



MEDIA RELEASE

TITLE: **Governor Tomblin signs Neighborhood Investment Program Act**
A Big Win for WV's Civic and Philanthropic Sectors

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Charleston, WV: April 7, 2016 – Governor Tomblin has signed SB293 reauthorizing the West Virginia Neighborhood Investment Program (WVNIP) for another 5 years beginning July 1, 2016. The WVNIP has tremendous impact on leveraging private giving from citizens and businesses to serve citizens and communities in need across the state's 55 counties.

“This is a major victory for the state's civic and philanthropy sectors. We thank the legislators from both chambers who unanimously approved its renewal and Governor Tomblin for signing it into law as it benefits West Virginia's citizens and communities,” shares Paul D. Daugherty, president and CEO of Philanthropy WV, a leading coalition partner for the program's renewal. He added, “This renewal was not an easy feat and it required the hard work of hundreds of partners across the state including: WV Nonprofit Association, nonprofit organizations, chambers of commerce/business leaders, community foundations, private citizens, and government leaders. We are extremely thankful for this collaborative effort that resulted in a major win for the state's economically disadvantaged citizens and communities.”

The WVNIP provides a pool of \$3 million per year in giving incentives that qualified nonprofit organizations apply for and then issue to leverage private giving from citizens and businesses who give at least \$500 for programs, organizations, and community endowments serving economically disadvantaged citizens and communities. In West Virginia, where the middle and low income citizens are strong charitable contributors to our communities the WVNIP provides an opportunity to give more charitably and invest in local communities and efforts that strengthen our state. The program benefits more than 600,000 economically disadvantaged West Virginians in all 55 counties annually.

With WV in the midst of economic challenges and the state's massive transfer of wealth taking place, the WVNIP provides an opportunity for individuals to contribute at least 5% of their wealth to benefit their local communities. Since the enactment of WVNIP 20 years ago, the program has generated over \$75 million dollars in private giving and assisted with nearly 3,000 nonprofit projects, all serving West Virginia's economically disadvantaged population. This was one of the only financial pieces of legislation in the 2016 WV Legislative Session to pass both the West Virginia House and Senate with unanimous approval.

Daugherty noted, “2016 marks 20 years of the program and the renewal takes it forward another five years. We look forward to celebrating the program's renewal and long-time impact later this spring with the legislative leadership, Governor, nonprofits, foundations, and our broad base of coalition partners.”

The WV Neighborhood Investment Program is managed by the WV Development Office. For more information about the WVNIP's impact visit: www.philanthropywv.org or the state's massive transfer of wealth visit: www.Keep5Local.org.