

- Allegheny County
- Aspinwall
- Baldwin Borough
- Baldwin Township
- Bellevue
- Ben Avon
- Blawnox
- Brentwood
- Carnegie
- Castle Shannon
- Churchill
- Clairton
- Crafton
- Dormont
- Duquesne
- Edgewood
- Etna
- Forest Hills
- Green Tree
- Homestead
- Ingram
- McKees Rocks
- Millvale
- Mt. Lebanon
- Mt. Oliver
- Munhall
- North Braddock
- Oakmont
- City of Pittsburgh
- Reserve
- Ross
- Shaler
- Sharpsburg
- Stowe
- Swissvale
- West Homestead
- West Mifflin
- West View
- Whitehall
- Wilkinsburg

CONNECT

Mailing Address:

Community Foundation for the Alleghenies
216 Franklin St Suite 400
Johnstown, PA 15901

Municipal Contribution Invoice

February 20, 2024

INVOICE #024
Mayor of the City of Pittsburgh

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
CONNECT Annual Dues for Membership: 2024	\$13,781
TOTAL	\$13,781

Make all checks payable to the address highlighted above, with CONNECT Dues in the memo line.

If you have any questions concerning this invoice, contact Sarah Downing sarah@connectgovs.org or info@connectgovs.org. Thank you!

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Ed Gainey
Mayor
City of Pittsburgh

Dear Mayor Gainey,

As a crucial member of the Congress of Neighboring Communities (CONNECT), we are reaching out today to ask the City of Pittsburgh Mayor's Office to support the work of our network with a financial contribution in the form of membership dues. Along with federal and state funding, the generous support of Pittsburgh's foundation community, and the administrative support of the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies, these contributions allow CONNECT to make significant progress toward our mission of achieving local government innovation for the benefit of your community and our region as a whole.

We believe that the small investment you make in your membership to CONNECT will continue to pay off very quickly due to cost savings from in-kind technical assistance from CONNECT staff and interns, applying for joint grants with and learning from other CONNECT members, staying up to date on latest local government best practices and opportunities in our region from academia and practitioners, and having access to the most committed and transformative appointed and elected regional peers, working through problems together and learning from those who have found solutions in the past (*priceless!*)

In 2023, CONNECT:

- Refounded CONNECT as a 501c3 with support from the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies and the leadership of our officers and partners, nominating a new board of fifteen.
- Welcomed an additional five new neighboring local governments to join our congress
- Expanded the reach of the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion program, with 9,500 Allegheny County Citizens who now have access to LEAD's services.
- In addition to member dues (currently approx. \$60,000), CONNECT staff raised over \$1,200,000 dollars this year to support your ideas and efforts (some directly to members)
- Presented on Regional Collaboration featuring our various successes through partnerships at the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) conference with 4 CONNECTers
- Co-hosted a Future of Fire Forum with Turtle Creek Valley COG and formed an official steering committee for Future of Fire's vital work with regional stakeholders featuring valuable insight from local fire chiefs and policymakers on the future of volunteer fire services in our region

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- Kicked off the Public Safety & Wellbeing and the Infrastructure & Resilience Working Groups, growing new subcommittees and ideating new collaborative projects
- Held our 13th annual legislative Session & Reception where we celebrated the work we did together, over the past year and passed resolutions showing our commitment to addressing public issues regionally

The above high level bullet points can't really do justice to all that has happened and is underway, but should allow for a teaser. Please look forward to our 2019-2023 Report to the Communities to more visually see all we have accomplished together and the incredible, exponential growth of our work.

Dozens of founding and new member municipalities believe that their modest dues represent the great value they receive from being a member of CONNECT. **For 2024, we are asking the Mayor's Office to contribute \$\$13,781.** This amount is based on municipal population. Please remit payment by May 8, 2024.

We truly appreciate the support that you have shown our organization over the years and are so inspired by the experience and passion of the municipal representatives and their communities. Our contribution policy was not made lightly but was discussed and considered by our Officers and Executive Committee for the greater part of 2018, and discussions to update these to better support our work are underway. We know that you see the value in your CONNECT membership as we strive to continuously provide you with valuable resources and opportunities for collaboration.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at lydia@connectgovs.org. We look forward to working together even more closely in this new year.

Sincerely,



Lydia Morin
Executive Director

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CONNECT Municipal Contribution Policy

Beginning in the 2019 calendar year, CONNECT member municipal contributions were made mandatory. Member municipalities are required to pay annual dues by March 31 of each calendar year. If dues are not received, membership will be revoked until payment is made. Dues are based on municipal population.

CONNECT Municipal Contribution Formula:

Municipal Population * (Goal of Municipal Support [\$50,000 in 2024] / Total CONNECT population)

To date: Municipal contribution rates have increased twice, by 5% in 2015 and 5% in 2018.

Trial Membership (for New Members Only)

A municipality interested in joining CONNECT can request a twelve-month trial period during which they would be invited to attend all CONNECT meetings and receive all CONNECT-related communication.

At the completion of the year, the trial member may either request full membership, or discontinue their association. If the trial member requests membership and is approved and timing does not align with the calendar year, dues for that calendar year would be pro-rated.

Restrictions: Trial members cannot vote during the trial period. Municipalities may only have one trial period.