

# Northampton County Council Approved the Creation of New Department, Continuum of Care at Gracedale

By Kelly Prentice

Northampton County, PA— With a vote of 5-to-4, Northampton County Council tonight approved the creation of a new County Department, Continuum of Care at Gracedale, to serve as the County's integrated care and planning hub for the future of Gracedale. This department will be focused exclusively on Gracedale and, once filled, will remove oversight of Gracedale from the County's Human Services Department.

This new structure includes a Director of Human Services Continuum of Care who will provide senior executive leadership at Gracedale Nursing Home focused on strategy, external partnerships, funding alignment, and long-range system design. The new structure also includes a Deputy Director of Human Services Continuum of Care, who would handle implementation, cross-department coordination, reporting, compliance, and the operational details that turn policy into results, as well as offering fiscal oversight.

"This proposal is about building the leadership structure required to manage one of the County's most important assets and responsibilities: caring for our aging residents and vulnerable populations with dignity, coordination, and long-term financial responsibility," said County Executive Tara Zrinski.

The Continuum of Care Department at Gracedale will coordinate the full continuum: nursing care, supportive living, and future campus-based development reflecting the needs of the continuum of care across the 364 acres upon which Gracedale occupies. That approach reflects the direction already being discussed through the Gracedale Continuum of Care items on the Council agenda.

"The Continuum of Care Department gives Northampton County the framework to modernize service delivery, support Gracedale's future, and align public resources with a more integrated model of care," Zrinski said.

She also noted that the County is responsible for 1,318 employees across Human Services and Gracedale—a footprint that represents more than 60% of the County's annual operating budget and spans two physical locations. A Continuum of Care department will give Council and the Administration a single point of accountability for strategy, service alignment, and long-range planning across the care spectrum.



## Build & Burn Fitness in East Stroudsburg is OFFICIALLY OPEN!

By Pocono Chamber of Commerce

EAST STROUDSBURG, PA - The Pocono Chamber of Commerce, a proud partner of the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce, joined the community for the Build & Burn Fitness Ribbon Cutting and Block Party on Saturday, May 2nd. The Chamber was honored to host this grand event!

Build and Burn Fitness is a personal training facility in East Stroudsburg, founded by husband-and-wife team Joe and Emily Randazzo. The gym specializes in semi-private training, helping busy adults lose body fat, build lean muscle, and create sustainable fitness habits through expert coaching and accountability. Since opening, Build and Burn Fitness has quickly grown into a results-driven, community-focused facility known for high-quality coaching and a supportive environment. Every session is structured, personalized, and designed to help members see measurable progress. Joe and Emily created Build and Burn Fitness with a mission to raise the standard of personal training while building a strong, motivating community. The ribbon cutting marks an exciting milestone as they continue expanding their impact in the Pocono region.

Stop in to Build & Burn Fitness in East Stroudsburg to congratulate them on this achievement!

## Northampton County Accepting Applications for 2026 Hotel Tax Program Grants

By Kelly Prentice

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY - Applicants must either be a federally registered non-profit entity, 501(C)(3), 501(C)(4), or 501(C)(5), or a municipal entity located within Northampton County. Eligible projects will enhance tourism and/or promote community development within Northampton County and must be completed within Calendar Year 2027. Hotel Tax grants are awarded through a competitive process and distributed at the discretion of the County Council, advised by the County Executive, who receives recommendations from the Hotel Tax Review Committee. Eligible organizations can apply for up to \$50,000.

Awards are expected to be announced in December 2026, and all projects must be completed by December 31, 2027. Interested organizations can apply by visiting the Northampton County Participant Portal hosted by Neighborly Software at: <https://portal.neighborlysoftware.com/NORTHAMPTONCOUNTYPA/participant>

Registration is required on the Participant Portal to apply.

Program inquiries should be directed to:

Northampton County Department of Community & Economic Development Marek Tomanek 610-829-6313; [mtomanek@norcopa.gov](mailto:mtomanek@norcopa.gov)



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