

FY2025 Annual Report



BERKSHIRE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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Executive Director's Notes

BRPC continues to have many strong program areas, which we have maintained and, in most cases, expanded or strengthened this last fiscal year. Despite the unpredictability of the federal government, a substantial source of revenue, we continued to provide desired and needed services to the cities, towns, and residents of Berkshire County.

The Community Planning Program focused on housing, assessing community housing needs in Monterey, New Marlborough, and West Stockbridge, and preparing a Housing Production Plan for Egremont. We assisted Lanesborough in developing its first comprehensive plan. Staff completed Open Space and Recreation Plans in Cheshire, Lee, Monterey, New Marlborough, and North Adams.

Community Development work focused on three primary areas: administration of Community Development Block Grant Programs, management of the Home Modification Loan Program (HMLP), and implementation of accessibility projects. The FY22/23 Sheffield CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Program used over \$807,000 to rehabilitate 14 homes for low- to moderate-income households in Sheffield. The FY24 Becket-Dalton CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Program began utilizing over \$809,000 to rehabilitate 11 homes for low- to moderate-income households in Becket and Dalton. BRPC closed on nine HMLP loans for accessibility improvements to their homes. BRPC assisted Lanesborough in implementing ADA accessibility improvements.

Our Berkshire Benchmarks effort remains an important asset for Berkshire County, with indicators updated and a State of the County update released in FY25. We assisted the state Office of Outdoor Recreation with the development of a statewide database for outdoor recreation assets.

Economic Development work assisted partners through training, educational material, and one-on-one support. Our Shared Economic Development Planning program supported the opening of the Greylock Glen Outdoor Center. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and Economic Development District goals were implemented. The fifth annual "ArtWeek Berkshires" festival was coordinated, and the Pittsfield Cultural Plan was finalized. The Berkshires is a statewide leader in digital equity planning due to BRPC staff efforts.

The Berkshire Brownfield Program within the Environmental and Energy Program worked with Great Barrington to remediate Reid Cleaners. The Revolving Loan Fund supported Greylock Works and Eagle Mill's redevelopment efforts. The team worked with Lee and Hancock on Hazard Mitigation plans and improved energy efficiency in municipal buildings. Finally, stormwater management was supported in numerous communities through the Western Mass Unpaved Road Project.

Public Health focused on providing inspectional services in 11 and public health nursing services in 18 municipalities through the Berkshire Public Health Alliance; serving as a hub to provide standardized training to 50 local health departments in Hampden and Berkshire Counties; supporting efforts to reduce overdose and related harm from opioid and stimulant use through the Berkshire Overdose and Addiction Prevention Collaborative, minimizing the misuse of substances among youth and young adults; continuing Public Health Emergency Preparedness activities; and promoting community health by implementing the Community Health Improvement Plan.

Regional service initiatives continued, including the online burn-permitting, online Building Inspection and Board of Health permitting, and the Berkshire Group Purchasing programs. BRPC's Group Purchasing is used by 26 municipalities to buy \$8 million in 19 categories of goods and services.

The Transportation team supported the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), including the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) process. Team members completed a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan for Berkshire County and coordinated with Lenox and Stockbridge to examine bicycle and pedestrian trails around Tanglewood. A micro-transit feasibility study was also prepared.

Our budget increased over FY24 by some \$1.7 million to \$8.6 million. We ended the year with a solid surplus. We have continued to put funds into the Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB) Trust. The Administrative staff successfully managed nearly 170 different contracts. To help support this growing body of complex work, the agency transitioned to an all-online platform with Microsoft SharePoint and Sage Intacct accounting software.

The agency is in strong condition going into FY 2026. This is a tribute to the BRPC employees, a group of dedicated, committed professionals who have performed very well, especially considering the uncertain federal government climate, and also to the support we receive from our municipalities, partnering organizations, state agencies, and elected officials.



Thomas Matuszko, Executive Director

1966

1968

1970

1972

1974

1978

1982

1986

1990

1996

2000

2010

2020

2026

Our Origin

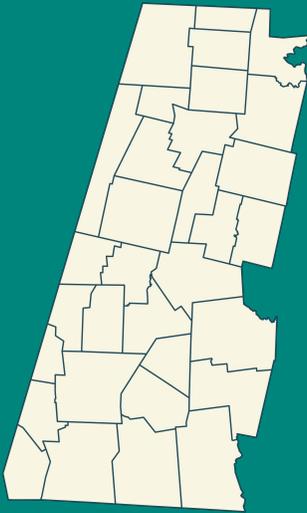
BRPC was organized in 1966 by the votes of ten cities and towns in Berkshire County.

On May 9, 1966, the Commonwealth approved the ten-member region and designated its area of jurisdiction as the 32 municipalities that comprise Berkshire County. Since then, all 32 municipalities have voted to join the Commission as members.

The powers and duties of the Commission are set forth in [Chapter 40B](#) of the General Laws of Massachusetts. This law, adopted originally in 1955, has been strengthened by subsequent actions of the legislature. Chapter 40B is often referred to as “The Regional Planning Law.”

In 2026, BRPC will celebrate its 60th Anniversary.

Berkshire County's cities and towns are our focus and passion.



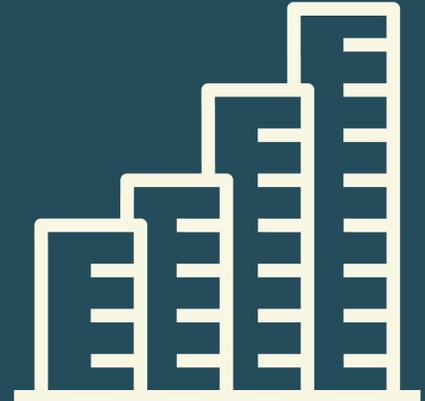
BRPC is recognized as the primary:

- Source of trusted, reliable Berkshire County data and analysis.
- Provider of technical assistance to Berkshire municipalities and organizations.
- Convener of interests seeking to seize opportunities for and confront challenges to the Berkshires.
- Advocate on behalf of the collective interests of Berkshire County.



Our Mission

We provide leadership and assistance to Berkshire County's municipalities, organizations, and citizens in achieving County-wide inter-relationships, prosperity, opportunities, quality of life, strength, and vibrancy.



Our Vision

As an indispensable source of support and leadership to municipalities, organizations, and citizens, we effect positive change through our collaborative efforts to achieve Sustainable Berkshires principles and a high quality of life for County residents, including greater economic growth, sustainable resource management, environmental, social and economic equity, and effective governmental and educational services.



**We've done a lot
in the past year..
and we couldn't
do it without you!!**

Our Commission Delegates and Alternates
serve a vital role in the success of BRPC.

Many serve on our standing and special
committees, alongside municipal staff,
volunteers, and partners from non-profit
organizations. We deeply appreciate the
time and talents of this dedicated group.

FY25 Delegates and Alternates

Adams

Delegate - Michelle Picard
Alternate - John Duval

Alford

Delegate - Alexandra Glover
Alternate - *vacant*

Becket

Delegate - Robert Ronzio
Alternate - Diana Mott

Cheshire

Delegate - Peter Traub
Alternate - *vacant*

Clarksburg

Delegate - *vacant*
Alternate - *vacant*

Dalton

Delegate - Robert Collins
Alternate - Daniel Esko

Egremont

Delegate - Mary McGurn
Alternate - Stephen Lyle

Florida

Delegate - Cynthia Bosley
Alternate - *vacant*

Great Barrington

Delegate - Pedro Pachano
Alternate - Malcolm Fick

Hancock

Delegate - Christie Derby
Alternate - David Boyer

Hinsdale

Delegate - Tony Zaniboni
Alternate - Richard Roussin

Lanesborough

Delegate - Leanne Yinger
Alternate - Mark Siegars

Lee

Delegate - Buck Donovan
Alternate - Sean Regnier

Lenox

Delegate - Mark Smith
Alternate - Pamela Kueber

Monterey

Delegate - Laura Mensi
Alternate - *vacant*

Mount Washington

Delegate - Keith Torrico
Alternate - *vacant*

New Ashford

Delegate - Mark Phelps
Alternate - *vacant*

New Marlborough

Delegate - Jonathan James
Alternate - *vacant*

North Adams

Delegate - Kyle Hanlon
Alternate - *vacant*

Otis

Delegate - Mark Anthony
Alternate - *vacant*

Peru

Delegate - Samuel Haupt
Alternate - *vacant*

Pittsfield

Delegate - Sheila Irvin
Alternate - Justine Dodds

Richmond

Delegate - Peter Lopez
Alternate - *vacant*

Sandisfield

Delegate - Barbara Cormier
Alternate - *vacant*

Savoy

Delegate - *vacant*
Alternate - *vacant*

Sheffield

Delegate - Sari Hoy
Alternate - Lee Buttala

Stockbridge

Delegate - Nancy Socha
Alternate - Christine Rasmussen

Tyringham

Delegate - Amanda Hamilton
Alternate - *vacant*

Washington

Delegate - Don Gagnon
Alternate - Rose Borgnis

West Stockbridge

Delegate - Chris Tonini
Alternate - Kathleen Keresey

Williamstown

Delegate - Samantha Page
Alternate - Roger Bolton

Windsor

Delegate - Doug McNally
Alternate - Ben Bederson

FY25 Committees

Executive Committee

Staff: Thomas Matuszko, Executive Director
Malcolm Fick, Chair (Great Barrington)
John Duval, Vice Chair (Adams)
Buck Donovan, Treasurer & Finance Committee Chair (Lee)
Sheila Irvin, Clerk, Brownfields Committee Chair (Pittsfield)
Christine Rasmussen, Regional Issues Committee Chair (Stockbridge)
Doug McNally, Commission Development Committee Chair (Windsor)
Roger Bolton, Environmental Review Committee Chair (Williamstown)
Kyle Hanlon, At-Large (North Adams)
Sam Haupt, At-Large (Peru)

Commission Development Committee

Staff: Laura Brennan, Assistant Director and Economic Development Program Manager
Doug McNally Chair, BRPC Delegate, (Windsor)
Buck Donovan, BRPC Delegate (Lee)
Kyle Hanlon, BRPC Delegate (North Adams)
Pedro Pachano, BRPC Delegate (Great Barrington)
Malcolm Fick, BRPC Chair, Alternate (Great Barrington) (Ex-Officio, non-voting)

Environmental Review Committee

Staff: Melissa Provencher, Program Manager
Edward Holub (Dalton)
Eleanor Tillinghast (Mt. Washington) (Non-Commission member)
Kyle Hanlon, BRPC Delegate (North Adams)
Mark Smith, BRPC Delegate (Lenox)
Roger Bolton, Chair, BRPC Alternate (Williamstown)
Malcolm Fick, BRPC Chair, Alternate (Great Barrington) (Ex-Officio, non-voting)

Finance Committee

Staff: Marianne Sniezek, Office Manager
Buck Donovan, Treasurer & Finance Committee Chair, BRPC Delegate (Lee)
John Duval, BRPC Alternate (Adams)
Kyle Hanlon, BRPC Delegate (North Adams)
Sam Haupt, BRPC Delegate (Peru)
Sheila Irvin, BRPC Delegate (Pittsfield)
Malcolm Fick, BRPC Chair, Alternate (Great Barrington) (Ex-Officio, non-voting)

Regional Issues Committee

Staff: CJ Hoss, Community Planning Program Manager
Christine Rasmussen, Chair, BRPC Alternate (Stockbridge)
Andrew Groff (Williamstown) (Non-Commission member)
Eleanor Tillinghast (Mt Washington) (Non-Commission member)
Kent Lew (Washington) (Non-Commission member)
Kyle Hanlon, BRPC Delegate (North Adams)
Sheila Irvin, BRPC Delegate (Pittsfield)
Malcolm Fick, BRPC Chair, Alternate (Great Barrington) (Ex-Officio, non-voting)

FY25 Committees, continued

Berkshire Brownfields Committee

Staff: Melissa Provencher, Program Manager

Voting Members

Sheila Irvin, Chair, BRPC Delegate (Pittsfield)

Ben Lamb or Kevin Pink, 1Berkshire

Chris Rembold, (Great Barrington)

Coby Tarjick, (Adams)

Jim Byrne, EPA

Mike Nuvallie, (North Adams)

Nate Joyner, (Pittsfield)

Janko Tomasic, (Dalton)

Brooke Healy, (Lee)

Thomas Matuszko, BRPC

Non-voting Members

Caprice Shaw, MA DEP

Rich Griffin, MassDevelopment

Malcolm Fick, BRPC Chair, Alternate (Great Barrington) (Ex-Officio, non-voting)

Berkshire Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee

Staff: Laura Brennan, Assistant Director, and Economic Development Program Manager

Kyle Hanlon, Chair, BRPC Delegate (North Adams)

Chris Rembold, Vice Chair, Town Planner (Gt Barrington)

AJ Enchill, Berkshire Black Economic Council; Alternate Tova Clark Brown

Ben Lamb, 1Berkshire; Alternate Kevin Pink

Ben Sosne, BIC, Berkshire Innovation Center

Breana Malloy, MassHire Berkshire Workforce Board; Alternate Heather Boulger

Ian Rasch, Alander Construction

Robert DelMastro, Mass Small Business Develop Center; Alternate Jayne Bellora

Laurie Mick, Pittsfield Economic Revitalization Corporation (PERC)

Lesley Herzberg, Berkshire County Historical Society

Linda Clairmont, Berkshire Community College; Alternate Vacant

Michael Coakley, Business Development Manager (Pittsfield); Alternate Justine Dodds

Mike Nuvallie (North Adams)

Roger Bolton, BRPC Alternate (Williamstown)

Shannon Smith, Berkshire Agricultural Ventures; Alternate Rebecca Busansky

Thomas Matuszko, BRPC

Malcolm Fick, BRPC Chair, Alternate (Great Barrington) (Ex-Officio, non-voting)

Commission Representatives to Related Groups:

Westfield River Wild and Scenic Advisory Committee: Doug McNally, BRPC Delegate (Windsor)

Woodlands Partnership of Northwest Massachusetts: Chris Cozzaglio (Windsor)

Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization: Malcolm Fick, BRPC Chair & Alternate (Great Barrington);

Alternate: Sam Haupt, BRPC Delegate (Peru)

Our Work in FY255

Learn more about the impact of BRPC's wide range of programs



FY25 Impact in Numbers



\$8.6M

Revenue

32

Communities
Actively Served

168

Contracts

\$2.6M

Brownfields
Loan Activity

50

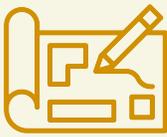
Full- and Part-
Time Staff

Our Programs



Community Development & Housing

Supporting regional housing solutions through grant administration, housing production plans, and local capacity development.



Community Planning

Assisting with zoning bylaws, comprehensive and open space and recreation plans, and other land use projects.



Data & Information Services

Providing Geographic Information System (GIS) services, data analysis, and maintaining Berkshire Benchmarks.



Economic Development

Coordinating with partners to pursue economic development projects that encourage investment in our region.



Emergency Preparedness Planning

Guiding multi-agency coordination for improved regional resiliency in public health and the natural environment.



Environmental & Energy Planning

Supporting efforts that strengthen and protect the natural and built environment and promote climate resiliency.



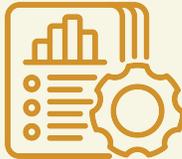
Public Health

Protecting community health through education, prevention, planning, and coordinated municipal public health services.



Transportation Planning

Conducting regional studies and assisting with local traffic, bicycle & pedestrian, rail, transit, and safety improvements.



Administration

Providing financial management for BPRC programs and supporting the Commission's policy body.

BRPC also provides...

General Services and Operations

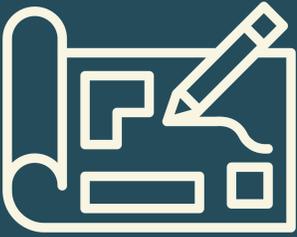
Assessments from our Communities allowed BPRC to provide services not covered by Federal, State, Local, or funds from private or public non-profits. These services include Educational Training, Environmental Reviews, Grant Writing, Mapping Services, and Technical Assistance.

Regional Initiatives

Participating in regional initiatives on a wide range of topics & operating a Group Purchasing Program.

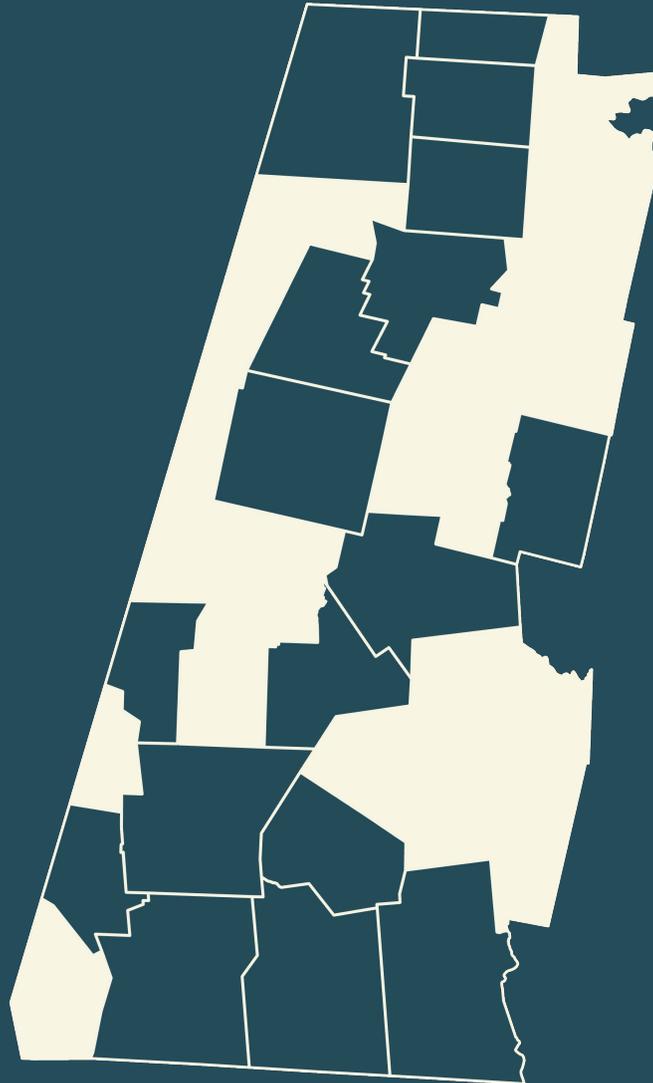
Berkshires Tomorrow, Inc.

In Fy25, our nonprofit received funding for: ArtWeek Berkshires, Berkshire Benchmarks, Berkshire Funding Focus, Berkshires Outside website enhancements, Mass Office of Outdoor Recreation (MOOR) consultation, Medical Reserve Corps coordination, Vaccine Clinics in Berkshire County, and consulting services related to the Federal Fund Accountability and Transparency Act - Subaward Reporting System.



Community Planning

Localized projects included Comprehensive Planning, Open Space and Recreation Plans, and zoning support.



Regional projects included beginning work on updating "Sustainable Berkshires", a regional comprehensive plan originally published in 2014.

Program Manager - CJ Hoss

In FY2025, the Community Planning Program provided a range of services throughout the region. These included more traditional land use-focused work such as comprehensive plan development and zoning, and non-traditional efforts, such as support for the Berkshire Mobile Farmers Market.

BRPC assisted Lanesborough with its first-ever **Comprehensive Plan**, and kicked off a new Master Plan in Clarksburg. Staff worked with several communities to complete Open Space and Recreation Plans (OSRPs), including Cheshire, Lee, Monterey, New Marlborough, and North Adams. OSRP projects began in Adams, Clarksburg, Great Barrington, Lanesborough, and Pittsfield, with anticipated completion in FY26.

On the housing front, we provided support for **assessing community housing needs** in Monterey, New Marlborough, and West Stockbridge. A **Housing Production Plan** was completed in Egremont, and one is underway in West Stockbridge.

Several communities received support to develop **ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plans**. These projects helped identify accessibility barriers in Adams, Great Barrington, New Marlborough, North Adams, Pittsfield, and Williamstown.

BRPC acted as grant manager and fiduciary for a three-year USDA grant that allows Berkshire Grown, Berkshire Bounty, Southern Berkshire Rural Health Network, and Community Health Programs (CHP) to provide a **mobile farmer's market** to populations that are either unable to get to a farmer's market or who lack the resources to purchase fresh produce and other local food. A sliding scale made the market affordable for all, and its mobility made it accessible to those who cannot travel far.

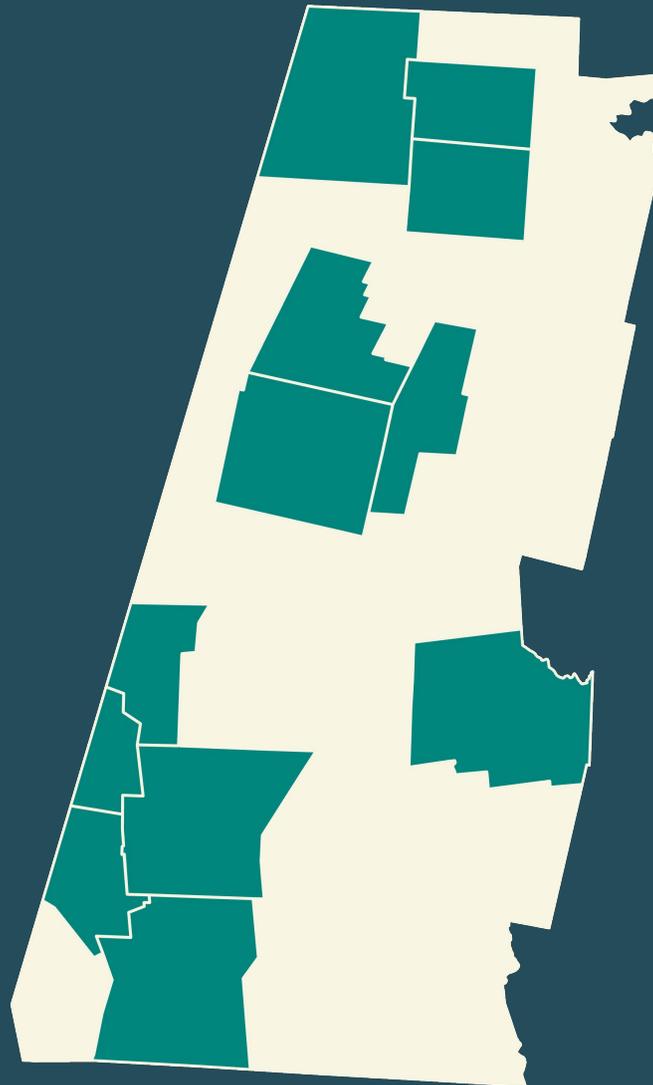
District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) continues to allow BRPC to provide technical assistance to communities. In FY25, this focused on planning for housing, developing zoning amendments, and facilitating the completion of various municipal planning projects. Activities resulted in measurable changes in the municipalities, whether in law, regulation, program management, or practice. DLTA also allowed staff to support several regional efforts in economic development, historical commission support, green communities assistance, and planning board training.

Additional DLTA "augmentation" funding from the state allowed Regional Planning Agencies to assist communities in identifying funding opportunities and preparing grant applications. Staff supported communities on a wide range of state and federal grant opportunities in multiple areas, including Community Planning, Community Development, Economic Development, and Environmental and Energy.



Community Development & Housing

Localized projects included ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plans, ADA Barrier Removals, CDBG Housing Rehabilitation, and Housing Planning support.



Regional projects included administration of the Home Modification Loan Program (HMLP) and initial work on a Regional Housing Trust Feasibility study.

Program Manager - CJ Hoss

In FY25, Community Development focused on three primary areas: Administration of Community Development Block Grant Programs, management of the Home Modification Loan Program, and implementation of accessibility projects.

BRPC continued to implement the FY22/23 Sheffield **CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Program**. This program has utilized over \$807,000 to rehabilitate 14 low- to moderate-income households. Projects have included lead mitigation, new roofs, electrical repairs, septic repairs, and ensuring that all homes are energy efficient and compliant with the Massachusetts Sanitary Code and the Building Code.

At the same time, BRPC launched the FY24 Becket-Dalton CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Program, utilizing over \$809,000 to rehabilitate 11 low- to moderate-income households. The projects are similar to those completed in Sheffield.

In the spring, staff submitted CBDG applications for two Housing Rehabilitation Programs. The first, on behalf of Hinsdale and Florida, is for \$950,000 with a goal of 11 rehabilitated low- to moderate-income homes. The second, on behalf of New Marlborough, Otis, and Mount Washington, is for \$1.25 million with a goal of 15 rehabilitated low- to moderate-income homes. These awards should be announced in the fall of FY26.

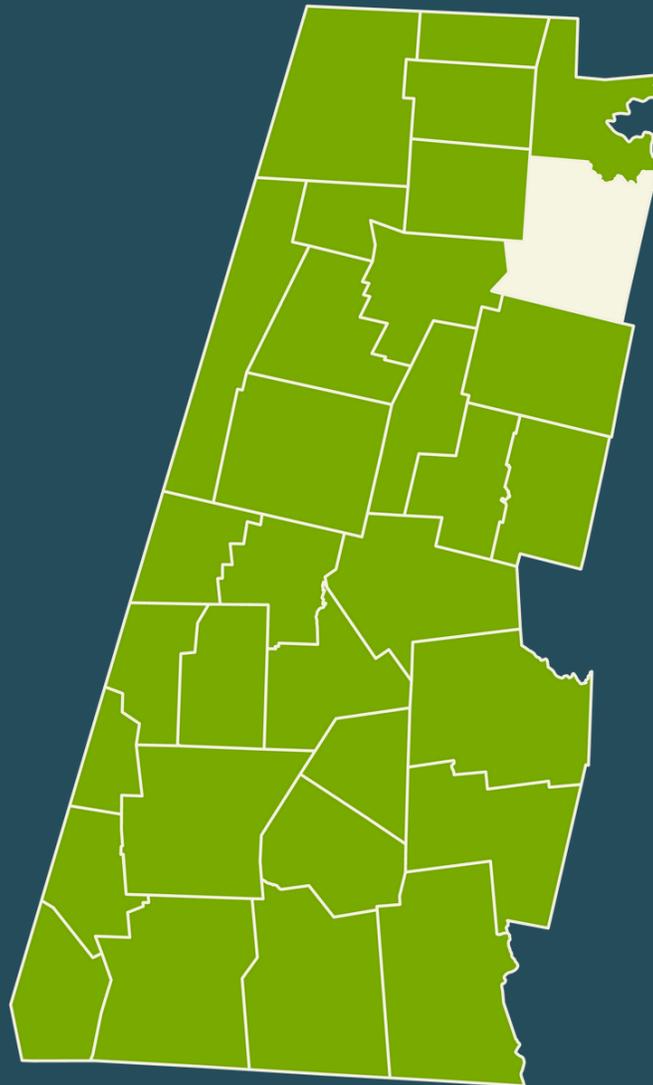
Since FY23, BRPC has served as the MA **Home Modification Loan Program (HMLP)** provider for Berkshire County. HMLP is a state-funded, no-interest loan program to provide modifications for those in need of accessibility improvements to their homes. FY25 was the best year yet, with a total of nine HMLP loans closed. These ranged from \$4,555 all the way to the limit of \$50,000. Project components included items such as stair lifts, bathroom modifications, driveway improvements, fencing, ramps, and one accessory dwelling unit (ADU). All these projects allow aging individuals and individuals with disabilities to remain in their homes and communities of choice.

In FY24, BRPC staff submitted a successful **ADA Implementation Project** to the MA Office of Disability's Municipal Grant Program on behalf of Lanesborough. The scope included the installation of automatic door openers on the entry door off the ramp on the south side of Town Hall and the installation of drain insulation on bathroom sinks, which were otherwise compliant. Both projects required very little modification to existing facilities. Projects like this make an outsized impact on access to public facilities, and are especially beneficial to the aging population in many Berkshire County towns.



Data & Information Services

Localized projects included Group Purchasing, Burn Permits, Slum & Blight analysis, and Outsource GIS support.



Regional projects included hosting and maintaining Berkshire Benchmarks, and Phase II of the Berkshires Outside website.

Program Manager - Mark Maloy

The region's data clearinghouse, **Berkshire Benchmarks**, continues to provide data for the region on www.BerkshireBenchmarks.org. Highlights this year include the release of the 2025 State of the County Update, which reports on changes to the indicators seen over the last year. BRPC also provided technical services to multiple communities on demographic data.

BRPC has worked with other Regional Planning Agencies (RPAs) throughout the state on several **statewide GIS initiatives** this past year, including updating the trail network and highlighting flood-prone areas. These initiatives have helped strengthen the relationship between RPAs and shown that we can work collaboratively. In FY25, staff developed a **Field Guide for fellow RPAs developing outdoor recreation asset databases** in preparation for a statewide recreation website, modeled after BRPC's own www.BerkshiresOutside.org.

The **Group Purchasing Program** supported 26 cities and towns in Berkshire County. The program facilitates the joint procurement of 19 categories of highway products and services, helping towns with competitive pricing.

The program just completed its second year using Open Gov, an online bidding service. This software program offers a more streamlined web-based bidding process for vendor registration, online bid submissions, and contract management. In FY25, participating communities purchased over \$8 million in goods and services through the group purchasing program.

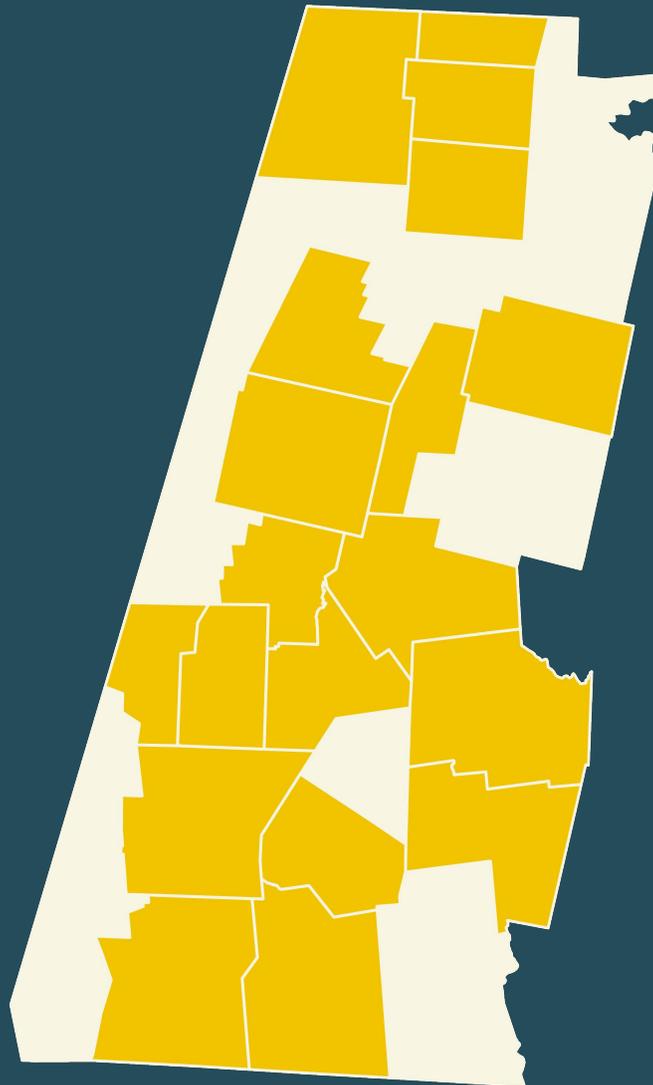
BRPC has also assisted communities in procuring road-related construction activities, such as road paving. This assistance included preparing bid packages, prequalification, advertising, and public bidding.

BRPC has made significant progress in **modernizing its computer infrastructure** over the last year. This involved moving completely to the cloud and away from physical servers. Additional investments included strengthening our computer defenses.



Economic Development

Localized projects included Digital Equity Planning and Implementation, Shared Economic Planning Services, and arts and cultural support.



Regional projects included oversight of the Berkshire Economic Development District, maintaining the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), and hosting Berkshire Funding Focus.

Program Manager - Laura Brennan

In FY25, the Economic Development Planning team produced the second Performance Progress Report for the region's **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)**, which spans 2023 through 2025. BRPC provides oversight for the **Berkshire Economic Development District (EDD)** since receiving federal designation in 2022, and operated regional economic development services through a Partnership Planning grant for the first year in FY25. Activities included supporting several identified Priority Projects through technical assistance, as well as monitoring and tracking a wide range of economic data and regional goals.

Economic Development Planning staff also directly supported several communities through **Shared Economic Development Planning** arrangements. In FY25, these included the towns of Adams, Great Barrington, and Lanesborough. Services range from marketing and communications initiatives, such as the management of websites, e-newsletters, and social media accounts, to grant writing to support of local staff, boards, and committees.

FY25 saw the completion of the first-ever **Cultural Plan for the City of Pittsfield**, supported by BRPC staff through an NEA Our Town grant to BRPC's non-profit arm, Berkshires Tomorrow, Inc. Also within the arts and cultural realm, BRPC served as the administrative backbone for the **5th Annual ArtWeek Berkshires festival**, a county-wide, crowd-sourced celebration of all things creative co-sponsored by the five state-designated Cultural Districts of Berkshire County and promoted with strong support from 1Berkshire and several media partners.

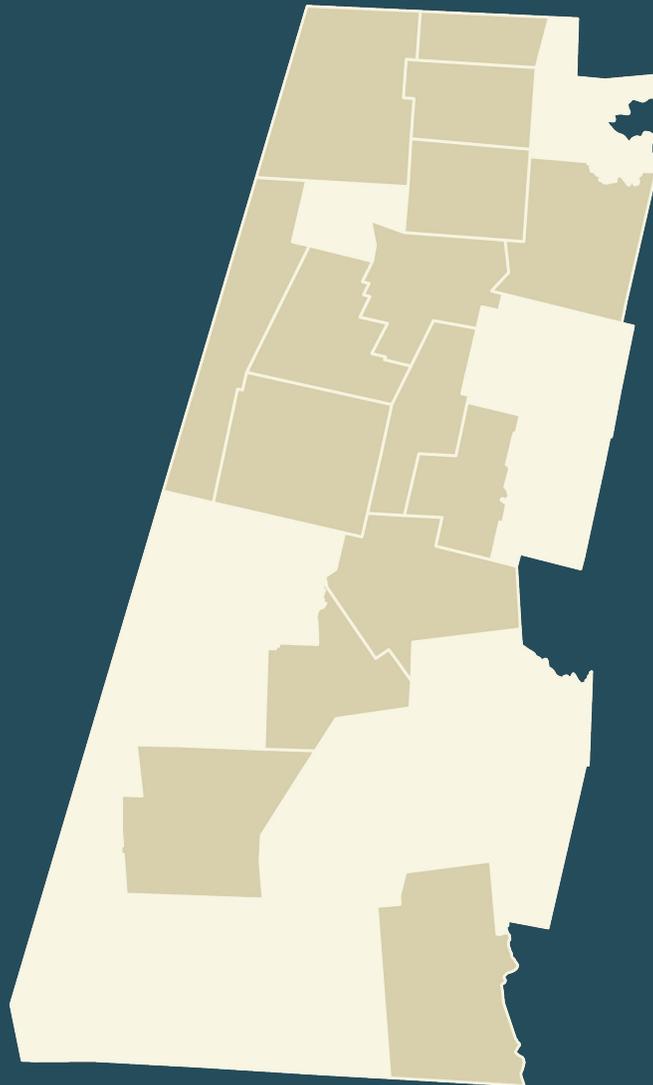
Efforts to support **Digital Equity Planning and Implementation** continued for BRPC's Economic Development staff during FY25. Digital Equity Plans were completed for Becket, Dalton, Clarksburg, Great Barrington, Lee, Lenox, Monterey, New Marlborough, Otis, Sheffield, Stockbridge, Washington, West Stockbridge, and Windsor. Implementation began in Dalton and Lanesborough, with several more slated for FY26.

Economic staff again teamed up with Data & Information Services to make significant improvements to the format and functionality of the **Berkshires Outside website**, providing additional information about accessibility features and expanding the number of activity types from 12 to 15 in FY25.



Environmental & Energy

Localized projects included Brownfields assessment and cleanup, MVP planning and action grants, culvert assessments, and Green Communities support.



Regional projects included the operation of the Berkshire Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund (RLF).

Program Manager - Melissa Provencher

This year, the Energy and Environmental team built on strong foundations while branching into new directions. Our work remained rooted in partnerships, expanded through creative community engagement, and strengthened by tools and plans that help municipalities meet the realities of a changing climate.

Partnerships provided stability and reach for this work. Long-standing collaborators such as Habitat for Humanity, Berkshire Environmental Action Team, and West Side Legends continued to anchor climate planning in community life and supported engaging communities with clean energy programming. New partnerships broadened our approach, from the Girl Scouts to Berkshire Botanical Garden and Westfield Wild and Scenic, linking ecological restoration with education and stewardship. At the regional scale, PVPC and FRCOG joined us on the **Western Massachusetts Unpaved Roads Project**, while the Berkshire Clean, Cold, and Connected partnership conservation organizations, Housatonic Watershed Association, The Nature Conservancy, Trout Unlimited, Hoosic River Watershed Association, and Farmington River Watershed Association advanced stream and wetland restoration.

Community engagement shaped every step. We reached record levels of participation in municipalities across the Berkshires, using dinners, workshops, and even a Halloween bouncy house to bring people into the conversation. We experimented with interactive formats, from gamified flood planning to hands-on demonstrations, creating spaces where residents could align their priorities with municipal goals. Our **countywide air quality project** expanded this reach, partnering with organizations as varied as libraries, housing authorities, and Boards of Health in eleven municipalities to monitor conditions, raise awareness, and prepare for smoke and pollution events.

Our team also delivered practical tools that municipalities can use immediately. **Hazard Mitigation Plans** for Hancock and Lee integrate capacity, funding strategies, and long-term capital priorities. The Western Massachusetts Unpaved Roads Project produced maps, assessments, and an Unpaved Roads Stormwater Management Toolkit that DPWs can apply to identify appropriate best management practices that will reduce long-term maintenance costs and protect water quality. These resources strengthen municipal planning while addressing pressing climate risks.

We also connected people to their landscapes. **Site visits, native plant education, and floodplain activities** gave residents a deeper sense of how water moves through their towns. In North Adams and Clarksburg, flood risk planning is tied to new green space and public access to the Hoosic River. In Washington, native plantings and watershed education helped residents understand both the risks and the opportunities of living alongside water. These experiences made resiliency tangible.

At the same time, the team continued steady work to reduce flood risk and support adaptation. From supporting **culvert replacement projects** to **compliance with the federal stormwater regulations**, these efforts lower vulnerability, restore natural systems, and improve infrastructure reliability.

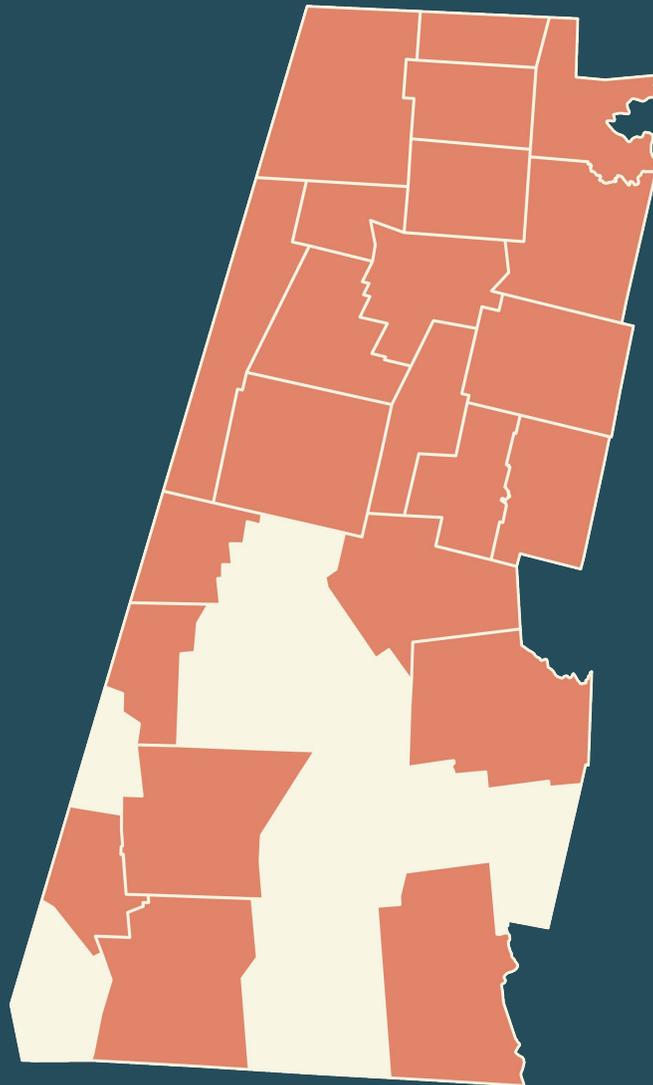
Our team has supported communities in **improving the energy efficiency of municipal buildings**, saving money and making public spaces more comfortable and usable. We reduced the cost and impact of regular operations by improving building envelopes, replacing carbon-based heating systems, and helping communities design a more environmentally sustainable future.

Our team continues to support our communities by helping residents access the tools they need to ensure they can benefit from our team's planning work. In Pittsfield, this is done through partnerships with West Side Legends, Habitat for Humanity, and Berkshire Community Action Council. We have worked to ensure residents are not burdened by increasing energy costs, **supporting access to Mass Save** through education and outreach, and partnering to provide assistance in understanding cost-saving programs to offset rising utility prices.



Public Health

Localized projects included BPHA inspectional services and public health nursing, Gray to Green, and opioid abatement support.



Regional projects included Public Health Emergency Preparedness, the Berkshire Medical Reserve Corps, the Berkshire Overdose and Addiction Prevention Collaborative (BOAPC), and 413 CARES.

Program Manager - Laura Kittross

In FY25, BRPC's Public Health Program continued several initiatives, including the Berkshire Public Health Alliance, the Berkshire-Hampden Training Hub, Berkshire Overdose Prevention Collaborative (BOAPC), Youth Prevention work with Spark and the Berkshire Early Childhood Community Circle (BEC3), Gray to Green, Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP), the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), and several others. Overall, the Public Health Program had a budget of over \$3 million and a staff of 22 full and part-time employees.

The **Berkshire Public Health Alliance** was formed in 2011 when 21 municipalities signed an Intermunicipal Agreement and BRPC that allowed them to share public health services, including inspectional services and public health nursing. Currently, there are 23 member municipalities, of which 18 receive **public health nursing services** (as does one non-member municipality) and 11 receive **comprehensive environmental health and inspectional services**. In addition to municipal revenue for contracted services, the Alliance receives significant funding from the Department of Public Health (DPH) in Public Health Excellence (PHE) funds. PHE funds were made available following the passage of SAPHE 1.0 by the state legislature, which created a grant program to encourage public health cross-jurisdictional sharing. Over the past five years, 56 grantees, encompassing 324 municipalities, have been awarded over \$26 million to support more than 270 local public health workers. The Alliance is one of the largest and oldest of these Shared Services Arrangements, and PHE funding has allowed the Alliance to significantly expand its services. In addition, the Alliance was awarded a grant from the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) for the Federal Drug Administration that allowed the implementation and support of an **online permitting program** and the strengthening of food protection/food safety in Alliance municipalities. In FY25, the Alliance had three part-time public health nurses (as well as on-call, as-needed nurses), four inspectors, and a half-time shared services coordinator.

The **Berkshire-Hampden Training Hub** is one of ten regional training hubs across Massachusetts providing standardized training to local health departments and personnel. The Training Hub provides hands-on, applied, standardized training to inspectors and other health department personnel in 50 municipalities in Berkshire and Hampden Counties who have already completed both independent training and intensive classroom training. The Berkshire-Hampden Hub also provides individual and group mentoring, as well as other training opportunities.

In FY25, the **Berkshire Overdose and Addiction Prevention Collaborative (BOAPC)** continued to bring together cross-sector partners to reduce overdose and related harms from opioid and stimulant use.

While 2024 saw a 13% reduction in fatal overdoses in the county, it falls far short of the 38% decline experienced statewide; Berkshire County again had the highest ratio of fatal overdoses in the state. To address this, using a Department of Justice grant, BOAPC's Thrive team pairs EMS and Behavioral Health Navigators from The Brien Center to provide preventive and post-overdose outreach. Community Outreach Specialists further outreach to higher-risk communities to raise awareness and connect people with services. BOAPC is also working with several municipalities to put their Opioid Settlement Funds to good use, including establishing an **Opioid Abatement Collaborative (OAC)** among eight in Northern Berkshire. A RHAPSODI grant from the National Organization of City and County Officials helped increase outreach to those who have been incarcerated, particularly in helping to connect them to primary care services. BOAPC continues to do all we can to bolster the continuum of care, reduce stigma, and improve connections to harm reduction, treatment, and recovery supports.

BRPC holds two DPH pass-through grants related to youth prevention: **MassCall3 (SPARK Coalition)**, which focuses on preventing and minimizing the misuse of substances, particularly among high-school-aged youth, and the Prevention in Early Childhood (PEC) grant (**Berkshire Early Childhood Community Circle or BE3C**), which focuses on building resilience and mental health promotion among younger children.

SPARK's Youth Advisory Boards (YABs) at Taconic and Pittsfield High Schools have helped spearhead new initiatives to increase adolescent connections to mental health supports while building resilience skills, along with taking steps to further reduce youth vaping. BE3C's Girls Unity Squad and Bright Futures Club build resilience skills for children in higher-risk environments, while the Nurturing Parents Program with 18 Degrees supports parents in early recovery.

FY25 also saw the launch of the **"Cheer Without the Cheers" campaign** to reduce adult alcohol misuse, which young people report has a stronger influence on their decisions to consume alcohol than "peer pressure". Cheer Without the Cheers centers on bolstering social connections, particularly among families, while promoting safer consumption strategies and "No/Lo" alternatives to alcohol.

BRPC also collaborates with the Berkshire Youth Development Project and its partners, including implementing the Prevention Needs Assessments (PNA) every two years throughout the county.

BRPC continued to act as the fiscal host for the **Berkshire Public Health Preparedness Coalition (Berkshire County Boards of Health Association)** in FY25 and to provide staff to meet the Public Health Emergency Preparedness funding

deliverables. BRPC also administered both the **Franklin and Berkshire Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)**. A Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council project allowed BRPC to develop a tabletop exercise in the form of a card game that can be played by any group wanting to be more prepared.

BRPC continued the **Gray to Green** project in Pittsfield and expanded into North Adams, using community engagement and feedback to identify climate resilience and community revitalization projects.

BRPC continued to act as the backbone agency for the **County Health Initiative (CHI)** and to work on implementing the **Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)**. BRPC also acted as the consultant under the Public Health Institute of Western MA for writing and managing data for the BHS Community Health Needs Assessment.

An Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity grant from DPH allowed the Public Health Program to continue to retain an epidemiologist on staff and to expand public health nursing and vaccination promotion activities. FY25 was the final year of the Rural Vaccine Equity grants, which allowed BRPC to make significant investments in food security, schools, after-school programming, heat assistance, and other social determinants of need in rural municipalities in central Berkshire County.

BRPC was involved in making sure www.413Cares.org accurately represents the resources available in Berkshire County and promoting its use throughout the county.

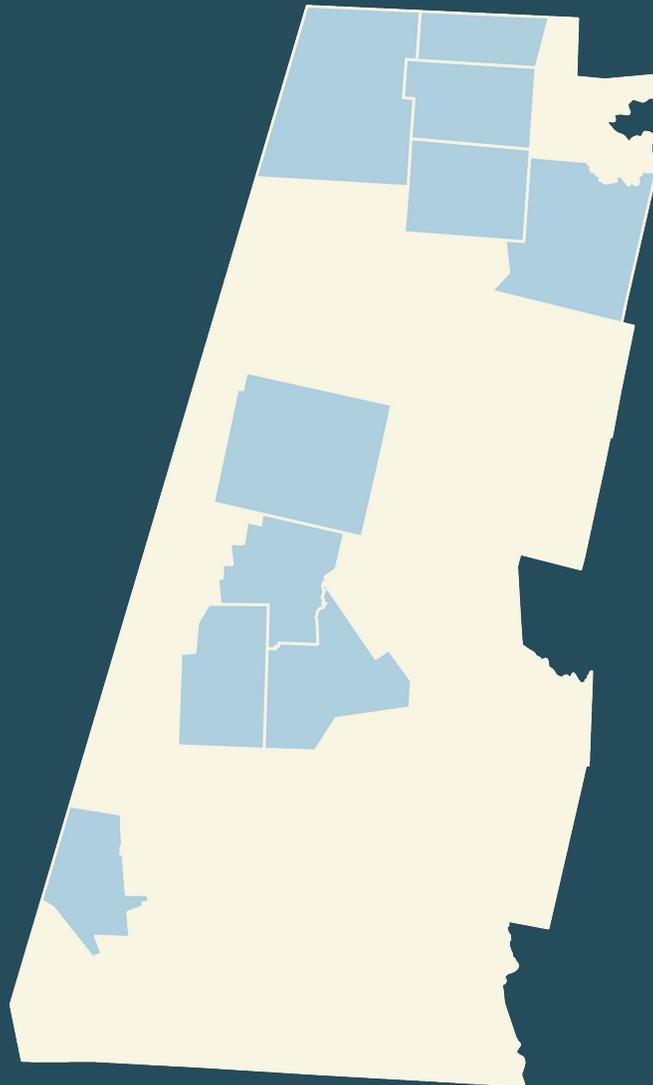
A UMASS Toxic Use Reduction Institute Grant allowed the creation of materials to help food establishments reduce their use of plastics. A FY26 continuation will allow for the creation of a municipal toolkit on plastic reduction and for limited technical assistance to interested municipalities.

BRPC staff regularly attended local, regional, and state meetings to represent the needs of Berkshire County including the Coalition for Local Public Health (an advisory board to DPH), the Western MA Public Health Association, the Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council, the Local/State Advisory Council, the three county Regional Emergency Preparedness Committees, the North County HEAL Coalition, Healthy Aging for All Workgroup, Berkshire Youth Development Project and associated prevention coalitions, NERHA Rural Learning Collaborative, and many more.



Transportation Planning

Localized projects included support on Complete Streets applications and plan development, pedestrian and corridor studies, and participation in the Route 2 Overpass Advisory Group.



Regional projects included a Micro-Transit Feasibility Study, a Vision Zero Traffic Study, and Regional Transportation Planning through the Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

Program Manager - Clete Kus

BRPC staff continued their involvement with statewide **passenger rail** efforts, including the West /East rail initiative, the Northern Tier Passenger Rail study and the Berkshire Flyer seasonal service. This year marks the fourth year of seasonal rail service for the Berkshire Flyer; it will run eleven weekends between June 20 and September 1. Staff were active in efforts to finalize the Northern Tier Study and continued collaborating with MassDOT Rail and Transit to further the West/East rail initiative. Funding needed for planning efforts integral to the Corridor ID program was recently announced.

BRPC maintains a **traffic count database** and undertakes annual traffic counts in Berkshire County towns and cities. In coordination with MassDOT, BRPC employs a consultant to perform traffic counts at identified locations. Traffic data includes Average Daily Traffic (ADT) by vehicle type and speed. This effort is funded through our **Federal Transportation Planning** grant.

BRPC staff have collaborated with and assisted BRTA for **fixed route, para-transit, and micro-transit operations**, as well as coordinating planning and implementation efforts. Staff have also assisted the South County Connector micro-transit service and the Berkshire Regional Coordination Council. We have recently updated the **Berkshire County Ride Guide**, a comprehensive list of Transportation Providers intended to help everyone get around Berkshire County and encourage the efficient use of existing transit resources.

Annually, BRPC staff prepares two federally required certification documents, the **Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)** and the **Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**. The TIP is a prioritized, financially constrained, multi-year program for implementing federally funded transportation improvement projects. In developing this document, staff educates and collaborates with municipalities regarding submitting projects for consideration, and provides technical assistance to communities in preparing MassDOT's online project initiation form.

Staff also prepared the UPWP for the region on behalf of the **Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization**. This document outlines all federally funded transportation planning activities for the upcoming federal fiscal year. Two new efforts for this coming year include a feasibility study for the Ashuwillticook Trail South and implementation of micro-transit within the region.

After securing funding from MassDOT, staff worked with a consultant, Four Square ITP, to prepare a Micro-transit feasibility study and implementation plan. Micro-transit is an app-based, on-demand shared-ride public transportation service that operates within designated zones. Similar to a ride-hailing app, it allows you to request rides within identified zones, providing convenient and affordable connections to areas you might

otherwise not be able to get to. This recently completed study effort included intensive community outreach and a public input survey. The consultant conducted the needs assessment analysis, worked on the implementation scenarios, and identified zones for service implementation. The study reports and materials are posted on the Microtransit study's website: www.brpc-fitp.hub.arcgis.com.

Work on the Safe Streets and Roads for All grant was concluded in early 2025. This effort resulted in the preparation of a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan, which is now available on our website. The Action Plan includes information on the development of a countywide High-Injury Network and a map of roadways with the greatest history and risks for injuries and fatalities. The Action Plan also ushered the launch of the Vision Zero initiative for Berkshire County, having a broad focus on reducing fatalities and serious injuries on our roads to zero within 15 years. The Vision Zero Working Group and quarterly newsletter are the first products of the initiative, with more to come. Staff also prepared and submitted a planning and implementation grant application, and, if successful, these funds will be used to further roadway safety efforts.

BRPC partnered with technical consultants at BETA Group to work with local leaders in the towns of Lenox and Stockbridge on a Pedestrian-Bicycle Planning Study focused on identifying corridors surrounding the Tanglewood campus for development of bicycle and pedestrian trails. This study will assist the community leaders with information needed to continue efforts ultimately leading to the construction of trails in this area.

Staff conducted their annual survey of pavement conditions across Berkshire County over the summer months. Approximately 675 miles of Berkshire County roads were driven and rated. Conditions were evaluated using the PASER rating system (Pavement and Asphalt Surface Evaluation Rating and logged via GPS into BRPC's Pavement Management and Evaluation system. The ratings will help determine an overall picture of conditions and trends, as well as a general estimate of the effort and cost required to maintain a state of good repair. BRPC is available to provide towns with pavement assessment services and develop asset management systems on a pay-for-service basis.

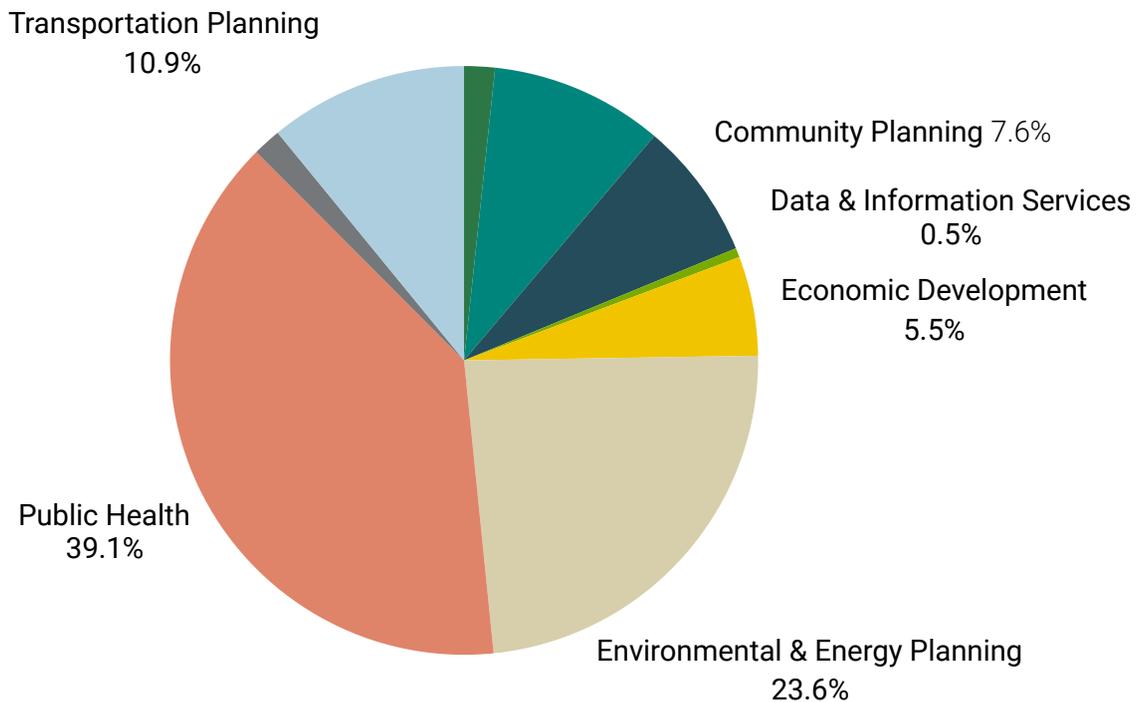
Administration & Finance

BRPC's funds supported a broad range of planning activities across program areas. These resources enabled the agency's professional staff to provide services and technical assistance throughout Berkshire County.

Income by Program

BRPC closed FY 2025 with total revenue of \$8.66 million, an increase of \$1.7 million over FY 2024. Throughout the year, the agency managed 168 contracts funded through a wide range of sources.

- General Fund ● Community Development & Housing ● Community Planning
- Data & Information Services ● Economic Development ● Environmental & Energy Planning
- Public Health ● Regional Initiatives & Services ● Transportation Planning

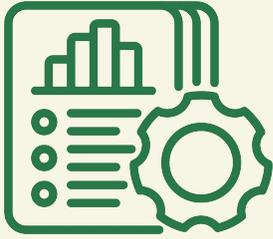


BRPC's FY25 revenue, **excluding loan funds managed**, totaled \$8,657,131. FY 2025 loan programs included:

Brownfields EPA Revolving Loan Program.....	\$2.67 million
Home Modification Loan Program (HMLP).....	\$235 thousand

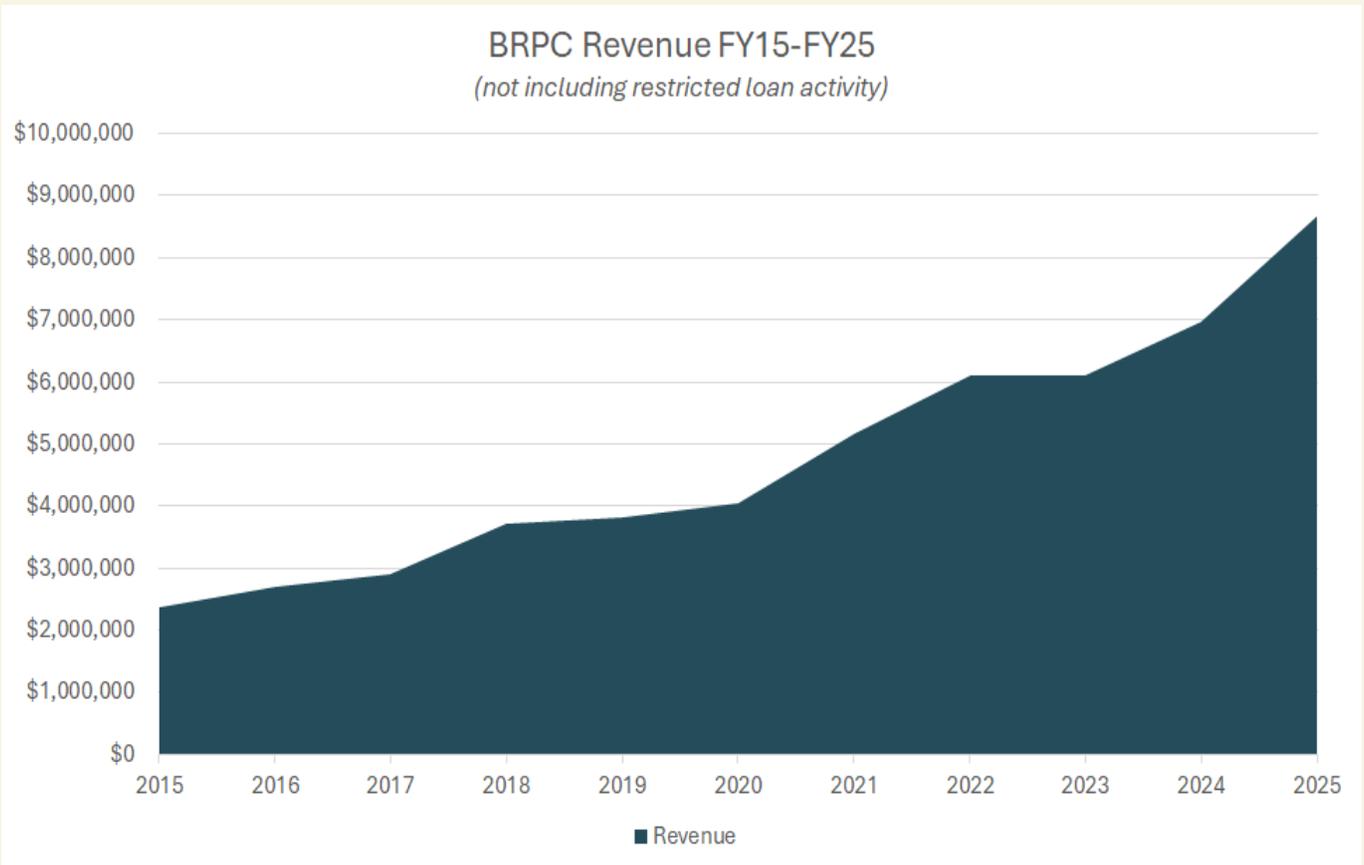
Independent Audit

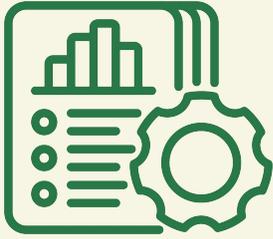
Our FY 2025 independent Audit has yet to be completed. Our unaudited statements show BRPC's expenditures to be within budget, with a surplus in the general operation fund.



Revenue FY - FY25

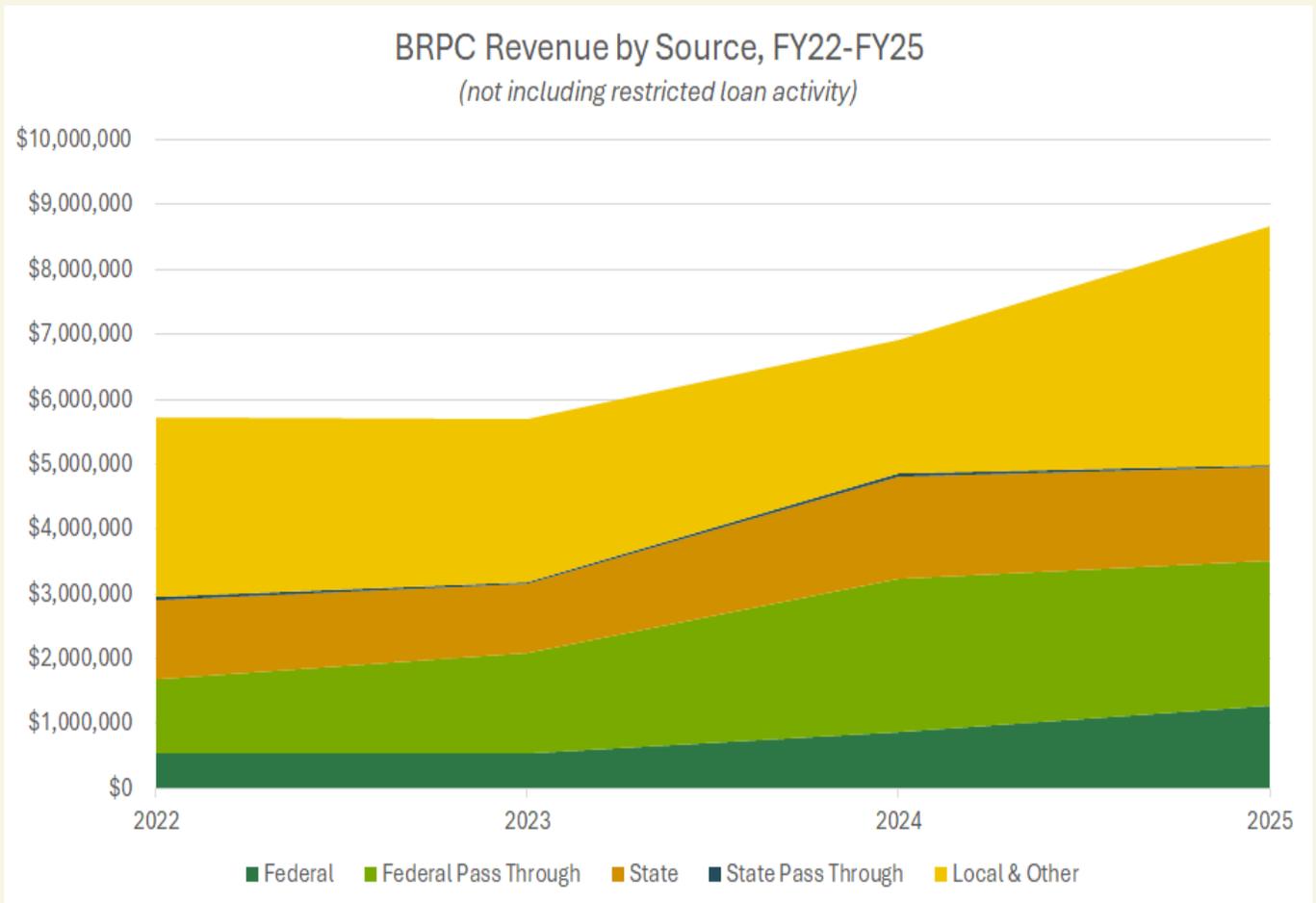
Since FY2015, our annual revenue (not including loans managed by BRPC programs) has grown by 269%.

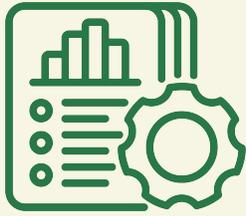




BRPC Revenue by Source FY22 - FY25

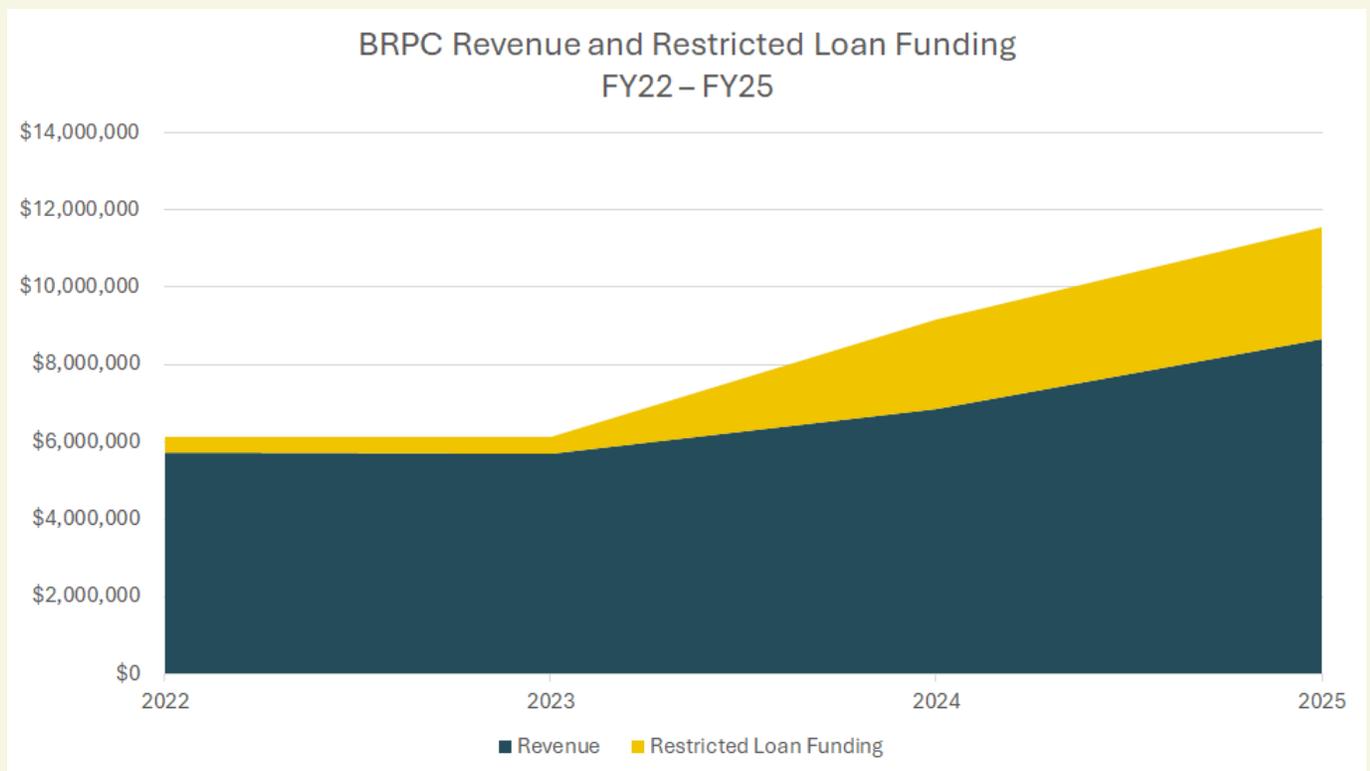
Revenue comes from a wide range of sources, with federal (and federal pass-through) comprising approximately 41%, and state (and state pass-through) comprising approximately 17% of FY25 revenue. The remaining 42% is a mix of local contracts (often utilizing state investments) and other sources, including community assessments (~1.3% of total).





Revenue and Restricted Loan Funding FY22 - FY25

In addition to revenue from grants and contracts, BRPC managed \$2.9 million in restricted loan funding* in FY25, the largest amount of loan activity to date.



**Restricted loan funding activity has been primarily focused on brownfields remediation and, in more recent years, has also included the Home Modification Loan Program (HMLP).*

Supplementary documents

[FY25 and previous years'
Financial Reports](#)

[Full Commission Meeting
Minutes](#)

[Executive Committee
Minutes](#)

Looking at FY 2026

BRPC's Finance and Executive Committees approved a projected budget for FY 2026 of \$6,997,230 in May 2025. The estimated budget is conservative due to the uncertainty of federal and federal pass-through grant funding. Since the beginning of FY 2026, several additional projects have been awarded that were not included at that time.



For further information, please reach out to us at info@berkshireplanning.org

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