

\$200,000 boost for program considered

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By ELIZABETH REGAN (eregan@lockhaven.com), Williamsport Sun-Gazette

The Brodart Neighborhood Improvement Program will get a \$200,000 boost upon Lycoming County Commissioners' approval Thursday.

Kim Wheeler, county department of planning and community development lead planner, said the county may designate that amount from its 2012 Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement funding for the Homes in Need program for interior and exterior health and safety improvements.

STEP, Inc. is contracted to do the work.

Individuals and families who earn up to 200 percent of the area median income are eligible for these funds, Wheeler said.

Of the 150 houses within that neighborhood boundary around Memorial Avenue, there are 12 applications, according to Wheeler; five are ready to go to audit, which means they're ready to get their housing evaluations by STEP. The others are still going through the eligibility process. Up to \$25,000 can be spent per house, she said.

Since the funds are finite, Wheeler clarified the \$200,000 is the first allocation, and they will find out in September if their request for an additional \$350,000 grant is approved.

The next neighborhood outreach meeting for this project is 6 p.m. July 18 at All Saint's Church.