



# 2023

# REVIEW & FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT



PITCAIRN BOROUGH

## What is a COG?

A COG, short for council of governments, is an organization of local governments that work cooperatively to maintain and improve their communities. They do so by sharing expertise and resources, and creating COG-wide programs that reduce the stress on individual local government staffs through shared responsibility.

Members work together through the COG in order to provide a better service to their constituents, and save time, and other resources that can then be distributed in other ways for the benefit of the community.

## About the TCVCOG

The TCVCOG is a non-profit organization in the eastern suburbs of Pittsburgh that facilitates multi-municipal efforts and implements efficient, cost-effective programs on behalf of its members. The organization operates under a set of written by-laws and is governed by a Board of Directors.

Member municipalities join the COG through Council resolution. Each member pays annual dues of \$4,590 and is entitled to appoint two representatives to the Board of Directors – one voting and one alternate delegate.

The TCVCOG was founded in 1971 when eleven municipalities recognized a benefit to working cooperatively and sharing services. Currently, there are 20 municipalities in the TCVCOG with a total population of approximately 172,174.

## TCVCOG Provides Increased Capacity

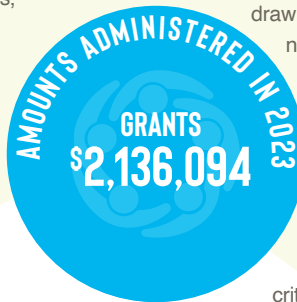
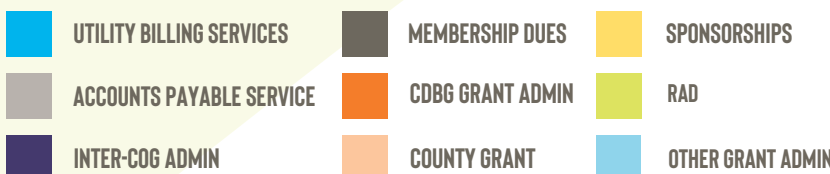
### REGIONAL REPRESENTATION

The TCVCOG is represented regionally on issues relevant to our members as they arise. Since many of our towns do not have the staff to send to these important functions, we attend to ensure the Eastern suburbs have a voice at the table.

The COG also brings people together around important issues. For example, the Fire Forum at the Penn Hills Municipal Building last November was very well attended by TCVCOG and SRCOG elected officials, staff and fire personnel. The PA Fire Commissioner stressed the importance of healthy working relationships between fire departments and municipalities. Concepts like Paradigm shift, bringing the “fun” back and rooting out toxic culture, were presented by respected members of the fire community.

COGs can and do play an important role in an “Allegheny for All,” so it has been an honor to represent COGs on County Executive Innamorato’s Transition Team. We are fostering a positive working relationship with our new County government that we hope will bring renewed support and interest to the work that we accomplish on behalf of our members.

## 2023 BUDGETED REVENUE



## GRANT ADMINISTRATION

The TCVCOG manages grants on behalf of its members. Our service begins by reviewing the initial application and continues through advertising and bidding, awarding contracts, and managing the final draw down of funds and audit compliance. Member towns benefit by not having in-house staff responsible for overseeing the complexities of complying with Federal, State and County regulations.

### TCVCOG ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING PROGRAM FOR POLICE

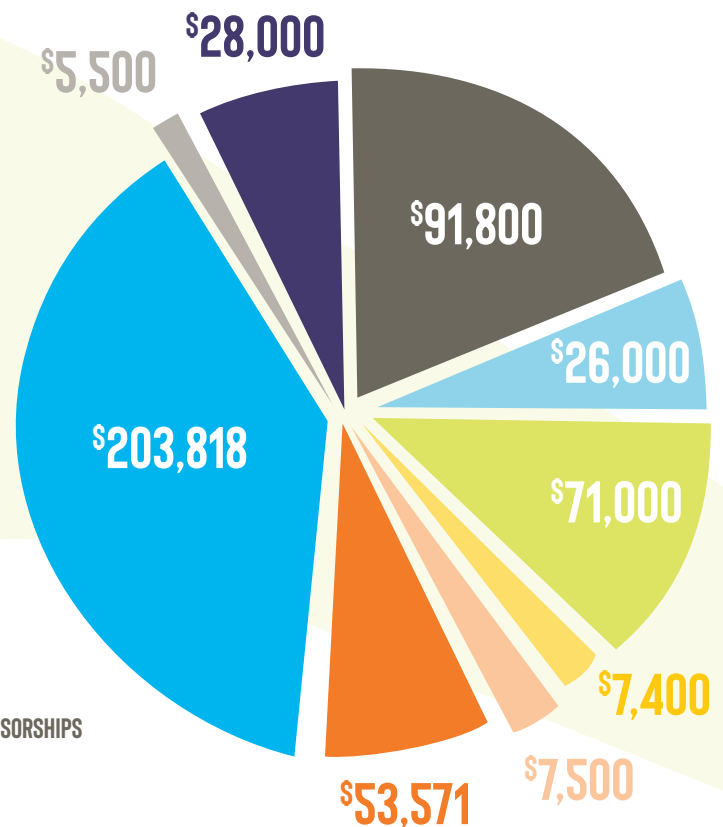
This is a collaborative training effort of the TCVCOG Police departments, bridging the gap in training disparities between our affluent and more challenged departments. This critical training also standardizes response when mutual aid is required. Our police chief group is working to expand mandated training options.

### ANNUAL REAL ESTATE TAX BILLING

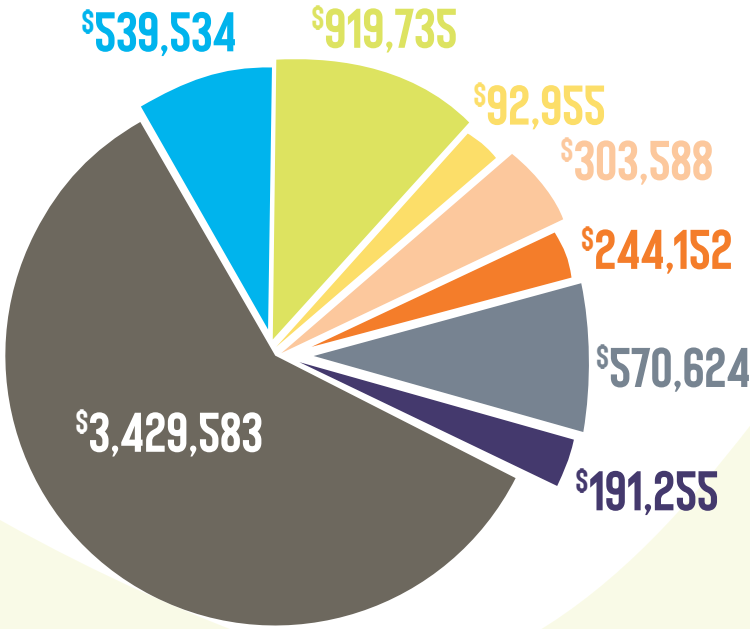
The TCVCOG prints real estate tax bills for participating member municipalities.

### UTILITY BILLING SERVICE AND ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

The TCVCOG currently provides MS4 Stormwater billing, refuse/sewage billing services, and accounts payable services. At low to no cost to the borough, we manage municipal account data, manage individual municipal bank accounts, field constituent phone calls, and provide detailed collection reports. To support this expanding service, TCVCOG has invested in state-of-the-art billing software to ensure complete capture of all funds through its e-billing and electronic payment functionality. This helps residents maintain accounts in good standing. In March 2023 the TCVCOG welcomed our 8th utility billing account: Glassport Borough Refuse.



# 2023 UTILITY BILLING PAYMENTS COLLECTED



## TCVCOG Property Stewardship

### CODE ENFORCEMENT (CHALFANT & EAST MCKEESPORT BOROUGHS)

Code enforcement is often a community's first line of defense against blight and other health and safety issues that arise. TCVCOG provides a program which includes property maintenance inspections, occupancy inspections and rental inspections.

### TOP 3 CODE ENFORCEMENT VIOLATIONS:

- TRASH & JUNK ON PROPERTIES
- HIGH GRASS & WEEDS
- EXTERIOR SURFACE VIOLATIONS

TOTAL INTERACTIONS PERFORMED: 1,289

TOTAL CASES IN COMPLIANCE: 110

# CODENFORCE

### CODENFORCE

TCVCOG is developing a robust, custom database system— CodeNforce— that maximizes the effectiveness of code enforcement efforts. This cloud based tool provides support to code officers by walking them through the legal process, offering guidance and keeping them organized. As of January of 2024, CodeNforce now has 7 towns using the system.

### PROPERTY MAINTENANCE APPEALS BOARD

TCVCOG, through its board of directors, has established a review board that responds to appeals related to property maintenance in participating communities. A regional approach has enabled the creation of collaborative compliance with the International Property Maintenance Code.

### UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE (UCC) BOARD OF APPEALS

The UCC Board is a COG-wide Board that responds to appeals from our participating towns. A regional approach has enabled the creation of a full board that is ready to comply with the law.

### LAND BANKING

Abandoned, blighted properties cause safety and health hazards while undermining surrounding property values and the local tax base. In 2017, TCVCOG worked with Steel Rivers COG to establish Tri-COG Land Bank (TCLB), an organization dedicated to recovering vacant properties, clearing their title, and getting them back into the hands of a responsible owner. Throughout its lifespan, TCLB has acquired 117 total properties and sold 63, including 28 acquired and 23 sold in 2023. TCVCOG currently has representation on the TCLB Board of Directors.

## TCVCOG Purchasing Support

### INTERCOG PURCHASING ALLIANCE

The InterCOG Purchasing Alliance pools purchasing power from participating COG communities to achieve savings in commodities, such as rock salt. Furthermore, contracts through the Alliance afford members with protections not found in other group bidding efforts.

### VACTOR

The TCVCOG's Vactor is an expensive piece of equipment that municipalities use to comply with federal mandates for sewer maintenance and to keep their sewer system working properly. We offer 15 day and 7 day "opt-in" programs to make this critical maintenance as affordable as possible.



## SEWER MAINTENANCE PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS

73 DAYS: VACTOR TRUCK IN OPERATION

475: CATCH BASINS CLEANED

520 LINEAR FEET: STORM LINES CLEANED

42,779 LINEAR FEET: SANITARY LINES CLEANED



- BRADDOCK
- CHALFANT
- CHURCHILL
- EAST MCKEESPORT
- EAST PITTSBURGH
- EDGEWOOD
- FOREST HILLS
- MONROEVILLE
- NORTH BRADDOCK
- NORTH VERSAILLES
- PENN HILLS
- PITCAIRN
- PLUM
- RANKIN
- SWISSVALE
- TURTLE CREEK
- WALL
- WILKINS
- WILKINSBURG
- WILMERDING

**Our Vision**

is to foster safe, inclusive, and sustainable communities in which all residents are welcomed and valued; and to serve as the good government model for our region.

**Our Mission**

is to facilitate collaboration, programs, and services that strengthen the connections between our member communities and the region.



**The Executive Board of the Turtle Creek Valley Council of Governments**

From left-to-right:  
 Joe Hyzy of Monroeville, Treasurer  
 Sylvia Martinelli of Wilkins, Secretary  
 William "Lucky" Price of Rankin, Former Chairman  
 Max Spencer of Turtle Creek, Vice Chairman  
 Chad Hoover of Chalfant, Chairman



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**ABOUT THE COVER**

The Pitcairn Borough Building opened in September 2019 and was made possible with a generous donation by the Merle and Olive Lee Gilliland Foundation. The opening of this building commemorated the 125th anniversary of the Borough's incorporation. The building represents the first phase of development to the rehabilitation of the Broadway corridor.

The new 5,500-square-foot borough building houses the Administration, Council, Finance, Electric Utility, and the Police operations. The building includes our Council Chambers, which also doubles as meeting space for various community organizations.

An Outdoor pavilion as well as a walking path, and Trailhead to the Turtle Creek Connector Trail, all within proximity to the building, are anticipated to be completed in 2025. These facilities will function seamlessly with the rest of the site to create a true multi-functional community space. The new building was designed by EADS Architects Group and built by Yarborough Development.

