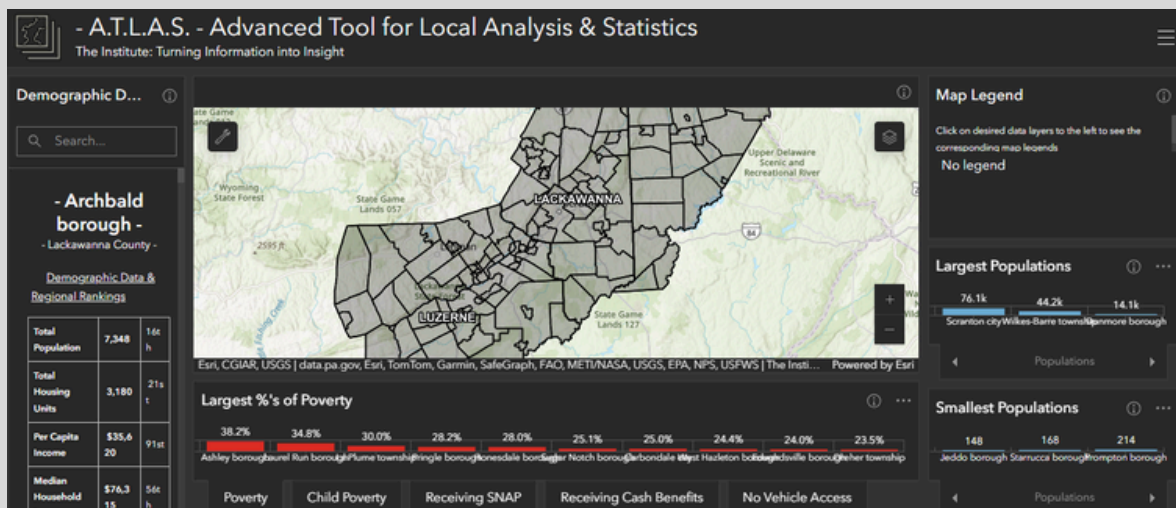
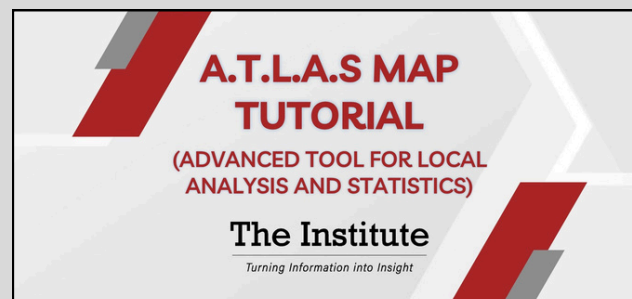


Introducing A.T.L.A.S: the Next Generation of Indicators Mapping

The Institute unveiled the upgraded data mapping tool A.T.L.A.S. (Advanced Tool for Local Analysis and Statistics), at the Indicators Forum in May. A.T.L.A.S. is an interactive dashboard that displays key socioeconomic indicators for only municipalities across Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wayne Counties in Pennsylvania. The A.T.L.A.S. tool is also now able to map data by zip code in a separate map, located here.



Michael Shuba, Research Assistant at The Institute, has developed a video tutorial and FAQ sheet about A.T.L.A.S. to help new users get the most out of this powerful tool. Both are linked on the Indicators dashboard for easy access.



Click here to watch the tutorial!



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- What's new at The Institute
- Special thanks to our supporters
- 2026 Task Force Research
- Recent publications
- Client solutions
- Who we are

What's new at The Institute?



The Institute held an in-person meeting of our Board of Directors and Advisory Board at The Wright Center for Community Health's newly renovated offices in Wilkes-Barre over the summer. Board members were also able to tour The Institute's new office space in the building.



Jill Avery-Stoss joined local community leaders for a special televised discussion of how local education programs and community partnerships are shaping the future of health care. [Watch the special on WVIA's YouTube page.](#)



Several members of The Institute team were on-site with Maternal and Family Health Services as they hosted the first-ever Regional Maternal Health Coalition meeting. The Institute team was on hand to help launch the coalition after assisting with the planning process.



The 2025 Data Dashboard is available now! [Click here](#) to explore this year's data.

Many Thanks

*to our 2025 community-based underwriters
and Indicators event sponsors*

SIGNATURE UNDERWRITERS

- Andrew J. Sordoni Foundation
- Luzerne County
- PPL Electric Utilities
- Sordoni Family Foundation

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- Geisinger Health System
- The Luzerne Foundation

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Take a sneak peek at what our Task Forces are working on for 2026!

Planning, Land Use, Transportation, and Infrastructure

Beyond Cars and Busses: How People Move Through NEPA

This research will explore the alternative avenues through which people move throughout the region. It will include a walkability index, with considerations regarding bikeability, accessibility for people with disabilities and mobility challenges, and the importance of infrastructure readiness and transit-oriented communities.

Health and Health Care

Medicaid as a Critical Component of Community Wellness

The demand for Medicaid, a public health insurance program for some people with limited income, is substantial in Northeastern Pennsylvania. The availability of this support often falls short of satisfying the current need. This research will address the social, economic, and public health dynamics associated with public health insurance through Medicaid.

Housing

What to Know About Housing in NEPA: A Primer for the Community

This study will serve as a tool for community education regarding regional housing challenges, including commonly used terms and phrases, barriers such as jurisdictional fragmentation and subjective interpretation of building codes, potential for loss of assistance, and the implications of such loss at the individual/household level (such as homelessness and housing insecurity) along with the community and economic levels (public health risks, workforce impacts, etc.). It will also identify possible solutions (including partnerships with private or for-profit entities, and options such as tax increment financing).

Education and Workforce Development

Understanding, Navigating, and Alleviating the Teacher Shortage

Demand for teachers continues to grow amid a broader workforce shortage. This study will explore contributing factors and evaluate demand by level of education and discipline, including demand for instructors in trades and career and technical fields. Rural/urban divide and other disparities will also be considered, along with dynamics impacting support for workforce development. The study will highlight regional efforts to mitigate the challenge, in addition to other programs demonstrating success in alleviating the educator shortage.

Jobs, Economy, and Economic Development

Artificial Intelligence and Its Impact on Northeastern Pennsylvania's Top Sectors

Artificial intelligence (AI) has taken hold in nearly every facet of life. Its rapidly rising prominence offers potential for improved automation, efficiency, and decision-making. Its versatility allows for its utilization in sectors ranging from logistics and manufacturing to healthcare and finance. This study will profile the region's top industries and assess the role of AI in each of these sectors, identifying the skills that are most relevant and sought-after by employers.

Energy

Exploring the Dynamics Surrounding Data Centers in Northeastern Pennsylvania

The Commonwealth has been identified as a prime location for data centers, and their emerging presence in NEPA is notable. This study will offer an overview of data centers and their function, addressing potential community concerns and workforce implications while building upon prior research pertaining to resource adequacy. It will also consider the need for regulatory oversight.

Catch up on the latest policy and economy news!

[Read the Q1 Economy Tracker here!](#)

[Read the Q2 Economy Tracker here!](#)

[Read the Q1 Policy Tracker here!](#)

[Read the Q2 Policy Tracker here!](#)

Have you seen the latest editions of our quarterly Economy and Policy Trackers?

The first quarter 2025 edition of the Economy Tracker includes an update on employment in Northeast Pennsylvania, along with features on the impact of immigrants on the local economy, and educational attainment by immigrants in Pennsylvania.

The second quarter Economy Tracker features an overview of how tariffs may impact the economy of Northeast Pennsylvania, a Cost of Living Index update, a Gross Domestic Product update for the region, and an occupation highlight on Robotics Engineering.

The first quarter edition of the Policy Tracker covers PROPEL legislation, eviction status protection, and healthcare access for immigrant children.

The second quarter Policy Tracker addresses policy surrounding public health data reporting and the entry of veterans into the civilian workforce.

Take The Institute's AI Survey!

Do you work in Lackawanna, Luzerne, or Wayne county? You can help The Institute's research by answering our survey on artificial intelligence!

As part of our annual Jobs, Economy and Economic Development (JEED) Task Force report, The Institute is disseminating a survey about AI familiarity and use in Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wayne counties. Questions or concerns may be directed to vangorden@instituteapa.org.

You can also help by sharing the survey with your own network. Thank you!



[Access the
survey Here!](#)

The Institute needs your support!

Data-driven decisions are essential for enhancing the vibrancy of the region and ensuring its long-term economic prosperity. That's why we hope you will contribute to our community-based research. Consider joining our growing list of underwriters.

To learn more, contact Teri at ooms@instituteapa.org.

Client Solutions

Arts & Culture Studies
Asset Maps
Community Needs Assessments
Comprehensive Plans
Economic and Demographic Profiles
Economic and Tax Impact Studies

Economic Development Strategies
Education Studies
Grant and Program Evaluation Support
Housing Studies
Survey Research
Indicators- Indexes
Industry Studies

Market and Feasibility Studies
Policy Analysis
Research Validation and Peer Review
Site Selection Research
Tourism Strategic Plans
Workforce Studies

Who We Are

The Institute is dedicated to empowering business and community leaders with researched-driven strategies for informed decision-making.

We conduct community-based, empirical research to identify the opportunities and challenges unique to our region, and offer innovative solutions for the problems facing our communities. This research is funded by generous academic partners and sponsors who share our vision for a strong regional economy and vibrant communities.

Community-Based Research

Access the latest regional research on The Institute's website. www.institutepa.org

Regional Indicators Data & Research
Indicators data tracks the region's progress over time. They include economy, healthcare, environment, education and infrastructure measures.
<https://www.institutepa.org/dashboard/>

Task Force Research
Recent and archived research studies identify and address the region's challenges. This research is a driving force behind many important economic development and community revitalization initiatives, which produce positive outcomes for our area.
<https://www.institutepa.org/research-hub/>

Quarterly Economy Tracker
This quarterly electronic publication explores the region's economic and business trends.
<https://www.institutepa.org/economy-tracker/>

Policy Tracker
This tracker covers state and federal policy focused research and aims to educate and inform the reader about the challenges, opportunities, and potential non-partisan solutions.
<https://www.institutepa.org/policy-tracker/>

Polling Program
Better understand the subject matter interests, public policy views, and civic engagement of our local college students and future leaders.
<https://www.institutepa.org/polling-center/>

Thanks to our 2025 Research Underwriters!

Sincere thanks to our generous stakeholders who share our vision for a strong regional economy and healthy communities. Your support makes our work possible!

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Andrew J. Sordoni Foundation
Luzerne County
Sordoni Family Foundation

Contributing Underwriters

Geisinger Health System
The Luzerne Foundation
PPL Electric Utilities

Supporting Underwriters

BlackOut Design
EMPOWER
Greater Hazleton CANDO
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Marty Wolff Business Solutions
Peoples Security Bank & Trust
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Join our growing list of research underwriters!
To learn more, contact Teri at ooms@institutepa.org.

