



Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group (PCRGR) Membership Benefits

Mission: “PCRGR is a coalition of community leaders, working for economic justice, equitable investment practices, and sufficient financial resources to revitalize communities throughout Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.”

As Pittsburgh’s sole county-wide community-led organization, PCRGR addresses core community reinvestment issues. We accomplish all of our work through the lens of the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA), with a focus on low-income individuals and neighborhoods, and a commitment to affordability. Through community-lending relationships with local financial institutions, we further our pledge to promote sound and equitable lending practices which seek out and meet the credit needs of our communities. As a member of PCRGR, we will help your organization in four key areas: 1) shaping policy, 2) navigating the network, 3) building capacity, and 4) developing resources.

Shaping Policy: We Advocate *for* and *with* You

- PCRGR’s membership drives its policy agenda. Bi-annually, the membership works with staff to identify and outline the policy priorities. Working through the staff and PCRGR Board of Directors, we ensure members are engaged, educated on topics, and that your voice is heard.
- PCRGR offers detailed legislative analyses of key policy issues and offers education sessions to enable our members to be informed.
- PCRGR leads coordinated actions by drafting comment letters to regulatory institutions, providing talking points for public testimonies, organizing letters of support or of opposition to proposed legislation, and transporting members for legislative visits to Harrisburg and Washington DC.
- Through our transit advocacy coalition, GoBurgh, we fought to keep state transportation funding that would have otherwise been greatly reduced. This advocacy effort saved communities from crippling route cuts and complete isolation of thousands of our most vulnerable neighbors.



Navigating the Network: We Coordinate, Convene, and Connect

- PCRGR hosts a bi-annual member retreat to identify our membership’s needs and strategically coordinate partnerships between member organizations and financial partners to work together on joint projects.
- PCRGR convenes several working groups which allow members to join other stakeholders in addressing common issues around critical topics such as: land use, banking, public safety, small business development, and transit.
- Our media becomes your media. We offer you a way to amplify your voice and promote your work to local and national foundations, financial institutions, and potential partners for future projects.
- PCRGR’s monthly e-newsletter and social media platforms feature the work of our members, helping to spread your story and share your accomplishments.
- As a member of the National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC), PCRGR connects its membership to more than 600 community-based organizations across the country.





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- PCRGR brings its members together with our region's leading community development experts through our Annual Summit (as a PCRGR member, you will receive a discounted registration rate for your organization's membership and an additional four free reception tickets). Over 500 individuals from across the discipline learn, connect and celebrate with us each spring.

Building Capacity: Our Staff is Your Staff

- Our Reimagining Communities Initiative (RCI) trains residents to carry out quality-of-life surveys, provides mapping of property conditions to help you better understand your community, and connects residents with much-needed resources. We empower residents and community organizations to be active stakeholders in their neighborhood's future.
- PCRGR provides scholarships to various conferences and trainings, such as: the Annual National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC) Conference, the Leadership Development Cohort, NeighborWorks America Training Institutes, Railvolution, Reclaiming Vacant Properties Conference, and others.
- PCRGR works with member organizations on an as-needed basis for board development and technical assistance.
- PCRGR's Safe Neighborhoods Network (SNN) provides its members with Liquor License Action Alerts. These alerts allow your organization to stay on top of any business applying for a liquor license in your community. Receiving this information in a timely manner can mean the difference between having a nuisance bar or a responsible establishment in your neighborhood.

Developing Resources: We Expand the Capital Available to You

- PCRGR issues an Annual Mortgage Lending Study and will work with your organization to understand lending patterns in your community and how you can use this data to leverage capital to implement your projects.
- Through our partnership with the Allegheny Conference's Strengthening Communities Program (SCP), we are helping introduce new investors to the community development field. The program will concentrate long-term investments in targeted communities in the total amount of \$6M over three years.
- PCRGR and its financial partners have developed an affordable purchase-rehabilitation mortgage loan—known as the Community Acquisition and Rehab Loan (CARL) – a tool to increase homeownership and catalyze revitalization in neighborhoods of need.
- PCRGR is establishing the Community Capital Fund to increase the amount of money available for financing CARL borrowers.

