



## LVPC, Lehigh County Win National Award for Jobs and Housing Analysis

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC), in partnership with Lehigh County, has been recognized nationally for its work in the community during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The LVPC and County were given the National Association of Regional Council (NARC) Achievement Award Tuesday, during NARC's three-day, 56<sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference in Columbus, OH.

The recognition was given specifically for the February 2021, Job and Housing analysis that identified the neighborhoods, on a municipality and school district basis, where families were

most likely to struggle with job and housing loss during the COVID-19 Pandemic. It included data on the number of households that were struggling with housing costs and jobs most likely threatened by the pandemic.

The analysis helped the county determine how to target its CARES Act and American Rescue Plan funds to where it is needed most, including allocations to the Cedarbrook elder care facilities, small businesses and equity communities.

Lehigh County funded the Valleywide analysis, done by the LVPC in partnership with the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia. The award announcement was given during a ceremony at the Columbus Clippers AAA baseball park and displayed on the outfield scoreboard.

The analysis and data can be found at [lvpc.org/data-lv-housing](http://lvpc.org/data-lv-housing).

It came as a shock to Lehigh County Executive Phillips Armstrong, who was attending the conference during the ceremony Tuesday evening.

"I'm so proud of all the hard work done by the LVPC and the cooperation with Lehigh County that made this award possible," Armstrong said shortly after the announcement.

NARC, which represents more than 150 regional councils, governments and agencies across the nation, holds the conference annually to share best practices and recognize "excellence in programs and services of regional councils and metropolitan planning organizations across the country." Also receiving NARC's Achievement Award were Miami Valley Regional Planning and East Texas Council of Governments

"The work that Lehigh County sponsored on behalf of the entire region helps us understand at what price ranges and where we need housing most," said LVPC Executive Director Becky Bradley. "It's imperative that housing is matched with incomes and this work has helped increase housing production and supported investments in critical housing facilities like the Cedarbrook Eldercare facility."

The award comes a year after Bradley was awarded NARC's highest award, the Walter Scheiber Leadership Award, for pivoting the organization's central mission of managing the region's growth while planning for its future to include helping the community through the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The 2022 conference wrapped up Wednesday afternoon. Also during the conference, Armstrong was re-elected to the NARC board of directors, representing Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey and New York. Bradley was re-elected to NARC's Executive Directors Council.

