

2026 GKEDC Community Grant

By GKEDC

SLATE BELT - The Green Knight Economic Development Corporation (GKEDC) has distributed over \$1,000,000 to more than sixty non-profit organizations in the Wind Gap, Pen Argyl, and Plainfield Township areas through their community grant program over the last twenty plus years and expect this total to reach over \$1,100,000 by the end of 2026.

Community grants are limited to a maximum of \$5000 each. The past grant recipients include Families First, Blue Mountain Community Library, and Pen Argyl Parks and Athletic Association to repair the slate roof on the historic carousel at Weona Park. Other organizations that have received support include Pen Argyl Borough Outreach, Wind Gap Beautification Program, Wind Gap Borough Park Board, Sullivan Trail Sertoma, various volunteer fire and ambulance companies, local Boy Scout troops and athletic organizations.

For 2026 GKEDC community grants are being accepted from 1 February, 2026, to 31 May, 2026, and will be awarded in July 2026. Applicants who have received a Community Grant in the past are requested to provide information on their application explaining how the funds were used.

Grant information and applications are available on the Grant page at the GKEDC website GKEDC.org.

New Wind Gap Appalachian Trail Community Coordinator

By Appalachian Trail Conservancy

WIND GAP - The Appalachian Trail Conservancy has appointed Shyla Miller to be the new Wind Gap Community Coordinator for the areas Appalachian Trail.

I'm looking forward to the new year, we're reenergized with full-time coordination support to reconnect, celebrate your work, and support the next chapter of community-led stewardship along the Trail. One of my main goals is to connect with each of your communities, ensure that we have the most up-to-date information for your A.T. Community Committee, and share a handful of important program updates.

To help us get started, I've included a brief survey (<https://appalachiantrailconservancy.createsend1.com/t/y-i-afdlid-l-r/>) where you can provide updated committee details and let us know about any recent changes in your community. Your responses will help guide and strengthen our collaboration in the year ahead.

I also want to take a moment to introduce myself as the new Landscape Conservation Program Coordinator for Wind Gap.

My name is Shyla Miller, and I'm proud to call the foothills of North Carolina home. I grew up in the small town of Morganton at the base of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Surrounded by beautiful lakes, dense forests, and the rich culture of Appalachian communities, I developed a deep appreciation for the outdoors. From activities like hiking and kayaking to rafting, spending time outside has always been where I feel the most connected.

That passion led me to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (go Heels!), where I studied environmental policy. There, I focused primarily on the relationship between the environment and human well-being, only furthering my interest in protecting natural landscapes for the benefit of all living things.

After graduating in 2024, I found my way to ATC where I began as a Community Conservation Innovator Fellow. In this role, I worked to create a strategic community conservation roadmap for the A.T. Community Program to help your communities more effectively identify, plan, and carry out conservation projects.

My contact info is : smiller@appalachiantrail.org, Phone 828.320.1200



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