



## **News for Immediate Release**

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### **Corbett Administration Announces the Release of Economic Growth Initiative Grant to Excelsa Health System Orthopedic Center for Excellence**

Discusses impact of pension crisis on future projects

**Harrisburg** – Governor Tom Corbett today announced the award of a \$3 million Economic Growth Initiative grant to Excelsa Health, Westmoreland County for the design and construction of a specialized orthopedic diagnostic and treatment center located in Hempfield Township.

When fully operational, the Excelsa Health Orthopedics Center of Excellence will comprise 125,000 square feet of new construction and house physician offices, diagnostic, rehabilitation and testing facilities that will support an ambulatory surgical center for orthopedic and spine care. The center will include orthopedic surgeons, rheumatologists, physical medicine and rehabilitation specialists, and radiologists as well as clinical support from physical, occupational and speech therapists, laboratory and imaging technologists.

"This is a prime example of government and local communities working together to address the needs of the people," Corbett said. "In addition to creating family-sustaining jobs, access to quality, specialty care is important, especially in our suburban and rural areas."

Excelsa Health is the largest employer in Westmoreland County, employing more than 4,600 people. The Center will create and retain 110 jobs and will indirectly support an additional 198 jobs. All offices and support services will be housed within the structure.

The project will be completed in two phases.

The first phase of the project is estimated to take 17 months to complete. Long term, the Center is expected to serve 400,000 individuals in and around Westmoreland County. Patients will benefit from quality, state-of-the-art care, delivered locally.

"I am pleased that Governor Corbett has partnered with Excelsa, Westmoreland County's largest employer, to make the hospital's vision a reality," Senator Kim Ward (R-Westmoreland) said. "It is important that we continue to work on increasing access to care while lowering costs for Westmoreland County families."

"We are thankful for this grant," said Robert Rogalski, Excelsa's Chief Executive Officer. "There is a growing need for orthopedic care in the county. Having a Center of Excellence model of care will help Excelsa attract new physicians and skilled clinicians to our community."

In 2012, Corbett reformed the state's method of funding Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program with a significant redesign, making the process more transparent and objective. Projects are now selected based upon their job-creation potential, their economic impact, as well as their viability and construction readiness.

Prior to Corbett taking office, the state's spending and borrowing for capital redevelopment assistance had become unsustainable for the state and its taxpayers, growing from \$400 million in 1986 to slightly more than \$4 billion in 2010. Corbett also said that the program had strayed considerably from its intended purpose of encouraging and assisting job growth through regional economic development projects.

Last round, the Corbett administration announced 58 new Economic Growth Initiative grants, totaling more than \$133 million. The announced projects are expected to create more than 45,000 jobs in 24 counties across the state.

To ensure the commonwealth can continue supporting Economic Growth Initiative grants, Corbett continued to urge the state legislature to enact meaningful pension reform and address the current pension system's \$50 billion debt. Ballooning pension costs, which consume approximately 60 cents of every new dollar of general fund revenues, detract from the commonwealth's ability to invest in economic development and projects that spur job creation.

"Every dollar saved through pension reform is an opportunity to support more Economic Initiative grants that build a stronger Pennsylvania," said Corbett. "Doing nothing to fix our pension crisis fails our families throughout Westmoreland County and the state."

For more information on the program, visit the Budget Office online at [www.budget.state.pa.us](http://www.budget.state.pa.us) and select the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program link.

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**Editor's note:** For statutory and legislative purposes, the Economic Grow Initiative program will continue to be known as the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program.

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