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## \$500,000 state grant secured for new Fayette business park

By Mark Hofmann [mhofmann@heraldstandard.com](mailto:mhofmann@heraldstandard.com) Aug 14, 2018 Updated 12 hrs ago

A \$500,000 grant will help with a new business park in North Union Township, creating 1,000 jobs in the process.

State leaders said the grant went to the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Fayette for the centrally located park that's expected to host more than 45 businesses when completed.

"The establishment of a business park here in Fayette County is a huge economic boost for our county, and it will help to bring even more jobs to our area as the companies that locate here continue to expand and grow," said state Sen. Pat Stefano, R-Bullskin. "Job-creation and economic development have been my top priority for this area, and I'm pleased that this project was chosen to receive funding. I appreciate all the work on the local level that was done to make this happen as well."

Andrew French, executive director of the authority, thanked lawmakers on the local, county and state levels who helped in securing the funding for the new park.

French said the funding will likely be used for possible land acquisition and infrastructure costs as they're still in the preliminary stage of finding and securing a location for the park.

"Nothing's definitive right now," French said, adding that the grant is seen as a first step of further investment from multiple sources as the original request was for \$2 million to mirror the success of the Fayette County Business Park, which has reached its limit on available land.

One of the potential locations includes the over 200 acres of land owned by the Sisters of Saint Basil near Mount St. Macrina. That land is situated along the Mon-Fayette Expressway.

"There were a number of different sites we've talked about," French said.

State Rep. Ryan Warner, R-Perryopolis, who represents North Union Township, said the announcement of a new business part was something needed in the area.

“It is a clear sign to the rest of our region that Fayette County is open for business,” Warner said. “I’m proud of the team effort that went into securing this funding.”

The state funding comes from the Redevelopment Assistance Capitol Program (RACP) program. RACP is administered by the Office of the Budget for the acquisition and construction of regional economic, cultural, civic, recreational and historical improvement projects.

State Rep. Matthew Dowling, R-Uniontown, also celebrated the regional significance of the project, stating that not only will it create jobs in his district, but will create a “incredible ripple effect” throughout the county.

“With a new base of employees there will be a need for restaurants and markets for new residential developments to serve those employees,” Dowling said. “The impact from a project like this will be felt for decades to come.”

Fayette County Commissioner Vince Vicites thanked Gov. Tom Wolf and the entire legislative delegation for their support of the project.

Vicites remembered when he was first elected as commissioner, he received a similar grant for the Fayette County Business Park on Route 40, which was a cornfield that transformed to a park containing 45 businesses, 1,000 employees with over \$100 million in private investments.

“With this grant as a foundation we will begin the next great economic development opportunity in Fayette County,” Vicites said.

“The development of pad-ready sites will help bolster Fayette County to the top of the list when businesses are looking for a place to call home,” said Wolf. “I’m proud to support a project that will help Fayette County prepare for the business development and job creation projects of the future.”

Wolf said in a statement that the \$500,000 grant will implement the redevelopment authority’s strategic plan of creating a business, that, when completed, will be able to house commercial, retail and professional businesses.

“This is a clear sign of what can happen when state and local officials work together towards economic development,” Stefano said.