

Full Commission Meeting

October 26th, 2026



Opening Agenda Items

1. Welcome/Introductions and Call To Order
 - a) Quorum
 - b) Any Conflict of Interest Declarations on Action Items
2. Minutes from August 24th, 2026 Meeting
3. Public Comment

Executive Director's Report

Rich Fitzgerald, Executive Director

Agenda Item: 4



Executive Director's Report



AI Horizons Summit



State of the Steel Valley

Executive Director's Report



Rails to Trails Tour

Western PA Trails and Greenways Summit



Executive Director's Report

October 7, 2026

Amtrak Expands Pennsylvanian Service with Second Daily Round Trip Beginning Nov. 18

[News](#) • [Amtrak New Era, Service](#)

Tickets available now for expanded service between New York and Pittsburgh via Philadelphia and Harrisburg

Amtrak will soon expand service on the [Pennsylvanian](#) with a second daily round trip beginning Nov. 18, providing customers with more travel options between New York City and Pittsburgh and communities across Pennsylvania.

Additional Amtrak Service to Philly and NYC



DC Fly-In

Route 228 Funding Update



“During the hearing, Sec. Carroll committed PennDOT to funding more than half of the money needed to complete this project”

Executive Director's Report

- Public Survey open now through 10/31
- Robotics Day (Jenn)
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administrator Visit (Lillie)
- Data Center Development Meetings
- Fayette County Announcement
- Approval of two items: Title VI and Vanpool Safety
- ARC Power: SPC brings in \$7.5M
- Long Range Plan meetings begin this week

A Look Ahead



**MVA 4TH ANNUAL
MID-MON VALLEY
ECONOMIC SYMPOSIUM**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30TH | **CFSBANK EVENT CENTER**
111 GALLITIN ROAD, BELLE VERNON PA | **REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST 8AM**
PROGRAM 8:30AM - 11:00AM

FEATURING
FOUR COUNTY COMMISSIONER CHAIR PANEL

REGIONAL LEADERSHIP. A STRONGER MON VALLEY.

NICK SHERMAN
WASHINGTON COUNTY
CHAIRMAN

SEAN KERTES
WESTMORELAND COUNTY
CHAIRMAN

SCOTT DUNN
FAYETTE COUNTY
CHAIRMAN

JARED EDGREEN
GREENE COUNTY
CHAIRMAN

Join the chairs of the region's four county commissioners for a conversation about regional collaboration, economic opportunities, shared challenges, and the future of the Mon Valley.

REGISTER TODAY! 
TICKETS = \$75



PA Rural Health
Conference
November 19th

Transportation Report

Lillian Gabreski – Director of Transportation



Transportation Department Updates

- Active Transportation Planner Samantha Ryan has joined our team!
- SPC team attending and presented at Planning Partners Conference (9/1-9/3) in State College:
 - Ryan Gordon: New Transportation Planner Orientation
 - Lillie: Asset Management with PennDOT District 12-0 and Central Office Staff
- Pittsburgh Regional Clean Cities panel on Electric Buses @ Odyssey Day – Devon White Presented



National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Administrator's visit to PennSTART (9/15)



Smithfield Street Groundbreaking & CSX MOU Signing



Innovative Transportation Solutions of the Year Award

- SPC's Allegheny County Safety Action Plan was awarded "Innovative Transportation Solutions of the Year" Award at the WTS Annual Awards Recognition Night.
- Partners that were awarded included: Allegheny County Economic Development, Allegheny County DPW, City of Pittsburgh DOMI, PennDOT District 11, PRT and SPC



Long Range Plan Timeline

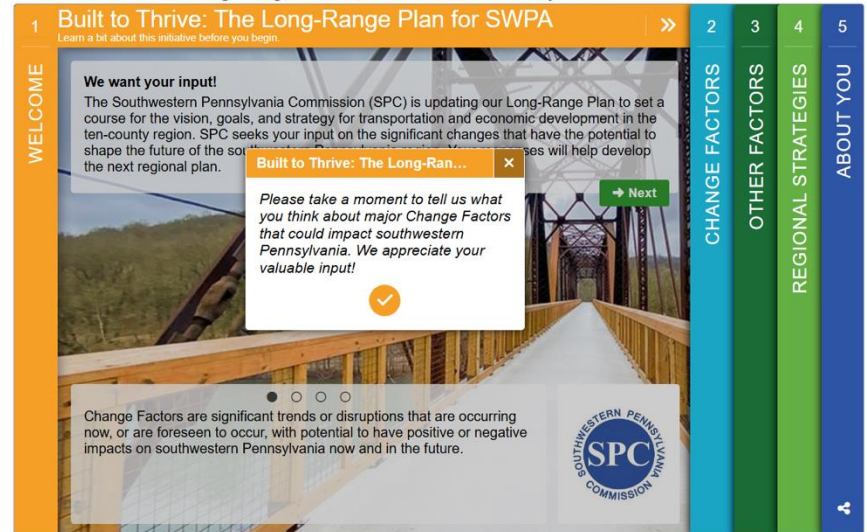
- October 2025: SPC Executive Committee Briefing
- December 2025: SPC Commission Briefing
- March 2026: Expert Resource Panel Meeting 1
- April 2026: Survey 1 Launch
- May 2026: Expert Resource Panel Meeting 2
- July 2026: Policy Conference
- September 2026 – March 2027: Long Range Plan Work Groups with counties and PennDOT Districts, Report Writing
- ➔ • October – November 2026: Fall Public Meetings and Survey 2
- December 2026: Vision, Goals and Strategies presented to Commission
- April - May 2027: Spring Public Meetings
- June 2027: Long Range Plan Adoption

BUILT TO THRIVE



The Long Range Plan for Southwestern Pennsylvania

Built to Thrive: The Long-Range Plan for Southwestern Pennsylvania



UPWP Development

October Status Update



2027-2029 UPWP Development

- Transportation Department:
 - Transportation Program Development (TIP/LRP)
 - Regional Transit Planning
 - Transportation Demand Management (CommuteInfo Vanpool)
 - Active Transportation – New Program Area
 - Transportation Operations & Safety
- Information & Data Department
 - **Data Systems & Modeling** (GIS, Modeling, SPC Data Center, Traffic Forecasts & Needs Reports, Traffic Count Program)
- Strategic Initiatives/Communications Department:
 - Regional Freight Programming
 - Strategic Initiatives Technical Assistance
 - **Outreach & Coordination** (UPWP Administration, Public Participation, LTAP Program, Member Planning Agency Participation – money directly funding planning work in each of the member counties/City of Pittsburgh)
- UPWP Overhead funds administrative functions of SPC

ACTION ITEM: Resolution 05-26 to Adopt Title VI Plan

Lillian Gabreski, Director of Transportation

Agenda Item: 6



ACTION ITEM: Resolution 06-26 to Adopt Vanpool Safety Plan

Lillian Gabreski, Director of Transportation

Agenda Item: 7



Strategic Initiatives Report

Dj Ryan, Director of Communications and Strategic Initiatives

Agenda Item: 8



Public Engagement for *Built to Thrive*

- Built to Thrive Survey is open now through October 31st
- Please take the survey and share as widely as possible!
- Link is on our homepage at www.spcregion.org
- Diverse input is needed to ensure a good final plan!

Allegheny	192
Armstrong	4
Beaver	8
Butler	13
Fayette	10
Greene	25
Indiana	27
Lawrence	1
Washington	24
Westmoreland	44
Other	16
TOTAL	364

Greene County

October 29, 2026 | 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

PennDOT Engineering District 12 Greene County Maintenance Facility
129 Jefferson Rd, Waynesburg PA 15370

Allegheny County & City of Pittsburgh

November 2, 2026 | 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

VIRTUAL (visit www.spcregion.org/events for the meeting link)

Fayette County

November 5, 2026 | 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Gallatin Bld, Lafayette Rm, 2 West Main Str., Uniontown, PA 15401

Indiana County

November 9, 2026 | 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

CareerLink Bld, 300 Indian Springs Rd, Suite 202 Indiana, PA 15701

Butler County

November 12, 2026 | 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Butler Community College (BC3), Founders Hall, 107 College Dr, Butler PA 16002

Lawrence County

November 16, 2026 | 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Hutchison Center, 293 Pearsons Park Drive, Neshannock PA 16105

Washington County

November 19, 2026 | 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

HYBRID (visit www.spcregion.org/events for the meeting link)

95 W Beau St, Public Meeting Room (G-16), Washington, PA 15301

Westmoreland County

December 3, 2026 | 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Conservation Center, 218 Donohoe Rd, Greensburg, PA 15601

Armstrong County

December 8, 2026 | 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Belmont Complex, Banquet Room, 415 Butler Rd, Kittanning PA 16201

Beaver County

December 10, 2026 | 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Beaver County Courthouse, Commissioners Meeting Room, 810 3rd Street, Beaver, PA 15009

New SPC Newsletter – *The Interchange*



- Continued original content and more opportunities to amplify work on behalf of member counties
- Sign up at spcregion.org
- Issues monthly around the 15th

PAACC Breakfast



October 2nd at the Airport Marriott – Over 200 attendees and six local legislators



211 Presentation

Heather Sedlacko, Executive Director and Sally Ellwein, Chief Program Officer

United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania

Agenda Item: 9





Pennsylvania
Southwest



211

Get Connected. Get Help.™

- Connection to community resources.
- Guided by a skilled resource navigator.
- Free, anonymous and confidential.
- Call, text, chat or self-serve web searches, 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
- 211 plays an integral role in many special projects locally and regionally.

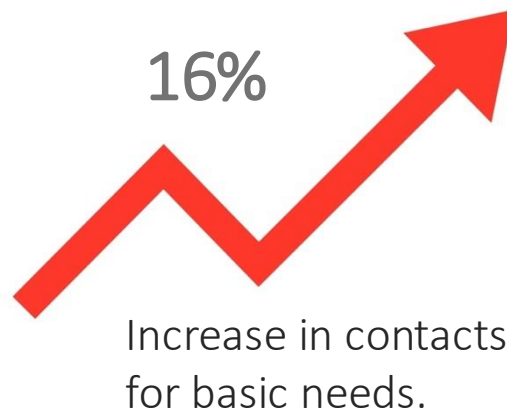
Pa 211 southwest

Last year, 211 was contacted **143,000** times through call, text or chat.



Did you know that 211 handles calls to Allegheny County's election hotline, helping connect residents with voting information and supporting civic engagement?

Local need continues to rise



211 maintains a comprehensive database of community resources and provides information and referrals for essential needs like:

- Food
- Housing and Shelter
- Utility Assistance
- Healthcare Services
- Government Services

211 also can connect people with information and referrals for:

- Transportation
- Legal Services
- Counseling and Support Groups
- Disaster Aftercare
- Everything Else

Call for
Information and
Community Resources

211

Warm
Handoff

Warm
Handoff

Whole
Person
Care

Warm
Handoff

Call for Suicide
Intervention and
Crisis Support

988

Call for
Emergencies

911

988 provides crisis support for:

- Thoughts of Suicide
- Mental Health Crisis
- Substance Use Crisis
- Emotional Distress

911 provides first responder dispatch for:

- Medical Emergency
- Fire
- Reporting a Crime
- Disaster Response
- Life Threatening Situation

**211: critical human
service
infrastructure**

211 CONTACTS IN SOUTHWESTERN PA

TOP NEEDS:

1. Electric services payment assistance.
2. Rental payment assistance.
3. Utility disconnection protection.
4. Food pantries.
5. Homelessness prevention.

TOP UNMET NEEDS:

1. Rental payment assistance.
2. Rental deposit assistance.
3. Homeless motel vouchers.
4. Automotive repair and maintenance.
5. Electric service payment assistance.



70% of 211 requests so far in 2026 came from people who identify as women.



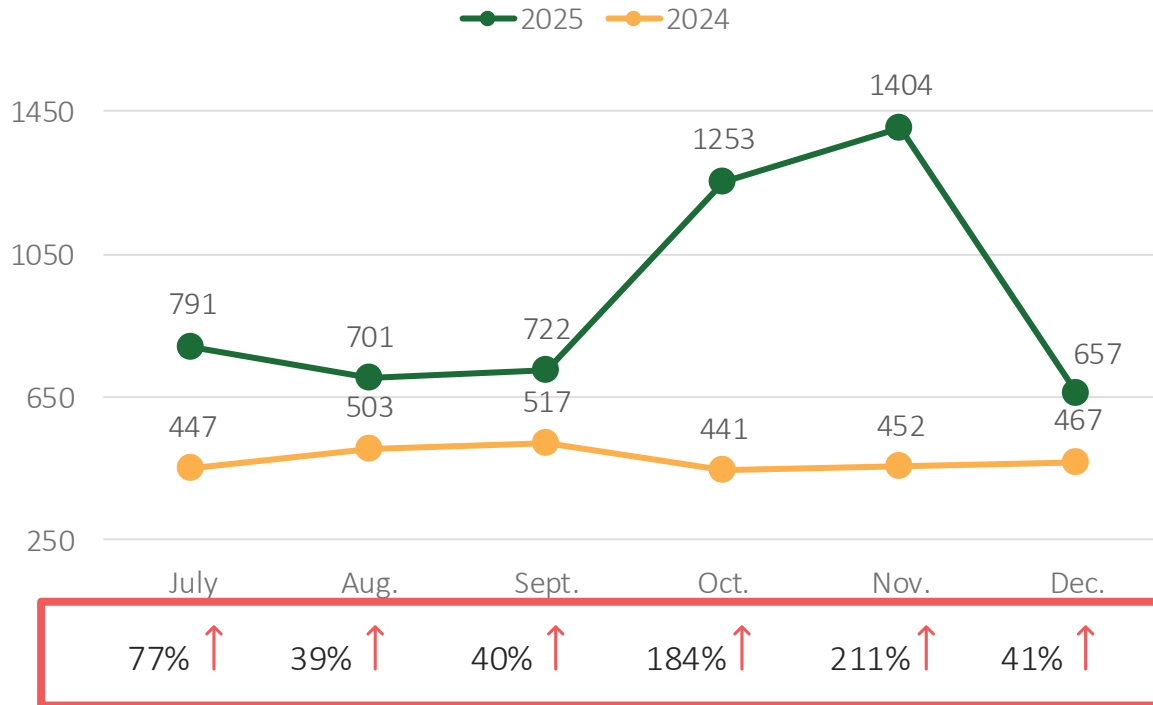
45% of requests so far in 2026 came from people who identify as Black.

211: A Comprehensive Human Services Database

- Over 7,000 services: addressing the top needs and others such as disaster relief, mental health and substance use disorder services, legal aid, employment resources and veteran's services.
- Six dedicated database coordinators reviewing and updating the resources.



211 as a Community Barometer During the 2025 SNAP Benefits Freeze

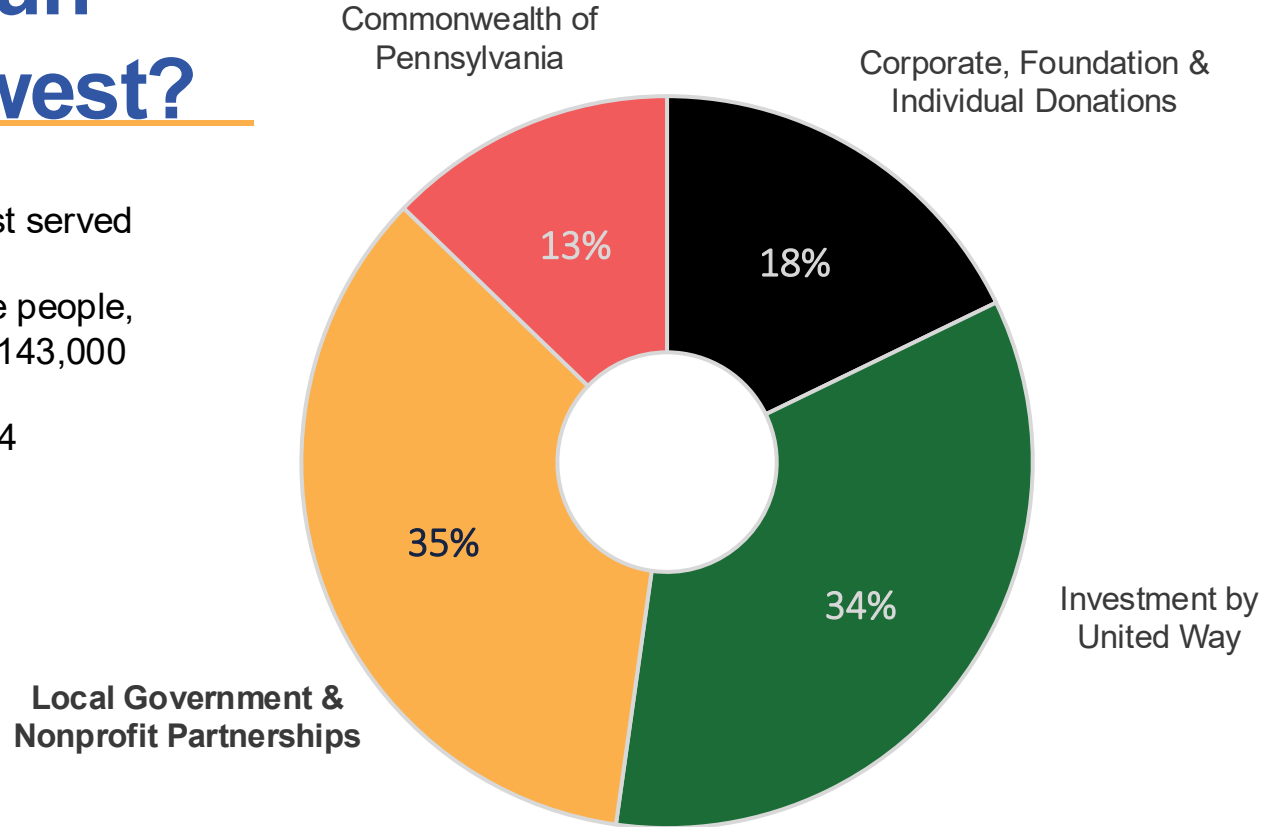


Food needs month-to-month comparison.

This graph contains a month-to-month total identified food needs in the 5 counties of United Way of Southwestern PA. Food needs are defined as programs that seek to meet the basic nutritional needs of the community by providing access to food products.

Who pays to run PA 211 Southwest?

- In 2025-2026, PA 211 Southwest served 34 counties.
- 211 is staffed by compassionate people, who were in direct contact with 143,000 people.
- Annual expenses were nearly \$4 million.



Updated September 2026.



QUESTIONS ABOUT 211?



Workforce & Economic Development Update

Jenn Lasser – Director Workforce & Econ Development



September 2026 - October 2026

- Export:
 - Building Bridges Event
 - Food Show Meeting
 - December Showcase for SPC
- Government Procurement:
 - Veterans Event
 - SAM.Gov support
- Loans:
 - 1 loan closing
 - 4 Loans in process
 - 3 Loans in discovery phase
- Program Management:
 - DCED/Engage – awaiting contracts
 - ARC PREP awaiting contract
 - DHS/SPC submitted contract
 - ARISE awaiting announcement/contract
- Reports Due:
 - ARC PREP quarterly
 - ARC 302A quarterly
 - EDA BBBRC Sub-Award
 - EDA 916 and 918 semi-annual
 - EDA Financial Report semi-annual
 - EDA Progress Report - annual

SPC: Community & Economic Development open funding

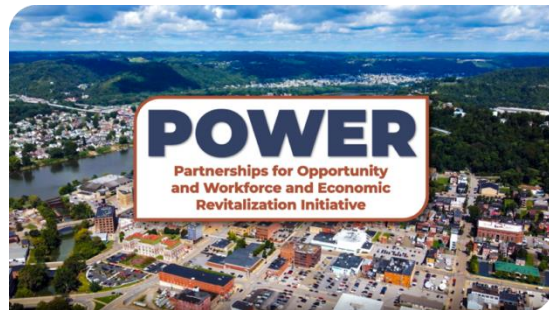
- Area Development now **open**
- INSPIRE **closed** for this year
- POWER **closed** for this year
- ARISE **closed**
- LSA **open** til November 30th
- EDA Economic Adjustment Assistance and Public Works grants **open**

Interested in applying see Faith Collins for more information



Spotlight: POWER 2025 Announcement

- \$45 million in awards announced last month
- \$7.5M awarded to SPC's region
- 12 awards to SPC's region, more than anyone else in PA and more than most states
- Over ¼ of all awards went just to SPC, which is one of 74 local development districts across Appalachia
- POWER 2026 awards to be announced ~ spring 2027



Spotlight: Regional Events

Bridging Borders Networking

- September 30 2026
- Hosted by SPC & US Commercial Services
- 30+ attendees including small business and international partners



Regional Progress Forum

- October 1 2026
- Hosted by University of Pittsburgh Institute of Politics
- Discussion on the statewide systems that support career pathways and talent development support of small businesses in urban and rural communities community's approach to these issues through local government and financing opportunities.



Energy & Industrial Future Summit

- October 14 2026
- Pittsburgh Regional Alliance
- Discussion on the strategic actions necessary to accelerate industrial expansion and capital investment.



Speaking Engagements:

PEDA Business Retention and Expansion

- Harrisburg, PA September 24 2026
- Part of the PEDA Basic Economic Development Education Certification Classes
- SPC asked last 5 years in a row to speak on behalf of their program management of the Engage! and PREP services to region.
- Engage! is a business expansion and engagement program where we **proactively** reach out to companies and provide solutions through connections to network of PREP providers
- Engage is seamless support BEFORE it's needed



We couldn't do this without your EDOs and regional partners!

Speaking Engagements: New Horizons - Infrastructure, Energy and Data in the Coming Decade

- Washington & Jefferson host
- October 20th 2026
- SPC spoke on behalf of the planning process, economic development activities and business attraction activities needed to grow the region
- Discussion on workforce development and skills needed for the future of large scale projects
- Best practices of regional partners



EDA/DCED Visit

- SPC hosted EDAs Chris Casper and DCEDs Jennifer Lench in September
- Took each partner to various projects across SWPA to create partnerships and discuss funding opportunities
 - Stops included: GBA, Catalyst, Pittsburgh Robotics Discovery Day, Penn State Digital Foundry, Washington County and more!



Build Back Better - Update

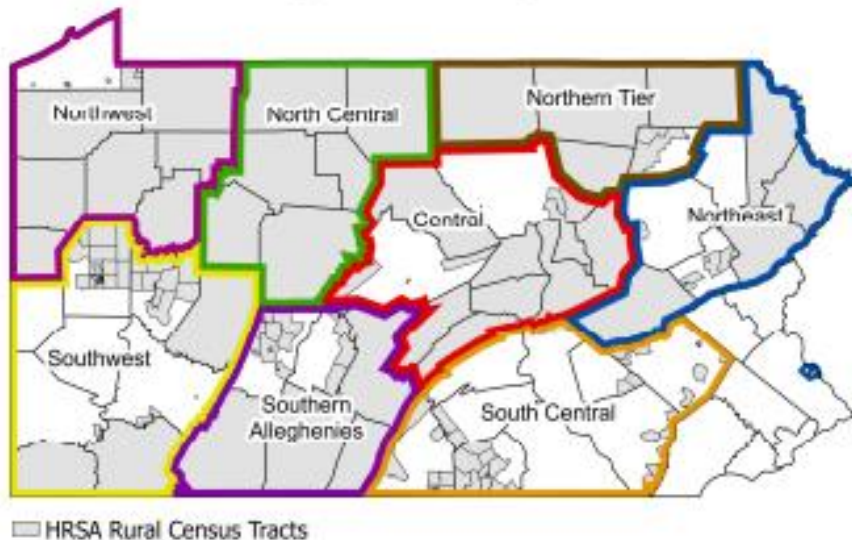
- No-Cost Extension Received from EDA
- PRIORITY: Spending down remaining dollars
 - Programmatically appx 85+% spent
- PRIORITY: Finding follow-on funding for partners
- Thousands Trained & Educated
 - Semi-Annual Report due 10/30
 - Working on impact report of equipment
- Next Steps: Sub-Award Partner Meeting December/January
- Next Steps: Individual Partner Visits
- Spring 2027 – BBBRC Showcase



Spotlight: Rural Healthcare Transformation

- PA Appx 193M awarded of 200M request
 - 5 year renewable program
- DCED PREP Regions will be the service areas
- Five Goals of RHT via CMS:
 - Rural Health
 - Sustainable Access
 - Workforce
 - Innovative Care
 - Technological Innovation
- SPC Attended 10/16/26 Advisory Committee (NEW)
- Ann Tyger attended SPC Policy Meeting (NEW)
- **What's Next: (subject to change)**
 - Creation of Boards/Groups by Coordinator
 - Additional Instructions from DHS
 - SPC will serve in some form of a collaborator role

Figure 2: PREP Regions



Other Business



Reminder of Next Meeting Date

December 14th, 2026



Adjourn

