



## NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM YEAR TWO ANNUAL REPORT 2019

The Aliquippa Economic Development Corporation (AEDC), a 501 (c)3 non-profit community development corporation, was created for and is committed to the rejuvenation of the City of Aliquippa for the benefit and welfare of its residents. AEDC identifies the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP) as an important tool to create meaningful partnerships with strategic public and private businesses, agencies, and service organizations to achieve positive outcomes in the City.

In 2017, AEDC was awarded a six-year DCED NAP under the Neighborhood Partnership Program (NPP) funded via a six-year commitment from BNY Mellon to contribute \$500,000 per year to AEDC to carry out its mission of community development in the City.

The goals of the AEDC through the NPP are

- reduction of blight;
- preservation and strengthening of neighborhoods;
- expansion of social services including basic needs, education, youth, and job training programs;
- improvement of the downtown business district; and
- community engagement and development.

The activities and outcomes completed in Year Two (2018-2019) of the NPP include

- ✓ addressing blighted and unsafe structures by demolition of 17 abandoned houses in the Plan 11 Extension neighborhood;
- ✓ rehabilitating eight houses in the Plan 11 Extension neighborhood housing to preserve and revitalize the neighborhood;
- ✓ providing job training assistance to 118 residents of Aliquippa at weekly Targeted Job Success Workshops in downtown Aliquippa including resume assistance, job search skills training, clothing allowances, interview skills training, reference letters, and social media assistance;
- ✓ sponsoring a Job and Career Fair in downtown Aliquippa with 19 employers that accepted resumes and applications from the dozens of job seekers;
- ✓ funding to the B.F. Jones Memorial Library for engineering and design services to create a green parking lot with a raised bed community garden on the site of two abandoned and blighted houses in downtown Aliquippa;
- ✓ filling the gaps in basic needs for disadvantaged residents by funding the Salvation Army to provide monthly food distributions to an average of 532 persons and serve weekly hot meals to an average of 162 persons/week, total meals served 1,941;
- ✓ engaging the community to participate in community workshops through the Local Foods, Local Places technical assistance award to AEDC from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Northern Border Regional Commission;
- ✓ creating an action plan to address the issues of food insecurities and downtown revitalization from the Local Foods, Local Places community workshops; and,
- ✓ Hosting the dedication of Jesse Bell Walker Playground in Plan 11 Extension Neighborhood.