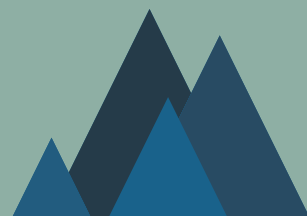




INNOVATE | PARTNER | INVEST

# 2019

APPALACHIAN  
**O H I O**



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RETURN ON INVESTMENT  
ANNUAL REPORT





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# STRENGTHENING OHIO'S APPALACHIAN REGION

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2019 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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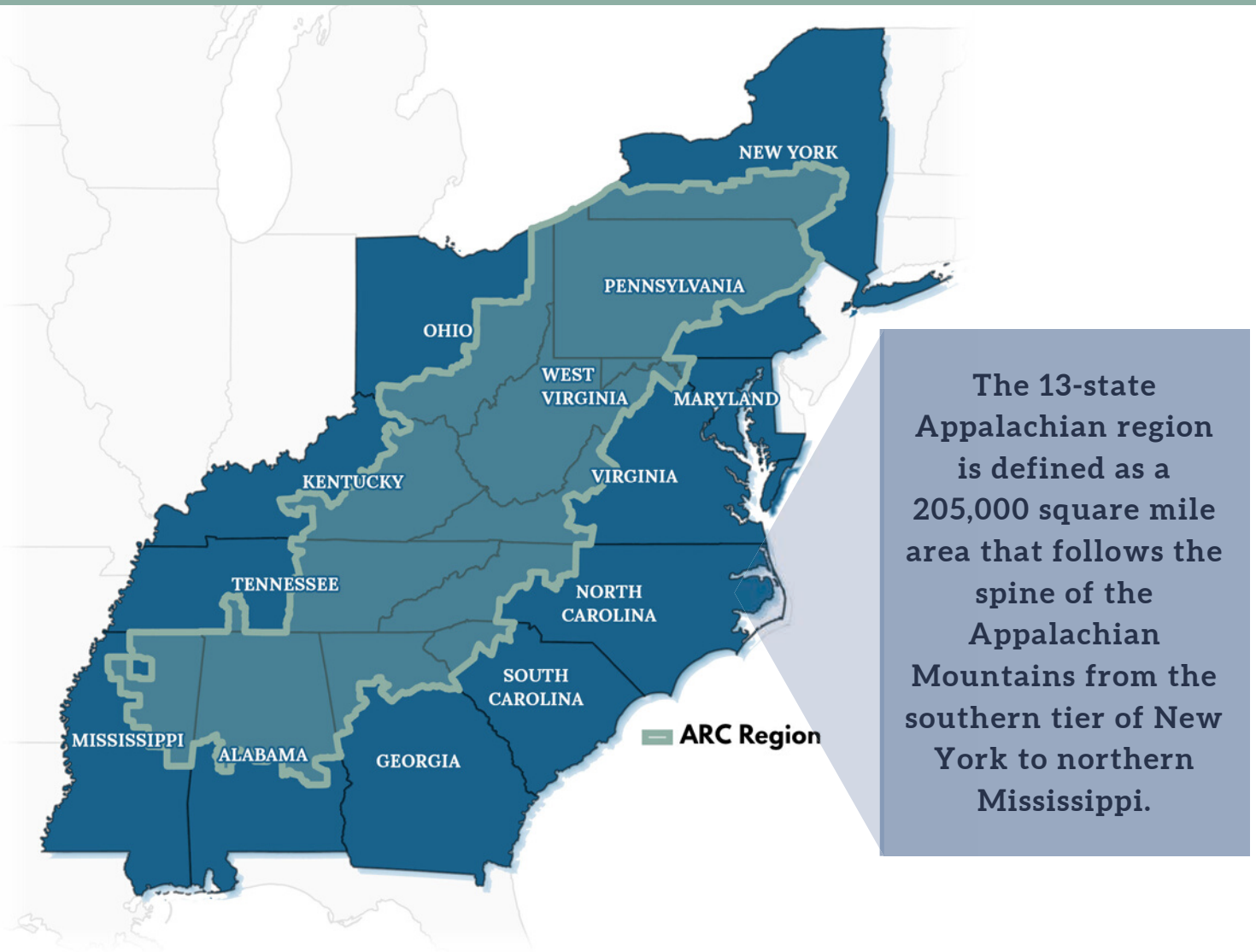
**Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission**  
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# INVESTING IN APPALACHIA



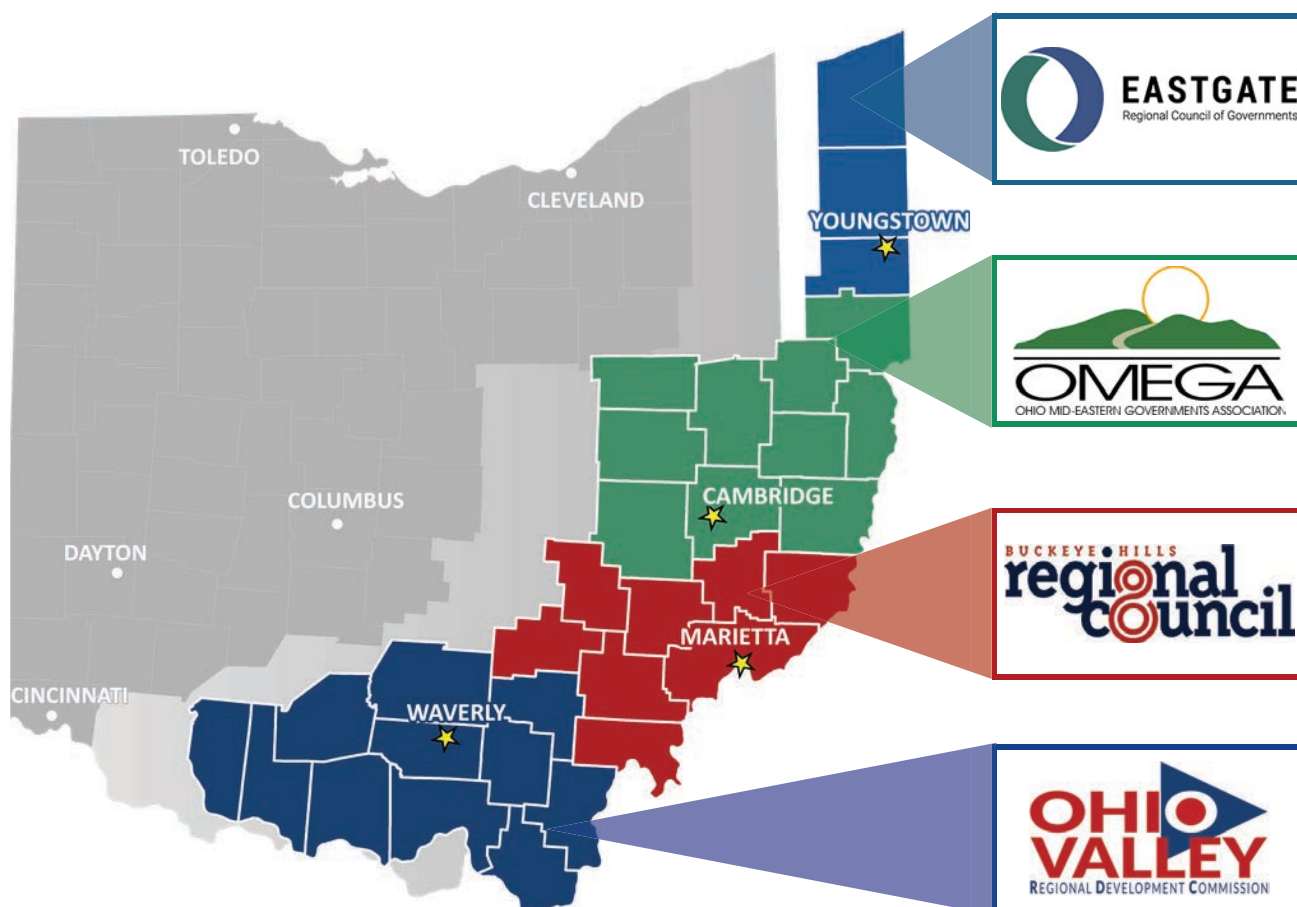
With 420 counties, the Appalachian region includes all of West Virginia and parts of 12 other states including: Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. Appalachia is home to more than 25 million people.

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 business 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 17.2%, 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 16% percent higher than the rate in non-Appalachian Ohio.

### UNEMPLOYMENT

Appalachian Ohio has an unemployment rate of 5.4%, which is higher than both the state of Ohio and the U.S. percentages. Workforce development and investments in infrastructure are needed for growth.

# BY THE NUMBERS

**TOTAL LEVERAGED INVESTMENT  
IN APPALACHIAN OHIO**

**\$39.9 million**

**TOTAL INVESTMENT BY  
APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION**

**\$3.8 million**

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

**\$5.5 million**

**TOTAL LDD INVESTMENT  
IN APPALACHIAN OHIO**

**\$49.2 million**

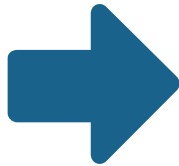


# 2019 LDD IMPACT

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**TOTAL  
PROJECTS  
IN REGION**



**67**



**TOTAL  
JOBS  
RETAINED**



**2,387**



**TOTAL  
JOBS  
CREATED**



**493**



**TOTAL  
PROJECT  
INVESTMENT**



**\$49.2M**

“ The Appalachian Regional Commission’s investment in Southern and Southwestern Ohio plays a much needed and critical role by partnering with local authorities to create economic opportunities for our residents and spur development in our communities.

-Congressman Brad Wenstrup (2nd District)

“ The Appalachian Regional Commission has proven time and again that it is vital to Eastern and Southeastern Ohio.

-Congressman Bill Johnson (6th District)

## BROADBAND + TECHNOLOGY

### VILLAGE OF GEORGETOWN FIBER OPTIC BROADBAND PROJECT BROWN COUNTY



**Appalachian Assistance Funds:** \$237,802      **Total Project Costs:** \$475,605

**Partners:** ARC, State of Ohio Basic Agency Project (1st of its kind), Village of Georgetown, Governor's Office of Appalachia

The Village of Georgetown uniquely demonstrated capacity and sustainability for this broadband project, due to their complete ownership of the existing utilities framework already in place. Fiber optic broadband will be another utility they are offering to citizens, businesses, schools and county offices at a reasonable cost. The project built out a redundant network structure and included capacity for future expansion as needed. The project outcomes included a total of 329 businesses served, 130 jobs retained, 196 homes served and an immeasurable impact on future educational, health and business opportunities, including an increased capacity for economic development.

### CONNECTING THE FUTURE: RENEWING LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY ADAMS COUNTY

**Appalachian Assistance Funds:** \$248,150

**Total Project Costs:** \$310,187

**Partners:** Adams County Public Library, Governor's Office of Appalachia

This investment enabled Adams County Public Library to replace obsolete computer equipment at four library locations, and to expand available capacity to meet growing community demand. As Adams County residents face accelerating economic challenges, including the permanent



shutdown of large local employer Dayton Power & Light (DP&L), residents increasingly rely on the library's free resources to help them learn new skills and find jobs. The library is striving to meet growing demand with reduced resources and is facing significant budget cuts due to loss of DP&L's tax revenue.

## STEELIAL EXPANSION ACCESS ROAD

### VINTON COUNTY

**Appalachian Assistance Funds:** \$40,889

**Total Project Costs:** \$136,296

**Partners:** ARC State AD, 629 Roadwork, Steelial (private business), Governor's Office of Appalachia, JobsOhio, ODOT

The Steelial Expansion Access Road Project will encourage economic growth for Vinton County, an ARC designated At-Risk County.

The success story for this business is one that highlights the desire to fund projects which

strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem and support existing business. The project paved 2,775 linear feet of a gravel township road to allow safe access for commercial shipping and delivery. Upgrading the road from gravel to paved improves access to industrial, commercial, and service locations that are primed for development. The expansion of this business will create 30 jobs over 3 years, and upgrading this road is a critical improvement for safety and to support growth.



## HEALTH CARE

## SOMC WEST UNION STATIONARY 3-D BREAST TOMOSYNTHESIS UNIT

### ADAMS COUNTY

**Appalachian Assistance Funds:** \$250,000

**Total Project Costs:** \$400,000

**Partners:** ARC, Southern Ohio Medical Center, Governor's Office of Appalachia

The addition of a 3-D Breast Tomosynthesis Unit to the Southern Ohio Medical Center (SOMC) West Union health care facility addresses ARC goals to increase education, knowledge, skills, and health of residents to work and succeed in Appalachia. The 3D Digital



Breast Tomosynthesis Unit will improve access to affordable, high-quality healthcare for residents. Often, patients are not willing to drive long distances to have a preventative mammography screening that could potentially save their lives. Several studies have found that 3-D mammograms find more cancers than traditional 2-D mammograms and reduce the number of false positives. Without the installation of this new mammography unit the residents of Adams and nearby counties would continue to see lapses in mammography imaging care, resulting in delayed diagnosis and treatment. In addition to the direct health benefits, serving between 250 – 400 patients annually, project outcomes will include hiring 1.5 FTE and creating jobs for 2 mammography positions.



## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

### KENT STATE UNIVERSITY AT ASHTABULA REGIONAL WORKFORCE TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER

#### CITY OF ASHTABULA - ASHTABULA COUNTY



**Appalachian Assistance Funds:** \$250,000      **Total Project Costs:** \$980,000

**Partners:** Crystal Manufacturing, Growth Partnership for Ashtabula County, Ashtabula County Education Service Center, Ashtabula County Medical Center, University Hospital Geneva, University Hospital Conneaut, Ashtabula County Job and Family Services, Ohio Means Jobs, Kent State University Regional Workforce Development Department

This project will provide instruction, training, and re-configuration of space to provide workforce training for in-demand, high paying jobs in the field of computer programming, computer networking, medical and health systems, occupational and physical therapy, radiology, and registered nursing. The project will serve 9 businesses.

### ADVANCED PIPE WELDING AND INDUSTRIAL ASSEMBLY EDUCATION

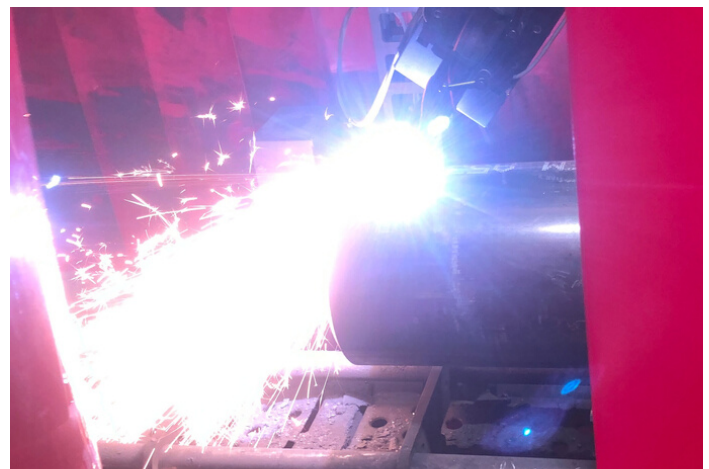
#### CITY OF MARIETTA

#### WASHINGTON COUNTY

**Appalachian Assistance Funds:** \$180,200

**Total Project Costs:** \$180,200

**Partners:** Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 168, Washington County Career Center, Swiss Hills Career Center, Mid East Career & Technology Center, and Owens Community College



With the large-scale industrial projects coming to our region, a multitude of new procedures and skills will be required of local workers employed for construction and maintenance of these facilities. From combined cycle power plants, to gas separating plants, to ethane crackers, if local workers do not have the skills required, companies will recruit this talent from outside the region for these positions. This apprenticeship training program currently serves 78 apprentices and 230 journeymen.

### COLUMBIANA COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY & COMPCO QUAKER JOB TRAINING CENTER CITY OF SALEM COLUMBIANA COUNTY

**Appalachian Assistance Funds:** \$200,000

**Total Project Costs:** \$300,000

**Partners:** Ohio Governor's Office of Appalachia, Compco Quaker, Columbiana County Port Authority



Compco Quaker has acquired several companies in recent years, saving the jobs of hundreds of workers who would have lost their jobs due to plant closings. However, there was a need to provide training to those workers to obtain skills necessary to operate the machinery and equipment. Compco purchased another company just two weeks after that company issued a WARN Notice that it was closing. The Governor's Office of Appalachia Regional Job Training Program has been a key component in the resurgence of that facility. Compco has demonstrated an innovative approach to reducing processing time for parts for the automotive industry. GOA RJT funds have paid for trainers to visit the Training Center and provide training to the workers. Leveraged funds from the company include \$100,000 in-kind personnel costs for company management to provide some of the training themselves. Project outcomes include 300 workers/trainees and 80 students improved, 50 jobs created, and 300 jobs retained. Training focused on the following in order of priority: Safety, Quality, Delivery, Costs/Finance, and Sales.

### SWITZERLAND OF OHIO CHEMICAL OPERATOR TRAINING PROGRAM VILLAGE OF WOODSFIELD - MONROE COUNTY

**Appalachian Assistance Funds:** \$249,750      **Total Project Costs:** \$412,750

**Partners:** Swiss Hills Career Center, Switzerland of Ohio Local School District

Monroe County has struggled with a chronic high unemployment rate, topping Ohio in 2019 at nearly 8%. Building on previous investments in the Swiss Hills Career Center's Industry 4.0 and Heavy Equipment programs, this latest investment will bring the equipment necessary for the center to offer a chemical engineering program and expand its current offerings to adult students. This would mark the career center's first adult career offering. Until now, adults in Monroe County have had to travel an hour or more to receive similar training. Additional potential adult career offerings include CDL training, heavy equipment operation, and welding.

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

### KENT STATE TUSCARAWAS RISING MANUFACTURING SCHOLARS CITY OF NEW PHILADELPHIA - TUSCARAWAS COUNTY



**Appalachian Assistance Funds: \$50,000      Total Project Costs: \$120,220**

**Partners: Ohio Governor's Office of Appalachia, Kent State University**

The Rising Manufacturing Scholars Program is a new initiative to expand access to higher education and expose students to technical and professional manufacturing careers in the Tuscarawas River Valley Region. The program has a focus on accelerating the development of awareness, interest, skills, and knowledge of manufacturing and increasing the size and quality of the manufacturing talent pipeline for local companies. It is designed to provide rigorous academic support for seventh through twelfth graders who have been identified as having the potential to succeed in higher education or the workforce, but are faced with economic, social and support system barriers. During the program, students receive intensive mentoring from current Kent State University students. At the program's conclusion, it is the goal that each Rising Manufacturing Scholar is provided with the opportunity to complete a college degree at no cost at Kent State University Tuscarawas. The Ohio-Mid-Eastern Governments Association (OMEGA) recommended that the Ohio Governor's Office of Appalachia (GOA) provide \$50,000 in GOA funding, that is being leveraged by \$70,220 from Kent State and a private foundation to operate this program. The program began in October 2019 with three school districts, 12 students and three mentors, with the goal to grow to 100 participants and 12 mentors within five years.



## **GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF APPALACHIA STEM CAMP**

### **CITY OF MARIETTA**

### **WASHINGTON COUNTY**

**Appalachian Assistance Funds:** \$38,000

**Total Project Costs:** \$38,000

**Partners:** Ohio Governor's Office of Appalachia, Buckeye Hills Regional Council, Marietta College, Building Bridges to Careers, Mondo Polymers, Davis Powers



In July 2019, 21 middle and high school students participated in the first-ever GOA STEM Camp. Throughout the week the students worked on an extensive project of building personalized robots. This process introduced students to multiple aspects of STEM, including computer-aided-design, laser cutting, 3D printing, and programming circuit boards. Skills in teamwork and design collaboration were vital in order to succeed in the end-of-week robot competition between students' teams. Additional educational activities illustrated STEM's influence on our world. The students visited Mondo Polymers, which gave a first hand view of robotics use in industrial settings. Professional drone photographer Davis Powers gave a demonstration of drone technology's capabilities in both business and scientific fields. These activities widened the lens of the students' understanding of STEM's impact on today's society.

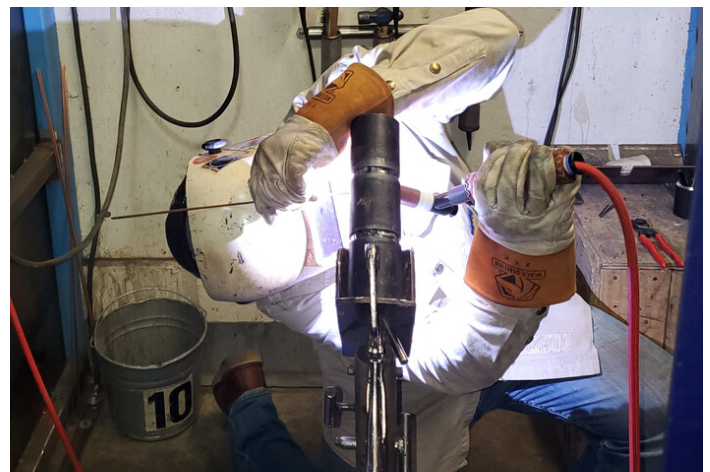
## **ACCELERATED WELDING PROGRAM FOR DISPLACED & DEVELOPMENTAL WORKERS**

### **CITY OF YOUNGSTOWN - MAHONING COUNTY**

**Appalachian Assistance Funds:** \$250,000

**Total Project Costs:** \$250,000

**Partners:** 32 Local Contractors, Flying High Professional Development Center, Trumbull County Career and Technical Center, Columbiana Career and Technical Center, Mahoning County Career and Technical Center, New Castle School of Trades, Youngstown Air Force Reserve Community Partnership



This project will provide funding for training, instruction, job training equipment, instructional costs and training materials to advance the skills of displaced and aspiring welders. Preparing residents for in-demand high paying jobs will create a culture of continuous learning and build career pathways. The Plumbers & Pipefitters JATC will work in partnership with 32 local contractors on this effort.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

### STEUBENVILLE WATERLINE VALVE REPLACEMENT

#### CITY OF STEUBENVILLE

#### JEFFERSON COUNTY

**Appalachian Assistance Funds:** \$250,000

**Total Project Costs:** \$1,601,722

**Partners:** City of Steubenville, Jefferson County Port Authority, Ohio EPA

In January 2018, the City of Steubenville experienced the complete depressurization of the of the downtown water systems due to a

waterline break on a 20" line that never surfaced. All downtown businesses, schools and residents were without water for 12 days, also affecting heating systems for those using boilers. The Jefferson County Port Authority assisted the City with preparation of a grant application for funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) to start a water valve replacement program. The ARC provided a grant of \$250,000, which was leveraged by \$1,351,722 in Ohio EPA loans and principal forgiveness funding for the project. In January 2020, the City is completing this project, and no major interruptions in water service have occurred since construction began. The outcomes for Phase I of this project include 44 gate valves replaced, 14 insertion valves installed, 60 fire hydrants replaced and 18,659 city residents and 3,930 city businesses improved.



### ROCKBRIDGE FORCEMAIN IMPROVEMENTS

#### HOCKING COUNTY

**Appalachian Assistance Funds:** \$250,000

**Total Project Costs:** \$480,126

**Partners:** Hocking County Commission, City of Logan

This project will provide sanitary sewer service to prime real estate along US 33 and Chieftain Drive between Rockbridge and Logan. This area is growing rapidly, has committed interest in commercial development, but currently lacks sewage collection, thus hindering

development. With the collaboration of Hocking County and the City of Logan, a force main collection system will be utilized from an existing pump station in front of the Chieftain Elementary School located at US 33 and OH 180, along Chieftain Drive, bored under the Hocking River, and delivered to the City of Logan's sewage collection at an existing manhole located at the Hocking College Campus. The City of Logan will then provide treatment from the Hocking County collection area.





## **AMSTERDAM WASTEWATER COLLECTION & TREATMENT SYSTEM**

### **VILLAGE OF AMSTERDAM - JEFFERSON COUNTY**



**Appalachian Assistance Funds:** \$250,000      **Total Project Costs:** \$10,241,800

**Partners:** Village of Amsterdam, Jefferson County, Carroll County, Ohio Development Services Agency, Ohio Rural Community Assistance Program, Army Corps of Engineers, USDA, Ohio Water Development Authority, Ohio EPA

This project brings wastewater collection and treatment to households and businesses in the Village of Amsterdam and neighboring townships. These communities had been cited by Ohio EPA for failing septic systems. Jefferson County will own and operate this new wastewater system. Outcomes include 47,546 linear feet of eight-inch sanitary sewer line, 2,559 linear feet of 1.5-inch pressure sewer, 11 grinder pumps, two pump stations, and a 50,000 gallon per day extended aeration treatment plant. The project will improve 364 households and 25 businesses in the village, neighboring Springfield and Loudon townships, and an unincorporated area of Carroll County.

## **MCCARTNEY ROAD WATERLINE EXTENSION IMPROVEMENT**

### **COITSVILLE TOWNSHIP - MAHONING COUNTY**

**Appalachian Assistance Funds:** \$360,000

**Total Project Costs:** \$360,000

**Partners:** Mahoning County Commission, Coitsville Township, Aqua Water, Casey's Ranch

This project will construct 2,650 linear feet of waterline extension in a low-to-moderate income area of Coitsville Township. The project will provide positive economic development outcomes, including service to 3 private businesses and 2 residential households, with an anticipated 5 full-time jobs and up to 15 part-time jobs created. The project will result in over \$800,000 of leveraged private investment in the expansion of local businesses.



### BUCKEYE HILLS REGIONAL COUNCIL

**Broadband Feasibility:** Through funds provided by the Appalachian Regional Commission, Buckeye Hills Regional Council was able to complete a broadband feasibility study for the Buckeye Hills region in 2019. This work provided opportunities to explore the true challenges facing widespread broadband deployment in greater Appalachian Ohio. This work also provided opportunities to recommend strategies to address these challenges and to encourage partnerships that can advance this issue on behalf of residents in the region.

**Regional Job Training:** Work continued in 2019 on completing the projects that were awarded state funding as part of the Regional Job Training program led by the Governor's Office of Appalachia beginning in 2017. This funding was made available from upfront casino license fees collected by the State of Ohio. Ohio's LDDs were entrusted with these funds to complete job training and workforce development projects that would produce positive impacts in local communities. To date \$2 million dollars was utilized to support 16 projects in the Buckeye Hills region alone.

### EASTGATE REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

**Build Award Grant:** Eastgate Regional Council of Governments and its partners, including the City of Youngstown, Eastern Gateway Community College, Mercy Health, Western Reserve Transit Authority, Youngstown State University, and the philanthropic community, were awarded a \$10.2 million USDOT BUILD grant for the Youngstown SMART<sup>2</sup> Network. The Youngstown SMART<sup>2</sup> Network will reconstruct five streets around downtown Youngstown into safe and complete streets with pedestrian and bicycle amenities. It will also introduce a transit circulator that will more easily connect various employment centers and institutions. This project builds on over ten years of planning and investing in the Mahoning Valley's economic core.

**Mahoning River Restoration:** The Mahoning River has shaped the Eastgate planning region as we know it today. The river was dammed in numerous places to provide cooling water for the steel industry that flourished along the Mahoning River. Today, per the Ohio EPA's 2013 biological and chemical survey, the river is making a comeback both in water quality and fish diversity. Eastgate wants to continue the upward progression of the river's health by working with communities along the river to remove the remaining lowhead dams and restore the river to its natural, free flowing state. In November 2019 the Ohio Department of Natural Resources awarded \$2 million to the Eastgate Regional Council of Governments for the Mahoning River Corridor Restoration Plan. The funding made available through the Governor's budget not only helps to study the area along the river but will also continue the momentum in securing funding to remove the remaining dams along the river.

## OHIO MID-EASTERN GOVERNMENTS ASSOCIATION

In 2018, the Ohio Department of Transportation Office of Transit selected OMEGA to participate in a Regional Coordinated Public Transit/Human Services Transportation Program. The goal of this program is to improve transportation services for the public, especially seniors and people with disabilities by cost-effectively increasing ridership and establishing best practices for coordination of transportation services in the OMEGA 10-county region.

Working with transportation providers, human service agencies, local governments, and the general public, OMEGA established a Regional Coordinated Council (RCC) and developed a Regional Coordinated Plan to improve transportation services throughout the region. Five goals were established to meet the challenges and unmet needs identified by the RCC, stakeholders, and the public, including seniors and individuals with disabilities:

1. Increase Ridership for all Transportation Service Providers and Transit Agencies in the Region;
2. More efficient Out-of-County and Out-of-Region Transportation Service;
3. Reduce Denials and No-shows of the Riders that Use Transportation Service in the Region.
4. Cost-Effective Vehicle Replacement for all Regional Transportation Service Providers.
5. Increase Employment Transportation Options for Jobseekers and Employees.

Several strategies and projects to meet these goals have been identified and OMEGA will be working with the stakeholders on implementation of the recommendations to improve transportation services in the region.

## OHIO VALLEY REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission is proud of the local governments and people we serve, and the team we have built to guide economic and community development projects for our region. This year, our Governing Board prioritized the addition of a Public Information Coordinator position to better tell our success stories and add value to the communities we serve. Another priority for this year has been the increase we are seeing in requests to partner on preliminary studies that lay the groundwork for future funding and bigger projects, including Active Transportation Plans and other studies as an ODOT Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO).

In Highland County, a Transit Feasibility Study was completed, laying the groundwork for an additional \$1.1M grant award to build a low cost, public transportation system originating in Highland County and expanding out to Adams County. The commission is encouraged to see these types of mapping, studies and feasibility requests from our members, because these overall sustainability strategy pieces are helping build out the network. Often the focus is on the timeline of the most recent project, but funding preliminary planning opportunities to better guide future investment is a smart, strategic choice. The preparation and planning that is required to capitalize on major funding opportunities, can often be foreshadowed by prioritizing necessary preliminary work such as these studies.



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

