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2019 Side Yard and Blighted Structure Program Application Period Open

PITTSBURGH – County Executive Rich Fitzgerald announced today that applicants to the 2019 Side Yard and Blighted Structure program during this time period will be provided the opportunity to acquire vacant lots and structures at a discounted cost through the Vacant Property Recovery Program. Typically, the discount is only available in specific municipalities based on average income levels in those communities.

"We're delighted to be able to again offer this program to our residents, and to assist in seeing properties return to productive use by offering discounts," said Fitzgerald. "The Vacant Property Recovery Program has been a positive tool for municipalities because it provides a way to take vacant, blighted properties and put them back into use as side yards, parks and green space, or other uses."

Beginning today, Allegheny County will accept applications from individuals, businesses, non-profits or government entities for the program. In 2018, a total of 270 applications were received with 112 properties conveyed to new owners. Applications must be postmarked no later than September 30, 2019. Up to 60 applications will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis with five applications accepted per municipality. Applicants must be current on taxes, water, sewage and refuse bills on all properties owned in Allegheny County and may not have any outstanding code violations or municipal liens on any properties.

Properties n the following municipalities are eligible for discounts during this application period:

Baldwin Borough	Bethel Park	Brackenridge
Brentwood	Collier	Crafton
Crescent	Dormont	Dravosburg
East Deer	East McKeesport	Edgewood
Elizabeth Township	Etna	Forest Hills
Frazer	Green Tree	Harmar
Harrison	Heidelberg	Ingram
Leet	Leetsdale	Liberty
Lincoln	McCandless	Moon
Munhall	Neville	North Fayette
North Versailles	Oakdale	O'Hara
Penn Hills	Plum	Reserve
Ross	Scott	Shaler
South Park	South Versailles	West Deer
West Homestead	West Mifflin	West View
White Oak	Wilkins	

"We're proud to play a part in helping municipalities redevelop and revitalize their neighborhoods by offering this program through Economic Development. Based on the number of applications over the past two years, there is real demand for the program," said Lance Chimka, Director of Economic Development. "We know that communities which take advantage of the program for their residents see a significant improvement in those neighborhoods where the vacant property is converted. Our hope is that even more municipalities join the program moving forward."

Enrollment in the Vacant Property Recovery Program is open to municipalities throughout Allegheny County and currently includes 77 municipalities. Discounts similar to the 2019 Side Yard and Blighted Structure Program are available on an ongoing basis to 30 of the 77 municipalities that currently participate in the program. Funding for the program is provided through county general funds and applicant payments towards acquisition costs.

The other municipalities, eligible for the discount regardless of the time of application, are:

Avalon	Bellevue	Blawnox
Braddock	Braddock Hills	Carnegie
Clairton	Coraopolis	East Pittsburgh
Elizabeth Borough	Forward	Glassport
Homestead	McKees Rocks	Millvale
Mount Oliver	North Braddock	Pitcairn
Rankin	Sharpsburg	Stowe
Swissvale	Tarentum	Turtle Creek
Verona	Versailles	Wall
Whitaker	Wilkinsburg	Wilmerding

For additional information, or to request an application, please call 412-350-1090 or visit the Allegheny County Vacant Property Recovery Program's webpage at www.alleghenycounty.us/VPRP.

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