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APPALACHIAN OHIO
**2020 RETURN
ON INVESTMENT
ANNUAL REPORT**



Harshaville Bridge - 1855



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STRENGTHENING OHIO'S APPALACHIAN REGION

2020 ANNUAL RETURN ON INVESTMENT REPORT PRODUCED BY THE FOUR APPALACHIAN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS OF OHIO.



Buckeye Hills Regional Council
Executive Director: Misty Crosby

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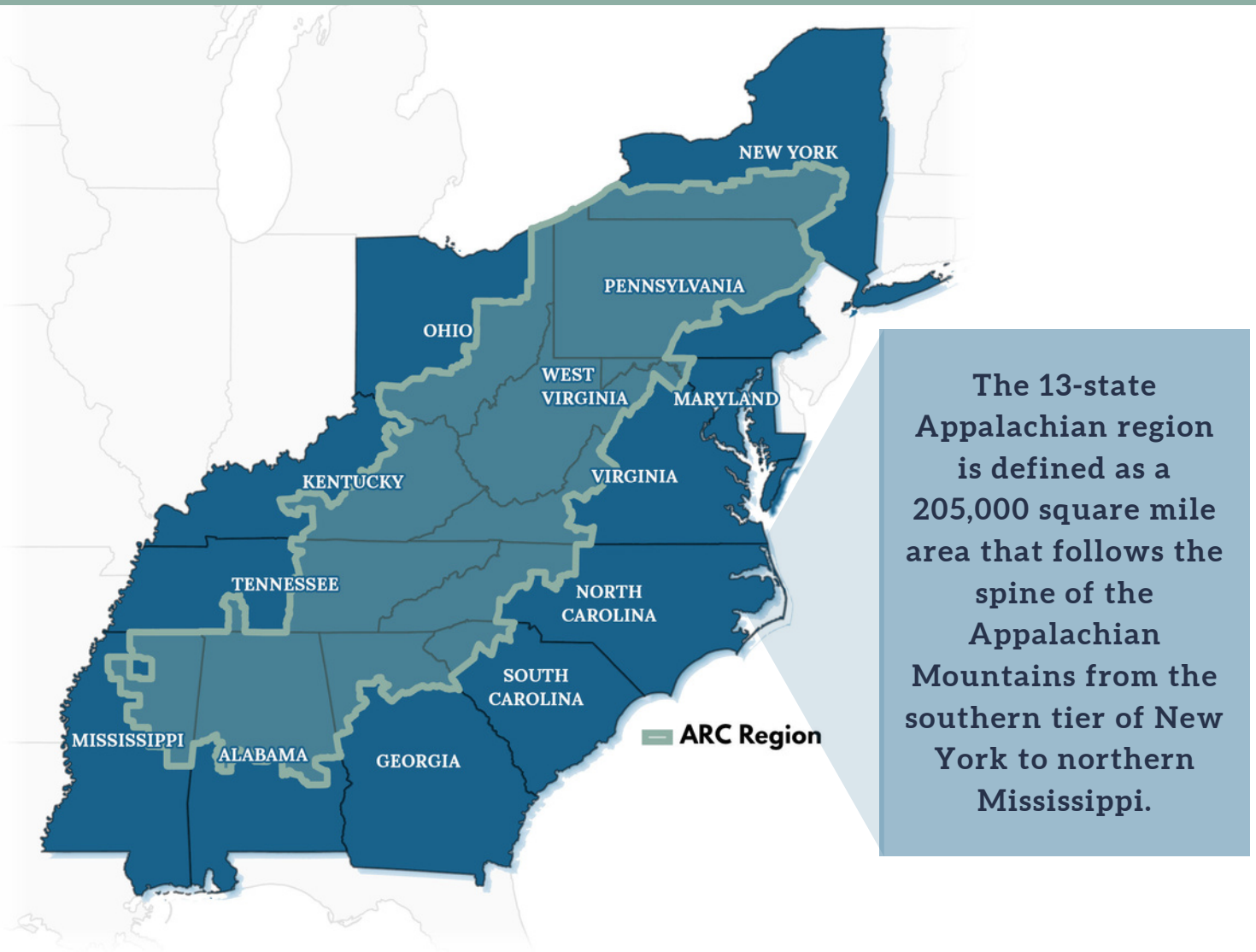


Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission
Executive Director: John Hemmings

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INVESTING IN APPALACHIA



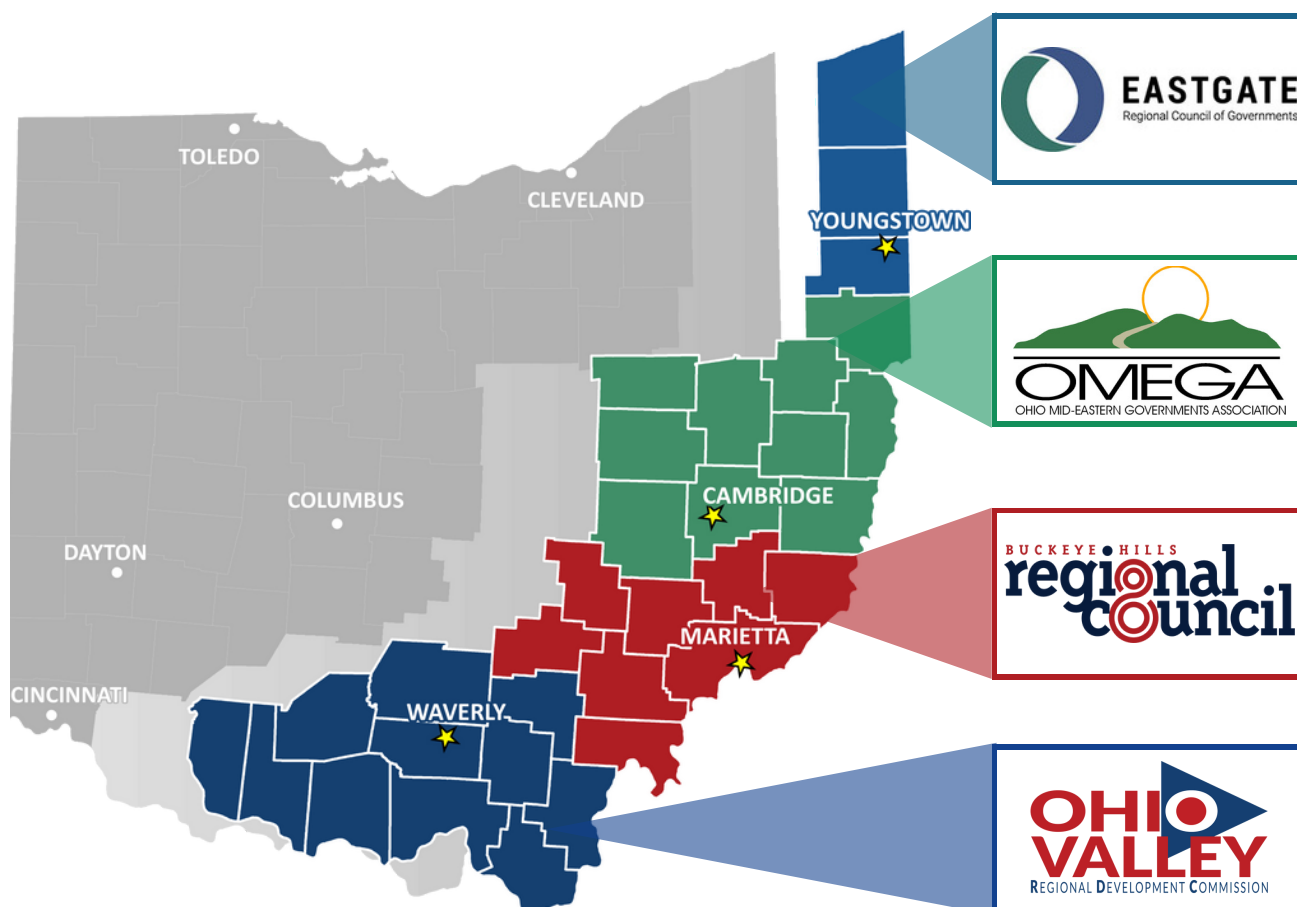
With 420 counties, the Appalachian region includes all of West Virginia and parts of 12 other states including: Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. Appalachia is home to more than 25 million people.

With the goal of bringing the region to socioeconomic parity with the rest of the nation, the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) has focused investments into fundamental community and economic development needs, including basic infrastructure, education, job training, health care, entrepreneurship, and capital market development.

INVESTING IN APPALACHIAN OHIO

Ohio is home to 32 Appalachian counties and bolsters federal ARC funding with a matching state investment. Within this region, four Appalachian Ohio Local Development Districts (LDDs), organize community-driven projects and target funds for distribution from federal and state partners to ensure positive movement toward the mission of the ARC: to bring the region to socioeconomic parity.

The LDDs' most important role is to identify the priority needs of their local communities. To ensure that funds are used effectively and efficiently, and to strengthen local participation, Ohio's project selection process includes a grassroots approach through which local governments prioritize both the state and federal investments across the region for the greatest regional impact.



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



BROADBAND
EXPANSION



FUNDING FOR
REGIONAL
GROWTH



INFRASTRUCTURE
DEVELOPMENT



TRANSIT &
TRANSPORTATION



WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT

TO STRENGTHEN RURAL APPALACHIAN OHIO



BROADBAND

Rural Appalachian Ohio businesses and households continue to suffer from a lack of broadband infrastructure, hindering the region's economic competitiveness in the digital age. Between 80% and 90% of households in the rural expanse have no access to broadband service.

POVERTY

Appalachian Ohio has a poverty rate of 17%, which is higher than both the state of Ohio and the U.S. percentages, with lower than average market income and higher than average unemployment rates.

HEALTH CARE

Appalachian Ohio struggles to maintain quality, accessible health care for all residents. The years of potential life lost, a measure of premature mortality, is 28% higher than the national rate and 8% percent higher than the rate in non-Appalachian Ohio.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Appalachian Ohio has an unemployment rate of 5.1%, which is higher than both the state of Ohio and the U.S. percentages. Workforce development and investments in infrastructure are needed for growth.

2020 BY THE NUMBERS

**TOTAL LEVERAGED INVESTMENT
IN APPALACHIAN OHIO**

\$61.8 million

**TOTAL INVESTMENT BY
APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION**

\$5.8 million

**TOTAL INVESTMENT BY
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF APPALACHIA**

\$4.3 million

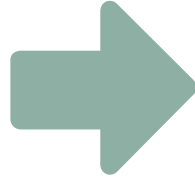
**TOTAL LDD INVESTMENT
IN APPALACHIAN OHIO**

\$71.9 million

2020 LDD IMPACT



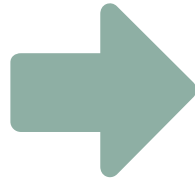
**TOTAL
PROJECTS
IN REGION**



46



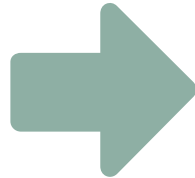
**TOTAL
JOBS
RETAINED**



1,079



**TOTAL
JOBS
CREATED**



614



**TOTAL
PROJECT
INVESTMENT**



\$71.9M



SWITZERLAND OF OHIO TELEHEALTH BROADBAND EXPANSION MONROE COUNTY



Appalachian Assistance Funds: \$500,000 Total Project Costs: \$600,000

Partners:

Building on the success of InnovateOhio's and Broadband Ohio's Switzerland of Ohio Local School District telehealth project to connect K-12 students in Monroe County with mental health counselors, this project is extending fixed wireless broadband to drive job creation, promote innovation, and expand markets for local businesses while also serving the ongoing and growing needs of local education systems, health care systems, public safety systems, and citizens, and improve accessibility for underserved communities and populations.

ASHTABULA COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY BROADBAND PROJECT ASHTABULA COUNTY

Appalachian Assistance Funds: \$56,000

Total Project Costs: \$80,000

Partners: Ashtabula County Commissioners, Ashtabula County Airport Authority, Congressman David Joyce, City of Ashtabula, Ohio Fire & Rescue, AeroTrek Flight Academy, Molded Fiberglass, First Energy - Ohio



This project will make critical investments to enhance public infrastructure with the construction of 5,300 feet of fiber optic cable to

bring broadband service to the Ashtabula County Airport Authority to support economic development. This grant is necessary to provide funding for a high-speed broadband connection required to conduct the safe operations of the airport facility and to attract work force development along with other economic development opportunities. The project will serve 10 local businesses in addition to creating workstations with public access, and one tele-med health service location.

TRUMBULL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OWEN MORGAN CULTURAL AND EDUCATION PROJECT

TRUMBULL COUNTY

Appalachian Assistance Funds: \$50,000

Total Project Costs: \$116,000

Partners: City of Warren, Trumbull Neighborhood Partners, State Senator Sean O'Brien, Trumbull County Bureau of Tourism, Trumbull County Commissioners, Fine Arts Counsel of Trumbull County



This project will promote education of K-12 students, enhance economic development, and promote cultural heritage tourism with the renovation of the historical Owen Morgan home to create a Cultural and Education Center. This project will provide equipment and supplies for classroom and outreach spaces to serve 400 students and 4,000 tourists annually in a new research center with 10 renovated cultural center rooms with two new classroom spaces outfitted with equipment and supplies.

TRANSPORTATION

PHEONIX ROAD ACCESS ROAD GOLDEN TRIANGLE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

TRUMBULL COUNTY

Appalachian Assistance Funds: \$250,000

Total Project Costs: \$499,351

Partners: Trumbull County Commissioners, Trumbull County Engineer's Office, City of Warren, Howland Township, Antenucci Inc, ClarkDietrich, LITCO, Phoenix Tool, Schaefer Equipment, Senator Brown, Senator Portman, Congressman Bill Johnson, and Congressman Ryan



This project will support economic development and improve transportation infrastructure with the construction of a 2,021 LF access road in Howland Township on Phoenix Road serving at least seven local businesses and manufacturers. It is anticipated this project will result in the creation of 34 jobs, with 275 jobs retained, supporting a \$2,500,000 in private investment by the local businesses.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

INNOVATION CENTER INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE

ATHENS COUNTY



Appalachian Assistance Funds: \$250,000 **Total Project Costs:** \$1,438,323

The OU Innovation Center is engaging with internal university partners and external partners to ensure a full offering of support for regional entrepreneurs. External partners include economic development entities, investors, small business development experts, regional higher educational institutions, traditional business lenders, chambers of commerce, and government.

As traditional opportunities for employment and investment become scarcer, it is increasingly important that entrepreneurial opportunities are supported to provide alternatives to the people of the region. The Innovation Center plays a large role in fulfilling the needs for the talented and dedicated workforce of the region, as well as providing direction for the future economy.

URBAN MISSION MINISTRIES FRESH START WORKFORCE PROGRAM

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Appalachian Assistance Funds: \$250,000

Total Project Costs: \$650,000

Partners: Jefferson County Jobs and Family Services, Coleman Professional Services, and the Family Recovery Center

The Urban Mission Ministries serves the homeless, poor, unemployed and underemployed in Jefferson County, as well as surrounding Ohio counties and the northern West Virginia Panhandle. The Fresh Start Workforce Program is designed to help individuals recovering from substance use disorder learn new skills and obtain meaningful employment. The Urban Mission purchased a shopping plaza on North Seventh Street near downtown Steubenville to house the Fresh Start training center to include a grocery store, restaurant and a warehouse for food, clothing and other community needs. Revenue from other tenants at the plaza will sustain this program once renovations are completed.



KIRCHHOFF JOB RETENTION PIKE COUNTY

Appalachian Assistance Funds: \$250,000

Total Project Costs: \$427,800

Partners: Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative (SODI)

The Kirchhoff Job Retention initiative helps with the purchase of essential equipment to retain and support Kirchhoff Automotive jobs, a major employer in the region, with global operations of 30 plants in 11 countries.



The Kirchhoff Job Retention initiative helps with the purchase of essential equipment to retain and support Kirchhoff Automotive jobs, a major employer in the region, with global operations of 30 plants in 11 countries. Kirchhoff has approximately 9,000 total employees, supporting more than \$1.6 billion in annual sales. Kirchhoff's Ohio facility is located in Waverly, Ohio, and with this ARC project award the company plans to retain 230 jobs with a payroll of \$8,000,000. The project will help to stabilize the facility but will also support diversification of the product offerings at the Waverly plant to give the facility a bright future.

ADAMS COUNTY WORKFORCE TRAINING CENTER ADAMS COUNTY

Appalachian Assistance Funds: \$500,000

Total Project Costs: \$2,374,610

Partners: ARC, Ohio Development Services Agency Governor's Office of Appalachia, Adams County Commissioners, Adams County Economic Development Office

The Adams County Training Center project renovates a 15,100 square foot building to include both physical and virtual classroom space and a virtual job center. Adams County



purchased a building in 2018 to use as the Workforce Development and Training Center taking action to develop and support career-specific education and skills training for students and workers, especially in sectors that are experiencing local and regional job growth and that provide opportunities for advancement. As many as 330 students could graduate each year. The Adams County workforce project addresses several goals identified in the ARC 2016-2020 Strategic Plan, including developing a Ready Workforce to improve the education, knowledge, skills and health of residents to work and succeed in Appalachia.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

SHAWNEE STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT CORONAVIRUS FACE SHIELD PRODUCTION EQUIPMENT IMPROVEMENT SCIOTO COUNTY



Appalachian Assistance Funds: \$200,000 Total Project Costs: \$250,000

Partners: ARC-DC, Governor's Office of Appalachia, Shawnee State University, DME and iMFLUX private industry partners

When the Coronavirus pandemic began, SSU Plastics Engineering students began making face shields for the local medical community as a class project. As the pandemic worsened and shortages began to impact health and safety of frontline medical workers, the plastics students wanted to scale up their real-world classroom project to contribute PET face shields to local hospitals. With funding from ARC, the SSU project supports regional COVID-19 response through the investment in equipment and materials that will provide resources such as PET face shields to help offset the local and regional need for PPE. The project meets ARC goals for a Ready Workforce and Action Objective 6, to use proven health practices and establish sustainable clinical services to address health conditions that affect the region's economic competitiveness.

The equipment purchased allows for the students to increase output to meet the increase in demand for PPE face shields and supports workforce training while improving production efficiency through reduction of cost. When the students first began making face shields with their existing equipment, they produced about 3.5 shields per hour. The SSU program was able to increase production to about 45 face shields per hour and bring all operational materials in house.

ZANESVILLE MUSKINGUM COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY PROJECT CATALYST

MUSKINGUM COUNTY

Appalachian Assistance Funds: \$134,300

Total Project Costs: \$268,600

Partners: Governor's Office of Appalachia, Zanesville Muskingum County Port Authority, AMG Vanadium



OMEGA recommended a State GOA grant of \$134,300, matched by \$134,300 from the Zanesville Muskingum County Port Authority to construct 2,200 linear feet of 18" waterline at Eastpointe Business Park near Zanesville in Muskingum County to serve the site of the new AMG Vanadium facility at the business park. AMG Vanadium is the world's leading provider of resid spent catalyst recycling and metal reclamation services. AMG Vanadium has invested \$350,000,000 in this new roasting and ferroalloy production facility which will create 100 new jobs and will enable the company to respond to growing demand from the global refining and steel industries by essentially doubling its resid spent catalyst recycling capacity and annual ferrovanadium and ferronickel-molybdenum production.

WATERLINE REPLACEMENT PHASE I- VILLAGE OF COAL GROVE

LAWRENCE COUNTY

Appalachian Assistance Funds: \$250,000

Total Project Costs: \$6,238,401

Partners: ARC, Ohio Public Works, RPIG, Ohio EPA

The Village of Coal Grove Waterline Project is a major investment in a critical, basic infrastructure system more than 80 years old. The project investment replaces more than 56,000 feet of new 6" PVC lines and more than 3,400 feet of new 4" PVC lines, 77 fire hydrants, and 838 radio read meters. With ARC funding, the project ensures safe drinking water for residents and progress to fulfill a goal to develop and improve Appalachia's infrastructure, making the region economically competitive. The project is a strategic investment that leverages federal, state, and local capital for the development and improvement of water and wastewater systems, and ensures clean water for residents and businesses.



WATER & WASTEWATER

COSHOCTON WEST LAFAYETTE WATERLINE EXTENSION

COSHOCTON COUNTY

Appalachian Assistance Funds: \$250,000

Total Project Costs: \$7,572,784

Partners: Ohio EPA WSRLA, H2OHIO, US Army Corps of Engineers.

This project regionalizes water systems in Coshocton County to provide an ample supply of safe quality drinking water from the City of Coshocton to the Village of West Lafayette. The project improved water quality for all 948 households and 39 businesses in West Lafayette

and provided new water service to 105 households and three businesses. The project commenced construction in June 2020, and was completed in April 2021. The project involved construction of 22,100 feet of 12" water main from the City of Coshocton to the Village of West Lafayette and replacement of 13,000 linear feet of undersized 4" waterlines with 8" waterlines in West Lafayette to address flow and pressure issues, and installation of 900 new water meters.



BELMONT PARK SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS

TRUMBULL COUNTY

Appalachian Assistance Funds: \$250,000

Total Project Costs: \$3,044,517

Partners: Trumbull County Commissioners, CDBG, Ohio Public Works, Ohio EPA

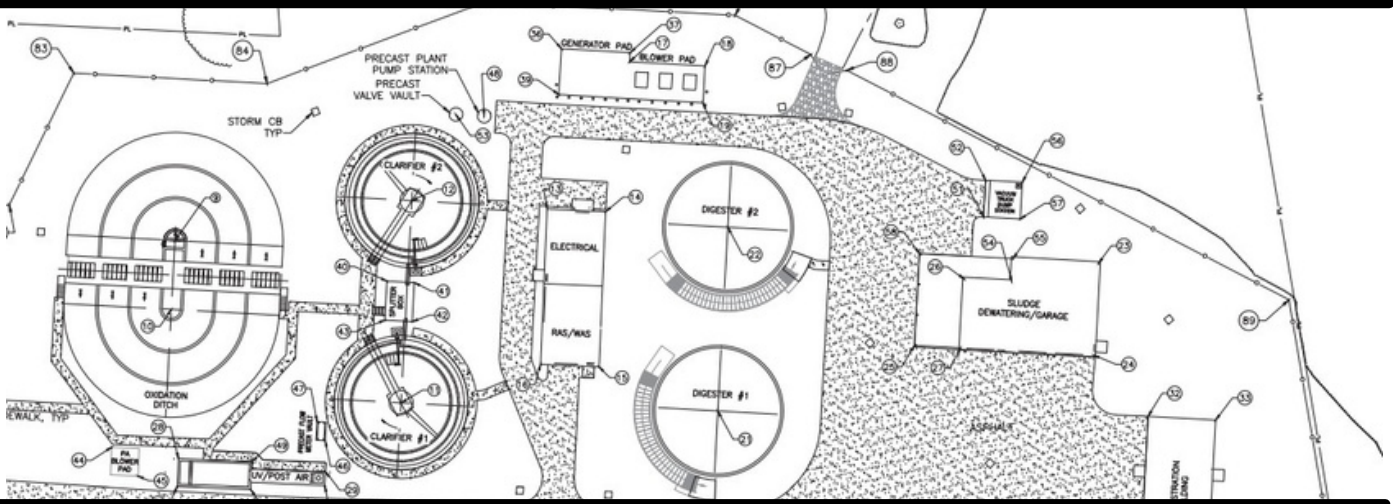
This project will enhance public infrastructure and improve economic development with the construction of a 15,000 linear foot sanitary sewer line in a low-to-moderate income area with failing septic systems in Liberty Township.

This project will serve to anchor a \$34 million private investment with the construction of a senior living center creating 128 new jobs, in addition to serving 125 households and 18 existing businesses.



NELSONVILLE WASTEWATER PROJECT

ATHENS COUNTY



Appalachian Assistance Funds: \$250,000 **Total Project Costs:** \$16,543,397

Partners: City of Nelsonville, Athens County, Village of Buchtel, Hocking County, and the Village of Murray City

This project will improve wastewater treatment and expand the service area into Murray City and Carbon Hill, Buchtel and other unsewered areas of Athens and Hocking Counties. The new wastewater treatment plant will service over 1,500 households and 170 area businesses with a 1.2 million gallon daily flow capacity. The new plant will include screening, grit handling, oxidation ditch aeration, clarification, disinfection, and solids dewatering facilities. The project includes many rehabilitation efforts on existing infrastructure, such as the Buchtel lift station and the Back Street lift station in Nelsonville. The project will replace the force main along East Canal Street and also install new residential gravity sewers, as well as replacing existing gravity sewers along Chestnut Street.

REVITALIZATION

ROSEVILLE REVITALIZATION PROJECT

PERRY COUNTY

Appalachian Assistance Funds: \$238,000

Total Project Costs: \$340,000

Partners: Village of Roseville, Perry County Health Department, Perry County Commissioners

This downtown revitalization project includes adding two large scale businesses in a residential part of the Village of Roseville. The multiple local businesses that will be associated with this investment will provide new revenue to the village. Additional revenue will be coming into the village and a new street will be added into the street inventory for resurfacing in the future.

BUCKEYE HILLS REGIONAL COUNCIL

ARC CARES PPE Distribution: In partnership with local county Emergency Management Agencies and with support from the Appalachian Regional Commission, Buckeye Hills Regional Council distributed more than 80,000 articles of personal protective equipment during the COVID-19 pandemic, including masks, gloves, and isolation gowns, to front-line health workers and community-based service providers.

Connecting Appalachia: Throughout 2020, Buckeye Hills Regional Council and the Buckeye Hills Foundation continued to advocate for the region's connectivity needs at the state and federal levels. In the summer of 2020, Buckeye Hills worked with Congressman Bill Johnson's office to successfully challenge carrier claims that would have excluded 1,000 square miles of rural Appalachian Ohio from receiving millions of dollars in support for the region's broadband needs from the FCC's Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. With support from Foundation for Appalachian Ohio, the LDD Partners, OhioSE and the Ohio University Voinovich School, the Buckeye Hills Foundation worked with Reid Consulting Group to develop ConnectingAppalachia.org as the online home of Appalachian Ohio's broadband advocacy efforts.

EASTGATE REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

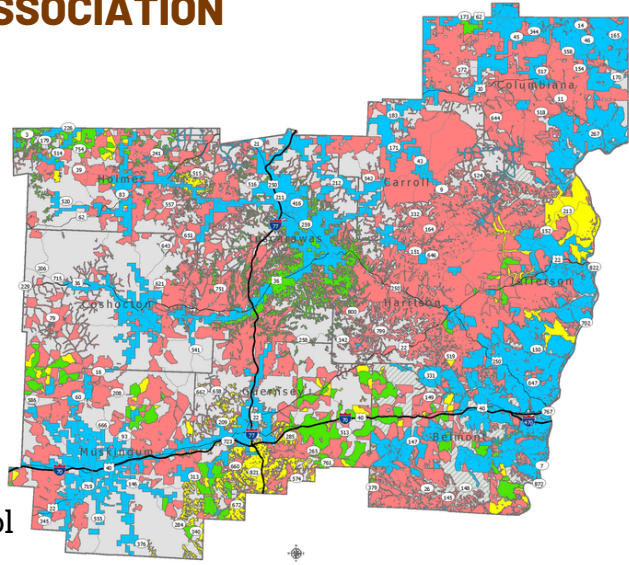
Lordstown Smart Logistics Hub (Voltage Valley): Eastgate Regional Council of Governments and its partners, including the Western Reserve Port Authority, Ohio Department of Transportation, DriveOhio, Ohio Turnpike Infrastructure Commission and Youngstown State University are pursuing investment in the Lordstown Smart Logistics Hub from state, federal and private entities. The strategic initiative will capitalize on Lordstown's location, at the intersection of multimodal freight transportation, broadband and vehicle electrification, that will position the area as the premier regional warehousing and distribution hub in rural Eastern Appalachia. The project embraces a three-pronged approach to smart logistics: (1) vehicle electrification, (2) connected and automated-ready, and (3) future-focused freight transfer yards to maximize the efficiency, reliability, and safety of freight mobility and enhance supply chain resiliency.

Regional Transit System with WRTA expanding service into Trumbull County: The Western Reserve Transit Authority (WRTA) received a grant from The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) that enabled the WRTA to begin Fixed Route bus service in Trumbull County on March 2, 2020, with up to six routes serving the greater Warren area. The grant also provides funding for several other WRTA initiatives in both Mahoning and Trumbull Counties. WRTA already operates the Warren Express route, which runs from Federal Station in downtown Youngstown to Courthouse Square in Warren. The grant has allowed this route to expand and now will serve the Kent State University Trumbull branch as well. The new Warren Fixed Route buses would all be accessible to riders traveling the Warren Express route, so there will be a seamless connection between them.

OHIO MID-EASTERN GOVERNMENTS ASSOCIATION

OMEGA received a \$400,000 noncompetitive planning grant from the US Economic Development Administration under the CARES Act to retain a consultant to conduct a Regional Broadband Feasibility Study, as well as a consultant to serve as a Regional Economic Recovery Coordinator.

Expansion of reliable, affordable high-speed broadband has been a high priority for OMEGA; the need for which has only been exacerbated by the pandemic and is especially important for school students, businesses, and other users who have been studying or working remotely during the pandemic. Broadband is also important for telehealth and to enable businesses to pivot their focus towards ecommerce.



The Regional Economic Recovery Coordinator will work closely with the County Port Authorities and other local economic development agencies in the district to assist communities and businesses with development and implementation of tactical plans for a more diverse and resilient economy including downtown revitalization, redevelopment of brownfield sites, market analysis, workforce development strategies, and redevelopment.

OHIO VALLEY REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The pandemic brought unprecedented challenges to our institutions, businesses, and services, but the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission (OVRDC) is proud of the local governments and people we serve for their unwavering commitment to maintain and excel with an effective response to the coronavirus epidemic relying on teamwork, resilience and compassion. From our office staff moving to virtual offices at home and conducting all of our programs, paperwork and tasks through online communication channels, to our membership adapting to new ways to submit requests and applications, time and again we have all shown the determination to keep our region moving forward in the COVID-19 crisis. We are extremely grateful for the partnerships, patience and good nature that has continued to make successful progress.

With a mid-summer shipment of free Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) from Jobs Ohio and OhioSE going out to the businesses in our service area, we were happy to offer our offices as a convenient central distribution point for over 1,000 free PPE kits for area businesses. In the days leading up to Christmas, OVRDC arranged for the delivery of much-needed personal protective equipment (PPE) to county officials courtesy of a grant funded through the Ohio Development Services Agency's Governor's Office of Appalachia. As the COVID pandemic continued unabated, receiving provisions of protective equipment were at the top of everyone's Wish List, and a partial list included 17,300 3-ply surgical masks, 10,600 N-95 masks, 20,270 pediatric cloth masks for area schools, goggles, thermometers, nitrile gloves, hand sanitizers, wipes and so much more.



**THIS REPORT WAS PRODUCED IN GRATITUDE FOR OUR FUNDERS,
PARTNERS, AND SUPPORTERS OF THE FEATURED INITIATIVES.**

