



Greenbrier County EDA Announcement

Information about the Grant

US EDA is awarding \$1.536 million to the town of White Sulphur Springs that will be matched by \$400,000 from the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources to extend water service along Harts Run Road to the new industrial park that will house the West Virginia Great Barrel Company Cooperage. In addition to the water service to the site, 50 homes and the Greenbrier State Park will receive water service for the first time. The project is expected to create close to 60 initial jobs and 175 jobs once complete and fully operational.

New Markets Tax Credits

The New Market Tax Credit (NMTC) program was enacted in 2000 to spur investment in low-income regions of the country. Since 2001, Congress has authorized \$61 billion in tax credit investments, and the program is currently extended through 2019. The U.S. Department of the Treasury's Community Development Financial Institutions Fund makes annual allocations to Community Development Entities (CDEs) that have applied for tax credit allocations. Once a CDE is allocated credits, it makes equity investments in businesses and economic development projects in low-income communities. Equity investments are made possible by investors providing capital investments in the CDE in exchange for a tax credit. The tax credit value is 39 percent of the cost of the qualified investment and is claimed by the investor over a seven-year period in increments of five percent for the first three years and increments of six percent for the remaining four years.

West Virginia historically has been an underserved state for NMTC investment with \$172 million invested in 22 projects since 2001. In fall 2016, Senator Capito hosted an event in West Virginia to raise awareness about this economic development tool, and since then several projects in the state have used NMTC to close funding gaps, revitalize communities, and create jobs with over \$69 million in new NMTC investment. Additionally, a West Virginia CDE received NMTC allocation for the first time since 2002 when Wes Banco was awarded \$40 million in allocation in 2017. The recent projects include:

- [Boury Lofts](#) – The Boury Lofts in Wheeling is a rehabilitation of an old structure that in downtown Wheeling that is now being used for 70 units of housing. This project used \$2.9 million in NMTC equity to close a funding gap.
- [Robinson Grand Theater](#) – The rehabilitation of the historic Clarksburg theater used \$20 million in NMTC allocation to help finance the rebirth of this landmark.
- [Lyme Timber](#) – Secured \$20 million in NMTC financing to help finance the acquisition of over 100,000 acres of timberland in four counties in southern West Virginia.
- [WV Great Barrel Company](#) – \$22 million in NMTC allocation from Rural Development Partners and the National Development Council closed a funding gap that will result in over 100 new jobs in Greenbrier County.

U.S. Economic Development Administration (USEDA)

The U.S. Economic Development Administration is charged with promoting economic development and sustainable job growth through the building of durable regional economies. In March 2015, Senator Capito met with then-EDA Administrator Jay Williams and encouraged him to direct the agency to be a more active participant in the state’s economic development efforts. Since that meeting, EDA has done the following to promote economic growth in West Virginia:

- The designation of a **West Virginia specific Economic Development Representative** in spring 2015.
- A **renewed interest in funding West Virginia projects**, particularly infrastructure, which will promote job growth and economic diversification.
 - Since 2015, **\$34,158,861 in awards** has been announced for **35 projects** that will **create and/or retain over 5,000 jobs in 46 counties**.