://www.eccota.com">www.eccota.com</a><br/>         Phone: (814) 772-7051<br/>         Email: <a href="mailto:tia@eccota.com">tia@eccota.com</a><br/>         Fax: (814) 772-7049<br/>         Mailing address: 237 Main Street, Ridgway, PA 15853</p>                                                   |

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

**PA Wilds Center for Entrepreneurship:** Founded in 2013, this regional non-profit is dedicated to integrating conservation and economic development in a way that strengthens and inspires communities in the Pennsylvania Wilds. The Center operates several programs for businesses and communities, including The Wilds Cooperative of PA, PA Wilds Mini Grants, PA Wilds Design Guide for Community Character Stewardship, PA Wilds Licensing, PA Wilds Conservation Shops and PA Wilds Champion Awards. Many of these programs are outlined on this resource sheet. To learn more, go to [www.pawildscenter.org](http://www.pawildscenter.org).

**The Wilds Cooperative of PA:** The Wilds Cooperative of PA is the main business development program of the PA Wilds Center. It focuses on growing and connecting the kinds of unique businesses and establishments at the heart of place-based nature tourism development – artisan and craft producers, B&Bs, specialty retailers, breweries, wineries, galleries, state parks and more. This is a juried, member-based program. The program assists businesses with marketing and branding tools; access to new markets; education and networking opportunities with similar kinds of businesses; and



referrals to PA's service provider network (lenders, technical providers, etc). For membership guidelines, go to: [www.wildscopa.org](http://www.wildscopa.org) or contact: ECCOTA/Wilds Cooperative Staff Support, 814-772-7051 or [wildscopa@pawildscenter.org](mailto:wildscopa@pawildscenter.org).

**PA Wilds Conservation Shops:** PA Wilds Center operates this growing network of online and physical gift shops. To be eligible to sell wholesale to the Conservation Shop, businesses must be members of The Wilds Cooperative of PA (see previous listing).

**PA Wilds Licensing:** The PA Wilds Licensing Program provides a way for businesses and organizations to apply to use the PA Wilds logo on saleable and non-saleable products to help them leverage their business and community development efforts. Licensees must be members of The Wilds Cooperative of Pennsylvania (see previous listing). To learn more about how to apply to use this trademark, go to [www.pawildscenter.org/use-the-pa-wilds-brand/](http://www.pawildscenter.org/use-the-pa-wilds-brand/).

**PA Wilds Design Assistance Program:** The PA Wilds Design Assistance Program was created based on the idea that early, strategic and coordinated regional planning for new development will protect the authentic character and lifestyle of the Pennsylvania Wilds. At the core of the program is the PA Wilds Design Guide for Community Character Stewardship, now in its second edition, published in 2017. The Design Guide is a voluntary planning document that highlights how communities in the Pennsylvania Wilds can protect or enhance their unique community character as they grow – whether that growth is due to tourism, other economic development planning, resource extraction or other industries. The Design Guide can be downloaded in its entirety, or individual chapters that are targeted towards a particular project may be downloaded individually. For more information, or to download the free guide, visit [www.pawildscenter.org/community-character-stewardship/](http://www.pawildscenter.org/community-character-stewardship/).

**Pennsylvania Small Business Development Centers:** These organizations provide educational programs and no-cost, confidential consulting services to entrepreneurs looking to start or grow a business. Management consulting services provided by a professional staff emphasize education and guidance in finding practical solutions to business problems. SBDC consultants work with entrepreneurs one-to-one to help test new business ideas, shape business plans, or investigate funding opportunities. There are 18 university-based centers in Pennsylvania with more than 100 outreach locations. Five SBDCs cover the Pennsylvania Wilds region with specific geographic footprints, including:

- **Clarion University SBDC** (Cameron, Clarion, Clearfield, Elk, Forest, Jefferson, McKean and Potter): Details [www.web.clarion.edu/sbdc/](http://www.web.clarion.edu/sbdc/)
- **Gannon University SBDC** (Warren): Details – <http://www.sbdcgannon.org/>
- **Lock Haven University SBDC** (Clinton and Lycoming): Details – [www.community.lhup.edu/sbdc/](http://www.community.lhup.edu/sbdc/)
- **Penn State University SBDC** (Centre): Details – [www.sbdc.psu.edu/](http://www.sbdc.psu.edu/)
- **University of Scranton SBDC** (Tioga): Details – <http://www.pasbdc.org/centers/university-of-scranton>



**DEP Small Business Assistance Program:** Complying with environmental regulations can be difficult, especially for small businesses. Recognizing this, DEP created the Small Business Assistance Program. This program assists small businesses with regulatory compliance, provides information about cost saving pollution prevention practices, and ensures that small businesses are considered when new regulations are developed. Learn more [here](#).

**PennTap Information Technology Help:** PennTAP (Pennsylvania Technical Assistance Program), an Outreach arm of Penn State University, can help small businesses with a host of technology-related questions regarding the internet, website development, software selection, connectivity, security, networks and computer systems. A limited amount of free assistance is available. Contact Donna Yale, Advanced IT Team Lead, at 570-596-3585 or [dyale@psu.edu](mailto:dyale@psu.edu) or visit them online at <http://www.penntap.psu.edu>.

**Product Development and Innovation Services:** PennTAP (Pennsylvania Technical Assistance Program), an Outreach arm of Penn State University, can assist businesses and startups with a number of issues related to product development, such as feasibility of product design, assistance addressing design and material issues, connection with prototype development and manufacturing resources, business development resources for market research and commercialization planning, entrepreneurial coaching and connecting small businesses to the scientific and technical expertise within Penn State University and the federal laboratory system. For more information contact Tim Kerchinski, Team Lead for Innovation at 814-865-4388 or [txk128@psu.edu](mailto:txk128@psu.edu) or visit them online at [www.penntap.psu.edu](http://www.penntap.psu.edu).

**Energy and Environment Services:** PennTAP Technical Advisors can assist small to mid-sized manufacturers address energy and sustainability challenges by providing pollution prevention and energy efficiency (P2/E2) on-site assessments, performing economy-energy-environment (E3) events, offering education regarding the solid waste remanufacturing exclusion rule, and delivering training pertaining to energy management systems, ISO 50001, and Superior Energy Performance (SEP) certification and implementation. For more information, contact Denise Bechdel, Team Lead for Energy and Environment at 814-867-1539 or [dlf14@psu.edu](mailto:dlf14@psu.edu) or visit them online at [www.penntap.psu.edu/](http://www.penntap.psu.edu/).

**Workamper News:** It can sometimes be difficult for tourism businesses in remote areas to find help for their peak seasons. Workamper News is a service that can help with this need. It is a national network of RVers who want to go someplace interesting and work, sometimes for just a season or year-round. More than half of the program's participants work to supplement their retirement income, while the rest work to support a full-time, or near full-time, RV lifestyle. Most Workamper jobs are in the outdoor hospitality industry (resorts, campgrounds, theme parks, state and national parks, etc.). For more information, go to [www.workamper.com](http://www.workamper.com).

**Ben Franklin Technology Partners:** The award-winning Ben Franklin Technology Partners is one of the nation's longest-running technology-based economic development programs. For more than 31 years, BFTP has provided both early-stage and established companies with funding, business and technical expertise and access to a network of innovative, expert resources. BFTP couples its financial commitment with access to a



wide range of mentoring, business and technology development services. We deliver hands-on technical and business expertise, providing both early-stage and established companies with a wide range of business and technical assistance. This includes business plan reviews, technical assessments, intellectual property counsel, marketing advice, operations and fund-raising strategies. Additional information can be found at [www.benfranklin.org/what-is-bftp/](http://www.benfranklin.org/what-is-bftp/).

**Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE):** A network of retired business professionals, SCORE provides assistance to anyone wanting to start or expand a business. Their free business consultation can include seminars on specific topics or business startups in general. Call 814 234-9415 or visit [www.scorepa.org](http://www.scorepa.org) to learn more.

## MARKETING RESOURCES

**Pennsylvania Tourism Office:** The PA Tourism Office offers a variety of opportunities to grow your tourism business and connect with potential visitors by advertising in one or more of their offerings. The state of Pennsylvania's marketing program enables advertisers to connect directly with travelers planning a Pennsylvania visit. Realize the impact of the Pennsylvania tourism brand and the marketing initiatives driving travelers to visit the Keystone State. Promotion options include inclusion on visitPA.com, the official tourism site of Pennsylvania, whether through strategic placement on the homepage, display ads or listings in listings by category; the visitPA.com eNewsletter or Happy Traveler Travel Guide. More information can be found online at <https://visitpa.com/articles/advertising-opportunities>.

**Pennsylvania On Display:** is the official brochure distributor for the state of Pennsylvania distributing brochures in the 35 Interstate Rest Areas, 17 Turnpike Plazas, and 14 Welcome Centers. Additional information available on website at [www.PennsylvaniaOnDisplay.com](http://www.PennsylvaniaOnDisplay.com).

**PA Signing Trust:** Tourist Oriented Directional Signing (TODS) are the official blue and brown directional signs installed on roadways that help the traveling public find businesses and attractions. To learn more about cost, eligibility requirements and how to apply, go to: <https://palogo.org/tods-program/>.

**PA Route 6 Alliance:** An official state Heritage Area, this non-profit organization works to preserve, enhance and promote the transportation heritage of one of the nation's first transcontinental highways – Scenic Route 6. It works to sustain and enhance the small rural communities linked by the highway; and to preserve and enhance the natural, scenic beauty of one of America's favorite "road trips". PA Route 6 Alliance has 6 areas of concentration intended to help make the Route 6 Corridor a memorable experience, a great place to visit and an even better place to live. They include tourism promotion; cultural conservation; education and interpretation; open space and recreation; economic development and partnerships. Route 6 runs through four counties in the Pennsylvania Wilds – Warren, McKean, Potter and Tioga. Programs for businesses include



cooperative advertising and an Artisan Trail; community programs include mini grant offerings, workshops, awards and more. To learn more, visit <http://www.paroute6.com/>.

**Tourist Promotion Agencies** – These organizations seek to showcase area attractions to travelers and offer travelers assistance in planning their trip. In addition, these TPAs offer tourism marketing, promotion and advertising opportunities for members. Members often receive listings in visitor guides and have opportunities to participate in various publications printed by the TPAs. See TPAs serving the PA Wilds on the next page.

| <b>PA Wilds Region Tourist Promotion Agencies</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
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| <p><b>Allegheny National Forest Visitors Bureau:</b><br/>McKean County’s official Destination Marketing Agency is a not-for-profit membership-based organization with a goal to market and promote McKean County as a tourism destination. ANFVB offers co-op advertising opportunities and marketing and promotional assistance. Learn more at <a href="http://www.visitANF.com">www.visitANF.com</a> or contact 800-473-9370 <a href="mailto:devlin@visitANF.com">devlin@visitANF.com</a>.</p> | <p><b>Clinton County Visitors Bureau</b><br/>The CCVB is part of the Clinton County Economic Partnership, which brings tourism, chamber of commerce, and industrial development activities under one roof. For more information, visit <a href="http://www.ClintonCountyInfo.com">www.ClintonCountyInfo.com</a> or contact 570-748-5782 or <a href="mailto:tourism@clintoncountyinfo.com">tourism@clintoncountyinfo.com</a>.</p>                                           |
| <p><b>Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau:</b><br/>The official tourism promotion agency for Cameron, Clarion, Elk, Forest, and Jefferson Counties, this not-for-profit membership-based organization helps promote area attractions and special events. For more information visit Great Outdoors online at <a href="http://www.visitpago.com">www.visitpago.com</a> or contact <a href="mailto:info@visitpago.com">info@visitpago.com</a> or 814-849-5197.</p>                                      | <p><b>Williamsport/Lycoming County Visitors Bureau:</b><br/>Operated by the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce, the Visitors Bureau and Visitors Center help orient tourists to the county. A member-based organization, the VB helps promote area attractions. Learn more at <a href="http://www.vacationpa.com">www.vacationpa.com</a> or email <a href="mailto:visitorinfo@williamsport.org">visitorinfo@williamsport.org</a> or 570-327-7700.</p>               |
| <p><b>Visit Clearfield County:</b><br/>Visit Clearfield County promotes various attractions in the county on their website and in other print materials. Learn more at <a href="http://www.visitclearfieldcounty.org">www.visitclearfieldcounty.org</a> or contact Susan Swales-Vitullo at 814-765-5734 or <a href="mailto:svitullo@visitclearfieldcounty.org">svitullo@visitclearfieldcounty.org</a>.</p>                                                                                       | <p><b>Visit Potter-Tioga:</b><br/>Visit Potter-Tioga markets tourism businesses located in Potter and Tioga Counties and operates a visitor’s center in Wellsboro filled with regional information and local products for sale. They offer a co-op marketing program for nonprofits. Learn more at <a href="http://www.visitpottertioga.com">www.visitpottertioga.com</a> or contact 570-724-0635 or <a href="mailto:info@visittiogapa.com">info@visittiogapa.com</a>.</p> |



PA WILDS CENTER  
FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP



**Warren County Visitors Bureau:**

WCVB works to stimulate and support tourism and economic growth in Warren County through promotion, marketing and partnerships. Learn more at [www.wcvb.net](http://www.wcvb.net), or contact the visitor’s bureau at 814-726-1222 or [info@wcvb.net](mailto:info@wcvb.net).

**The Central Pennsylvania Convention & Visitor's Bureau:**

CPCVB is a nonprofit, membership-based organization whose mission is to develop, promote, and engage in travel-related activities and coordinate visitor services in Centre County. Learn more at [www.visitpennstate.org/about-us/join-cpcvb/](http://www.visitpennstate.org/about-us/join-cpcvb/) or at 814-231-1400.

**RECOGNITION PROGRAMS**

**Champion of the Pennsylvania Wilds Award:** Each spring the Pennsylvania Wilds Center recognizes individuals, groups, organizations, communities or businesses that in the last year have made significant contributions to help grow and sustainably develop the outdoor recreation economy and nature tourism in the Pennsylvania Wilds by marrying economic development and conservation goals. These awards are presented at an Annual Dinner. Award nominations are judged by the degree to which they help advance one or more of the following goals: to create jobs, diversify local economies, inspire stewardship of natural and cultural resources, and improve quality of life. Award nominations are also judged by the degree to which they reflect the hallmarks of the effort to grow the outdoor recreation economy in the Pennsylvania Wilds. These hallmarks include: use of creative partnerships and planning; fostering a strong sense of place and community pride; ability to replicate new ideas or models in other communities; and demonstration of strong grassroots support. Learn more: <http://www.pawildscenter.org/nominate-a-pa-wilds-champion/>.

**Governor’s Award for Environmental Excellence:** The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) each year selects recipients for the prestigious 2019 Governor’s Award for Environmental Excellence. Any individual, business, school, government agency, or community organization in Pennsylvania is eligible to apply. DEP evaluated projects for their degree of environmental protection, innovation, partnership efforts, economic impact, consideration of climate change, and sustainability and results achieved. Information can be found at [www.dep.pa.gov/About/Awards/EnvironmentalExcellence/](http://www.dep.pa.gov/About/Awards/EnvironmentalExcellence/).

**PA River of the Year Award:** Each fall, the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the PA Organization for Watersheds & Rivers hold an online voting contest to name PA’s River of the Year. Voting typically opens in November-December, with the winner being named in the new year. The honor brings with it recognition in media and, often, increased visitation that supports small businesses while raising awareness about good stewardship of the waterway. To learn more, go to: <http://pawatersheds.org>.

**PA Route 6 Alliance “Do 6” Awards:** Each year, PA Route 6 Alliance recognizes individuals, organizations, businesses and corporations who exemplify its mission to protect, preserve and enhance the scenic, cultural,



historical and recreational resources of Pennsylvania's northern tier. Award categories include the Lifetime Achievement, Heritage Partnership, Heritage Tourism, Artisan of the Year, Heritage Leadership, and Heritage Community of the Year. For more information, visit [www.paroute6.com/annual-awards-program](http://www.paroute6.com/annual-awards-program).

**PA Trail of the Year Award:** Each year, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Pennsylvania Trails Advisory Committee designates a Trail of the Year to help build enthusiasm and support for both large and small trails, and raise public awareness about the value of Pennsylvania's trail network. Nominations for PA Trail of the Year are typically accepted through late fall. The honor of being selected helps attention to trails across the Commonwealth and, often, increased visitation that supports small businesses while raising awareness about good stewardship of regional trails. To learn more, go to: [www.dcnr.pa.gov/Communities/TrailDevelopment/TrailOfTheYear/](http://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Communities/TrailDevelopment/TrailOfTheYear/).