

## \$445,450 in Historic Preservation Grants

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agricultural heritage. Its preservation helps illustrate historic farming practices and rural life in northwest New Jersey.

### Harmony Township – Van Nest Hoff Vannatta Farmstead Barn Restoration

A grant of \$75,000 will fund barn restoration work, including siding repair and replacement, framing and trim work, door reconstruction, and limited painting. The farmstead remains a prominent and iconic agricultural structure, contributing to the historic landscape and reinforcing the importance of preserving working farm complexes.

### Mansfield Township – Mount Bethel Community Center Cemetery Wall Restoration

Mansfield Township will receive \$165,000 to restore the historic stone border wall surrounding the Mount Bethel Community Center cemetery. This project is anticipated to be the final phase of a long-term effort supported by prior grants. The cemetery and its stone wall are vital cultural resources, preserving the memory of early residents and serving as a place of reflection and community identity.

### Washington Township – Heritage Museum at Meadow Breeze Park Renovation

A grant of \$133,000 will support roof and window replacement, ADA-compliant access improvements, air conditioning installation, and repairs to the site's smokehouse. The Heritage Museum at Meadow Breeze Park plays a key role in interpreting local history and making it accessible to the public, ensuring that future generations can engage with Warren County's past in an inclusive and meaningful way.

The MCCT program continues to serve as a critical funding source for preserving Warren County's historic, cultural, and natural resources. By requiring a 25 percent local match, the program ensures strong partnerships and shared commitment between the County and its municipalities and nonprofit organizations. Historic preservation not only safeguards architectural and cultural assets but also strengthens community character, supports heritage tourism, and contributes to economic vitality.

The Warren County Department of Land Preservation announced that applications for the 2026 Municipal and Charitable Conservancy Trust Fund grants will be released on April 13, 2026. Eligible municipalities and nonprofit organizations are encouraged to apply for funding to support open space, farmland, recreation, and historic preservation initiatives.

## NCC Awards

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Beta Beta Chi (Pocono):

Chapter Officer Hall of Honor Inductee: Robert Knight

Distinguished Honors in Action Project

Beta Beta Chi's winning Honors in Action Project, the Give & Gather initiative, was directly developed from the chapter's research findings related to food insecurity and barriers to access among college students. PTK members, Robert Knight, Aurelia Hoffman, Shanique Bourn, and Joana O'Connor, promoted the Pocono campus C.A.R.E. pantry and provided needed services to the college community. By providing free meals, especially around the Thanksgiving holiday, they aimed to respond to this urgent need with compassion and action. This experience encouraged students to reflect more deeply on food access challenges.

"Seeing how grateful and appreciative everyone was reinforced why this work truly matters; being able to make an impact on students during such a difficult time was both humbling and motivating. This experience reminded our chapter that informed action is not just about meeting immediate needs, but about building human connection, empathy, and lasting commitment to service," said Robin Watson, Beta Beta Chi chapter advisor.

For Tau Gamma's winning college project, they put together a mural on the connection bridge between College Center and Penn Hall on Bethlehem campus. The officer team acquired student artists for the mural, and together, they created a shared artistic space filled with inspirational artwork that motivates students and all other members of the campus community.

"It brightened an otherwise dark hallway. The mural took about five months to complete, and there were fifteen named contributors, but it was the product of cross-departmental collaboration that included our NCC President, Dr. David A. Ruth, Associate Provost and Dean of Students, Dr. Eric Rosenthal, facilities, and more! It truly was a labor of love for NCC and our wider campus community," said Mengel.

To see more about PTK, visit <https://www.ptk.org/>



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