ARC Goals and Alignment with Ohio Strategies

Ohio's Appalachian Development Plan and Annual Strategy Statements align with the ARC's five strategic goals:

- Invest in entrepreneurial and business development strategies that strengthen Appalachia's economy.
- Increase the education, knowledge, skills, and health of residents to work and succeed in Appalachia.
- Invest in critical infrastructure—especially broadband; transportation, including the Appalachian Development Highway System; and water/wastewater systems.
- Strengthen Appalachia's community and economic development potential by leveraging the region's natural and cultural heritage assets.
- Build the capacity and skills of current and next-generation leaders and organizations to innovate, collaborate, and advance community and economic development.

In partnership with the LDDs, the Governor's Office of Appalachia has identified strategies to focus regional investment. The Ohio strategies that align with the ARC Goals include the following:

ARC Goal 1		Invest in entrepreneurial and business development strategies that strengthen Appalachia's economy.
Ohio Strategies	1.1	Support projects that improve the competitiveness of Ohio's Appalachian economy.
	1.2	Develop opportunities related to cluster industries in the region, such as shale and petrochemical, timber, and food services production.
	1.3	Foster entrepreneurship through partnerships with other programs, such as business incubators and community economic development organizations.
	1.4	Use the resources provided by the Appalachian Partnership for Economic Growth, REDI Cincinnati, Team NEO, and our Local Development Districts to help spur growth in Ohio's Appalachian counties.
	1.5	Support community efforts to complete planning activities intended to position local areas to capitalize on existing state and federal development programming including Opportunity Zones.

ARC Goal 2		Increase the education, knowledge, skills, and health of residents to work and succeed in Appalachia.
Ohio Strategies	2.1	Improve health care for Ohio's workforce through wellness and prevention programs and expand access.
	2.2	Increase the availability of mental health counseling services in rural areas and schools.
	2.3	Continue to fight the addiction epidemic and emphasize recovery-to-work programs.
	2.4	Outline and support all mental health, substance abuse, and social service programming available throughout the region.
	2.5	Strengthen the workforce through job training initiatives and partnerships with educational institutions aimed at preparing Ohio's workforce for the future.
	2.6	Increase the number of students acquiring a college degree or professional certificate.
	2.7	Support rural Appalachian Ohio communities as they prepare to serve an increasingly aging population

ARC Goal 3		Invest in critical infrastructure—especially broadband; transportation, including the Appalachian Development Highway System; and water/wastewater systems.
Ohio Strategies	3.1	Support and assist communities in rural Appalachian Ohio as they work to establish, maintain, and extend critical infrastructure systems to serve Ohio businesses and residents.
	3.2	Expand access to broadband for underserved Ohioans in partnership with InnovateOhio and Connect Ohio.
	3.3	Work with electric co-operatives and prioritize projects that allow for future potential broadband expansion.
	3.4	Explore opportunities with ODOT's DriveOhio initiative and other smart mobility programs.
	3.5	Support local access road projects to improve the route to industrial and commercial sites.
	3.6	Capitalize on the economic potential of the Appalachian Development Highway System.
	3.7	Support and strengthen ongoing partnerships between LDDs and resource partners, including state regulatory agencies and public research institutions, to provide critical research and information concerning utility deployments and capacities in rural Appalachian Ohio.

ARC Goal 4		Strengthen Appalachia's community and economic development potential by leveraging the region's natural and cultural heritage assets.
Ohio Strategies	4.1	Strengthen Ohio's Appalachian natural and cultural heritage assets.
	4.2	Work with TourismOhio to establish a positive brand image for Appalachia.
	4.3	Assist Ohio's Appalachian Country and its effort to publish reports with valuable data concerning tourism in the region.
	4.4	Expand and promote scenic trails and routes throughout Appalachia in cooperation with ODOT, Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), and other organizations working on similar efforts.

ARC Goal 5		Build the capacity and skills of current and next-generation leaders and organizations to innovate, collaborate, and advance community and economic development.
Ohio Strategies	5.1	Support an annual STEM camp that provides educational and recreational opportunities for underserved, area youth.
	5.2	Encourage cooperation and collaboration among counties and local organizations to help the region advance together by having a relationship with these organizations and being involved in their projects.
	5.3	Promote opportunities available through organizations, such as iBelieve, and highlight university initiatives that help develop young leaders.
	5.4	Increase civic engagement through the Local Development Districts and other partnerships.

Resources

The State of Ohio Four-Year Appalachian Development Plan, FY 2020-2023 will be made available on the Ohio Development Services Agency's website at **http://development.ohio.gov/cs/cs_goa.htm**. Additional information about Appalachian Ohio such as program specifics, policies, and contact information is also available on the website.