

## WORKING TOGETHER

The Mountain Council of Governments was formed in 1991 to offer local government bodies a way to work together to achieve goals and complete projects they otherwise could not have done alone. The sum of our parts is stronger than any one of us working alone.

Becoming one with us allows our citizens' tax dollars to go further and our governing effectiveness to reach more people.



Calling all local governments to action!

**JOIN NOW!!!**



## Rails to Trails

**MOUNTAIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

**Citiscap  
20 West Broad Street  
Hazleton, Pa. 18201**

**Phone: 570 455-1509  
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**MOUNTAIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

# Mountain Council of Governments

**SYNERGY in Action**



Mountain Council of Governments

**Dan Gydish  
Executive Director**

# MOUNTAIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

As local governments look to the future, the changes they confront will require a re-thinking of how public services are provided. Most of the major problems facing local governments will be regional in nature.

- **Environmental: water, air pollution, noise, effective land use.**
- **Social problems: drugs, crime, homelessness, overcrowded schools, language problems.**
- **Economic relationships: studies show that urban and suburban economies are interrelated and interdependent.**
- **Infrastructure: our municipal infrastructures are not getting any younger.**
- **Financial: How do municipalities pay for big ticket items?**

## HOW MCOG CAN HELP

- By providing a political mechanism capable of addressing regional issues that local governments face.
- By building on the collective strengths of municipalities MCOG can coordinate and direct public resources.
- A COG can lower the costs of government by eliminating the duplication of services.
- MCOG can enhance municipal flexibility.
- MCOG can improve the quality and at times the quantity of services.
- MCOG can provide a collective revenue base.
- MCOG can help you afford equipment you couldn't purchase on your own

## SO WHAT'S STOPPING US?

One of the biggest problems we face is our reluctance to give up some of our individual power to a collective source ( better known as provincialism.) Politicians do not want to give up their power and municipalities do not want to lose their identity.

That is not going to happen. The **Mountain Council of Governments** was created in March of 1991 to address the issues that we all face in what is now the 21st Century. Its purpose is apolitical in nature. MCOG wants to help all of our regional municipalities succeed. We want to give our collective taxpayers "the best bang for their buck!"

The potential of joining a COG is often underestimated. People don't know about us or realize the potential they can achieve by joining MCOG.

Finances are a problem we face at MCOG. Fortunately we have been self-sufficient through the procurement of grants from the county and state, and help from the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce.

**Membership is free!**

## MCOG HISTORY

MCOG has grown from an organization of five municipalities in 1991 to 23 members which include: three cities, seven townships, seven boroughs, two school districts, and two authorities

Some of our projects and accomplishments include:

- Providing a neutral monthly forum for the discussion of common problems.
- Providing Grant Writing assistance
- Government seminars and guest speakers to inform members of grant availability and new regional initiatives.
- Regional police feasibility study
- Joint bidding for winter road supplies
- Rails to Trails
- Gateway signs and beautification project
- Shared equipment purchase of a sewer camera
- BOCA Code study
- Abandoned vehicle project

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