



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE  
HARRISBURG

ROBERT A. BITTENBENDER  
SECRETARY  
OFFICE OF THE BUDGET

March 5, 2002

Honorable Guy A. Travaglio, Jr.  
House of Representatives  
House Box 202020  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120-2020

Dear Representative Travaglio:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding funds that were temporarily being withheld from payment in the New Choices/New Options appropriation.

Due to the current economic slowdown and the decline in General Fund revenue collections, a number of appropriations had monies that were temporarily withheld from payment. This occurred as the Administration worked to identify and freeze more than \$300 million in current year spending. It was imperative to implement the spending freeze in order to mitigate any negative consequences declining revenues could have upon the Commonwealth's General Fund budget.

The payment restrictions were recently lifted on the New Choices/New Options appropriation. Therefore, the total appropriation is available for payment to the service providers.

Again, thank you for taking the time to write and express your thoughts on this issue. Please do not hesitate to bring other matters of concern or interest to our attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert A. Bittenbender".

Robert A. Bittenbender

PETER J. DALEY, MEMBER

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**House of Representatives**  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

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DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN  
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SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE BOARD  
AGRICULTURE LAW CENTER ADVISORY BOARD  
DEP AGRICULTURE ADVISORY BOARD

January 31, 2002

Representative Guy Travaglio  
Room 4  
East Wing

RE: Rural Youth Development Grant in your home county

Dear Representative Travaglio:

By statute, the Majority and Minority Chairs of Agriculture in the House and Senate are granted seats on the advisory committee for the Agricultural and Rural Youth Grant program – a program that was initiated under Governor Casey. At a meeting today, the Advisory Committee voted to award a grant to a youth agricultural project proposal from your home county. Since many of these projects benefit young people from the entire surrounding area, we are notifying all Democratic Members serving the county for which each grant will be awarded.

The Rural Youth Development Grant program solicits proposals annually that benefit young people in programs having to do with agricultural issues and rural leadership development. Direct grants are a maximum of \$2,500 per year, and matching grants may be up to \$10,000 per project – matched by a minimum of \$10,000 cash.

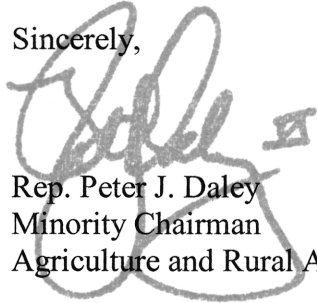
Prior to this year, the program had been funded from loan funds paid back to the department from a defunct program. Those funds ran out last year, leaving the last program year with only \$40,000 to distribute. For the current budget year, the legislature provided \$100,000; approximately \$60,000 of that amount will be awarded in the direct grant category and \$40,000 in the matching grant category. This year, in response to that legislative support, the program received 58 direct grant applications requesting a total of \$128,217 and 11 matching grant applications requesting a total of \$99,382.

The Advisory Committees' review of the grant request resulted in the award of 26 direct grant requests totaling approximately \$59,000 and 5 matching grant requests for approximately \$41,000.

*cc: megan mcglone  
& copy to office*

Enclosed is a copy of the grant application(s) awarded in your home county. If you have additional questions about the grant program, you may contact Dave Callen, our committee executive director, at 783-9333.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter J. Daley", with a small square mark to the right of the signature.

Rep. Peter J. Daley  
Minority Chairman  
Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee

Enclosure: Home County grant application