
May 2022 Newsletter



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Hello Gene,

The name Gateway Community Action Partnership reflects our expanded coverage area, but more importantly, it signifies what we are all about. We are a gateway to success for individuals and families in our community and we achieve those results through actions done in partnership within that very community we serve. So please take a minute to read our newsletter and learn more about Gateway Community Action Partnership and our impact in our communities.

Agency Mission And CAP Promise

The agency's mission is to provide services that improve the quality of life and promote self-sufficiency.

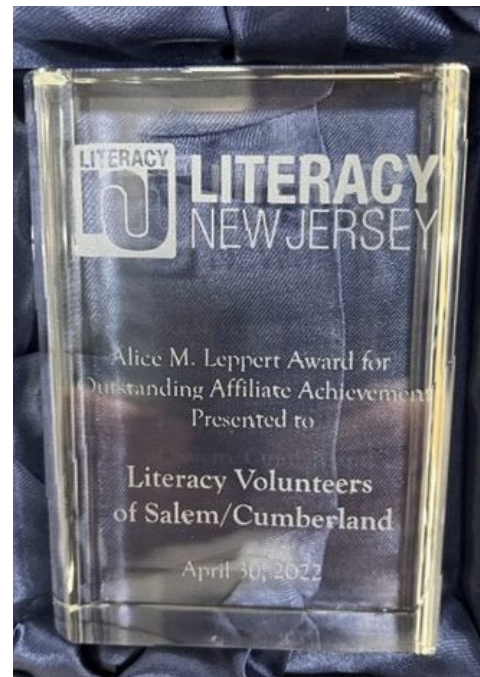
CAP Promise: Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.

Literacy Volunteers Of Cumberland and Salem Awarded For Outstanding Achievement



Led by Laura Pistoia, Gateway's Director of Literacy Services, Literacy Volunteers of Salem and Cumberland Counties was presented with the Alice M. Leppert Award for Outstanding Affiliate Achievement from Literacy New Jersey. The literacy program was honored for its innovative response to not only the Covid-19 pandemic, but also the inherent language barrier that exists within the communities served. Literacy Volunteers of Salem and Cumberland faced many challenges in recent years, but when the only Spanish-speaking member of the program transitioned out of her full-time position, things became more complicated. Without another bilingual employee to fill the position, Pistoia and the rest of the team needed to develop a solution quickly.

While a Spanish-speaking high school student volunteered to assist with making and receiving calls for the program, his school schedule posed some limitations; and many of the Spanish-speaking tutors were not available to participate in person due to Covid-19 concerns or other health-related conditions. One of the online teachers, however, brought a simple yet effective tool to the team's attention. The Remind app, which allows administrators to send text messages from a phone or computer directly to a recipient's cellphone, became a vital part in bridging the gap between English-speaking staff and Spanish-speaking adult learners. Translating and sending messages in Spanish was far easier than attempting to use Google



Translate over the phone. While more complex intake cases are still referred to the student volunteer, many adult learners have found the remind app to be extremely helpful.

About our literacy program: Realizing that illiteracy is a barrier to self-sufficiency, Gateway's Literacy Volunteers of Salem/Cumberland offers one-on-one tutoring for adults who need help with reading, writing, and speaking English. The Literacy Services Department also offers financial literacy classes. Tutoring is free and confidential. Tutoring sessions occur at a public place such as the local library. Day or evening tutoring is available. Free tutor training is available to individuals willing to commit to tutoring other adults in Salem and Cumberland counties. Call Pistoia, Director of Literacy Services, at (856) 497-6645 or e-mail her at literacy@gatewaycap.org for more information.

Gateway Thanked in Honor Of Community Action Month

Dear Gateway Community Action Partnership,

On behalf of the Administration for Children and Families' (ACF), Office of Community Services (OCS), and in observance of Community Action Month, we would like to extend our deep and heartfelt gratitude for your continued service to children, individuals, families, and communities with low income throughout these difficult times.

Amidst unprecedented challenges, the CSBG Network has continued to give the gifts of presence and service to those in greatest need. OCS recognizes the strength, flexibility, and dedication required to continue providing high quality services in the wake of a historic public health emergency. Our communities would not have endured these trying times without your ongoing commitment.

Thank you for rising to the occasion and responding to community needs. OCS plans to elevate the incredible work of our Network throughout Community Action Month and beyond.

With gratitude,

The Community Services Block Grant Team



Gateway received a letter of gratitude from the Administration for Children and Families' (ACF) Office of Community Services (OCS) in observance of Community Action Month, which takes place during the month of May.

This year, CSBG wanted to introduce a theme for Community Action Month that embodies their gratitude for the transformative impact of Community Action Agencies (CAAs) on vulnerable communities.

The theme, [#weseeyou](#), serves to recognize the often-unseen dedication of CAAs to provide services that improve the quality of life and promote self-sufficiency, especially during times of crisis like the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hamilton 1 Head Start Throws Mother's Day Celebration



To honor mothers, Hamilton 1 Head Start hosted a Mother's Day Celebration with various fun activities for both children and moms to enjoy. Students performed some songs for their moms and presented them with handmade gifts. Afterwards, the group enjoyed a dance party accompanied by snacks and beverages to end the day.

Evacuation Drill Held At Hamilton 1 Head Start



Hamilton 1 Head start and Little Cherubs staff and students participated in an evacuation drill to help them become better prepared in the case of an emergency. The group walked from their center to Hamilton High School West, which serves as their safe location in the event of an evacuation. Aline Skaff, Family/Child Site Director at Hamilton 1 Head Start, took this opportunity to explain the importance of safety drills to students and answered their questions.

Gateway Receives A Large Donation Of Sanitizing Wipes



Gateway Community Action Partnership received pallets of sanitizing wipes to distribute to families through a grant from Greater Good Charities. Gateway is currently distributing the wipes through our Head Start and food distribution programs.

Gateway's Family Success Centers Receive Basket Donations Just In Time For Easter



Gateway's three Family Success Centers received various Easter Basket donations from organizations including Catholic Daughters of America and St. Joseph's Church of Sea Isle City.

Happy Cheeks Diaper Bank Continues To Thrive At Our Family Success Centers



Three local organizations donated diapers and baby wipes to the Happy Cheeks Diaper Program during the month of May. Among gracious donors were District Deputy Grand Matron to the Second District of the Eastern Stars Sharon Harris, Leadership Cumberland County, and Ivy Rehab Physical Therapy.

Diaper Bank Meets Financial Literacy In An Event Hosted By The Salem Family Success Center



The Salem Family Success Center and the Greater Bridgeton Family Success Center held their Happy Cheeks Diaper Bank event alongside Laura Pistoia, Gateway's Director of Literacy Services. Laura spoke to the families about Gateway's Financial Literacy Program and answered questions on attaining financial independence.

Pictured from left; Family Partner Worker of Salem FSC Ruby Chestnut, Director of Literacy Services Laura Pistoia, and Acting Coordinator of Salem FSC Daffonie Moore.

FSC Party Packs Help Families Host Birthday Celebrations For Their Children



Gateway's Family Success Centers have been assisting families by giving away "party packs" assembled with donations received from Party City. The "birthday party packs" help families by offsetting the cost of birthday parties for their children. Each pack includes \$150 to \$200 worth of items. "Party packs" are available for pickup at any of our Family Success Centers located in Salem, Millville, and Bridgeton.

Gateway Joins Second Baptist Church In Paulsboro For A Community Event



On Saturday, April 30, Gateway participated in the Agape Open Air Market hosted by Second Baptist Church in Paulsboro. Gateway was invited to distribute resources and share information about the programs and services available to local residents, including the Gloucester County Council for Young Children (GCCYC), Head Start, and LIHEAP. Kyana Evans (Assistant to the Executive Vice President/COO), Katherine Smith (Gloucester CCYC Coordinator), and Keeshia Ferrell (Gloucester LIHEAP Manager) represented the agency at the event, joined by a parent leader from the CCYC.

Exelon's \$36 Million Racial Equity Capital Fund Helps Support Minority-Owned Businesses

Last fall, Atlantic City Electric's parent company Exelon, in partnership with the Exelon Foundation, established the \$36 million Racial Equity Capital Fund. The fund is managed by RockCreek, one of the world's largest diverse owned global investment firms and will help minority-owned businesses in their service areas to grow, create additional jobs and reinvest in their communities. This initiative is part of Atlantic City Electric's ongoing, extensive efforts to promote equity and economic opportunity in the diverse communities they serve.

Applications for the fund are now open. Interested businesses can access the application through the link below or contact RockCreek at RECFInquiries@therockcreekgroup.com for more information about the program. More information is also available in the below news release and fact sheet.

[Access Application Here](#)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**EXELON-FUNDED \$36 MILLION RACIAL EQUITY CAPITAL FUND,
ADMINISTERED BY ROCKCREEK, ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FROM
MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESSES IN SERVICE AREAS**

RockCreek-managed fund, in partnership with minority banks and community-based lending institutions, will provide needed capital to help minority-owned businesses grow, create jobs, and expand in underserved and under-resourced communities served by Exelon.

Chicago, Ill. (May 4, 2022) – Exelon announced today that [RockCreek](#), one of the world's largest diverse-owned global investment firms, has opened applications for the \$36 million Exelon-funded Racial Equity Capital Fund to support minority-owned businesses in Exelon's service areas in Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Illinois, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

[Exelon](#), which serves more than 10 million customers through its six electric and gas utilities, announced last fall that it had partnered with the Exelon Foundation to create the Racial Equity Capital Fund. The fund will help minority businesses obtain capital to fuel growth and spur job opportunities in communities that have historically been underserved, under-resourced, and overlooked by investors and traditional funding sources. The fund will provide loans and equity investments for numerous minority businesses throughout Exelon's service areas over the next three years, with estimated loan amounts between \$100,000 and \$300,000, and equity investments of nearly \$1 million.

"With this fund, we are empowering small, minority-owned businesses to grow their capacity, increase revenue and hire more employees," said **Calvin Butler**, chief operating officer and senior executive vice president of Exelon. "We have identified financial partners who understand the unique challenges these businesses face, but who also share our vision and are eager to reinvigorate the communities we both serve."

RockCreek has forged partnerships with minority-owned lending institutions and community-based banks to increase the investment capacity of the Racial Equity Capital Fund. The fund will invest in minority-owned businesses who have historically lacked access to capital to sustain operations, grow revenues, create jobs, and increase wellbeing throughout underserved and under-resourced communities.

"Capital is the fuel that allows businesses to grow, create jobs, and strengthen communities, and for too long, minority-owned businesses – and entire communities – have been neglected by financial markets," said **Afsaneh Beschloss**, Founder and CEO of RockCreek. "The Racial



Equity Capital Fund will bring this critical fuel directly to minority-owned businesses and will continue serving their communities in the years ahead.”

Initial partners in this effort include Providence Bank & Trust; United Bank of Philadelphia; and City First Bank, National Association of Washington, DC. RockCreek continues to seek out and engage with other potential partners throughout Exelon’s service areas.

The partnerships are the next step in the launch of the \$36 million initiative, which is funded by Exelon and managed by RockCreek. RockCreek will select businesses for financing and manage the fund to serve as a continuing resource to help grow businesses, create jobs, and strengthen the communities Exelon serves.

Interested businesses can access the application [here](#) or contact RockCreek at RECFInquiries@therockcreekgroup.com for more information about the program.

About Exelon

Exelon (Nasdaq: EXC) is a Fortune 200 company and the nation’s largest utility company, serving more than 10 million customers through six fully regulated transmission and distribution utilities — Atlantic City Electric (ACE), Baltimore Gas and Electric (BGE), Commonwealth Edison (ComEd), Delmarva Power & Light (DPL), PECO Energy Company (PECO), and Potomac Electric Power Company (Pepco). More than 18,000 Exelon employees dedicate their time and expertise to supporting our communities through reliable, affordable and efficient energy delivery, workforce development, equity, economic development and volunteerism. Follow Exelon on Twitter @Exelon.

About RockCreek

One of the largest woman and diverse-owned global investment firms, RockCreek applies data-driven technology to invest sustainably and inclusively. Founded in 2003 by CEO Afsaneh Beschloss, former Treasurer and Chief Investment Officer of the World Bank, RockCreek has more than \$16 billion in assets. RockCreek has invested more than \$7.4 billion in diverse firms, including over \$990 million in Black owned firms, and \$6.3 billion in sustainable investments including climate, health, education, job creation, and affordable housing since its inception. Follow RockCreek on Twitter @RockCreekGroup and on LinkedIn.

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Racial Equity Capital Fund

The Next Chapter of Partnership with Minority Businesses

Exelon has launched a Racial Equity Capital Fund, in partnership with the Exelon Foundation, that will expand access to capital for minority businesses so they can create more jobs, grow their companies and reinvest in their neighborhoods and communities. The fund builds on Exelon's longstanding history of supporting the underserved and under-resourced communities and further delivers on our commitment to drive economic equity and opportunity for our customers and communities.

The Racial Equity Capital Fund will strengthen communities and help minority businesses grow by:

- Providing affordable capital to businesses in communities that have traditionally been challenged in accessing and securing funding (e.g., minority-owned businesses and businesses in underserved and under-resourced communities, etc.).
- Increasing minority business capacity and subsequent employment opportunities for diverse local communities.
- Utilizing the expertise of the fund manager, [RockCreek](#), a diverse-owned firm with > 75% diverse ownership and management team diversity — to make investment decisions.
- With RockCreek, growing the capability of the capital fund through partnerships with minority community banks, other key local financial organizations and community organizations to source originations and provide additional investment and lending opportunities outside of the company-provided funding.

“With this fund, we can help minority job creators overcome barriers to their growth and success and ensure that the benefits of our post-pandemic economic recovery are shared more equitably.”

Calvin Butler,
SEVP and COO, Exelon

“RockCreek is excited to partner with Exelon's utilities to invest the Racial Equity Capital Fund, which will bring much-needed capital to minority businesses to help them grow, create jobs, and strengthen communities in the years and decades to come.”

Afsaneh Beschloss,
Founder and CEO, RockCreek



Racial Equity Capital Fund Details

- The fund will provide \$36 million in equity investments to support minority-owned businesses in the communities it serves.
- The [initiative](#) is part of Exelon's ongoing, extensive efforts to promote equity and economic opportunity in the diverse communities served by our six utilities, which include Atlantic City Electric, BGE, ComEd, Delmarva Power, PECO and Pepco.
- The capital fund is expected to invest in numerous businesses throughout Exelon's service areas over the next three years with estimated loan amounts between \$100,000 and \$300,000 and equity investments of nearly \$1 million.

\$36M

Exelon created a \$36M fund to support minority-owned businesses in the communities we serve.

\$2.9B

In 2021, Exelon spent \$2.9B with diversity-certified suppliers.

\$14M

In 2021, Exelon's utilities spent more than \$14M on workforce development.

\$164M+

Exelon donated \$164M to organizations with a focus on diversity, equity and inclusion efforts over the past five years.

Exelon has a rich history of supporting underserved and under-resourced communities. In addition to the equity fund, Exelon has:

- Spent \$2.9 billion with diversity-certified suppliers in 2021, growing our total spend with diversity suppliers more than 56 percent from 2016–2021.
- Spent more than \$14 million in 2021 on workforce development, supporting more than 65 workforce development programs across its six utilities, including Infrastructure Academies that create pathways into utility careers through training programs offered in partnership with other entities. Over 300 program participants were hired internally and externally to date.
- Established a Racial Equity Task Force designed to eliminate barriers and create opportunities for Exelon employees, vendors, customers and communities.

Applications are open! Minority businesses interested in funding should contact the fund manager, RockCreek: RECFInquiries@therockcreekgroup.com

You can support Gateway's mission "to provide services that improve the quality of life and promote self-sufficiency" while shopping at Amazon's "AmazonSmile." Please click on the link below the next time you shop. More information about the program follows the link. Thank you.

[Click Here To Donate To Gateway Through AmazonSmile!](#)

About AmazonSmile

What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Gateway Community Action Partnership every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to Gateway.

How do I shop at AmazonSmile?

To shop at AmazonSmile simply click on the link above or go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

Which products on AmazonSmile are eligible for charitable donations?

Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages. Recurring Subscribe-and-Save purchases and subscription renewals are not currently eligible.

Can I use my existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile?

Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

Welcome to Gateway CAP's New Hires!

Simone Church, Program Nutritionist

Ricardo Dejesus, East Almond Maintenance Technician

Maria Rojas, Food Distribution Assistant-CGS

William Mutts, Advocate

Dominique Williams, Advocate

Fatma Djellal, Sub Teacher Assistant

Gateway Community Action Partnership

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