



Hello
Berks County!

E-FLASH

October 23, 2023

COUNTY CREATES STREAMLINED LERTA APPLICATION PROCESS

Municipalities should be aware that Berks County has a new process for LERTA applications. Last December, the County discontinued its policy of automatically approving certain types of projects for the County's LERTA program.

On October 5, 2023, the Board of Commissioners approved a new process for LERTA applications. Now, when a municipality approves a LERTA, the applicant must submit a LERTA application to the Berks County Department of Community and Economic Development **within 60 days of receiving a building permit.**

The application will be referred to the Board of Commissioners, and if approved, a resolution will be adopted setting forth the LERTA terms and conditions for each project. County LERTAs will generally have a 10-year abatement period, unless a shorter period is set by the municipality.

The full resolution text may be accessed at:
bit.ly/LERTA_Policy_2023

The LERTA application will be available soon at
www.countyofberks.com/departments/economic-development

WHAT IS LERTA?

LERTA is a tax abatement program created by the Pennsylvania legislature in 1977, designed to enable local taxing authorities to incentivize redevelopment of deteriorating properties. A LERTA provides partial property tax abatement for up to 10 years for the value of improvements to the property. Once a municipality creates a LERTA district, each taxing authority decides separately whether to approve tax abatements within the district.



Berks County participated with our regional partners in Southeast PA to develop the South-Central Pennsylvania Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). This plan was approved by the US Economic Development Administration (EDA) in June 2023 and provides a basis for projects in our counties to apply for EDA funds.

YOU ARE INVITED
TO A 90-MINUTE
CEDS SUMMIT
on November 15, 2023 at 10:00am

Learn more about the CEDS, how we are working together to build regional collaboration and access resources. You will hear from EDA, the office of Senator Bob Casey, and the Capital Region Economic Development Corporation for an interactive discussion on how you can play a critical role in our regional economic success.

Please visit the link to register for the Summit and we'll see you on **November 15**. bit.ly/HbgCEDSS