

Press Release

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Small Business Tourism in Fayette & Greene Counties to get a Boost

Benedum Foundation gives The Progress Fund grant to serve small tourism businesses

Dawson, PA – October 18, 2004 - The Progress Fund has issued a call for would-be tourism entrepreneurs in Fayette County and Greene County, Pennsylvania: Dream big, and contact us for coaching and capital.

The call comes thanks to a recent \$225,000 grant from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation. The grant expands The Progress Fund's ability to provide capital and entrepreneurial coaching to tourism-oriented business start-ups and existing tourism businesses in Fayette and Greene counties.

The grant represents a continuation of the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation's longstanding support of The Progress Fund and its ability to create jobs and stimulate the tourism economy. "We felt this was an important investment, because The Progress Fund has been able to grow an industry for which Pennsylvania has significant natural resources," says James V. Denova, Senior Program Officer for the Benedum Foundation.

"The Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation has presented a golden opportunity for entrepreneurs and existing businesses who wish to seek The Progress Fund's services," says David A. Kahley, President and CEO of The Progress Fund. "The tourism industry is now recognized as a high-potential job creator and we are thrilled to be able to help Fayette and Greene County businesses succeed," he adds.

For further information, call The Progress Fund at 724-529-0384, or visit www.progressfund.org.

The Progress Fund is a vigorous, high-performing non-profit loan fund that creates jobs and improves communities by providing entrepreneurial coaching and capital to small businesses in the travel & tourism sector in Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The Progress Fund was founded in 1997, and has loaned more than \$8 million to 125 businesses, creating or preserving more than 725 jobs. The Progress Fund is an Equal Opportunity Lender. Discrimination is prohibited by Federal Law. Complaints of discrimination may be filed with the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250.

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