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**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**  
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**DCED ACTING SECRETARY APPLAUDS MUNICIPAL  
COOPERATION IN BUTLER COUNTY**  
*Encourages Other Communities to Follow Lead*

**HARRISBURG** – Officials in two Butler County communities have accepted state help to study how increasing cooperation and sharing more government services would benefit taxpayers, Department of Community and Economic Development acting Secretary George Cornelius said today.

Officials from the boroughs of Zelienople and Harmony approved the study last night.

“These two communities are taking a forward-thinking approach to the way they run their governments,” Cornelius said. “Their willingness and courage to evaluate objectively whether redundancies exist and to consider potential ways to make government more effective and better stewards of taxpayer money should serve as a model to other local governments.”

A \$56,700 grant from DCED’s Land Use Planning and Technical Assistance program will help prepare a comprehensive plan that supports land-use and growth-management strategies, as well as the ordinances to implement them; and a \$32,000 grant from the Shared Municipal Services program will prepare a financial review of the long-term financial impact of combined services.

For example, if the comprehensive plan recommends sharing responsibilities for parks and recreation, the financial review will analyze the potential savings.

“Zelienople and Harmony boroughs have cooperated in the past for street resurfacing, and for police force and emergency management operations,” said Cornelius. “The fact that they are continuing to look for different ways to promote cooperation and shared services is even more praiseworthy.

“I encourage other communities to work with DCED, as these boroughs have, to eliminate waste, redundancies, and cumbersome and costly complexities inherent in our fragmented and layered system of local government—costs that the residents of this state can ill-afford at any time, but particularly during difficult economic times.

“The fragmentation of our local government system hampers productivity and competitiveness. Given the intensely competitive global marketplace in which we compete for investments and jobs, we need to rethink the way we approach local government to ensure we are as competitive and effective as possible. The steps Zelienople and Harmony are taking are laudable. I’m glad DCED can play a constructive role and wish those communities the best as they embark on this project,” he added.

For more information on how Department of Community and Economic Development can help communities work more efficiently, visit [www.newpa.com](http://www.newpa.com) or call 1-866-466-3972.

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