



2025
ANNUAL REPORT



CONNECTING
COMMUNITIES
to **Resources**

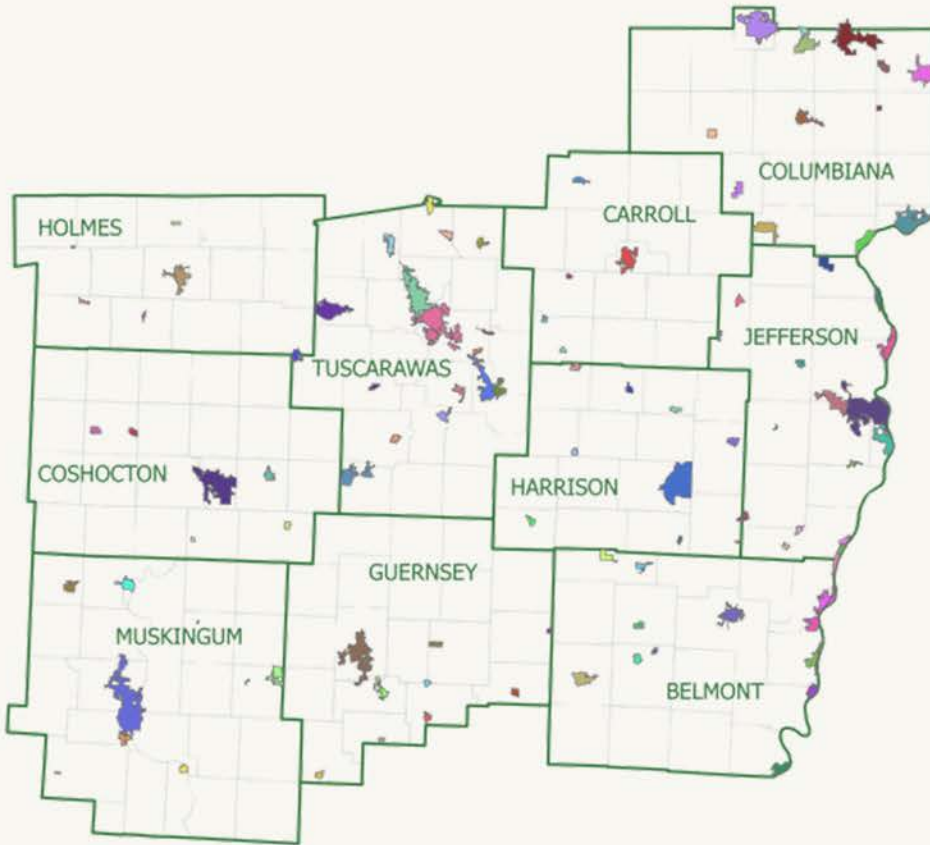
...serving Belmont, Carroll, Columbiana, Coshocton, Guernsey, Harrison,
Holmes, Jefferson, Muskingum, & Tuscarawas Counties

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OMEGA

Mission, Members, & Partners



OMEGA is a collaborative body of member governments (a regional council of governments) that serves as a facilitator between federal and state government agencies and local entities. Promoting and providing opportunities in economic, workforce, and community development, the core objective of OMEGA is to foster a cooperative effort in the planning, development, and implementation of local and regional plans, programs, and projects which will increase economic activity. It is a focused priority for OMEGA to help improve the quality of life for citizens in Belmont, Carroll, Columbiana, Coshocton, Guernsey, Harrison, Holmes, Jefferson, Muskingum, and Tuscarawas Counties.

Key state and federal partners include:



Department of Development



Governor's Office of Appalachia



Appalachian Regional Commission



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration



United States Department of Agriculture



Department of Transportation



Department of Natural Resources

OMEGA MISSION STATEMENT:

Provide a pathway to enhance community and economic growth in our region.

Executive Director's

Greeting & Introduction

Hello! Whether you are an OMEGA member, friend, partner, or other constituent, THANK YOU for your interest in our services and trust in our organization.

What a year 2025 was for the OMEGA team and entire region. From ground-breaking (literally!) infrastructure construction and industrial site developments to notable personal achievements and transformational community enhancements, we have much to celebrate.

It was a year of transformation, and we attribute much to the question we ask of our regional leaders daily, "How can our organizational mission best align with your community vision?"

Listening to our communities means we hear you – even if (or when) the voices and experiences require us to be patient and show up differently or explore more creatively. We remain deeply engaged because we know who we serve - resilient and thriving communities. And while listening and learning are important, so are planning and doing. We never want an internal or external process to stop or delay progress; yet we do recognize that preparation and planning is key to success, so we will continue pressing toward the evolution of concepts and plans to help guide you into competitive project and community readiness.

At OMEGA, we explore strategic approaches for aligning local, regional, state, and federal assets. From developing talent and expanding institutional capacity, to strengthening networks, we prioritize community engagement because we know that the stakeholders – the businesses, the educational institutions, the residents, the elected officials, and the organizational leaders – must all cooperate and collaborate to build the robust, regional development ecosystems we are striving for; ecosystems that foster job creation, entrepreneurship, economic growth, sustainable infrastructure systems, and scalable people-centric models that leverage partnerships, mobilize resources, and showcase symbiotic efforts for attaining resilient regional futures.

As we continue to expand our business service lines at OMEGA and delve further into the challenges and needs of the communities and leaders we serve, we also worked diligently throughout 2025 on data-tracking to further guide our practices, protocols, and engagement. For example, when it comes to our state and federal grant exploration and writing, the data reveal 448 applications and proposals we've submitted, as well as nearly \$72 million that OMEGA has been part of securing and investing into the region since fourth quarter of 2023. (It should be noted that we are still awaiting award announcements of about \$35 million in pending requests.)

We will continue to celebrate grant-awarded gains when they come, but grant-writing and grant-funding is not the only indicator of the success of the communities or the health of the organization. We never want to find ourselves in a position of over-selling and under-delivering; therefore, our commitment to our constituents is to bring forth our most meaningful information, relevant topics, forward-looking innovations, rigorous work, expert opinions, data-informed responses, and thoughtful solution strategies.

At one of the conferences I attended this past year, I was inspired by the quote, "*Leaders aren't made for moments; moments are made for leaders!*"

As your Executive Director and Chief Administrative Officer, and as your fellow community leader, I advocate for our Appalachian region and our rapidly expanding markets, as well as our areas of growth opportunity and our unique assets. One of the greatest challenges I will continue to address is staying ahead of the rapid innovations in technology and consistently changing impacts to the regional economy. You have my commitment to deploy the full strength of the organization and the talented bench of experts that make up the OMEGA team to meet this moment and to address your community needs as we elevate and advance transformative regional efforts that are real for you and important to you.

Success for the OMEGA region will continue to be driven by common sense, a common purpose, a common vision, and a common goal that is shared among our members and constituents. And while I am a catalyzer and consensus builder, I recognize that I am not the single source, but instead, a driving force in fulfilling our mission and mantra to "*connect communities to resources.*"

In Service & Respect,

Vicki



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Vicki King-Maple

In addition to her steadfast leadership of OMEGA, Dr. Vicki King-Maple also serves as an Executive Member of the Ohio Association of Regional Councils (OARC) and the Ohio Rural Development Alliance (ORDA). Throughout the course of 2025, Vicki acted as moderator at annual State of the Region summit at Ohio University and presented at the Development District Association of Appalachia (DDAA), ORDA, Ohio Rural Water Association, and Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) conferences, among others.

In 2025, Vicki was selected to serve on the Board of Trustees for Heritage Ohio. She also delivered dozens of "Know Us Before You Need Us" presentations and took the "Stacking and Braiding and Matching, Oh My!: Leveraging Funding Solution Strategies to Move Projects Forward" message statewide and nationally.

As Muskingum County natives, Vicki and her husband spend a lot of time at Dillon State Park, Eaglesticks Golf Course, and the Frazesburg Pool & Pickleball Courts. Higher education is close to Vicki's heart and she considers Zane State College, Ohio University-Zanesville, and Muskingum University as treasures for her community.

Being a foodie that insists on supporting locally owned establishments, a few of Vicki's Muskingum County favorites include the salads and baked goods at Giacomo's; the sushi at Mizu; and the comfort food and onion rings at the Warehouse in Dresden, as well as USA Today's #1 ranked donut shop nationally, Donald's Donuts!

Vicki is grateful for the unique identifiers that make each OMEGA community so special and different and the trust they place in OMEGA

Vicki was also selected among the Ohio 500 - a distinction of Ohio's most influential leaders by Ohio Business Magazine. Her greatest point of pride though is leading a team of nine who are wholly committed to serving the region's resilient and perseverant 13 Cities, 99 Villages, 179 townships, 10 counties... and most importantly... nearly 600,000 people (...573,773 individuals, precisely!).

FUN FACT

In the 90's, Vicki auditioned for a Richard Simmons workout video and was greeted by a sweaty hug from him personally!

Dr. Vicki King-Maple
Executive Director

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Scan for Vicki's LinkedIn



DIRECTOR OF STATE AND FEDERAL RESOURCES

Alan Knapp

In 2025, Alan was proud to participate in the Washington D.C. based, Annual Conference of the Development District Association of Appalachia (DDAA)/ National Association of Development Organizations (NADO). He also remains an active member of the AEIWG: Appalachia Environmental Infrastructure Work Group, as well as the SCEIG: Small Communities Environmental Infrastructure Group.

Alan appreciates the OMEGA region's abundant natural resources and friendly people. He particularly enjoys visiting The Wilds, the Great Guernsey Trail, and Salt Fork State Park.

Over the course of the past year, Alan successfully managed over \$31 million of funding and construction projects from the Appalachian Community Grant Program (ACGP) in collaboration with OMEGA's internal ACGP team and state-wide partners.

He also saw through the completion of The Wilds Hellbender RV Campground project through a \$2 million federal Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant. Alan is also proud to have assisted in obtaining funding for the Regional Tourism Plan and Branding effort for OMEGA Region (Ohio Foothills), which will serve the area for years to come.

FUN FACT

Alan has 5 brothers and 5 sisters!

Alan Knapp
Director of State and Federal Resources

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Scan for Alan's LinkedIn



REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Ellie Dudding

During her first year at OMEGA, Ellie felt grateful for the opportunity to explore and get to know so many magnanimous communities in the OMEGA footprint. This year she visited all ten counties, meeting leaders, learning about ongoing projects, and developing ideas into new investments.

Ellie completed the Ohio Economic Developers Association (OEDA) Basic Course, and she also participated in environmental review training. Additionally, she earned the two-year certification to become a Main Street America Revitalization Professional (MSARP).

Managing her first cycle of Area Development grants which resulted in the recommendation of 14 regional projects, Ellie is eager to further foster relationships with the Governor's Office of Appalachia and the Appalachian Regional Commission.

Ellie values the commitment to collaboration and innovation exhibited across the region. The OMEGA Region Tourism Partners Branding and Marketing program is a great example of this, as the coalition of regional tourism agencies came together to develop a shared brand - the "Ohio Foothills." Ellie feels that this approach makes so much sense as visitors to the region care more for regional assets than county lines, and this effort ensures that the region promotes a more immersive tourism experience.

Always in search of a great cup of coffee, Ellie enjoys visiting Daily Grind Cafe (New Philadelphia), Chapman's Coffeehouse (New Concord), and LiB's Market (Salem).

FUN FACT

Ellie co-hosted a PBS Public Access children's tv show from the ages of 12-16.

Ellie Dudding
Regional Development Manager

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Scan for Ellie's LinkedIn



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Evan Scurti

Evan is honored to have been selected as one of the Appalachian Leadership Institute (ALI) fellows from the 13-state Appalachian region. This esteemed program introduces him and his cohort to common themes and challenges across Appalachia, while providing a unique network of new relationships with like-minded experts in their respective fields. Evan also serves as an Ohio Economic Development Association (OEDA) Board Member. He has been a member of the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) and an IEDC-Certified Economic Developer (CEcD) since 2009.

In 2025, OMEGA strengthened its Economic Development District (EDD) services under its partnership with the U.S. Dept. of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA), expanding the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Steering Committee to 25 regional leaders to capture a broader range of ideas. The Steering Committee will be critical as OMEGA implements a regional CEDS planning process in mid-2026, under Evan's leadership.

OMEGA also continues to evolve as a leading EDD with two pending EDA infrastructure grants totaling nearly \$4.5 million in grant requests toward wastewater infrastructure upgrades. There are also three additional infrastructure expansion concepts that could result in 2026 applications; plus, The Wilds' Hellbender RV Campground which received a \$2.15 million EDA grant was finalized in 2025 as the campground successfully opened to overnight tourists.

Evan believes the region is blessed with experienced and effective local government and economic development organization leaders. The OMEGA footprint has many successful case studies of local leader partnerships that are advancing impactful development projects.

A resident of Jefferson County, Evan loves to visit Historic Fort Steuben; iconic Harding Stadium; and Abdalla's Tavern in Stratton – located next to the former Samsis Power Plant and home to one of the best steaks in Ohio!

FUN FACT

Evan was on the 1993 Steubenville Catholic Central state championship football team; remaining proud of his alma mater & classmates!

Evan Scurti
Economic Development Director

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Scan for Evan's LinkedIn



GIS COORDINATOR & INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNER

Corinna Kerns

Corinna participated in multiple professional development opportunities in 2025! Among her favorites were the County Engineers Association of Ohio (CEAO) GIS Conference, ODOT's Ohio Transportation Engineering Conference (OTEC), and the Ohio Conference of Community Development Annual Training Conference. She also successfully completed the OCCD Environmental Review Workshop.

In 2025, she also took on a greater role in community engagement, serving as the lead OMEGA liaison for the Villages of Conesville, West Lafayette, Dreden, and Cumberland, as well as the City of East Liverpool. She's adding the Villages of Carrollton, Barnesville, Byesville, and Malvern in 2026.

Corinna continues to work diligently with the Ohio University GIS Collaborative, serving as the mentor to OMEGA's gifted GIS intern, Caden, from Ohio University.

Corinna has also expanded her skills in grant-writing. To date, she is responsible for securing over a half-million dollars for the region. In 2025, she saw to it that OMEGA's communities were successfully awarded \$168,195 through Ohio Department of Natural Resources' (ODNR) NatureWorks program for recreational purposes. Corinna was also proud to present at the Buckeye Career Center career day, representing female professionals in her field.

When out & about, Corinna makes a point to visit The Wilds (Cumberland), Atwood Lake (Carroll/Tuscarawas Counties) and Blue-Sky Café in Berlin Twp /Millersburg (Holmes County) for the lemon lavender donuts.

FUN FACT:

The first time she stepped on an airplane, Corinna did a backflip out of it at 13,000 feet!

Corinna Kerns
GIS Coordinator/Infrastructure Planner

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Scan for Corinna's LinkedIn



TRANSPORTATION MANAGER

Ben Turin

Ben had a banner year professionally in 2025, as he received his American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) certification. He also attended the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Transportation Conference where he presented “Speedrunning a Long-Range Transportation Plan” and was awarded the “Excellence in Regional Transportation Award.”

Ben attended the Ohio Transportation Engineering Conference, where he moderated the “Local Case Studies: Multi-Modal Planning” session. He also attended the Active Transportation Conference and TrailNation Summit. Additionally, he made forward progress on the Columbus to Pittsburgh (C2P) project and was a part of the Conotton Valley Active Transportation Plan.

Points of pride for Ben include assisting with getting the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail funded in Dover & New Philadelphia; completing the RTPO Long-Range Transportation Plan update; and securing funding for all of his Safe Routes to School applications (Strasburg, Coshocton, Frazzysburg). Ben assisted in the creation of the Mission Control project management wall in OMEGA’s office and was elected vice-chair of the OARC Transportation Committee.

Ben appreciates the beauty of our regional landscapes and the persistence and tenacity in accomplishing goals amongst local leaders. He resides in Belmont County where he enjoys spending time at the National Road Bikeway, Raven Rocks, and the Belmont County Courthouse.

FUN FACT

Ben has visited 9 countries in Europe.

Ben Turin
Transportation Manager

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Scan for Ben’s LinkedIn



RLF PROGRAM MANAGER & FINANCE ASSISTANT

George Dolney

In addition to successfully managing OMEGA's Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Program in 2025, George served as an East Central Ohio Shark Tub Planning Committee Member, planning and organizing the 3rd Annual business plan pitch competition, which was the largest and most successful in Shark Tub history!

He also participated in the ODOT Strasburg Road Safety Audit which was a first for him.

Another first for George was serving as a panelist at the 13th Annual Appalachian Ohio State of the Region Conference at Ohio University. Participating on the Childcare Services panel, he shared his experience in financing childcare services, as well as his perspective as a father and as a former teacher.

George further maintained a robust marketing plan and strict engagement schedule throughout 2025, visiting all ten counties at least once every three months. His visits included meeting with local officials, business owners, and bankers.

In 2025, George was also promoted as OMEGA's Finance Assistant and will work closely with the Finance Director to best serve the organization and region in this financial stewardship capacity.

George most appreciates the camaraderie between OMEGA's team members and regional leaders, in that we are all unified around the same mission and purpose to improve the quality of life for all who live within our region, especially the next generation.

He resides in Guernsey County and enjoys visiting his alma mater, Muskingum University, as well as Zanesville's Colony Square Mall, and Salt Fork State Park.

FUN FACT

George is an avid collector of retro media and currently has over 3,000 VHS tapes in his collection! As a child of the 80's, he always wanted to own a video store.

George Dolney
RLF Program Manager & Finance Assistant

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Scan for OMEGA LinkedIn



FINANCE DIRECTOR

Mindee Johnson

Mindee Johnson completed yet another outstanding year of keeping OMEGA in good financial standing and compliance. In addition to this vital responsibility, Mindee helped facilitate the hiring of Ellie Dudding, who has proven herself as an incredible asset to the agency and regional communities.

Mindee assumed additional responsibilities related to the OMEGA's Appalachian Community Grant Program award (including sending nearly 100 invoices to the Governor's Office of Appalachia!). She also carefully tracks all progress, expenditures, and contracts for each project; participating in a number of contractor calls to ensure seamless management of the more than \$31 million grant allocation.

Mindee appreciates the rich history throughout the OMEGA region, as well as the tremendous passion and pride of the people throughout our communities.

Although she currently resides in Tuscarawas County today, Mindee was born and raised in Carroll County. Her favorite Carroll County spot is the Algonquin Mill; whereas, in Tuscarawas County, she particularly enjoys Zoar Village and Schoenbrunn Village.

FUN FACT

Mindee showed horses until she was 16 years old!

Mindee Johnson
Finance Director

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 330-204-6288



Scan for Mindee's LinkedIn



PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

Kennedy Hart

Kennedy was proud to serve as a featured speaker at the 2025 DDAA/NADO Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. She was equally delighted to attend the Appalachian State of the Region Conference and the Ohio Township Association Conference.

She also delivered OMEGA's "Know Us Before You Need Us" presentation to the Coshocton Rotary Club as well as the Village of Freeport. Kennedy further provides administrative services to OneOhio Region 11 for advancing recovery & community resilience; plus, she provides support to the RLF program.

Additionally, she graduated from the Leadership Guernsey program.

Kennedy loves to travel the region regularly to engage with communities on an individual basis.

Among other 2025 accomplishments, Kennedy is proud of her work on the 2024 and 2025 OMEGA Annual Reports, along with her commitment to continuous OMEGA event and membership meeting improvement.

Kennedy is grateful to call the OMEGA region home and appreciates its ever-growing spirit of collaboration. She values building relationships with leaders and residents who genuinely care about their communities and want to see others prosper as well.

As a native and current resident of Coshocton County, Kennedy loves spending time at Historic Roscoe Village, Clary Gardens, and the Old Stone Fort.

FUN FACT

Kennedy's great great grandfather was the Mayor of Coshocton in the 1940s.

**Kennedy Hart
Public Information Officer**

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Scan for Kennedy's LinkedIn



APPALACHIAN COMMUNITY

Grant Program

In 2025, OMEGA staff and partners made great strides in implementing the \$31.6 Million Appalachian Community Grant Program (ACGP) award across eight communities in the OMEGA region. The ACGP grant that was awarded, in part, to OMEGA in May 2024 was part of the transformational \$500 Million ACGP initiative created by the State of Ohio through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) resources. By the end of 2025, all ACGP projects were under construction and/or being advertised for bids. The construction of all ACGP projects must be completed by September 30, 2026, with all invoices to be paid by October 31, 2026.

Secrest Auditorium Renovations and Streetscape of the City of Zanesville's Downtown Gateway District Muskingum County

OMEGA's ACGP sub-recipient, the City of Zanesville, hired Construction Manager at Risk (CMR) Lepi Construction to lead this impressive downtown project, coordinating with APG Architects. The building renovations at Secrest Auditorium are underway, including an elevator and new restrooms. The construction is scheduled to be completed by May 2026 to meet theater scheduling obligations, and construction of the adjacent streetscape improvements will be completed by August 2026.



Killbuck Trail Connections Holmes County



OMEGA awarded a contract to Xtreme Elements LLC to construct this project, coordinating with project engineer, OHM Advisors. Construction activities started in 2025, including clearing, grubbing, and tree removal. By the end of August 2026, the trail improvements will conclude with connections to adjoining trails, including a boardwalk and kayak launch along Killbuck Creek near the Killbuck Swamp Preserve.

Skip's Landing Project Coshocton County



Coshocton County hired Granger Construction as Construction Manager at Risk (CMR), coordinating with other planning consultants and the Coshocton County Engineer. A key accomplishment in 2025 was completion of the Roundabout at Coshocton County Road 1A and Bridge Street, improving traffic flow and access to Skip's Landing. The Walhonding River boat ramp permit was also approved. Plans call for completing the project by July 2026, including new pavilions and playground equipment.

Great Guernsey Trail Extension & Turner Avenue Trailhead in the City of Cambridge Guernsey County

DLZ is the project engineer, and Shelly & Sands the contractor, for the City of Cambridge (as OMEGA's ACGP sub-recipient). The trail and trailhead improvements recorded significant progress in 2025, as most of the trail extensions and trailhead improvements were finished. Work still planned for 2026 includes the path along Byesville Road between East Wheeling Ave. and Ohio Ave., as well as the Hopalong Cassidy Walkway near downtown and electrical hookups at the Turner Avenue Trailhead downtown.



Downtown Revitalization Project in the Village of Newcomerstown Tuscarawas County



OMEGA is deeply engaged with the Village of Newcomerstown to revitalize its downtown area. Upon hiring Martin Painting & Coating, 27 properties along Main and Canal Streets have been improved with power-washing, tuck-pointing for brick facades, and painting. Sixteen of the buildings were completed in 2025, and the contractor will complete the project in the Spring 2026. Also scheduled is a streetscape project along West Canal Street, including sidewalk improvements and decorative streetlights.

Jewett and Scio Trailhead Improvements Harrison County



This project advertised for bids in 2025, and construction is slated to begin by March 2026. OMEGA hired ms consultants as project engineer, working in coordination with partners in Jewett, Scio, and Harrison County. The total project scopes will include trailhead improvements along the Conotton Creek Trail in the Villages of Scio and Jewett with public restrooms, gathering space, and connections to the trail. Project completion is expected by August 2026.

Adena Bank Building Renovations and Streetscape Jefferson County

OMEGA hired APG Architects as the project architect and Grae-Con Construction as the Construction Manager at Risk (CMR) to execute this project. Building renovations at the Historic Adena Bank Building will result in a mixed-use, community gathering space. Renovations are expected to be completed by June 2026, and construction of adjacent streetscape improvements is anticipated in Spring 2026.



Regional ACGP Funded Projects within External Applications

OMEGA was thrilled to also celebrate the successes of ACGP-funded projects from across the region that were submitted within other applications. Among those awarded:

- Black Horse Inn - Morristown (Belmont County)
- Downtown Community Event Plaza - New Philadelphia (Tuscarawas County)
- Canal Park Trail - Zanesville (Muskingum County)
- Children's Health Initiative - Belmont, Carroll, Columbiana, Holmes, Muskingum, & Tuscarawas Counties



AREA DEVELOPMENT

Outcomes

The ARC/GOA Area Development Program focuses upon the accomplishment of five key goals: (1) Building Appalachian Businesses; (2) Workforce Ecosystem; (3) Infrastructure; (4) Regional Culture and Tourism; and (5) Community Leaders and Capacity. Each year, OMEGA accepts pre-applications in the Spring, which are carefully reviewed by an internal team. Selected pre-applications are then recommended by the OMEGA Board to the ARC and GOA for funding consideration. The '25 slate of proposals project the following outcomes:

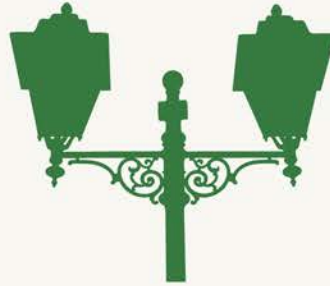


GOVERNORS OFFICE OF APPALACHIA AREA DEVELOPMENT

Award Recommendations



City of St. Clairsville EFAW
Lift Station Improvements
\$240,381 Recommendation
\$480,763
Total Project Cost



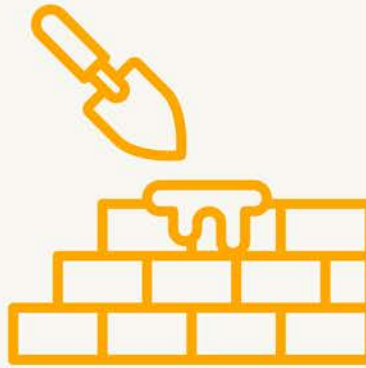
Downtown Gateway
Streetscape
\$250,000 Recommendation
\$10,135,180
Total Project Cost



Advancing Rural Healthcare:
Telemetry Innovation & Workforce
\$200,000 Recommendation
\$421,373
Total Project Cost



Phase 3 - Empower & Equip:
Strengthening Workforce
Readiness in Eastern OH & Beyond
\$249,996 Recommendation
\$677,248
Total Project Cost



Columbiana County
Downtown Building
Renovation & Signage
Program
\$250,000 Recommendation
\$500,000 Total Project Cost



Total GOA
Area Development Projects
\$1,190,377 Recommendation
\$12,214,564 Total Cost

ARC/GOA Area Development *Program Process*

OMEGA's Regional Development Manager, Ellie Dudding, has revolutionized the ARC/GOA Area Development Process, offering workshops in each county to discuss and refine projects in January and February prior to pre-application submission in April. The internal review team carefully vets and scores each pre-application, elevating top scoring proposals to the OMEGA Board in May; after which, select proposals are referred to the ARC and/or GOA for recommendation. *It is critical to note that Area Development funds are to be "last in" gap-financing resources.

APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION AREA DEVELOPMENT

Award Recommendations



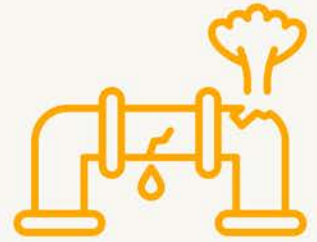
**Barnesville North Water
Extension Project**
\$250,000
Recommendation
\$5,511,147
Total Project Cost



**Wintersville/Steubenville
Water Connection**
\$236,025
Recommendation
\$866,025
Total Project Cost



**St. Clairsville Water Distribution
System Replacement, Phase 2**
\$250,000
Recommendation
\$7,168,000
Total Project Cost



**Amsterdam Area Water
System Replacement**
\$250,000
Recommendation
\$12,000,000
Total Project Cost



**Utica Shale Academy
Appalachian Welding
Expansion: Phase 2**
\$250,000 Recommendation
\$583,393
Total Project Cost



**Maysville Water District –
Improving water pressure for
106 residents**
\$241,621 Recommendation
\$483,242
Total Project Cost



**Steubenville CSO12
Slack St.
Sewer Repair**
\$250,000 Recommendation
\$871,000
Total Project Cost



**Multi-County Advanced
Manufacturing Corridor
(continuation project)**
\$133,500
Recommendation
\$267,000 Total
Project Cost



**New Philadelphia WWTP
Final Clarifier
Rehabilitation**
\$223,484
Recommendation
\$446,969 Total
Project Cost



**Total ARC
Area Development
Projects**
\$2,083,630
Recommendation
\$28,216,777
Total Project Costs

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION *Partnership*

As an EDA-sanctioned Economic Development District (EDD), OMEGA provides a full range of grant exploration, writing, and administration services, as well as project-planning readiness steps, to local governments and non-profit entities. The EDA's open cycle Public Works program has become a resource for the region's many infrastructure upgrade projects that are tied to major job creation and retention opportunities.

Currently, two wastewater treatment plant upgrade projects in the OMEGA region, totaling \$4.32 million in EDA grant requests, are pending EDA approval. Three additional proposals totaling more than \$6 million in grant requests are also in OMEGA's grant pipeline for the EDA. Conversations and planning efforts will continue into early 2026 and potentially advance to the grant application stage.

Also, in 2025, one EDA grant was fully implemented and closed out. The Wilds' \$2.15 million grant from EDA's 2022 ARPA-based fund for outdoor recreation venues has become a national success story. The Wilds utilized the EDA funds to develop a 75-unit RV campground complex, called Hellbender RV Campground, that has allowed The Wilds to enter the exciting new market segment of overnight tourism.

The EDA Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Program

As an EDD, OMEGA is required to guide the region through a planning process that culminates in a 5-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Each EDD's CEDS is informed and guided by a Steering Committee that includes leaders from the non-profit, education, private employer, and local government sectors.

In 2025, the OMEGA CEDS Steering Committee was expanded to 25 members and hosted a productive annual committee meeting. In mid-2026 Evan Scurti will guide the Steering Committee, as it performs its critical role of leading the region's many stakeholders toward an updated CEDS planning document to be approved by the U.S. EDA in October 2027.



ABANDONED MINE LAND ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION (AMLER)

Distinctions



OMEGA again provided targeted grant writing services to local governments and non-profits who competed for a share of the \$10 million statewide AMLER fund, which provides grants to projects that repurpose former coal strip mine areas into community development assets. OMEGA assisted with 7 grant proposals requesting nearly \$5 million in AMLER funds and will remain committed to these and all other proposals from within the service area.

As with any grant writing process in which OMEGA engages on behalf of its local constituents, the OMEGA team takes pride in learning about the unique proposal and then matching it to a variety of alternative grant or loan programs, as necessary, to make each local vision a reality.

AMLER awards within the OMEGA region will address reclamation of abandoned mine lands and promote economic and environmental opportunities within these historic coal mining communities:

Adena Trail & Visitor Center - Village of Adena;
Jefferson & Harrison County = \$2,231,095

Commerce Park Recreation & Entertainment
Complex - Village of Bellaire; Belmont County
= \$1,468,912

D.O. Hall Business Center – Guernsey County
Port Authority; Guernsey County = \$980,000

Dennison Depot Restoration Center,
Locomotive and Platform Upgrades - Dennison
Railroad Depot Museum; Tuscarawas County =
\$1,690,000

Norma Johnson Center Improvements;
Tuscarawas County = \$200,000

Outdoor Ohio Valley YMCA; Columbiana
County = \$2,600,000

Pictured is the Richard Downing Airport ribbon cutting in Coshocton County which received \$4,407,586 in AMLER funds and was completed in 2025.

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Opportunities & Awards

Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) NatureWorks

The following notable projects within the OMEGA region were awarded ODNR NatureWorks resources in 2025, which typically have applications due in early summer.

Loudon Township Park Improvements (Carroll)
\$17,227

Salem Centennial Park Pavilion (Columbiana)
\$31,035

Conesville Boat Ramp (Coshocton)
\$19,044

Pleasant City Park Improvements (Guernsey)
\$24,287

Germano Park Development (Harrison)
\$12,750

Berlin Township Park Improvements (Holmes)
\$20,442

Mingo Junction Reservoir Park Improvements (Jefferson)
\$ 26,708

City of Dover Splash Pad (Tuscarawas)
\$29,452

In addition to NatureWorks, ODNR also traditionally offers the Recreational Trails Program (March), the Clean Ohio Trails Fund (March), and Land & Water Conservation Fund (November). OMEGA's point of contact for these opportunities is Corinna Kerns.

INFRASTRUCTURE & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Projects

Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC)

Scio College St & Eastport Road
Resurfacing (Harrison)
\$402,960

Bowerston Gordon Street Culvert
(Harrison)
\$644,600

Toronto Walton Acres Waterline
Replacement – Phase 2 (Jefferson)
\$298,000

Cambridge 2026 Street
Improvements (Guernsey)
\$150,000

Joshua Dixon SW Sanitary Sewer
Replacement (Columbiana)
\$446,585

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Scio Waterline Improvement - East
and Elm (Harrison)
\$148,560

Scio Sanitary Sewer Extension
Hilltop Sunset Main (Harrison)
\$400,000

Steubenville CSO No 3 Phase 2
Design Loan (Jefferson)
\$250,000

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) - Flexible

Cambridge Floating Gazebo at
Turner Ave Trailhead (Guernsey)
\$240,000

RTPO CAPITAL ALLOCATION

Regional Transportation Planning Organization

Awards

SR 43 Feasibility Study

- Carroll County
- \$250,000 Grant
- \$250,000 Total Cost

Greenway Trail Bridge

- Lisbon -
Columbiana County
- \$465,070 Grant
- \$930,140 Total Cost

Downtown Sidewalk Replacements, Phase 2

- Salem -
Columbiana County
- \$438,943 Grant
- \$877,887 Total Cost

Mohican Valley Trail, Phase 2A

- Holmes County
- \$499,300 Grant
- \$998,600 Total Cost

Dillion Falls Road Study

- Muskingum County
- \$250,000 Grant
- \$250,000 Total Cost

ADA Transition Plan

- Uhrichsville -
Tuscarawas County
- \$43,100 Grant
- \$43,100 Total Cost

OMEGA developed a scoring rubric with the members of our Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), soliciting eligible projects annually for the RTPO Capital Allocation Program. OMEGA's RTPO program management is under the leadership of Ben Turin, Transportation Manager.

ODOT Township Signs Grant



Monroe Twp

- Harrison County
- \$39,000 Grant

The ODOT Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) office provides eligible townships with up to \$50,000 for roadway safety signs. If awarded, Awardees have 12 months to install the signs but can receive up to a one-year extension upon request to the LTAP office. Applications are typically due in early May annually.

Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

TAP provides funds for projects that advance non-motorized transportation facilities, historic transportation preservation, and environmental mitigation and vegetation management activities.

Wooster Ave Pedestrian Enhancements – Phase 2

- Strasburg - Tuscarawas County
- \$937,000

Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail

- Dover - Tuscarawas County
- \$2,154,098

Safe Routes to School



Denman Avenue Sidewalks

- Coshocton
- \$586,992 Grant



E 3rd St Sidewalks & Crosswalks

- Dresden
- \$446,875 Grant



Tiger Drive Sidewalks

- Strasburg
- \$311,000 Grant

REVOLVING LOAN FUND

SUCCESSES

Established in 1992, the OMEGA Revolving Loan Fund Program (RLF) offers fixed rate, low-interest loans to private-for-profit businesses in conjunction with bank financing. The loan funds can be used for the acquisition of real estate; the purchase of machinery/equipment; and limited use working capital. To qualify, the business must be private-for-profit, creating or retaining jobs, and located within the ten-county region served by OMEGA.

During 2025, the OMEGA RLF Program celebrated two early loan payoffs. This increases funds available to lend and will provide a greater opportunity for serving the small businesses of our region in 2026.

Additionally, the Loan Review Committee voted to approve two loan requests from two local small businesses in CY2025. Both loan requests have been approved with anticipated closings in Q1 of 2026.

A new term also commenced for OMEGA's RLF Loan Review Committee. George Dolney, RLF Program Manager, worked closely with the Committee Chairman and each of the County Commissioners for new appointments and re-appointment affirmations of each of the ten seats on the Committee. (New terms run through 2028.)

George also completed the RLF Plan Update for OMEGA's EDA CARES Act funds with on time submission to the EDA. Upon provisional approval, the final draft will be presented to the OMEGA Executive Board.

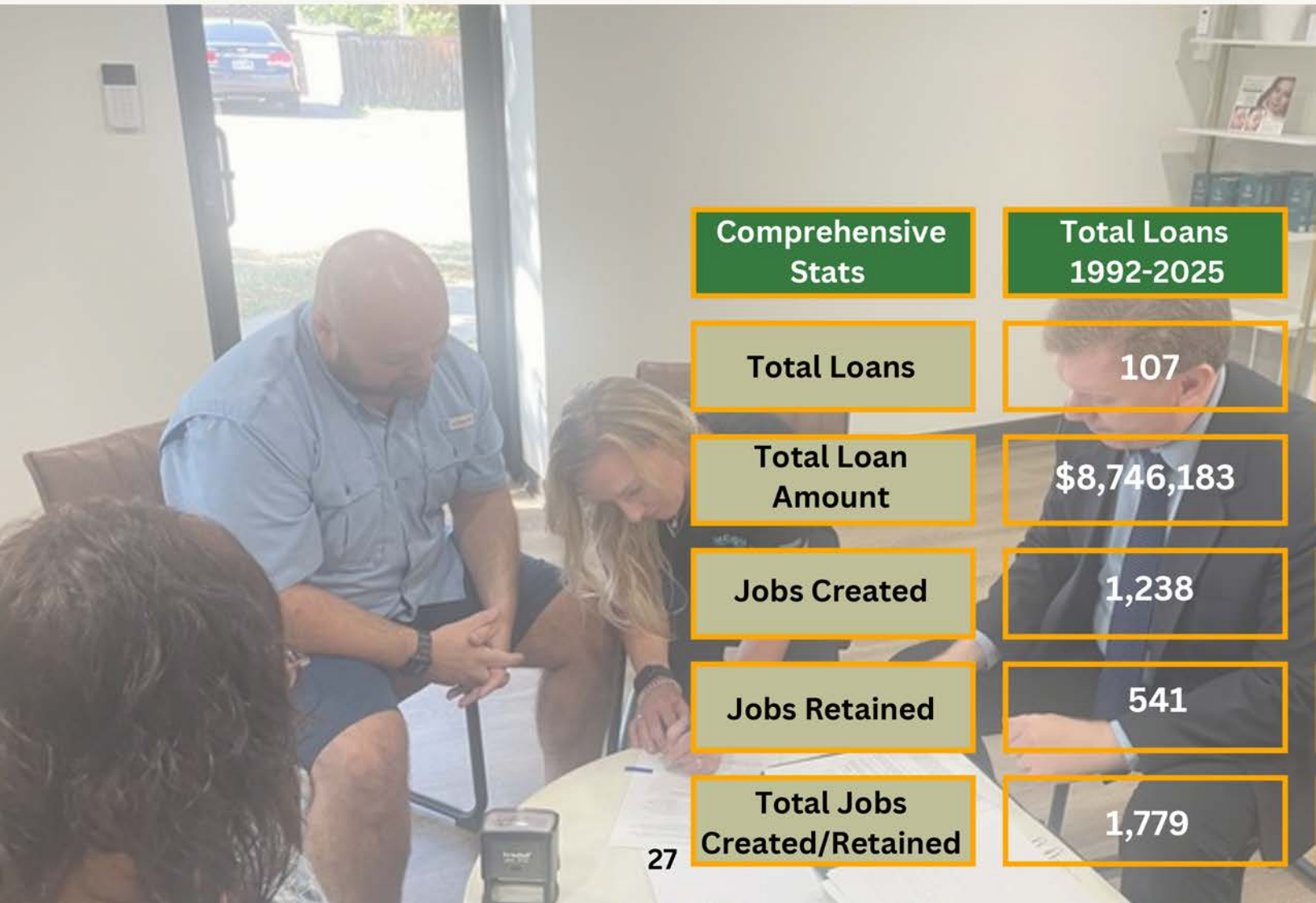


REVOLVING LOAN FUND

Economic Impact

Borrower	Loan Amount	Funding Source	FTE Jobs
Loan Request #1	\$100,000	CARES Act	1 Created, 1 Retained
Loan Request #2	\$300,000	EDA/ARC/ OMEGA Match	6 Created

**Please Note: Loan Request #1 is in Columbiana County; Loan Request #2 is in Muskingum County. Both requests are approved, but not yet closed.*



Comprehensive Stats	Total Loans 1992-2025
Total Loans	107
Total Loan Amount	\$8,746,183
Jobs Created	1,238
Jobs Retained	541
Total Jobs Created/Retained	1,779

OMEGA NETWORKING

by the Numbers



**3,234
Contacts**

Members, Executive Board Members, Staff, People of Interest, Legislators, Villages, and Townships who regularly receive vital funding & development information from OMEGA



**510
Engagements**

Community and regional engagements allow the OMEGA team to make meaningful connections and implement value added planning strategies, helping to ensure regional goals are met.



**167 Email
Notices**

A communication plan circulates meaningful messages and announcements to provide relevant updates and guidance regarding new and regular grant funding opportunities to spur economic activity, community development, and workforce solutions across the region.



Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association
Guernsey County, Ohio
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances
Governmental Funds
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025

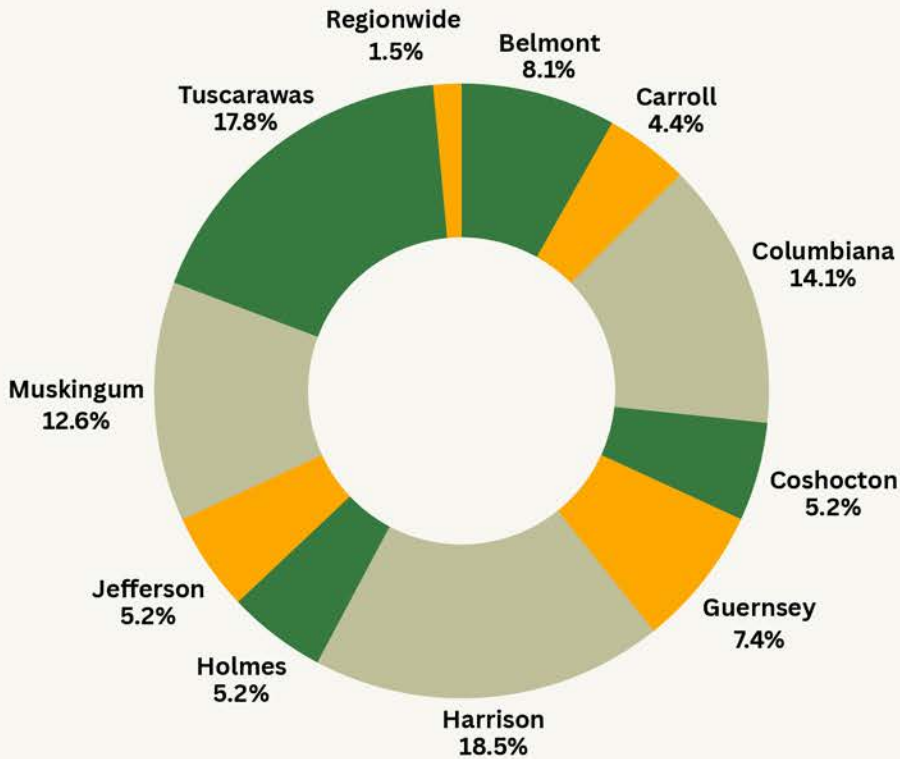
	General	Revolving Loan	Appalachian Regional Commission	State Appalachian Development Program	Economic Development Administration	Rural Transportation	Rural Transit Pilot Program	Other Governmental Fund	Total Governmental Funds
Revenues									
Intergovernmental	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,569,400	\$ 180,564	\$ 99,692	\$ 225,518	\$ 87,248	\$ -	\$ 3,162,422
Investment Income	104,311	64,842	-	-	-	-	-	-	169,153
Membership Fees	86,125	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	86,125
Charges for Services	49,500	7,773	-	-	-	-	-	-	57,273
In-Kind Contributions	-	-	-	-	9,425	-	-	-	9,425
Total Revenues	239,936	72,615	2,569,400	180,564	109,117	225,518	87,248	-	3,484,308
Expenditures									
Current:									
Economic Development	78,364	40,690	2,380,483	163,279	152,644	-	-	9,707	2,825,167
Transportation	-	-	-	-	-	229,918	83,168	-	313,086
Indirect Costs	13,758	5,086	43,410	31,095	17,538	38,525	12,522	2,323	164,257
Total Expenditures	92,122	45,776	2,423,893	194,374	170,182	268,443	95,690	12,030	3,102,510
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	147,814	26,839	145,507	(13,810)	(61,065)	(42,925)	(8,442)	(12,030)	181,888
Other Financing Sources (Uses)									
Transfers In	-	-	78	1	63,147	28,779	-	2,323	94,328
Transfers Out	(94,328)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(94,328)
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(94,328)	-	78	1	63,147	28,779	-	2,323	-
Net Change in Fund Balance	53,486	26,839	145,585	(13,809)	2,082	(14,146)	(8,442)	(9,707)	181,888
Fund Balances Beginning of Year	476,132	2,634,295	42,819	57,014	(13,122)	56,436	20,780	(4,673)	3,269,681
Fund Balances End of Year	\$ 529,618	\$ 2,661,134	\$ 188,404	\$ 43,205	\$ (11,040)	\$ 42,290	\$ 12,338	\$ (14,380)	\$ 3,451,569

County	Funding Pursued	Funding Secured
Belmont	\$1,950,429	\$239,500
Carroll	\$5,084,652	\$267,227
Columbiana	\$7,524,172	\$1,881,633
Coshocton	\$3,194,160	\$1,665,056
Guernsey	\$13,917,576	\$414,287
Harrison	\$7,812,796	\$3,819,704
Holmes	\$4,320,137	\$519,742
Jefferson	\$4,208,755	\$2,608,756
Muskingum	\$7,722,802	\$1,105,375
Tuscarawas	\$9,077,085	\$1,721,660
All Region	\$1,991,119	---
Total	\$66,803,684	\$14,242,940

**NOTE: These figures do not include \$35,018,072 in pending award announcements*

IMPACT & INVOLVEMENT

Community Investment



Over the course of 2025, the OMEGA team worked collaboratively with our communities to submit **135 applications** to local, state, and federal funding entities.

A total of **\$14,242,940** was secured for and invested in communities across the OMEGA region.

Additionally, the OMEGA team is still awaiting award announcements for another **\$35,018,072** in funding.



2025 OMEGA

Executive Board

Member	Representative	Title	Appointed By
Belmont County	Jerry Echemann	Commissioner	Belmont County
Carroll County	Chris Modranski (OMEGA Secretary)	Commissioner	Carroll County
Columbiana County	Roy Paparodis	Commissioner	Columbiana County
Coshocton County	Tiffany Swigert (OMEGA Treasurer)	Port Authority Director	Coshocton County
Guernsey County	Jack Marlin (OMEGA Vice President)	Commissioner	Guernsey County
Harrison County	Amy Norris	Commissioner	Harrison County
Holmes County	Eric Strouse	Commissioner	Holmes County
Jefferson County	Tony Morelli	Commissioner	Jefferson County
Muskingum County	Melissa Bell	Commissioner	Muskingum County
Tuscarawas County	Kristin Zemis	Commissioner	Tuscarawas County
City of Cambridge	Thomas Orr	Mayor	City of Cambridge
City of Coshocton	Mark Mills	Mayor	City of Coshocton
City of Dover	Shane Gunnoe	Mayor	City of Dover
City of East Liverpool	Robert Smith	Mayor	City of East Liverpool
City of Martins Ferry	John Davies	Mayor	City of Martins Ferry
City of New Philadelphia	Joel B. Day (OMEGA President)	Mayor	City of New Philadelphia
City of St. Clairsville	Kathryn Thalman	Mayor	City of St. Clairsville
City of Salem	Cyndi Dickey	Mayor	City of Salem
City of Steubenville	Joel Walker	Council Member	City of Steubenville
City of Toronto	Frank McEwen	Council Member	City of Toronto
City of Uhrichsville	James Zucal	Mayor	City of Uhrichsville
City of Zanesville	Donald Mason	Mayor	City of Zanesville

2025 OMEGA

Officers & Staff

President



**Mayor
Joel B. Day
New Philadelphia**

Vice President



**Commissioner
Jack Marlin
Guernsey County**

Secretary



**Commissioner
Chris Modranski
Carroll County**

Treasurer



**Director
Tiffany Swigert
Coshocton County**



**Ben
Turin**

**Corinna
Kerns**

**Evan
Scurti**

**Vicki
King-Maple**

**George
Dolney**

**Kennedy
Hart**

**Ellie
Dudding**

**Alan
Knapp**

**Mindee
Johnson**

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Highlights



MILESTONE MOMENTS

& Achievements



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Highlights



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT *Highlights*



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Educational Partners



ECONOMIC IMPACT

Resilient Communities





<https://www.linkedin.com/company/omegaohio/>



<https://www.facebook.com/omegadistrictohio/>



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Credits:

Front cover: Creative design by Kennedy Hart;

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Back cover: 2025 OMEGA Community Engagement;

Photos contributed.

Annual Report design: Kennedy Hart with contributions by Vicki King-Maple

