

Thank You For Attending Indicators 2026!

At The Institute, we believe that empowering leaders with research-based strategies and solutions they need to make informed decisions will lead to a stronger regional economy and a better quality of life for residents. For over two decades, The Institute has worked behind the scenes to support initiatives that advance regional competitiveness and revitalize communities.

This year, The Institute celebrated 21 years of holding the Indicators event. Wyoming County was added as a new region of data. Mohegan Pennsylvania hosted the event. 140 guests representing local businesses, nonprofits, and legislative offices networked and were presented key from this year's data.

Thank you to our academic partners, event sponsors, and underwriters for their support, and thank you to all who attended and work with The Institute to turn information into insight!



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Thank you to everyone who supported The Institute for this year's NEPA Gives celebration! We met our fundraising goal this year with the help of The Moses Taylor Foundation's donation match, and several community donors! NEPA Gives brings together donors and nonprofits across 13 counties in Northeastern Pennsylvania to support local nonprofits with community donations, donation matches, and other sponsored prizes. Donations to The Institute help support our community-based research!

What's new at The Institute?



Earlier this year, our President & CEO, Jill Avery-Stoss, appeared with Charlie Kasko, our Board Chairman, on NewsMakers to discuss The Institute, Indicators, and current challenges and opportunities for the region. The Luzerne Foundation's Nonprofit Accelerator Class 4 heard from Jill about the importance of using data and logic models to measure outcomes, strengthen programs, and tell compelling stories to funders and the community. Jill also gave a presentation on findings from The Institute's 2026 Task Force research on data centers during the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce Red Carpet breakfast in April.





Many Thanks

*to our 2026 community-based underwriters
and Indicators event sponsors*

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- Luzerne County
- PPL Electric Utilities
- Sordoni Family Foundation

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- Geisinger Health System
- KMLA Group
- The Luzerne Foundation

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Our 2026 Task Force research is complete! Videos summarizing the research are now on our [YouTube Channel](#).

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).



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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

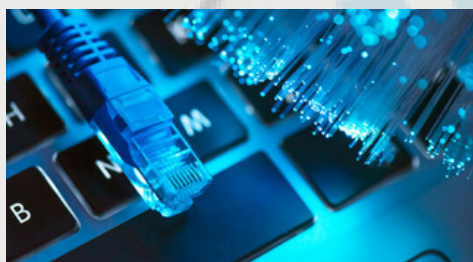
Artificial Intelligence and Its Impact on Northeastern Pennsylvania's Top Sectors

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!

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

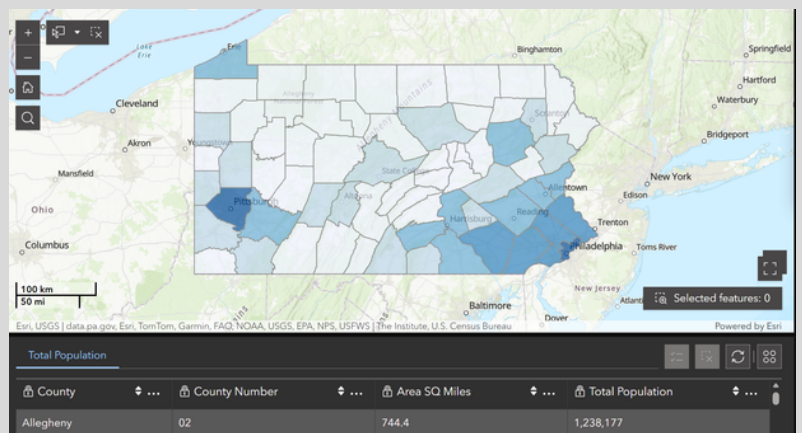
The second quarter edition of the economy tracker explores economic data, trends, and issues related to our region's economy.

The second quarter edition of the policy tracker covers state and federal policy focused research and aims to educate and inform about relevant challenges, opportunities, and potential non-partisan solutions.

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

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

The Institute's Economic & Social Trends Data Hub (A.T.L.A.S.) is an interactive tool designed to visualize key socioeconomic indicators across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. comprehensive and reliable foundation for analysis



The Post Graduation- What's Next? Student Poll Brief is also out now!

[Access the
brief here](#)

Learn about:
student perceptions of the country and the Commonwealth
What's next after college graduation
and more!

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@institutepea.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 2026 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!

Signature Underwriters

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Sordoni Family Foundation

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Staff

Teri Ooms
Founding CEO
ooms@institutepa.org

Jill Avery-Stoss
President & CEO
averystoss@institutepa.org

Sarah Bender
Research Analyst
bender@institutepa.org

Brigitte Guariglia
Research Analyst
guariglia@institutepa.org

Timothy Ooms
Research Analyst
tooms@institutepa.org

Ethan Van Gorden
Research Analyst
vangorden@institutepa.org

Michael Shuba
GIS Analyst &
Research Assistant
shuba@institutepa.org

Jean Holmgren
Marketing and
Communications Manager
holmgren@institutepa.org

Emily Bauer
Administrative Coordinator
bauer@institutepa.org

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Join our growing list of research underwriters!
To learn more, contact Teri at ooms@institutepa.org.

