



Are WAMs Back in the Senate Budget?

December 9, 2015

On December 7, 2015, the state Senate [passed a \\$30.8 billion budget](#), more than \$85 million of which is devoted to nine line-items associated with WAMs, or “walking-around money.” WAMs are discretionary funds used by lawmakers to fund projects in their districts. Inviting corruption, WAMs have been criticized as “slush funds,” and deservedly so.

The [Senate has increased spending](#) for three programs associated with WAMs, while reintroducing at least four previously eliminated programs notorious for financing WAMs.

The following is a list of projects funded by programs associated with WAMs:

- 1. Program: Pennsylvania First**
Project: Lehigh Valley Expansion
Applicant: Kraft Foods Group, Inc.
Amount: \$200,000

- 2. Program: Keystone Communities Program**
Project: Rialto Theatre Digital Conversion
Applicant: Bradford County Regional Arts Council
Amount: \$25,076

- 3. Program: Infrastructure & Facilities Improvement Program**
Project: American Eagle Outfitters, Inc.
Applicant: Urban Redevelopment Development Authority of Pittsburgh
Amount: \$3,000,0000

- 4. Program: Infrastructure & Facilities Improvement Program**
Project: Dicks Sporting Goods Headquarters Expansion
Applicant: Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County
Amount: \$3,600,000

- 5. Program: Industrial Resource Center**
Project: Industrial Resource Center Program
Applicant: Mantec
Amount: \$11,894,430 (two different grants)

- 6. Program: Community and Business Assistance**
Project: Administrative Infrastructure Upgrade
Applicant: Philadelphia Dance Company
Amount: \$200,000

- 7. Program: Community and Business Assistance**
Project: Local and International Outreach
Applicant: Philadelphia Orchestra Association
Amount: \$250,000
- 8. Program: Community and Business Assistance**
Project: Aliquippa Holiday Lighting
Applicant: City of Aliquippa
Amount: \$10,000
- 9. Program: Community and Business Assistance**
Project: Boxing Equipment
Applicant: Pittsburgh Boxing Club
Amount \$5,000
- 10. Program: Community and Municipal Facilities Assistance**
Project: 2007 Film Festival costs
Applicant: Philadelphia Film Society
Amount: \$25,000
- 11. Program: Community and Municipal Facilities Assistance**
Project: Movie soundstage feasibility study
Applicant: Greater Philadelphia Film Office
Amount: \$25,000
- 12. Program: Community and Municipal Facilities Assistance**
Project: Parade and Family Festival
Applicant: Philadelphia Council AFL-CIO
Amount: \$100,000
- 13. Program: Community and Municipal Facilities Assistance**
Project: Pool operating cost
Applicant: Wodenschiere Country Club
Amount: \$10,000
- 14. Program: Community and Municipal Facilities Assistance**
Project: Rabbit Barn Construction and Painting
Applicant: Lycoming County Fair Association
Amount: \$50,000
- 15. Program: Cultural Activities**
Project: Contemporary ballet funding
Applicant: Bodiography Contemporary Ballet
Amount: \$45,000