

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ARMSTRONG COUNTY PARTICIPATES IN RURAL BLIGHT
PANEL**

Staff from the Department of Planning and Development joined representatives from Greene and McKean counties in a panel discussion on rural blight during the Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania's Homes Within Reach Conference in Harrisburg on October, 29, 2018.

"This was such a great opportunity to not only share how Armstrong County has been laying the groundwork to help combat blight in our communities, but also to hear the approach other rural counties are taking," said Brigid Beatty, municipal services coordinator with the Armstrong County Department of Planning and Development.

The topic: Effective Approaches for Addressing Blight in Extremely Rural Areas, covered issues of property blight, effective tools for addressing rural blight, and different ways of overcoming the limited capacity of staffing and resources in rural communities.

Participating in a statewide conference to explore effective approaches in blight remediation allows us to better fine-tune our efforts here, noted Darin Alviano, Executive Director of the Armstrong County Department of Planning and Development.

"Armstrong County is out in front on the effort to mitigate blighted properties in its municipalities," Alviano said. "I am very encouraged on the work that has been done by Brigid and my predecessor Rich Palilla. Helping municipalities find productive reuses for these properties to better their communities and get them back on the tax rolls is a priority for the Department".