

In The News...

- FCADC Industry Appreciation Dinner Sponsorships Available
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- FCADC Updates Local Revolving Loan Program
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County Unemployment Rate Holding

In February, the PA Department of Labor and Industry reported that the unemployment rate for Franklin County remained steady at 3.7 percent. The local rate was lower than both the state and national averages of 4.2 and 4.3 percent respectively. Total jobs in the County increased more than 900, reaching a total of 64,000. It is important to note that over the last year, the manufacturing sector has remained steady at 8,500 jobs in the County.

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The Developer

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...Message from Mike

The I-81 corridor has long been one of the most important transportation arteries in the eastern United States. Here in Franklin County, we see every day how critical it is to the movement of goods, people, and opportunity. But its importance extends far beyond commerce. I-81 is a vital link in our nation's defense supply chain, connecting military installations, logistics hubs, manufacturers, distribution centers, and communities that support readiness at home and abroad. That is why FCADC supports establishing the I-81 corridor as a National Defense Corridor.



This designation would recognize what many of us already know: the corridor is essential infrastructure for national security. It would help elevate the urgency of long-term investment in safety, capacity, resilience, and mobility along I-81. For Franklin County and the broader region, that means stronger support for projects that reduce congestion, improve freight reliability, enhance emergency response, and ensure that businesses and defense-related operations can move products and materials efficiently. It is important to note that between mile-makers 3-85 (Franklin-Lebanon counties), there is FEMA staging center and 5 critical military installations that depend on I-81 for the movement of essential national defense and emergency services assets.

A National Defense Corridor designation would also reinforce our region's strategic economic role. Franklin County is home to a growing base of logistics, manufacturing, food processing, workforce training, and defense-supporting industries. Continued investment in I-81 would strengthen these employers, attract new opportunities, and support the skilled workforce needed to keep America prepared and competitive.

This effort is about more than transportation. It is about readiness, economic security, and the future of communities positioned along one of America's most consequential corridors. FCADC is proud to advocate for this designation and for the investments our region needs to meet the moment. I extend best wishes to all for a safe and relaxing summer season.

Latest Franklin County Wage Rate Report Available

The latest wage rate report for a wide variety of occupations in Franklin County is now available for download. The report is compiled annually by the PA Department of Labor and Industry and provides wage data captured for the previous 12-months. Click [Here](#) to download a copy of the report for Franklin County. (Please note, the report is released every May and is reporting wages for the previous year.)





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Lackawanna College Opens Chambersburg Center

Offering an Associate Degree in Welding and Fabrication Technology

In order to prepare the next generation of skilled welders, Lackawanna College has opened a new welding center located at 1669 Opportunity Avenue in the Cumberland Valley Business Park near Letterkenny Army Depot. The Chambersburg Center serves as a hub for hands-on workforce training in one of the nation's most essential trades. The facility, which is owned by the FCADC, features approximately 11,000 square feet of classroom, laboratory, and office space, anchored by a 5,000-square-foot Weld Shop equipped with 30 individual welding booths. The center offers an Associate Degree in Welding and Fabrication Technology, providing students with the skills and credentials needed to enter a high-demand field. According to the American Welding Society, the United States will need more than 320,000 new welding professionals by 2029. With over 157,000 current welders nearing retirement age, career opportunities in the industry continue to expand. Students receive comprehensive training in oxy-acetylene, stick, TIG, MIG, and flux-core welding processes while gaining practical experience in blueprint reading, fabrication, and both plate and pipe welding. The program also prepares students to earn valuable industry certifications, including the AWS D1.1 plate welding certification (3G and 4G) as well as API 1104 and ASME IX pipe welding certifications. By combining state-of-the-art facilities with industry-aligned training, the Chambersburg Center is helping meet regional workforce needs while preparing students for rewarding careers in welding and fabrication. For more information click [here](#).

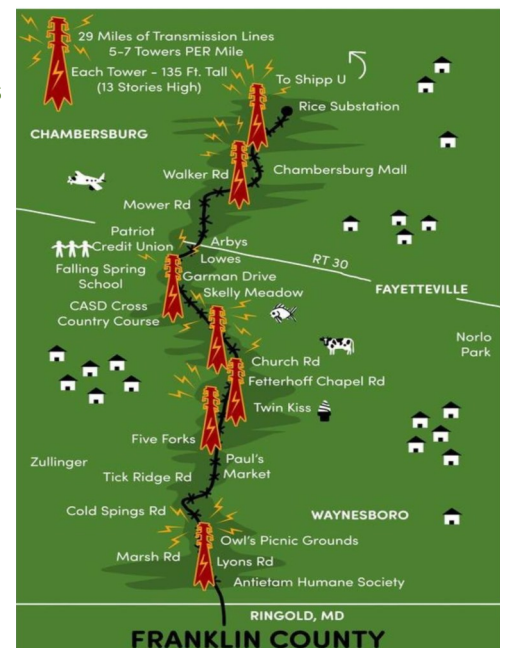


Franklin County Deserves Growth that Builds our Future-Not a Powerline that Cuts Through It...an Editorial from Mike

At the Franklin County Area Development Corporation, we believe in planned growth. We believe in infrastructure. We believe in investment that strengthens our economy, supports employers, and improves quality of life for the people who live and work here. But supporting growth does not mean saying yes to every project that comes through our county.

The reconstituted Transource proposal, now presented as the Rice-Ringgold Transmission Line Project, would ask Franklin County to absorb the long-term burden of a major high-voltage transmission corridor without making a convincing case that the people of this county would receive a fair share of the benefits. According to Transource, the revived project is a 29-mile, 230-kV transmission line connecting a new Rice substation in Shippensburg to the Ringgold substation in Maryland, with a new Pennsylvania siting application expected in 2026. That matters because this is not a new question for Franklin County.

In 2021, after years of litigation, testimony, and public opposition, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission unanimously denied Transource's applications for the Franklin and York County portions of the project. The PUC concluded that the company had not demonstrated the need required under Pennsylvania law and denied the requested approvals. Franklin County residents were justified then in asking hard questions, and they are justified in asking them again now.





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Franklin County Deserves Growth that Builds our Future-Not a Powerline that Cuts Through It Cont...

Yes, the legal posture has changed. In 2025, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit ruled that the PUC's denial was preempted by federal law because it conflicted with the FERC-approved regional planning framework used by PJM. But that ruling addressed the boundary between state and federal authority. It was not a declaration that this project is good for Franklin County. It did not erase the local impacts on farms, landscapes, property owners, or communities. And it did not relieve Transource of the obligation to explain, in plain terms, why Franklin County should accept a project of this scale. That explanation still feels incomplete.

For years, the public has heard shifting explanations for why this line is needed. PJM's own public materials show that Project 9A was placed in suspension in 2021 because of siting risks. PJM's January 2025 annual reevaluation said the project remained suspended and showed a benefit-cost ratio below PJM's normal 1.25 benchmark in the then-feasible configuration. Later in 2025, PJM reported stronger economics for a narrowed western-only version and moved to eliminate the eastern segment. That history should make every local official and resident cautious. When a project's economics, footprint, and justification keep evolving, the burden should remain on the developer to show why this specific version is necessary now. As an economic development organization, FCADC supports projects that expand opportunity in a way that is durable, balanced, and locally beneficial. Franklin County needs infrastructure that helps us compete. But we also need to be honest about what kind of investment actually moves our county forward.

A project that imposes permanent visual, land-use, and property impacts on local communities while offering benefits that are mostly regional, model-driven, and difficult for local residents to see is not an obvious win for Franklin County. Saying so is not anti-growth. It is responsible stewardship. The question before us is not whether transmission matters. It does. The question is whether this project, in this location, in this form, is the right project for Franklin County.

Until that case is made clearly and convincingly, the answer should be no.

Financing Tools for Franklin County Businesses

Franklin County First Fund Programs Updated for 2026

FCADC financing programs are designed to help eligible Franklin County businesses start, grow, and expand with flexible local funding options.

Loan Interest Rate Sale!
4.00% | July 1, 2026 - September 30, 2026

FCFF Direct Loan Program

- Funding for up to 50% of total project cost
- Maximum loan amount of \$100,000
- Real estate, machinery/equipment, and limited working capital eligible
- Lower annual fees
- Job creation: 1 job per every \$35,000 borrowed

FCFF Loan Guarantee Program

- Guarantees for up to 50% of total project cost
- Maximum guarantee of \$75,000
- Helps strengthen bank financing for eligible projects
- Available for start-up, expansion, and retention projects
- Ask your primary lender about applying through FCADC

Updated program information, borrower guidance, and application materials are available online.

Expanding? Investing? Starting something new?
FCADC may be able to help close the financing gap.

Contact FCADC to learn more: 717-263-8282 / www.fcadc.com



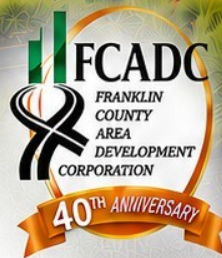
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Help Us Celebrate Our **40th** Year at our *Annual* **INDUSTRY APPRECIATION** *Dinner*



**THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 10, 2026**



**PENN STATE UNIVERSITY
MONT ALTO CAMPUS**
Multi-Purpose Activities Room
1 Campus Drive
Mont Alto, PA

The Franklin County Area Development Corporation (FCADC) invites you to help us celebrate our annual Industry Appreciation Dinner! Here is your chance to be a vital part of one of the most anticipated dinner events of the year. The dinner will celebrate and honor those employers who make Franklin County a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

All sponsors will receive their corporate name/logo represented in the program, recognition at the dinner, as well as recognition in FCADC printed materials and on the FCADC website.



PLATINUM SPONSOR

\$10,000 (1 AVAILABLE)

- ✓ Corporate logo on invitation received by 6/19
- ✓ Reserved seating for 10
- ✓ Recognition on live on the Mic podcast
- ✓ Remarks to 5 minutes
- ✓ Standing banner provided by sponsor, up to 3' x 6'
- ✓ Promotional item for each attendee (no flyers; item provided by sponsor; please notify FCADC by 8/14.)



GOLD SPONSORS

\$5,000 (UNLIMITED)

- ✓ Reserved seating for 8
- ✓ Standing banner provided by sponsor, up to 2' x 5'
- ✓ Promotional item for each attendee (no flyers; item provided by sponsor; please notify FCADC by 8/14.)



RECEPTION SPONSOR

\$3,500 (1 AVAILABLE)

- ✓ Reserved seating for 6
- ✓ Standing banner or table signage provided by sponsor, up to 2' x 5'



SILVER SPONSORS

\$2,500 (UNLIMITED)

- ✓ Reserved seating for 4



CORPORATE SPONSORS

\$1,000 (UNLIMITED)

- ✓ Reserved seating for 2



**SPONSORSHIP DEADLINE:
AUGUST 7, 2026**



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