EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
AUGUST 6, 2021
Buckeye Hills Regional Council

AGENDA

I. Call to Order **|** Ron Moore, President

II. Roll Call **|** Misty Crosby, Executive Director, Secretary (per BHRC Bylaws)

III. Consent Agenda **|** Ron Moore, President

IV. Legislator and Partner Agency Updates
   a. Office of Congressman Johnson **|** Amber Kohler, Field Representative
   b. Office of Ohio Lt. Governor Husted **|** Bryn Stepp, Southeast Ohio Representative
   c. Foundation for Appalachian Ohio **|** Matt Kaido, Director of Strategic Initiatives and Kelly Morman, Director of Local Impact

V. Personnel and Audit Budget Committee Report **|** Lenny Eliason, Chair
   a. New Hires, Promotions, Resignation, Terminations, Transfers Report
   b. Insurance Renewals
      (1) Employee/Employer Contributions
      (2) HSA Deposits
   c. Juneteenth Holiday

VI. Vaccine Hesitancy Grant — Ratification of Action **|** Jennifer Westfall, Aging & Disability Director

VII. Development Division **|** Sam Miller, Development Director
   a. Resolution of Support for Appalachian Regional Commission 2022 Projects
   b. Resolution Authorizing Participation in the Americans for the Arts: *Arts & Economic Prosperity 6 Study*
   c. Resolution Granting Permission to Apply for U.S. EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant

VIII. Executive Director Update **|** Misty Crosby

IX. Citizen Participation

X. Other Business

XI. Adjournment

NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 3, 2021

CONSENT AGENDA

- **MINUTES OF THE JUNE 4, 2021 MEETING**

- **STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**
  - ○ **ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE YTD & QUARTERLY REPORT**
  - ○ **AGING & DISABILITY PROGRAM SERVICE REPORT**

- **GRANT AGREEMENTS MAY-JULY 2021**

- **DIVISION & DIRECTOR'S REPORTS**
  - ○ **ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**
  - ○ **AGING & DISABILITY DIVISION**
  - ○ **COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR**
  - ○ **DEVELOPMENT DIVISION**
  - ○ **HUMAN RESOURCES**

Minutes of the June 4, 2021
Buckeye Hills Regional Council Executive Committee Meeting

The Buckeye Hills Regional Council Executive Committee meeting was held June 4, 2021. The meeting was held at Buckeye Hills, Marietta, Ohio.

In attendance were:

OFFICERS:	Ron Moore, President	Morgan County (Private Sector)
	Kevin Ritter, Treasurer	Washington County
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:	Steve Patterson	City of Athens
	Gary Waugh	Hocking County
	Tim Ihle	Meigs County
	Brian Howard	Meigs County (Private Sector)
	Diane Ullom	Monroe County (Private Sector)
	Adam Shriver	Morgan County
	Brad Peoples	Noble County
	Jeff Dennis	Perry County (Private Sector)
	Josh Schlicher	City of Marietta
GENERAL POLICY COUNCIL:	James Booth	Washington County
GUESTS:	John Carey	Governor's Office of Appalachia
	Flite Freimann	Washington County JFS, BHSS
	Danielle Mason	Office of Attorney General Yost
	Joe Recchie	Community Building Partners
STAFF:	Misty Crosby	Executive Director
	Rick Hindman	Assistant Executive Director
	Denise Keyes	Fiscal Director
	Angie Lawrence	Human Resource/Payroll Manager
	Sam Miller	Development Director
	Jenny Simmons	Executive Assistant
	Drew Tanner	Communications Director
	Sam Wallace	Transportation Planning Manager
	Jennifer Westfall	Aging & Disability Director

CALL TO ORDER
Ron Moore, President, called the meeting to order.

ROLE CALL
Misty Crosby, Executive Director, conducted roll call.

CONSENT AGENDA
Steve Patterson moved to approve the consent agenda which included the Minutes from the May 7, 2021 meeting; Statement of Activities, Administrative Expense YTD Report; Aging and Disability Programs Services and Funding Report for period July 1, 2020 through April 30, 2021, and; Division and Director's Reports. Kevin Ritter seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

LEGISLATOR AND PARTNER AGENCY UPDATES
John Carey, Director of the Governor Office of Appalachia, provided federal budget and Appalachia Regional Commission updates to the members.

Danielle Mason, Eastern Regional Director/Regional Outreach Section provided updates to the members from the Office of Ohio Attorney General Yost.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT
Brian Howard moved to approve the Resignation, Terminations, Retirements, New Hires, Promotions, Transfers Report for the time period of February 6, 2021 through June 4, 2021. Tim Ihle seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

EMPLOYEES YEARS OF SERVICE RECOGNITION
Ron Moore moved to approve the Years of Service Recognition as of July 1, 2021. Tim Ihle seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried. Staff will be recognized at the All Staff Meeting on June 25, 2021.

EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK UPDATES
Ron Moore moved to approve the Employee Handbook Revisions. Gary Waugh seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART UPDATE: TITLE CHCANGES
Ron Moore moved to approve the organizational chart update with two title changes for administrative staff. Secretary/Receptionist updated to Administrative Assistant. Office Manager updated to Office Coordinator. Steve Patterson seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

PURCHASING POLICY UPDATES
Kevin Ritter, Chair, moved to approve the Purchasing Policy Updates. Brian Howard seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES – LICENSED DIETICIAN
Steve Patterson moved to approve the Licensed Dietician Contract in the amount of $50 hour, not to exceed an amount equivalent to 250 hours for the contract period without prior approval for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. Tim Ihle seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

SUCCESSION PLAN DISCUSSION COMMITTEE
Rick Hindman, Assistant Executive Director, provided the Draft Succession Plan and overview to the members.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE
Steve Patterson moved to approve the Ratification of Action by Executive Director to expand the American Connection Corps program from the current Meigs and Monroe counties to all eight counties and to move forward to formally receive funding from Broadband Ohio and the Governor's Office of Appalachia to financially support the work. Brad Peoples seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

Misty Crosby provided state and federal budget updates to the members.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
Joe Recchie, Founder and CEO of Community Building Partners, reviewed the American Rescue Plan with the members.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION
No citizens wished to address the committee.

OTHER BUSINESS
With no other business, Tim Ihle moved to adjourn the meeting. Adam Shriver seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

Approved By: _____

Misty Crosby, Secretary

Date: _____

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021

YEAR TO DATE ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE DETAIL

Administrative Expenses for Fiscal Year 2021 totaled $5,455,854.25 at June 30. This total represents 99.14% of the Council's administrative budget utilized. Total spending for this time period is budgeted to be 100%. Due to an influx of new funding from the CARES Act and the short time period to utilize, budget numbers have increase from the original presented. This new funding includes Mobility Management CARES, COVID 19 Vaccine Support, Title III CARES and EDA CARES. A preliminary Budget Revision is included and a final Budget Revision will be presented to the Committee once end of year totals are confirmed. Fiscal staff continue to monitor administrative spending closely in order to best utilize available funds.

AGING AND DISABILITY PROGRAMS SERVICES & FUNDING REPORT

The Aging and Disability Division worked with various service providers and helped administer a multitude of direct service programs to eligible residents of our eight-county region. Between July 1 and June 30, more than $12.8 million in direct service dollars were utilized to provide the units of service listed in the report. BHRC continues to support our provider network to evaluate the needs of the communities and serve area seniors in the best way possible during the current pandemic.

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Administrative Expense Detail
For the Period July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

	2020 YTD Actual	2021 YTD Actual	2021 Budget	% of Budget
Salary	$ 2,866,950.13	$ 2,955,039.68	$ 2,973,478.60	99.38%
Fringe Benefits	$ 1,164,184.67	$ 1,264,373.22	$ 1,268,679.34	99.66%
Advertising	$ 93,765.54	$ 161,706.89	$ 175,250.00	92.27%
Audit Costs	$ 31,645.50	$ 31,604.50	$ 31,750.00	99.54%
Building Maintenance	$ 11,115.80	$ 10,348.00	$ 11,500.00	89.98%
Communications	$ 77,918.46	$ 83,492.73	$ 85,538.00	97.61%
Conference Registration Fee	$ 17,139.21	$ 11,415.00	$ 11,510.00	99.17%
Contract Services	$ 214,933.68	$ 154,742.54	$ 154,743.00	100.00%
Employee/Governing Board	$ 24,937.73	$ 19,326.42	$ 19,500.00	99.11%
Equipment Purchase/Maintenance	$ 26,811.34	$ 24,926.99	$ 25,000.00	99.71%
Insurance	$ 35,270.26	$ 41,603.63	$ 41,604.00	100.00%
Legal Costs	$ 10,876.37	$ 5,546.00	$ 5,546.00	100.00%
Organizational Dues	$ 38,977.61	$ 49,019.70	$ 49,020.00	100.00%
Other Costs	$ 9,432.45	$ 9,073.36	$ 10,000.00	90.73%
Postage	$ 15,018.99	$ 36,765.65	$ 36,765.64	100.00%
Printing Costs	$ 23,987.79	$ 34,222.55	$ 40,000.00	85.56%
Software & Licenses	$ 120,520.34	$ 114,721.06	$ 114,721.06	100.00%
Space	$ 255,340.92	$ 255,340.91	$ 255,342.00	100.00%
Staff Training Fees	$ 7,905.86	$ 6,297.91	$ 6,500.00	96.89%
Subscriptions	$ 2,967.37	$ 2,515.36	$ 2,515.00	100.01%
Supplies	$ 155,994.85	$ 129,889.17	$ 129,889.17	100.00%
Travel - Mileage Reimbursement	$ 102,482.51	$ 6,313.66	$ 6,313.66	100.00%
Travel - Out of Town Expense	$ 39,903.22	$ 688.78	$ 688.78	100.00%
TOTAL EXPENSES FOR THE PERIOD	**$ 5,348,080.59**	**$ 5,408,973.71**	**$ 5,455,854.25**	**99.14%**
INDIRECT COST RATE FOR THE PERIOD	**46%**	**43%**		

Quarterly Budget Review
For the Period July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

	Original Budget	07/20 - 09/20 Change	10/20 - 12/20 Change	01/21 - 03/21 Change	04/21 - 06/21 Change	Final Budget
Salary	$ 3,908,179.60	$ (995,708.00)	$ 31,007.00		$ 30,000.00	$ 2,973,478.60
Fringe Benefits	$ 1,546,156.34	$ (237,477.00)			$ (40,000.00)	$ 1,268,679.34
Advertising	$ 57,949.00	$ 2,301.00	$ 20,000.00		$ 95,000.00	$ 175,250.00
Audit Costs	$ 25,000.00	$ -			$ 6,750.00	$ 31,750.00
Building Maintenance	$ 12,500.00	$ -		$ (2,500.00)	$ 1,500.00	$ 11,500.00
Communications	$ 63,300.00	$ 13,238.00	$ (12,000.00)	$ 21,000.00		$ 85,538.00
Conference Registration Fee	$ 20,300.00	$ 1,500.00	$ (14,800.00)	$ 1,510.00	$ 3,000.00	$ 11,510.00
Contract Services	$ 73,350.00		$ 35,066.00		$ 46,327.00	$ 154,743.00
Employee/Governing Board	$ 9,000.00	$ -	$ 5,000.00		$ 5,500.00	$ 19,500.00
Equipment Purchase/Maintenance	$ 105,950.00	$ (88,500.00)		$ (3,000.00)	$ 10,550.00	$ 25,000.00
Insurance	$ 30,000.00		$ 4,000.00	$ 3,000.00	$ 4,604.00	$ 41,604.00
Legal Costs	$ 250.00	$ 1,750.00	$ 1,500.00		$ 2,046.00	$ 5,546.00
Organizational Dues	$ 38,544.00	$ -	$ 5,000.00	$ 2,456.00	$ 3,020.00	$ 49,020.00
Other Costs	$ 10,000.00	$ 12,416.00	$ (12,416.00)			$ 10,000.00
Postage	$ 14,000.00		$ 3,000.00	$ 5,000.00	$ 14,765.64	$ 36,765.64
Printing Costs	$ 6,000.00	$ (1,000.00)	$ 4,000.00	$ 10,000.00	$ 21,000.00	$ 40,000.00
Software & Licenses	$ 109,580.00			$ (27,466.00)	$ 32,607.06	$ 114,721.06
Space	$ 255,342.00					$ 255,342.00
Staff Training Fees	$ 14,000.00	$ 1,000.00	$ (8,000.00)	$ (500.00)		$ 6,500.00
Subscriptions	$ 4,100.00	$ -		$ (1,000.00)	$ (585.00)	$ 2,515.00
Supplies	$ 5,325.00	$ 40,000.00	$ 23,585.20	$ 2,500.00	$ 58,478.97	$ 129,889.17
Travel - Mileage Reimbursement	$ 86,000.00	$ (50,000.00)	$ (22,000.00)	$ (11,000.00)	$ 3,313.66	$ 6,313.66
Travel - Out of Town Expense	$ 40,000.00	$ (39,000.00)	$ (350.00)		$ 38.78	$ 688.78
TOTAL BUDGET	$ 6,434,825.94	$ (1,339,480.00)	$ 62,592.20	$ -	$ 297,916.11	$ 5,455,854.25

Buckeye Hills Regional Council

Aging and Disability Programs Services & Funding Report

July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

SERVICES PROVIDED

Direct Service Hours Provided	Transportation Trips	Adult Day Service Days Attended
460,662	**9,294**	**659**

Adult Day Service Miles Traveled	Meals Provided	Home Medical Equipment & Emergency Response Units
314	**280,996**	**2,519**

Legal Services Contacts	Home Accesibility Modification And Pest Control Jobs	Senior Farmers Market Coupons Redeemed
1,072	**34**	**16,005**

Grocery Shopping and Delivery	Telephone Reassurance	Evidence Based Classes
1,441	**6,870**	**177**

Assisted Living Days	Alzheimers Education Contacts	COVID 19 Wellness Kits
15,087	**153**	**3,544**

TOTAL SERVICE FUNDING $12,800,765

Local Dollars
$386,560.00

State Dollars
$4,604,150.00

Federal Dollars
$7,810,055.00
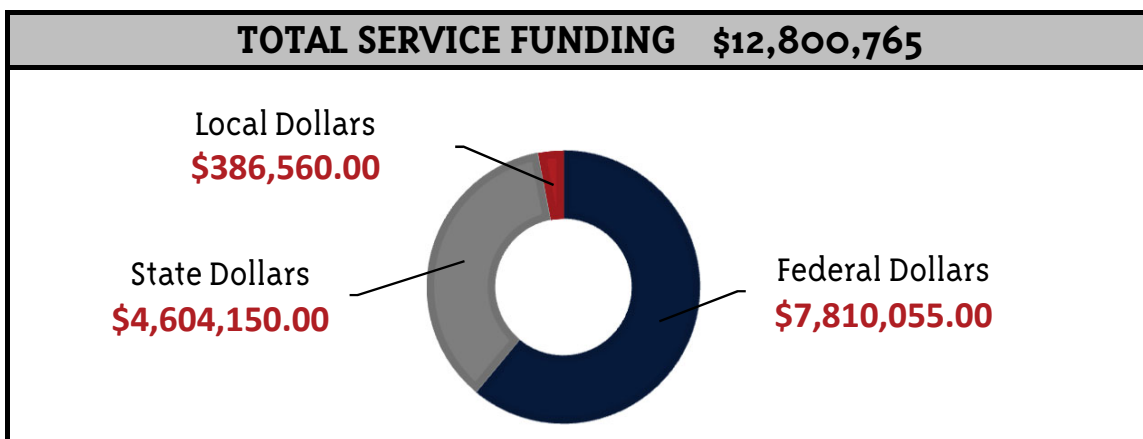
REGIONAL STATS

Total Consumers Served	Total Population	Total Population Eligible for Services by Age (60+)
3,375	**260,084**	**55,147**

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GRANT AGREEMENTS RECEIVED AND EXECUTED
May – July 2021

PROGRAM NAME	FUNDING AGENCY	GRANT PERIOD	AMOUNT
Alzheimer's Respite	Ohio Department of Aging	07/01/2021 to 06/30/2022	$57,886.00
Expanding Access to COVID 19 Vaccine via the Aging Network	Ohio Department of Aging	04/01/2021 to 09/30/2022	$42,372.00
National Senior Service Corps	Ohio Department of Aging	07/01/2021 to 06/30/2022	To Be Determined
Regional Transportation Planning	Ohio Department of Transportation	07/01/2021 to 06/30/2023	$149,463.72 per year
American Connection Project – Broadband Fellows	Ohio Development Services Agency	05/01/2021 to 06/30/2023	$240,000.00

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CURRENT INITIATIVE

- **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) |** The ARPA contained $1.434 billion to carry out the activities of the Older Americans Act (OAA) during the program year of **April 1ˢᵗ, 2021 to September 30ᵗʰ, 2024**. Funds are to be distributed according to the funding formula established by the OAA.
  Nationally allocated funding amounts:

  - **$750,000,000** to support nutrition programs such as **home delivered meals and congregate dining**;
  - **$460,000,000** for supportive services such as **transportation, homemaker**, etc. and additional services in support of vaccination and the prevention and mitigation activities related to COVID-19 including **addressing social isolation** through investment in technology
  - **$44,000,000** to support **evidence-based** programming
  - **$145,000,000** for **caregiver support** and programming
  - **$10,000,000** for Ombudsman support

  The following match requirements will need to be met:

  - Supportive Services, Congregate Meals, Home Delivered Meals   15% Match*
  - Preventive Health, Evidenced-Based Programming   No Match Required
  - Family Caregiver   25% Match*
  - State Plan/Area Plan Administration   25% Match*
  - Ombudsman and Elder Abuse   No Match Required
    match can include in-kind contributions, program income, levy

  UPDATE: As of July 27ᵗʰ, BHRC has not received notice of any allocations of ARPA Aging funds. The Ohio Department of Aging states that the department's budget request is with OBM awaiting final approval. The AAA Network is also working to obtain a match waiver for ARPA funding.

- **2022-2023 Older Americans Act/Title-III Request for Proposals |** All notices have been distributed and all RFPs are available on BHRC's website. These RFPs are for traditional OAA Title III funds used to provide home delivered meals, homemaker services and transportation through our senior centers, community actions and other Community Based Organizations (CBOs).

- **Senior Farmers Market** | The Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) as originally designed, has been fully implemented. Waitlists have been established for each county. The current numbers are:

	Consumers Served	Waitlist Consumers
Athens	372	1
Hocking	231	7
Meigs	211	0
Monroe	134	0
Morgan	144	2
Noble	136	1
Perry	253	2
Washington	511	6

- **Vaccine Hesitancy Grant |** The Ohio Department of Aging has awarded Vaccine Hesitancy Grant funds to BHRC to support community-based efforts to address vaccine hesitancy throughout the region. CBOs were encouraged to apply for additional grant funding that would be spent in conjunction with the BHRC funds.

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At this time BHRC has not been notified of any local grant applicants or recipients. BHRC was awarded approximately $42,000 for vaccine hesitancy. **(Ratification)**

- **Community Health Worker Program** | BHRC is partnering with Ohio University on the Community Health Worker (CHW) program. The University is training individuals to acquire a community health worker certification which requires a predetermined number of field placement hours. BHRC is working with OU to provide placement for the CHWs and assist in the acquisition of the required hours. The CHWs will be working with individuals who were referred to community resources and not enrolled on a waiver program. BHRC is working to identify any gaps in service and to ensure that individuals are getting services delivered within the community to meet their needs.

NEWS

Program & Service Update

- **Regional Advisory Council (RAC)** | RAC meetings will resume in August. Please feel free to join us on **Friday August 20th at 10am** as we mark the return of in-person RAC meetings. The meetings occur every other month at BHRC and last until approximately 12pm. The purpose of RAC is to provide feedback and guidance regarding issues impacting seniors and those with disabilities throughout our 8-county region.

- **Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging Annual Conference** | The OAAAA Annual Conference will be held on **October 20th and 21st** at the Hilton at Easton, just outside Columbus, Ohio. The one-and-a-half-day event features presentations from regional, state and national organizations discussing projects and initiatives impacting our aging population. **If you would like to attend please reach out to Jenny Simmons or Jenn Westfall about securing a room and registration.**

- **Ohio Benefits Long-Term Services & Supports** | BHRC OBLTSS staff supported **168 calls leading to 388 tasks** during the month of June. Tasks included questionnaire Screening; Information & Referral activities that are NON-Medicaid related such as Medicare/OHSHIIP help, meeting with walk-ins, etc.; follow up on Waiver referrals; and support navigation including research, mailing info, etc.

PASSPORT AND ASSISTED LIVING CASELOAD REGIONWIDE

- Currently, BHRC is managing services **for 832 individuals** enrolled on the PASSPORT waiver **and 57 individuals** on the Assisted Living Waiver.

- In-person visits continue to be conducted only as there is an immediate health and safety issue that emerges. **ODA has established a workgroup** of PASSPORT staff from multiple AAAs to determine the best process and procedures **for returning to face to face case management visits and assessments**. BHRC does have staff representing our agency within the workgroup. ODA has also stated that **agencies will be given a 90-day notice for returning to face to face visit requirements**.

- **Home modifications have returned to in-person/ face to face** with the consent of both the provider and the consumer. Precautions are being taken and COVID screening questions are being asked prior to the visit and upon arrival to the site.

CONTACT: Jennifer Westfall, Aging and Disability Director | jwestfall@buckeyehills.org, 740-376-1038
Dawn Weber, Home Care Director | dweber@buckeyehills.org, 740-376-1041

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CURRENT INITIATIVES

- **Age-Friendly/Athens** | The Age-Friendly Athens County Survey has been released and can be accessed here: Age-Friendly Athens County (qualtrics.com) It takes approximately 35 minutes to complete. The data collected from the survey responses will inform planning for Age-Friendly infrastructure and other community needs. This initiative is a 5-year process intended to ensure that people of all ages can grow healthfully, safely and independently in a supportive and inclusive community. Over 100 local people and partners are engaged in this process that involves addressing 9 domains of livability including: social participation/inclusion; outdoor recreation; housing; transportation; climate resilience; and employment/civic engagement.

- **Succession Planning** | We are preparing to finalize the succession plan for BHRC. The Succession Planning Committee has approved a move toward a more regionally-driven, locally-based approach to project selection and implementation based on designated regional initiatives selected through a process involving representatives of our local governments. The Succession Planning Committee will serve as the search committee to select the next Executive Director in consultation with SERDI.

- **Community Health Workers initiative** | We are in the second phase of implementing an initiative to utilize Community Health Workers (CHWs) who are in the process of obtaining their certification to augment our aging programs in serving our elderly residents and persons with disabilities. This initiative is in partnership with, and funded by, Ohio University. We have enrolled our second CHW, Michelle Gorman, and are seeking a second CHW.

- **BHSS, Inc./Buckeye Fields Status** | The development team has selected HealthJay as our provider for telehealth services for our Buckeye Fields housing community. We are currently arranging to place our orders for the hardware and will also be providing the County Home with HealthJay tablets.
  We are currently over budget on our construction costs for the Buckeye Fields housing project, and are working to get those costs down so we can close on the project and get construction underway in the fall of 2021.

- **COVID Office Protocols** | The leadership is currently re-evaluating the COVID-19 procedures for the office in response to revised CDC guidelines and reports of substantial levels of community transmission rates of the Delta variant in Meigs and Washington Counties.

- **INSPIRE Project/SUD Initiative** | The team that had collaborated on last year's DDAA SUD Learning Collaborative has been awarded $500,000 from ARC's INSPIRE initiative. ARC's Investments Supporting Partnerships in Recovery Ecosystems (INSPIRE) initiative, which is a 3-year program, is providing funding for our team's efforts to further address the SUD (substance use disorder) crisis in Appalachia through assisting individuals in recovery in moving successfully toward securing employment; the focus is on support services that enable and support an individual's successful entry or reentry into the workforce, thereby creating an employment recovery ecosystem. The project includes Wood, Washington and Athens Counties, but will also benefit the residents of bordering counties.
  The team is in the process of implementing the INSPIRE project and will be hosting a conference on the status of the SUD initiative on August 11, 2021, from 9:00 am to 11:00 am, at the Grand Pointe Conference & Reception Center in Vienna, WV.
  BHRC is participating in the Alumni Core Committee of the DDAA SUD Learning Collaborative, which will assist communities selected from throughout the 13-state Appalachian region for the second round of the Collaborative.

CURRENT INITIATIVES

- **Live Chat Launched |** On June 16, we began offering a Live Chat option at buckeyehills.org, allowing website visitors to engage with our Information & Assistance staff online to answer questions about our programs and services. To date, website visitors have initiated more than **115 live chat sessions**, asking questions about in-home support, transportation, home repair, and more.
- **HEAP Outreach |** HEAP outreach has switched over to Summer Crisis mode. Outreach channels include billboards, radio and television, and weekly social media posts. Information is available on our website at buckeyehills.org/heap
- **Aging & Disability Outreach |** Our current awareness campaign, for our Aging & Disability services, began in April and continues through September. The campaign includes television spots on WTAP and billboards across all eight counties. However, the biggest push will come from radio ads, which proved successful in our 2020 campaign, in combination with ongoing social media advertising. In total we will have more than 3,000 radio spots across 17 different signals across all eight counties. A new promotional video, for use on social media, our website, and future television commercials is also in development. As a result of the outreach campaign, the information & assistance team has already reported a marked increase in call volume, and assessments have picked up as well.
- **2020 LDD Report |** The 2020 Appalachian Ohio LDD Report was released on July 19. Appalachian Ohio's Local Development Districts (LDDs) leveraged investments of more than $71.9 million in 46 projects through support from the Appalachian Regional Commission and the Governor's Office of Appalachia in 2020. These projects helped the region create 614 jobs, retain an additional 1,079 jobs, and represent investments in local infrastructure, workforce development, transportation, and broadband expansion. The full report is available online: https://buckeyehills.org/s/2020-Appalachian-Ohio-LDD-Report.pdf
- **Vaccine Information |** As part of the Vaccine Support Initiative with Ohio Department of Aging and the CDC, Buckeye Hills placed full-page ads in local newspapers across the region June 19-30 encouraging individuals to call our 800 number for vaccination information and support.

NEWS

- **Recent Press Releases & Notices**
  - June 2, 2021: Help Bring Better Broadband to Your Community
  - June 14, 2021: Request for Proposals: PY 2022-23 Title III B & C Services
  - June 16, 2021: HEAP Summer Crisis Program Begins July 1
  - June 22, 2021: Requests for Proposals/Qualifications: EDA CARES Act Projects
  - July 6, 2021: Senior Farmers' Market Continuing to Accept Applications
  - July 7, 2021: District 18 – Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) Fiscal Year 2023 (Round 36) Application Information Now Available
  - July 12, 2021: Request for Proposals: PY 2022-2023 Title IIID Services
  - July 12, 2021: Request for Proposals: PY 2022-23 Title IIIE Services
  - July 14, 2021: District 18 – Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC) FY2022 (Round 16) Information Now Available
  - July 19, 2021: Local Development Districts Leveraged $71.9 million for Appalachian Ohio in 2020
  - July 22, 2021: U.S. Economic Development Administration Announces $3 Billion Investing in America's Communities Programs

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- **Notable Media Mentions**
  - June 11, 2021 – Columbus Dispatch: [Ohio Senate Cuts Broadband From Budget, Adds Amendment Advocates Say Limits Expansion](#)
  - June 24, 2021 – Marietta Times: [Beat the Heat with HEAP Summer Crisis Program](#)
  - July 13, 2021 – Columbus Dispatch: [New State Budget is Win for Southeast Ohio, Advocates Say](#)
  - July 13, 2021 – Logan Daily News: [Senior Farmers' Market Continuing To Accept Applications](#)
  - July 14, 21: Pomeroy Daily Sentinel: [New Broadband Map Reveals True Extend of Ohio's Digital Desert](#)
  - July 20, 2021 – WTAP: [Gayle Manchin Represents ARC in Marietta](#)

CONTACT INFO: Drew Tanner, Communications Director | dtanner@buckeyehills.org | 740-376-1030

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CURRENT INITIATIVES

- **US EPA Brownfield RFP and Application Permission Approval |** BHRC is planning to seek $600,000 in funding from the US EPA to fund a three-year brownfield assessment program. BHRC applied last year and was not selected. Washington County and Athens County have indicated their support as coalition partners. allowing an application for a total of $600,000 in funding. This program will provide opportunities for local governments to access funding to complete phase 1 and 2 assessments on brownfield sites that have redevelopment opportunities. The full application will be completed later this fall.

- **Resolution of Support for Appalachian Regional Commission 2021 Projects |** BHRC received over 80 profiles from our submission portal. Development Staff made visits with each county to review the process of submitting project profiles, provide a list of projects that would address county needs, and allow time for questions about the projects. The attached list of the projects we would like to submit for federal and state ARC funding.

- **A Resolution Authorizing Participation in The Americans For the Arts** *Arts & Economic Prosperity 6 Study* **|** Americans for the Arts has formally invited Buckeye Hills Regional Council to join Arts & Economic Prosperity 6, the sixth national study of economic impact of spending by nonprofits arts and cultural organizations and their audiences.

- **Lead for America American Connection Corps & Broadband Coordinator |** BHRC is happy to announce that we will be hosting a fellow for the next two years. Carly Fitz will be stationed and working in Perry County to provide boots on the ground support for broadband projects. We are also happy to share that we have made an offer to for our Broadband Coordinator position.

NEWS

Program & Service Updates

- **U.S. Economic Development Administration Announces $3 Billion Investing in America's Communities Programs |** It was recently announced that Economic Development Administration (EDA) will implement a series of programs, collectively called Investing in America's Communities, to equitably invest the $3 billion it received the American Rescue Plan Act. The EDA investment is the largest economic development initiative from the Department of Commerce in decades. Investing in America's Communities includes the six following funding opportunities: Build Back Better Regional Challenge, Good Jobs Challenge, Economic Adjustment Assistance, Indigenous Communities, Travel, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation, and Statewide Planning, Research and Networks. As part of the six programs, EDA is making a Coal Communities Commitment, allocating $300 million to ensure support for these communities as they recover from the pandemic and create new jobs and opportunities, including through the creation or expansion of a new industry sector. For more information, contact Sam Miller, Development Director, at smiller@buckeyehills.org or Madelyn Brewer, Development Specialist, at mbrewer@buckeyehills.org.

- **Myrecoverylink.org |** Myrecoverylink.org serves as a tool for those suffering from substance use disorder as well as family members affected by the disorder residing in Monroe, Morgan, Noble, and Washington counties. To learn more about recovery resources in the region, visit www.myrecoverylink.org

Staff Updates

- **Melissa Zoller |** Currently working on our Brownfield projects in Perry County and preparing projects for ARC funding.

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- **Michelle Hyer** | Submitted Critical Infrastructure applications for four of our communities.
- **Madelyn Brewer** | Scoring and awarding contracts for projects in each of our counties through EDA CARES dollars.
- **James Burt** | Joined staff and has started the interviewing process of finalist firms for our joint technical assistance proposal with OMEGA for the EDA RISE Ohio project.
- **Brandi Beaver** | Expanding outreach efforts and collecting recovery resources in Monroe, Morgan and Noble counties.
- **Jason Pyles** | Worked to update our Data Compendium, our effort to gather all of our most-used and most-requested data into one document. You can find it at buckeyehills.org/data-center and it is available as both a PDF and Word Document.
- **Nicole Gilliam |** Worked to map the high-density crash areas in each county.
- **Sam Wallace** and RTPOs around the state were made aware by ODOT that the transportation budget SFY 2022-23 will have funding for each RTPO to administer surface transportation block grant eligible for a wide variety of multimodal maintenance, operational, new construction, and planning projects. Each year BHRC RTPO will receive a suballocation of $407,262. The BHRC RTPO Advisory Committee will begin developing the competitive process and stakeholder outreach in the remainder of 2021 and implement the program in 2022. The success of the program in 2022-23 will determine whether the State continues or expands the block grant in future years
- **Brandi Hesson** | Working on the development of the Noble County Coordinated Transportation Plan (CTP) and has formed a Transportation Advisory Committee, completed community mobility engagement survey, and plan construction. The Noble County CTP is well on track to meet the November submittal deadline to ODOT.

CONTACT INFO: Sam Miller, Development Director | smiller@buckeyehills.org, 740-376-1028

CURRENT INITIATIVES

- **Leadership Academy** | A few staff have been participating in our Leadership Academy hosted by the Voinovich School for the last several months. The last session being held on September 22 from 9 am – 12 pm will be open to all staff members. This session will be presented by Jim Youngquist of SERDI (South East Regional Directors Institute) and will cover some of the following items: what a regional council is, why they are important, what it means to be a member of a council, who its members are, differences between Regional Development Organizations & Councils of Governments, non-profits, and the non-partisan nature of the work.
- **Evaluations** | The current evaluation period ends June 30, 2021 and employee appraisals have begun with a deadline for completion of August 16, 2021.
- **Juneteenth Holiday** | Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. Congress designated Juneteenth (short for "June 19th") a federal holiday. President Biden signed the legislation establishing the holiday. A formal statement from Governor DeWine, notes that the President's action also makes Juneteenth a state holiday. We would like to incorporate this as one of our recognized holidays in our employee handbook.
- **Insurance Renewals** | Insurance renewals are September 1, 2021 with the following increases to premium:
    - Health   3%
    - Dental   0%
    - Vision   0%
    - Life   0%

  We will be holding an open enrollment meeting Monday August 9, 2021 for all employees.
- **Interviews** | Interviews are currently being conducted/scheduled for Special Projects Manager – Broadband Coordinator and for Fiscal Assistant.

STAFF UPDATES

- Congratulations goes out to **Sarah Swisher**, LSW. She has been offered and has accepted the promotion to Clinical Program Manager position effective July 5.
- **Beth Miller**, RN - Clinical Program Manager, has tendered her resignation, effective July 10. We wish Beth well as she transitions into this new chapter of her life and thank her for her work over the 10+ years at BHRC.
- **James Burt** has accepted the Special Projects Manager—RISE OH position and will begin his service with BHRC July 12. RISE OH (Resilience Initiative for Southeastern and Eastern Ohio) is a U.S. EDA Assistance to Coal Communities program initiative led by Ohio University's Voinovich School, BHRC, and OMEGA, focused on economic diversification; Opportunity Zone planning, development, and investment; and assistance to communities impacted by coal-fired power plant closures.
- We would like to extend our thanks to **Lynn Linscott**, RN - Care Management Coordinator and wish her the best in her future endeavors. She has tendered her resignation effective July 12.
- **Leslie Dolan**, RN has accepted the Assessor position and will begin her service with BHRC effective August 2.
- **Kristen Conley,** RN has accepted the Care Management Coordinator position and will be starting with BHRC effective August 2.
- **Alex Carpenter**, Congratulations goes out to Alex who has been hired for Program Development Coordinator from temporary Administrative Assistant position, effective August 2.
- **Jeff Flaherty**, LSW - Care Management Coordinator, has given his notice of retirement, effective August 21. Although Jeff has only been with BHRC for 2+ years, he will retire from OPERS with 31 years of service.
- **Michelle Gorman** will begin working with the agency to acquire her field hours for her Community Health Worker certification through Ohio University. She will be contacting individuals who were referred to community resources in lieu of being enrolled in PASSPORT. Our intent is to measure the success of our community-based referrals and to gather data that may be used to advocate for future programs and funding opportunities. She will be working to fulfill 120-hour commitment over 14 weeks.

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- We are excited to welcome **Carly Fitz** as our American Connection Corp Fellow. Carly is a recent graduate of Wilmington College and will be returning to her hometown in Perry County to be the boots on the ground working towards broadband expansion. **(UPDATED)**
- **Holly Dickerson**, Congratulations goes out to Holly who has been hired for Administrative Assistant from the temporary agency, effective August 16. **(UPDATED)**
- **Ryan Collins,** has accepted the Special Projects Manager - Broadband Coordinator position and will be starting with BHRC, effective August 23 **(UPDATED)**

It's always great when we receive the below notifications. We appreciate each and every staff member that work diligently every day to help those in our 8-county region.
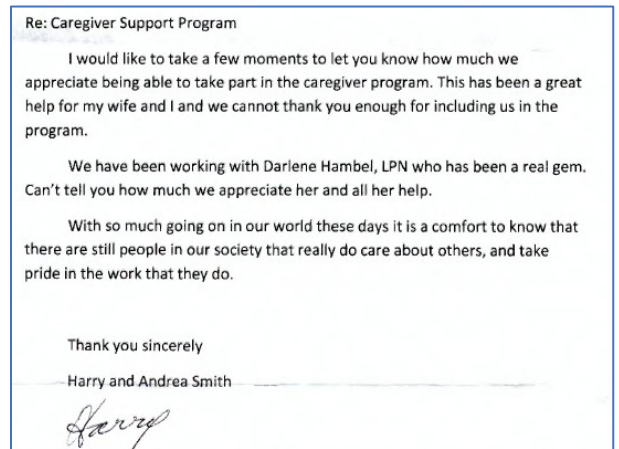
CONTACT INFO: Angie Lawrence, Human Resources Manager | alawrence@buckeyehills.org | 740-376-1031

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August 6, 2021

Mrs. Misty Crosby
Buckeye Hills Regional Council
1400 Pike Street
Marietta, OH 45750

Dear Mrs. Crosby:

Appalachian Ohio has struggled to prevent youth outmigration. Central Ohio is projected to add 600,000 new residents by 2050, yet Ohio will only gain a total of 110,000 residents. Without action, this trend will hollow out small towns and rural areas in Appalachian Ohio. We are excited to present an opportunity that confronts this challenge and can also increase diversity, educational attainment, and expand a skilled workforce.

To attract talent to the region and encourage professionals to return to their hometowns, the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio (FAO) seeks to create the Appalachian Ohio Welcome Home Scholarship. This program will pay the post-secondary student loan debt of those who relocate to the region to work, live, and volunteer.

These are young adults, ages 18-34, seeking careers in in-demand industries, working remotely, and building businesses. By increasing workforce quality and capacity in science, technology, engineering, manufacturing, financial services, healthcare, and agribusiness, Appalachian Ohio will have the ability to lead in innovation, and economic development. Greater participation in the knowledge economy is essential to diversify Appalachian Ohio's economy and raise wages.

To qualify as a charitable activity, this economic development initiative must have support from a local governmental entity, such as local development districts. This new scholarship fund will boost recruitment and retention of post-secondary educated employees for the Appalachian Ohio workforce. Local development districts play a vital role for Appalachian Ohio. Your multi-county planning expertise uniquely matches the goals of this initiative. Additionally, Buckeye Hills tracks critical distress indicators that demonstrate talent recruitment and retention is a challenge within our region's economic development strategies.

We invite Buckeye Hills Regional Council to pass a resolution endorsing the Appalachian Ohio Welcome Home Scholarship as an economic development strategy. The Appalachian Ohio Welcome Home Scholarship is an innovative solution to propel our shared goals. We invite your partnership and questions as we move forward with this exciting new initiative. Thank you for your consideration.

With Appreciation,

Cara Dingus Brook
President and CEO, Foundation for Appalachian Ohio

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT
June 6, 2021 through August 6, 2021

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS

Beth Miller	Clinical Program Manager	07/10/21
Lynn Linscott	Care Management Coordinator	07/12/21

RETIREMENT

Cathy Ash	Program Manager Caregiver Advocate	06/30/21
Jeff Flaherty	Assessor	08/21/21

NEW HIRE

James Burt	RISE-OH	07/12/21
Leslie Dolan	Assessor	08/02/21
Kristen Conley	Care Management Coordinator	08/02/21
Alex Carpenter	Program Dev. Coordinator	08/02/21
Holly Dickerson	Administrative Assistant	08/16/21
Ryan Collins	Broadband Coordinator	08/23/21

PROMOTIONS

Sarah Swisher	Clinical Program Manager	07/05/21

TRANSFERS

None

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RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION 2022 PROJECTS

Recommendation to the State of Ohio Governor's Office of Appalachia and Ohio Development Services Agency to Support Funding of the Buckeye Hills Regional Council Pre-Application Priority of Projects in Fiscal Year 2022 for the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) /Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)

Resolution #2021/08-01

WHEREAS, The Buckeye Hills Regional Council serves as the designated Local Development District (LDD) for the eight counties of Athens, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry & Washington; and

WHEREAS, Buckeye Hills has received, reviewed, evaluated and rated pre-applications for the LDD region; recommended the following project applications for funding based on the Buckeye Hills Fiscal Year 2022 ARC Pre-application Guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the subsequent project pre-applications are eligible ARC applicants and are being recommended by Buckeye Hills leadership to the ODOD Governor's Office of Appalachia and ARC as listed in the table; and

WHEREAS, the project pre-applications will advance one or more strategic goals as identified in the ARC Strategic Plan, including increasing economic opportunities; building a ready workforce; investing in critical infrastructure; strengthening natural and cultural assets, and developing leadership and community capacity.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Executive Committee of Buckeye Hills Regional Council hereby recommends Fiscal Year 2022 ARC Pre-application priority of projects presented, be approved as submitted and identified in this resolution to the Governor's Office of Appalachia, for their consideration and approval.

Passed this sixth day of August, 2021

_____   _____

Ron Moore, President   Lenny Eliason, Vice President

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PROJECTS FOR POTENTIAL SUBMISSION				
PROJECT TITLE	**COUNTY**	**PROJECT GRANTEE**	**FUNDING REQUESTED**	**TOTAL PROJECT COST**
Morgan County SR60 Water/Sewer Extension	Morgan	Morgan County Commissioners	$500,000	$1,346,000
Bishopville Water	Morgan	Burr Oak	$250,000	$2,044,620
Logan Water	Hocking	City of Logan	$250,000	$2,459,900
BB2C Expansion	Washington	Builidng Bridges to Careers	$219,100	$313,000
Noble Green Acres: A Regional Agribusiness and Entrepreneurship Ecosystem	Noble	Noble Local School District	$182,000	$2,200,000
Athens US50	Athens	Athens County Commissioners	$500,000	$1,346,000
Ohio and Lee Water	Monroe	Monroe County Commissioners	$318,000	$32,754,912
Highland Ridge Water	Washington	Highland Ridge Water Assoc.	$240,000	$562,400
Devola Sewer	Washington	Washington County Commisioners	$368,000	$12,051,712
Monroe Theater	Monroe	Monroe Arts Council	$266,000	$376,000
Plum St. Sewer Extension	Athens	Chauncey Village	$250,000	$320,000
SR 266/377 Water Extension	Morgan	Morgan County Commissioners	$250,000	$1,346,000
Healthcare Simulation Center	Meigs	Rio Grande Community College	$250,000	$650,000
BACKUP PROJECTS				
Baileys Trail System Construction Phase 4	All	Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia	$250,000	$2,500,000
E-Commerce Entrepreneurship Technical Assistance	All	LIGHTS Regional Innovation Network, OHIO University	$54,519	$75,781
Sewer Collection / I&I Improvements	Athens	Trimble Township Wastewater Treatment District	$250,000	$690,300
Sewer System Replacement	Athens	Chauncey Village	$250,000	$4,892,831
Regional Collection System Improvements Phase 3	Athens	City of Nelsonville	$250,000	$4,698,030
Water Distribution Improvements	Athens	Village of Amesville	$250,000	$1,907,000
Water System Improvements	Athens	City of Nelsonville	$250,000	$3,500,000
Featherstone Road Waterline Extension	Athens	Tuppers Plains-Chester Water District	$250,000	$362,350

PROJECT TITLE	COUNTY	PROJECT GRANTEE	FUNDING REQUESTED	TOTAL PROJECT COST
S.R. 550 Waterline Replacement	Athens	Sunday Creek Valley Water District	$250,000	$426,110
Logan Theater Renovations	Hocking	Logan Theater Inc.	$250,000	$375,000
Phase 3 Sanitary Sewer Improvements	Hocking	City of Logan	$250,000	$6,000,000
Water System Improvements South Logan Tank & Booster Pump	Hocking	City of Logan	$250,000	$1,550,250
Waterline Replacement	Meigs	Village of Pomeroy	$250,000	$383,100
Brown Alley/Riverview Dr Sanitary Sewer	Meigs	Village of Pomeroy	$250,000	$705,500
Healthcare Simulation Center	Meigs	Rio Grande Community College	$250,000	$650,000
Buckeye Hills and Meigs County Workforce Development Partnership	Meigs	Gallia Jackson Vinton Joint Vocational School District	$250,000	$334,000
Wastewater System Improvements	Monroe	Village of Woodsfield	$3,468,000	$3,468,000
State Route 7 Water Main Relocation	Monroe	Monroe Water Systems	$212,020	$1,060,100
Monroe County Bar Screen Project	Monroe	Monroe County Commissioners	$262,500	$262,500
Powhatan #7 Railroad Track Alignment	Monroe	Monroe County Port Authority	$250,000	$1,640,000
Water Distribution System Improvements	Morgan	Village of Malta	$250,000	$1,545,000
Chesterhill Streetscape	Morgan	Village of Chesterhill	$250,000	$1,162,200
Chesterhill Produce Auction Sewer	Morgan	Village of Chesterhill	$235,520	$294,400
Opera House Improvements Project	Morgan	Opera House Inc.	$250,000	$545,840
Nelsonville Business Incubator: Meeting Sector Expansions	Multi	Appalachian Center for Economic Networks	$165,000	$200,000
Vines on Hillside Vineyard & Winery at Seneca Lake	Multi	Belmont County Port Authority	$173,016	$802,834
Phase 7 Waterline Extensions	Multi	Tri-County Rural Water and Sewer District	$250,000	$735,500
Hands-on Learning Centers	Multi	Hocking Hills Children's Museum	$193,620	$565,970
Telemetry	Multi	Sunday Creek Valley Water District	$76,800	$96,000
Caldwell East of I-77 Business Park Access Roads	Noble	Noble County Commissioners	$250,000	$596,351
PROJECT TITLE	COUNTY	PROJECT GRANTEE	FUNDING REQUESTED	TOTAL PROJECT COST

Caldwell East of I-77 Business Park Access Rd	Noble	Noble County Board of Commissioners	$250,000	$596,351
Sanitary Sewers - State Route 821 Ext	Noble	Noble County Commissioners	$250,000	$567,000
County Road 56 Sewer Ext	Noble	Noble County Commissioners	$250,000	$471,000
Area E, G, and Interceptor Improvement	Noble	Village of Caldwell	$250,000	$4,500,000
Potter's Lane Widening	Perry	Village of Roseville	$150,000	$224,000
Delyn Center - Community Center	Perry	Perry County	$250,000	$480,000
Corning Revitalization Project	Perry	Village of Corning, Ohio	$220,000	$330,000
Water System Improvements & Extensions	Perry	Village of Somerset	$250,000	$1,291,600
Somerset Streetscape Phase IV	Perry	Village of Somerset	$250,000	$2,374,690
Master Meter Consolidation and Waterline Replacement	Perry	Southern Perry County Water District	$250,000	$862,830
Roseville Water System Upgrades	Perry	Village of Roseville	$131,110	$187,300
Northern Perry County Water Phase 5 Water Line Extensions	Perry	Perry County Commissioners	$250,000	$3,284,600
Sanitary Sewer Improvement- Phase II	Perry	Village of Somerset	$250,000	$1,494,000
Lift Stations B-1 and B-6 Improvements	Perry	Village of Crooksville	$250,000	$1,872,000
Water Systems Improvements and Extensions	Perry	Village of Somerset	$250,000	$1,291,600
Water Treatment Plant Replacement	Washington	Lowell Village	$250,000	$1,348,485
Wastewater Treatment Plant	Washington	Lowell Village	$250,000	$3,393,878
Ferry St	Washington	Village of Beverly	$250,000	$500,000
Water Treatment Plant Upgrades Project	Washington	City of Marietta	$250,000	$22,654,831
Beach Drive Water Extension	Washington	City of Belpre OH	$187,600	$375,200
Beach Drive Sewer Extension	Washington	City of Belpre OH	$500,000	$2,910,000

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS
ARTS & ECONOMIC PROSPERITY 6 STUDY

Resolution #2021/08-02

WHEREAS, Buckeye Hills Regional Council is organized to foster a cooperative effort in regional planning and to implement regional plans and programs; is established as a forum for discussion and study of common problems of a regional nature, and for the development of policy and action recommendations relating thereto; and

WHEREAS, Buckeye Hills Regional Council possesses the necessary staffing, skills, and abilities to convene regional leaders; and

WHEREAS, in southeast Ohio, a growing number of communities are looking to creatively target their assets to support downtown revitalization and historic preservation; and

WHEREAS, nonprofit arts and cultural organizations are leading this charge in several communities; and

WHEREAS, nonprofit arts and cultural organizations and their respective convention and visitors' bureaus share an interest in elevating their role as drivers of the region's tourism industry; and

WHEREAS, Americans for the Arts has formally invited Buckeye Hills Regional Council to join *Arts & Economic Prosperity 6*, the sixth national study of economic impact of spending by nonprofit arts and cultural organizations and their audiences.

WHEREAS, Misty Crosby in her role as Executive Director of Buckeye Hills is designated and authorized to represent Buckeye Hills in all matters as the Council and Executive Committee shall direct.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY BUCKEYE HILLS REGIONAL COUNCIL Misty Crosby, Executive Director, is authorized to complete, sign, execute and/or submit any applications, materials or contract instruments required to request, receive, and administer funding related to the council's participation in *the Arts & Economic Prosperity 6* study, and to expend funds and deploy staff necessary to carry out the scope of work as specified in the executed contract documents in accordance with procurement policies and procedures.

Passed on this sixth day of August 2021.

_____   _____
 Ron Moore, President   Lenny Eliason, Vice President

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RESOLUTION OF GRANTING PERMISSION TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY FOR THE BROWNFIELD ASSESSMENT GRANT

Resolution #2021/08-03

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has published a grant opportunity in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), as amended by the Brownfield Utilization, Investment, and Local Development (BUILD) Act (P.L. 115-141), seeking to invest funds nationwide and;

WHEREAS, $300,000 is available in funding for projects without coalition partners, and $600,000 is available to projects with coalition partners, and;

WHEREAS, the Athens County Port Authority and the Southeastern Ohio Port Authority have formally expressed their support for the effort by becoming a coalition partner, and;

WHEREAS, no financial agreement with an environmental consultant will be executed unless funding is awarded from U.S. EPA, and;

WHEREAS, Buckeye Hills Regional Council has experience administering brownfield assessment programming on behalf of the U.S. EPA for regional partners and stakeholders, and;

WHEREAS, Misty Crosby in her role as Executive Director of Buckeye Hills Regional Council (BHRC) is designated and authorized to resent BHRC in all matters related to this application and subsequent project activity.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: the Executive Director is authorized to sign and submit the application for funding to the U.S. EPA in the amount of $600,000 for the completion of brownfield assessment activities in the Buckeye Hills region. Further, in support of this application, the Executive Director is authorized to select an environmental engineering partner pursuant to submission made to the published RFQ seeking services in this project.

Upon an offer of funding from the U.S. EPA, the Executive Director, is also hereby authorized to execute the grant agreement, a contract for progression services with a selected environmental engineering consultant, and any other documentation necessary to signify acceptance of an offer of award and to expend funds and deploy staff as necessary to carry out the scope of work as specified in the executed contract documents in accordance with procurement policies and procedures.

Passed this sixth day of August, 2021

_____   _____
Ron Moore, President   Lenny Eliason, Vice President

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **BHRC Staff Return to the Office** | BHRC staff fully returned to the office on June 21. Our leadership team is continuing to monitor developments concerning the Delta variant and related guidance from the CDC, ODH, and Washington County Health Department to ensure the safety of our staff, members, and consumers.

- **LDD Report** | The 2020 Appalachian Ohio Return on Investment report was released on July 19, 2021, in conjunction with the recent visit by ARC Federal Co-Chair Gayle Manchin. Appalachian Ohio's Local Development Districts (LDDs) leveraged investments of more than $71.9 million in 46 projects through support from the Appalachian Regional Commission and the Governor's Office of Appalachia in 2020. These projects helped the region create 614 jobs, retain an additional 1,079 jobs, and represent investments in local infrastructure, workforce development, transportation, and broadband expansion. The report is available on our website at https://buckeyehills.org/s/2020-Appalachian-Ohio-LDD-Report.pdf

- **ROI Overview** | Member Return on Investment Reports will be accompanying your annual dues assessments. I will be scheduling visits with our members to review your ROIs, answer any questions you may have, and check-in individually with you all over the month of September. In 2020, the collective ROI for our region was $112.28 per capita and $854.11 per dollar invested by our members. With a member investment of $33,538.12, Buckeye Hills leveraged a total return of $28.6 million in 2020.

- **OBM Regional Meetings** | The Ohio Office of Budget and Management is presenting a series of Regional Meetings with OBM Director Kim Murnieks and program staff in August and September 2021 for county commissioners and mayors. The meetings closest to our region will be

Wednesday August 25 at 9:30 a.m.
(RSVP by August 16)
475 Western Avenue
Chillicothe, OH 45601

Thursday, September 9 at 2:30 p.m.
(RSVP by August 30)
7003 Glenn Highway
Cambridge, OH 43725

RSVP to obm.communications@ohio.obm.gov

CURRENT INITIATIVES

- **Broadband Coordinator and American Connection Corps Fellow** | Buckeye Hills Regional Council has made an offer of employment to Ryan Collins for the role of Broadband Coordinator. Ryan has accepted and will be starting with Buckeye Hills on August 23. He is a 2016 graduate of Capital University, with a major in Political Science and Government. Ryan is originally from the region and is looking forward to relocating to the area after working as a workforce development coach in Columbus. Ryan will also be working with our new American Connection Corps Broadband Fellow Carly Fitz. Carly is a Perry County native and 2021 graduate of Wilmington

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College with a dual major in Agricultural Communications and Political Science with a focus on Agriculture Advocacy and Food Policy. Ryan and Carly will be working with our staff and members to strategize for broadband/fiber expansion and installation to ensure our Appalachian Ohio counties can bridge the digital divide.

- **Americans for the Arts – Arts & Economic Prosperity Study** | After having to shelve our participation in the Americans for the Arts (AFTA) "Arts & Economic Prosperity Study" in 2021 due to the pandemic, Buckeye Hills Regional Council has been invited by AFTA to coordinate participation in the study by arts and cultural organizations within our eight-county region as they prepare to relaunch the study. This study will measure the economic impact of spending by nonprofit arts and cultural organizations and event-related spending by their audiences during 2022. This new study will build upon five previous national impact efforts in 1992, 2000, 2005, 2010, and 2015 to document in unprecedented scope and detail the role played by the nonprofit arts industry in strengthening local and statewide economies. Buckeye Hills is seeking support from the Ohio Arts Council and EDA to support our region's participation in the study.

- **Succession Planning** | After 32 years of service to BHRC, I will be retiring midway through calendar year 2022. Assistant Executive Director Rick Hindman is currently meeting with members of the BHRC Executive Committee to review and receive their input to the draft Succession Plan. The intent is to submit a formal Succession Plan to the Executive Committee for approval in October of 2021. The plan is intended to serve as a roadmap for the BHRC Executive Committee to inform the selection of the next Executive Director. It will also inform BHRC members of the demographics of our organization's key leadership positions, department activities, and staffing needs (such as number of years of service in current position, future staffing needs of departments, etc.). The search for the next Executive Director will formally begin in January of 2022.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN UPDATES

- **Resource Center** | Buckeye Hills Regional Council has compiled resources from our federal, state, and association partners to help local governments navigate the funding available through the American Rescue Plan Act. This new resource center brings together many of the updates BHRC has shared with its members since the ARPA's passage in March, including resources, guidance, and FAQs from U.S. Treasury, Ohio Office of Budget and Management, Ohio Auditor of State, U.S. Economic Development Administration, and more. This page will continue to be updated as new information and resources become available. You can visit the resource center at https://buckeyehills.org/arpa.

- **EDA NOFOs** | On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan in law. The Economic Development Administration (EDA) was allocated $3 billion in supplemental funding to assist communities nationwide in their efforts to build back better by accelerating economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic and building local economies that will be resilient to future economic shocks. These funds will enable EDA to provide larger, more transformation investments across the nation while also allowing for flexibility to support community-led economic development. There are six innovative challenges, and also a commitment to coal communities.
  - Build Back Better: Accelerating economic recovery - $1 billion – https://eda.gov/arpa/build-back-better
  - Good Jobs Challenge: Get Americans back to work - $500 million – https://eda.gov/arpa/good-jobs-challenge/

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- Economic Adjustment Assistance: Plan, Build, Innovate - $500 million — https://eda.gov/arpa/economic-adjustment-assistance/
- Travel, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation: Accelerating recovery of communities reliant on the travel, tourism and outdoor recreation sectors - $510 million direct to states; $240 million competitive — https://eda.gov/arpa/travel-tourism/
- Statewide Planning, Research & Networks: $59 million set-aside for Statewide Planning Grant Support; $31 million set-aside for research that assesses the effectiveness of EDA's programs and provides support for stakeholder communities around key EDA initiatives — https://eda.gov/arpa/planning-grants/
- Indigenous Communities: $100 million Set-aside to support the needs of Tribal Governments and Indigenous communities (Native Hawaiians, Native Pacific Islanders of Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, or the Republic of Palau) — https://eda.gov/arpa/indigenous/
- Coal Impacted Communities Commitment: Support coal communities as they recover from the pandemic, help them create new jobs and opportunities, including through the creation or expansion of a new industry sector - $100 million of the Build Back Better Challenge and $200 million of Economic Adjustment Assistance funds to directly support coal communities — https://eda.gov/arpa/coal-communities/

STATE UPDATES

- **State Budget (HB 110)** | On July 1, Governor Mike DeWine signed Ohio's Fiscal Year 2022-2023 budget bill into law. You can view the Legislative Service Commission's full comparison document **HERE**. An outline of Governor DeWine's 14 veto items can be found **HERE**. Governor DeWine also released a series of fact sheets highlighting the budget's investments in the **economy**, **health**, and **renewed communities**. Notable investments include:
  - $250 million for the Broadband Expansion Grant Program
  - $350 million for the Brownfield Remediation Program
  - $150 for the Building Demolition and Site Remediation Program
  - An additional $1 million per year for Senior Community Services
  - An additional $1.5 million per year for Adult Protective Services.

- **Community Infrastructure Program** | Created by House Bill 168, the Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Grant Program will provide nearly $250 million to improve access to clean drinking water and wastewater infrastructure. Grants will be up to $250,000 for design projects and up to $5 million for construction projects to Ohio communities. Public entities within a political subdivision with the authority to own and operate public water and sewer systems and nonprofit, non-community public water systems may apply. Funding for the program is provided by the American Rescue Plan Act. The review process will also strongly consider the "readiness to proceed." This means that those projects that already have approved engineering/design, plans, and permits and can begin construction within 1-6 months will receive a greater score on the application. To submit an online application, applicants must be registered with the OHID system. Once the registration process is complete, an application can be started and submitted at investinginohiosfuture.ohio.gov.
  - **Guidelines PDF**
  - **Frequently Asked Questions PDF**
  - **Online Application**

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- **House Bill 377** | A pair of House members are proposing legislation ([HB 377](#)) to appropriate the second tranche of $422 million in local fiscal recovery money from the ARPA. The first $422 million was included in a measure (HB 168) that also allocated about $1.5 billion in state ARPA funds to pay off unemployment debt, $250 million for water and sewer infrastructure, and $84 million for pediatric behavioral health services. The purpose of HB 377 is to ensure that local governments who don't receive their APRA local fiscal recovery funds directly from the feds won't have to wait for lawmakers to act when the next round of funding is available in 2022.

FEDERAL UPDATES

- **ARC Visit** | Buckeye Hills Regional Council was honored to welcome Appalachian Regional Commission Federal Co-Chair Gayle Manchin as well as ARC and Ohio Governor's Office of Appalachia leadership during their tour across Appalachian Ohio, July 20-22. Visits in our region included Washington State Community College and Building Bridges to Careers to see examples of ARC and GOA investments at work, followed by a walking tour with Marietta Main Street and Ohio SE highlighting what makes a strong, vibrant downtown in Appalachia. Dr. Manchin also met with partners at Ohio University and ended her visit in Columbus with a roundtable discussion with BroadbandOhio Chief Peter Voderberg, Department of Development Director Lydia Mihalik, the Governor's Office of Appalachia, and Local Development District leaders to discuss broadband issues in Ohio's 32 Appalachia counties.

- **Infrastructure Bill** | Senators unveiled the [2,702-page infrastructure bill](#) on August 1 after working throughout the weekend to finalize the package that has been the subject of intense negotiations for months. The legislation titled the "Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act," costs an estimated $1.2 trillion over eight years and includes $550 billion in new spending, down from $570 billion in previous iterations. According to the White House, the figure represents the largest investment ever by the federal government in public transit and the largest investment ever in clean drinking water and wastewater. The bipartisan package is expected to provide $110 billion for roads and bridges, $39 billion for transit, and $66 billion for rail. There's also set to be $55 billion for water and wastewater infrastructure, $65 billion for broadband, and $11 billion for safety, among other provisions.

- **House FY 2022 Appropriations Bills** | During the final week of July, the House of Representatives voted on and passed nine of its twelve FY 2022 spending bills. This includes a seven-bill minibus spending package ([HR 4502](#)) which contains appropriations for Agriculture, Energy-Water, Financial Services, Interior-Environment, Labor-HHS-Education, Military Construction-Veterans Affairs, and Transportation-HUD. The House also passed individual spending bills for Legislative Branch ([HR 4346](#)) and State-Foreign Operations ([HR 4373](#)) appropriations. The Senate is expected to begin markups on some of their appropriations bills next week, but no appropriations bills have passed through the full Senate yet. Congress must pass a total of twelve appropriations bills to fully fund the federal government for FY 2022 before the end of the current fiscal year on September 30, otherwise, a continuing resolution will need to be passed to prevent a government shutdown.

Funding Available	**TA = $500,000** - 50-60 'coalitions'; use to prepare more detailed applications for transformational projects that benefit their geographic regions and are aligned around a holistic approach to building, strengthening, or scaling a strategic industry or industries. **Component Projects = $25M - $100M** - 20-30 of the coalitions to fund the collection of projects identified by the coalition.
Match	TA = **0% Match** Component Projects = **20% or less** - case-by-case basis based upon circumstances of coalition member
Application Deadline(s)	TA = October 19, 2021 Full Application = March 15, 2021
Eligible Applicants	EDDs; State, county, city or other political subdivision, including a special purpose unit of state or local government engaged in economic infrastructure development activities, or a consortium of political subdivisions
Overall Purpose	(1) help regions develop transformational economic development strategies and (2) fund the implementation of those strategies that will create and grow regional growth clusters.
DEFINITIONS	**"Regional growth cluster"** is defined as several entities working together to grow a regional economy through the growth of an existing and/or creation of a new regional industry or industries. Regional growth clusters may align interconnected projects across state lines and/or across urban, suburban and rural communities, but they are concentrated in a bounded geography relative to the needs and conditions of the region that ensures maximum collaboration and impact. **Coalition"** is defined as a group of eligible entities (see section C.1) that come together to apply to this ARPA BBBRC NOFO. At minimum, the coalition should include a lead institution and all entities that will submit applications for component projects in Phase 2 of this NOFO. **"Partner"** is defined as an entity that is not part of the official coalition applying to receive ARPA funding but who is committed to partnering with that coalition to make the regional growth cluster successful. Partner(s) could include, but are not limited to, employers and community-based organization and should be broadly representative of the economic and social characteristics of the region. A **"quality job"** is defined as a job that exceeds the local prevailing wage for an industry in the region, includes basic benefits (e.g., paid leave, health insurance, retirement/savings plan) and/or is unionized and helps the employee develop the skills and experiences necessary to advance along a career path.
REGION/FOOTPRINT	The applicant's footprint should be designed and bounded in a way that ensures maximum collaboration and impact. The target region could correspond closely to statistical labor market areas such as metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas, or to an industry that may be geographically dispersed but has unusually strong connectivity due to an established coalition of local government, industry, labor, and academic leaders.
TIPS/GUIDANCE	Coalitions should clearly articulate how the chosen geographic footprint: 1. presents potential for globally competitive industries and 2. a purposeful approach to ambitious yet actionable economic transformation 3. leading to quality jobs, long- term economic competitiveness, and creates stronger urban-rural linkages or stronger rural regional growth clusters.

This document is provided as a service to our members. Applicants should refer to the U.S. EDA's full NOFO for the most complete and accurate information.

https://eda.gov/arpa/build-back-better/

	Regardless of the geographic and economic characteristics of the regions, it must be clear how the proposed projects will address economic distress, both historical challenges and those created by the global pandemic.
	Each regional growth cluster s**hould be interconnected and work to drive competitiveness at a transformational scale, and be linked to a long-term strategic planning developed with community involvement.**

Key Elements of a Successful Regional Growth Cluster: A strong regional growth cluster will need to have a strong strategy for each of four key elements:

Regional Assets	A strong regional growth cluster will identify, make use of, enhance, and/or create regional assets that will support the regional growth cluster's competitiveness. Regional assets include, but are not limited to, basic infrastructure (e.g., broadband), existing competitive advantages (e.g., access to the ocean, research universities, complementary capabilities among firms in a supply chain, unique recreational landscapes), newly proposed projects to catalyze economic growth (e.g., a new training facility, a new facility at a local community college), and diverse communities and geographies (e.g., diversity, links between urban, suburban, and rural areas). The application materials must discuss how the regional growth cluster will build upon and enhance existing assets and develop new regional assets.
Industry Leadership	A strong regional growth cluster will demonstrate strong alignment with existing or prospective industry needs and strong leadership from the private sector, aligned to the coalition's vision. This could include employer commitments to job creation in the region, expected private sector investments, and the coalition's private sector engagement strategy.
Sustainability	A strong regional growth cluster will have a plan to maintain or improve the cluster's economic growth and shared prosperity in the years following the ARPA awards.
Equity	A strong regional growth cluster will ensure that the proposed projects' and broader cluster's benefits are shared across all affected communities, both urban and rural, and provides benefits to existing residents. Although not required, EDA encourages efforts to reach historically excluded populations, racial minorities, and women.

EXAMPLES OF ILLUSTRATIVE REGIONAL GROWTH CLUSTERS:

Establishing an artificial intelligence (AI) corridor by funding:
>(1) planning and feasibility studies to develop critical, modern infrastructure for the corridor;
>(2) roads and modernized utilities to grow local industrial parks;
>(3) entrepreneurship and commercialization programs to capitalize on AI innovations;
>(4) workforce training programs with wrap-around services to support growing technology companies;
>(5) rural manufacturing supply chain planning to integrate more local manufacturers into the cluster and coordinated skilling efforts for their workforce as they adopt new technologies;
>(6) a rural energy biomass project; and
>(7) upgrades to a manufacturing facility owned by an eligible entity to ensure global readiness and competitiveness.

Such a cluster might include a significant commitment from a leading university to build a new AI program or supply locally-generated technology for commercialization.

Scaling an agriculture-technology cluster in rural coal counties by funding:
>(1) unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) technology commercialization and entrepreneurship support programing in a downtown university center;
>(2) the expansion of STEM and agriculture oriented workforce training centers in rural community colleges;
>(3) water irrigation infrastructure to increase crop resiliency and water usage efficiency across a region;
>(4) statewide supply chain planning to address seasonal inefficiencies due to crop cycles and build on local and regional food systems or increase national and international reach; and
>(5) a multi-county revolving loan fund to provide gap financing for agriculture- technology-centered small businesses.

Such a cluster might include significant commitments from industry to procure and support technologies commercialized from the state university and partner with farmers to test new technologies and practices.

Growing a blue economy cluster (e.g., the sustainable use of ocean and coastal resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and jobs while preserving the health of ocean and coastal ecosystems) in a multi-county region that crosses State lines by funding:

> (1) long-term strategic planning related to supply chain resiliency through expansion and co-locating downstream suppliers;
>
> (2) key infrastructure investments like roads, sewer, water, and broadband to facilitate development of industrial parks and ports for blue economy parts suppliers and manufacturers;
>
> (3) critical workforce infrastructure at local community colleges to ensure a skilled and prepared workforce;
>
> (4) integrated and advanced workforce plans and strategies to link up related sectors; and
>
> (5) R&D and commercialization related to key industries.

Such a cluster might also have employment commitments for the newly trained workforce from local start-up or expanding companies, and leverage other state and local blue economy infrastructure investments.

An area historically reliant on the automotive industry wants to create a climate-friendly electric vehicle cluster by funding:

> (1) a new battery and lightweight composite materials research program and associated facilities at a local university;
>
> (2) a new non-profit workforce training center that focuses on the skills required by regional battery and automotive manufacturers;
>
> (3) an entrepreneurial center that focuses on commercializing new automotive technologies at start-up firms; and
>
> (4) programmatic support for a technology seed fund managed by a local CDFI.

Concept Proposal Review Criteria	Applicants will communicate their strategies across the four key elements as part of both the Phase 1 and Phase 2 applications and applications will be evaluated on the strength of those plans.
Overall Concept and Anticipated Outcomes (20 points)	Strength of the proposed component projects, their alignment to support cluster-based economic development and EDA Investment Priorities, related outcomes (e.g., relative regional wage, jobs, and GDP growth), and the evidence-base to support those anticipated outcomes.
Regional Assets (20 points)	Strength of the proposed plan to utilize existing and develop new assets to support the region's economic competitiveness.
Industry Leadership (20 points)	Strength of the cluster's potential for industry leadership, including private sector led development strategies that support innovation and workforce development for global competitiveness and high-quality jobs.
Sustainability (20 points)	Potential of the cluster's plan for sustainability/durability, including the extent to which the project shows support or commitment from regional stakeholders (private, public, and non-profit entities, etc.) and is aligned with and integrated into other public or private investments currently ongoing or planned for the community and region.
Equity (20 points)	The extent to which the application articulates a plan for sharing the project's benefits across all affected communities, and how resident and community leadership will be engaged throughout the project's duration. Although not required, EDA encourages efforts to reach historically excluded populations, racial minorities, and women. These strategies should create the connectivity and conditions for growth where it may not exist, such as in rural and underserved communities.
Feasibility (20 points)	Potential of the articulated vision to drive change in the identified region and the likelihood that individual project components will be complete by September 30, 2027 within budget.
Capacity (20 points)	Strength of the coalition identified to support the growth of an industry or industries and the applicants' organizational capacity, including its financial and management capacity; its experience and capacity in managing large federal grants and subawards; and ability to meet stated metrics.
Distress (20 points)	The degree of historic economic distress experienced in the project region, including the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic, as measured by local employment and regional GDP.

Regional Investment (20 points)	Availability and commitment of local government, philanthropy, and industry investment to support the growth of a region, i.e. the amount of local leverage that will augment the federal award.
Full Application Review Process/Criteria	**The collective component projects will be evaluated as a whole by an Investment Review Committee, however, individual component projects within a proposed cluster may not get funded. Each of the following criterion will receive equal weight:**
Regional Impact	The extent to which the project is responsive to the needs of communities caused by the coronavirus pandemic, including long-term economic recovery, economic diversification, and resilience to future pandemics or other sudden and severe economic dislocations.
Regional Assets	Strength of the cluster's anticipated assets (e.g., existing assets and proposed projects) to support the region's economic competitiveness.
Industry Leadership	Strength of the cluster's industry leadership, including private sector led development strategies that support innovation and workforce development for global competitiveness.
Sustainability	The project's sustainability/durability, including the extent to which the project demonstrates support from regional stakeholders (private, public, and non-profit entities, community-based, etc.) and is aligned with and integrated into other public or private investments currently ongoing or planned for the community and region.
Equity	The extent to which the application articulates a plan for ensuring that the project's benefits are shared across all affected communities, both urban and rural. Although not required, EDA encourages efforts to reach historically excluded populations, racial minorities, and women.
Feasibility	The feasibility of the collection of component projects.
Distress	The degree of economic distress experienced in the project region, including the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic.
Regional Investment	The availability and committed nature of proposed matching funds as well as the ability to leverage additional resources to benefit the project (e.g., philanthropic or corporate donations, etc.).
Jobs and Economic Growth	The project's demonstrated ability to foster wage growth, job placement, job creation and economic growth in the regional economy, including whether the project will create union and well-paying jobs with good benefits.
Labor Standards	Whether, and the extent to which, the applicant proposes to incorporate strong labor protections into the performance of the project.
EDA Investment Priorities	The extent to which the project aligns with EDA's Investment Priorities as outlined at: https://eda.gov/about/investment-priorities/ with preference given to projects that align with multiple investment priorities. 1. **Equity:** Economic development planning or implementation projects that advance equity across America through investments that directly benefit 1) one or more traditionally underserved populations (PDF), including but not limited to women, Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American persons, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders or 2) underserved communities within geographies that have been systemically and/or systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic prosperity such as Tribal Lands, Persistent Poverty Counties (XLSX), and rural areas with demonstrated, historical underservice. For more information on these populations and geographies see: https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/20/executive-order-advancing-racial-equity-and-support-for-underserved-communities-through-the-federal-government/.

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https://eda.gov/arpa/build-back-better/

2. **Recovery & Resilience:** Economic development planning or implementation projects that build economic resilience to and long-term recovery from economic shocks, like those experienced by coal and power plant communities, or other communities impacted by the decline of an important industry or a natural disaster, that may benefit from economic diversification-focused resilience.

3. **Workforce Development:** Economic development planning or implementation projects that support workforce education and skills training activities directly connected to the hiring and skills needs of the business community and that result in well-paying, quality jobs (PDF).

4. **Manufacturing:** Economic development planning or implementation projects that encourage job creation, business expansion, technology and capital upgrades, and productivity growth in manufacturing, including efforts that contribute to the competitiveness and growth of domestic suppliers or to the domestic production of innovative, high-value products and production technologies.

5. **Technology-Based Economic Development:** Economic development planning or implementation projects that foster regional knowledge ecosystems that support entrepreneurs and startups, including the commercialization of new technologies, that are creating technology-driven businesses and high-skilled, well-paying jobs of the future.

6. **Environmentally-Sustainable Development:** Economic development planning or implementation projects that help address the climate crisis including through the development and implementation of green products (PDF), green processes (PDF) (including green infrastructure), green places (PDF), and green buildings (PDF).

7. **Exports & FDI:** Economic development planning or implementation projects that enhance or build community assets to support growth in US exports or increased foreign direct investment.

Funding Available	Range: **$500,000 - $5,000,000 per request**/application for funding Chicago Regional Office Allocation: **$82,721,967** **$200 M** set aside for Coal Communities
Match	**20%** - can waive match on a case-by-case basis
Application Deadline(s)	ROLLING DEADLINE SUGGESTED: SUBMIT **NO LATER THAN MARCH 31, 2022**

Grant Period	Non Construction: 12-24 Months
	Construction: 12-48 Months
	  Awards must be made by September 30, 2022
	  Performance completed by September 30, 2027

Eligible Applicants	EDDs; State, county, city or other political subdivision, including a special purpose unit of state or local government engaged in economic infrastructure development activities, or a consortium of political subdivisions
Overall Purpose	Help communities and regions devise and implement long-term economic recovery strategies through a variety of non-construction and construction projects to assist communities and regions impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.
PROGRAM INFO	Through this program, EDA can support: 1. the **development of pandemic recovery strategies and** 2. the implementation of recovery projects identified with those strategies. ACTIVITIES should NOT be part of another NOFO.
RESILIENCY REQUIREMENT - broadly defined as the ability of a community or region to anticipate, withstand, and bounce back from various disruptions to its economic base. These disruptions can be caused by a variety of things, including a downturn in the national or local economy as a result of the pandemic. Enhancing resilience in the face of the pandemic, especially in light of the ongoing impacts of a changing climate, is a multi-dimensional effort emphasizing engagement and support from all aspects of the community, including economic development practitioners.	To be competitive under this ARPA EAA NOFO, application submissions must explicitly incorporate resilience principles. Examples of Multi-Dimensional efforts: - Efforts to broaden the industrial base or local sectoral specialization with diversification initiatives (e.g., m**oving away from a local or regional economy overly dependent on one industry that might be susceptible to downturns caused by the pandemic**); - **Enhancing business retention and expansion programs to strengthen existing high-growth sectors and industries** - **Development and construction of high-performance and resilient infrastructure and buildings** (e.g., broadband, energy, flexible and natural infrastructure, safe development practices, business incubators) to mitigate future risk and vulnerability; - **Comprehensive planning efforts that involve extensive engagement from the community to define and implement a collective vision for economic recovery**; and - **Investing and enhancing community human capital development through workforce training to broaden the skills base of the regional workforce**. - **Development & Adoption of New Technologies - Deploying technologies** (e.g., through modern infrastructure like broadband and renewable energy) enables resilience in the face of natural disasters made worse by pandemics and changing climates, and nurturing technology ecosystems supports dynamic, diverse economies that better withstand acute disruptions.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES	**Construction activities:** - water and sewer system improvements- industrial parks- high-tech shipping and logistics facilities - business incubators and accelerators- brownfield redevelopment- technology-based facilities - wet labs- multi-tenant manufacturing facilities- science and research parks- workforce training facilities - telecommunications infrastructure (e.g., broadband) and development facilities **Non-construction activities:**- design and engineering- technical assistance- economic recovery strategy development- capitalization of revolving loan funds (RLFs)
TIPS/GUIDANCE	** The most effective rebuilding efforts are based on **long-term regional development** or **redevelopment strategies that leverage Federal funding in coordination with state, local, and private sector resources**. EDA encourages the submission of applications based on: - long-term, regionally oriented, coordinated, and collaborative economic development or redevelopment strategies that foster economic growth and resilience. - This includes plans aimed at building stronger regional economic links between urban centers and rural areas. It is important that investments support the economic recovery through strong employment opportunities for workers, including: 1. opportunities for workforce development, 2. rehiring of laid off workers, 3. creating and retaining union jobs and well-paying jobs with good benefits Investments in infrastructure and construction projects should be carried out in ways that: 1. produce high-quality infrastructure 2. avert disruptive and costly delays and 3. promote efficiency **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS:** - Potential grantees considering projects to develop or support regional workforce training systems should submit proposals under the EDA ARPA Jobs Challenge NOFO, unless that project requires a construction activity not eligible under the Jobs Challenge NOFO. - Projects to develop or support regional workforce training systems that require a construction activity are encouraged to apply to this NOFO. - For any project that seeks workforce development funding under this NOFO, EDA strongly encourages the applicant to follow and incorporate the principles outlined in the Jobs Challenge NOFO around creating and implementing an employer- driven job training system.

Competitiveness Review (CR)	**2 staff from the Chicago Regional Office will review the ED-900, budget narrative and match documentation and application against the evaluation criteria below. Applications that the reviewers agree fail any of the listed criteria will be deemed "Not Competitive" and will not receive further consideration. Projects that pass all criteria will be deemed "Competitive" and will advance to a full merit review by an Investment Review Committee.**
Pass or Fail Criteria for use by CR Team	✓ Whether the project is responsive to this NOFO, including whether the proposed project budget is consistent with EDA's funding guidelines; ✓ The project's demonstrated alignment with EDA's current Investment Priorities as outlined at https://www.eda.gov/about/investment-priorities/ ✓ The availability and committed nature of proposed matching funds ✓ The project's alignment with the regional CEDS or other CEDS equivalent EDA-accepted economic development strategy ✓ The likelihood that the project is capable of starting quickly and the immediacy of its impacts, as well as the likelihood that it will be completed before September 30, 2027, including based on the applicant's organizational, financial, and management capacity.
Investment Review Committee (IRC) *(For All projects except CEDS preparation or revision*)*	For projects deemed Competitive, the Chicago Regional Office will convene an IRC - consisting of at least 3 EDA staff members to make a group evaluation of the merits of each allocation based upon the extent to which the application meets the program-specific award and application requirements. Each of the following criterion will receive equal weight:
Responsiveness	The extent to which the project is responsive to the needs of communities caused by the coronavirus pandemic, including long-term economic recovery, economic diversification, and resilience to future pandemics or other sudden and severe economic dislocations.
Resiliency	The extent to which the project is resilient to future pandemics or other sudden and severe economic dislocations described in section A.4 (e.g., closures of major local employers, climate change);
Feasibility	The project's feasibility.
Sustainability/ Durability	The project's sustainability/durability, including the extent to which the project demonstrates support from regional stakeholders (private, public, and non- profit entities, community-based, etc.) and is aligned with and integrated into other public or private investments currently ongoing or planned for the community and region.
Distress	The degree of economic distress experienced in the project region, including the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic.
Jobs and Economic Growth	The project's demonstrated ability to foster job creation and retention, including whether the project will create union and well-paying jobs with good benefits.
Private Investment	The project's demonstrated ability to promote private investment in the regional economy.
Labor Standards	Whether, and the extent to which, the applicant proposes to incorporate strong labor protections into the performance of the project.
Equity	The extent to which the application articulates a plan for ensuring that the project's benefits are shared across all affected communities, both urban and rural. Although not required, EDA encourages efforts to reach historically excluded populations, racial minorities, and women.

Funding Available	**$500,000,000** 25-50 awards nationally Range: $10M- $20 per project
Match	**0% match - 100% grant for eligible costs** Leveraging outside resources is strongly encouraged
Application Deadline(s)	**January 26, 2022**
Project Period	September 30, 2022- all awards made September 30, 2027 - all activities completed and funds disbursed
Eligible Applicants	EDDs; State, county, city or other political subdivision, including a special purpose unit of state or local government engaged in economic infrastructure development activities, or a consortium of political subdivisions; institution of higher education or a consortium of institutions of higher education; or public or private non-profit organization or association, including labor unions, acting in cooperation with officials of a general-purpose political subdivision of a State.
Overall Purpose	For Qualified Organizations to form sectoral partnerships to work collaboratively to grow regional economies and their associated workforces by building training programs that meet the existing and emerging skill needs of employers and that help workers enter quality jobs and advance along their chosen career path. Encourages efforts to reach historically underserved populations and areas, communities of color, women, and other groups facing labor market barriers such as persons with disabilities, disconnected youth, individuals in recovery, individuals with past criminal records including justice-impacted and reentry participations, serving trainees participating in the SNAP, TANF and WIC programs and veterans and military spouses.
DEFINITIONS	**"Sectoral partnership"** is defined as: - a partnership of employers from the same industry - who join with other strategic partners - to train and place workers into high-quality jobs that the employers need filled and intend to fill through the partnership. The strategic partners can include: government, education (including community and technical colleges), training organizations, economic development organizations, workforce development organizations, unions, labor management partnerships, industry associations, employer-serving organizations, and/or community-based organizations. **A sectoral partnership is focused on one specific industry and one or more specific roles within that industry.** The **lead entity of a sectoral partnership** is referred to in this NOFO as a **"Backbone Organization."** The Backbone Organization s**erves as an intermediary across all the partners in the sectoral partnership and must be an EDA eligible applicant**.

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"Regional workforce training system" is defined as a system that fosters and supports sectoral partnerships. A mature regional workforce training system will include a lead entity and multiple sectoral partnerships, each with their own Backbone Organization, training provider, and industry partners. The lead entity (e.g., a state government, municipal government, state workforce board, local workforce board) coordinates across and supports the sectoral partnerships within its system. A regional workforce training system may also include other entities that support across multiple sectoral partnerships (e.g., a community-based organization that supports recruiting for all of the sectoral partnerships). In a region that does not yet have a regional workforce training system, interested partners are encouraged to join together to apply for funding under this NOFO to develop such a system. Interested parties would include a convener (e.g., a state government, municipal government, state workforce board, local workforce board) who is an eligible EDA applicant as well as entities interested in forming sectoral partnerships (e.g., employers, training providers, unions, community-based organizations).

The **lead entity of a regional workforce training system** is referred to in this NOFO as a **"System Lead Entity."** The **System Lead Entity must be an EDA eligible applicant**.

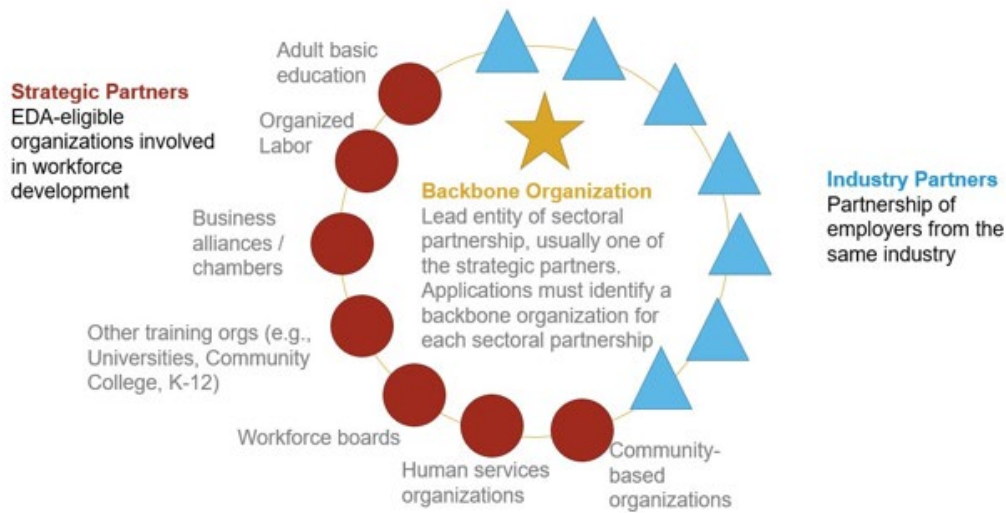
Figure 1 – Visualization of a Sectoral Partnership

Strategic Partners
EDA-eligible organizations involved in workforce development

Adult basic education

Organized Labor

Business alliances / chambers

Other training orgs (e.g., Universities, Community College, K-12)

Workforce boards

Human services organizations

Community-based organizations

Backbone Organization
Lead entity of sectoral partnership, usually one of the strategic partners. Applications must identify a backbone organization for each sectoral partnership

Industry Partners
Partnership of employers from the same industry

Figure 2 – Illustrative Example of a Regional Workforce Training System

System Lead Entity — Lead entity of a regional workforce training system. Must be an EDA-eligible applicant.

Sectoral Partnership
Ex: Technology sector, with Community-based organization as backbone org

Sectoral Partnership
Ex: Agriculture sector, with Organized Labor as backbone org

Sectoral Partnership
Ex: Healthcare sector, with Community College as backbone org

KEY POINTS/TARGETS	The Good Jobs Challenge is designed to help get Americans back to work by investing in
	    (1) developing and strengthening regional workforce training systems that support sectoral partnerships,
	    (2) designing sectoral partnerships, and
	    (3) implementing sectoral partnerships that will lead to high-quality jobs
	
	→ The goal of regional workforce training systems is to create and support effective training programs that will connect the in-demand and emerging skills needs of employers with qualified workers and help workers find and keep quality jobs and advance along their chosen career path.
	
	→ This program is designed to get Americans back to work and increase wage growth, as well as develop demand-driven systems that will continue to support Americans in securing and retaining quality jobs. Successful applicants will include proactive employer engagement and mobilization and employer commitments to hire.
	
	→ Regional workforce training systems and sectoral partnerships funded under this NOFO should connect employers in an industry with key regional stakeholders, including:
	   - State, Tribal, and local governmental entities - economic development organizations☐ workforce development boards - Career OneStops - employer-facing organizations and employer associations - education and training providers - community-based organizations (CBO) (including faith-based organizations) - worker-serving organizations (WSOs) - labor unions - other key stakeholders with responsibilities in advancing the goals of the sectoral partnerships The system or partnership should be led by a System Lead Entity or Backbone Organization, respectively, serving as an intermediary **that has convening power in the region and the capacity to coordinate engagement and collaboration across all necessary stakeholders.**

Eligible Expenses and Process	EDA recognizes that in many circumstances having adequate, modernized facilities is a critical component of a successful workforce training program that responds to industry needs today and into the future. As such, **equipment costs, expenses related to securing adequate space (e.g., rent, leases), and other non-construction capital expenses are allowable expenses under this program.**
NON-Eligible Expenses	- Building-based construction projects (i.e., a**ny activity that disturbs the ground or modifies a structure) are not eligible under this NOFO.** - Equity or hybrid investments in businesses is not an allowable cost (with EDA funds or matching share funds)

TIPS:

- To the extent that a workforce training project is focused only on a building-based construction project or the success of the system or partnership depends on the construction of a new facility, EDA encourages eligible entities to apply under the ARPA Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) NOFO (that was published separately3), while following the principles laid out in this Good Jobs Challenge NOFO in that application.

- If a workforce training project develops or expands a regional workforce training system or sectoral partnership and there is a related, complementary construction project, EDA encourages applicants to submit the system or partnership project under this Good Jobs Challenge NOFO and the complementary construction project under EDA's EAA NOFO.

Key's to Effective Sectoral Partnerships	- Carefully built to include all necessary partners before workforce solutions are designed; - Cut across traditional economic development, workforce, education, and social services system silos; - Targeted to in-demand sectors with high-quality jobs; and - Consider the economic realities of a regional industry in assessing workforce demand and training needs. - Have a System Lead Entity or Backbone Organization, respectively, that serves as the intermediary between all stakeholders and works to: ✓ ensure programs get implemented ✓ meet employer needs ✓ are leading to long-term positive outcomes for workers and their communities, and ✓ meet agreed-upon milestones

EXAMPLES OF EFFECTIVE SECTORAL PARTNERSHIPS:

START UP SECTORAL PARTNERSHIP:
A manufacturing trade association may bring multiple employers with common job openings that require similar skill sets together with a local training provider, labor management partnership, and community college or a group of community colleges in the region. Together, they may form a sectoral partnership to jointly develop and implement training programs to prepare workers to meet those needs. The sectoral partnership may also include one or more community-based organizations that provide wrap-around services (e.g., childcare, transportation) to support the workers during training. The partner businesses participate in the recruitment of the individuals to enroll in the training program and commit to hiring and retaining the workers who successfully complete the program.

EXISTING SECTORAL PARTNERSHIP EXPANSION:
Similarly, an existing sectoral partnership might tailor and expand an existing successful skills training program to serve other regions or industries or to target specific sets of workers facing systemic inequities or barriers to employment.

Other examples might involve a union working with an employer or group of employers to create or scale a Registered Apprenticeship or an employer-led partnership that provides a work-and-learn model where workers can continue to work as they develop new skills.

Training should teach foundational principles as well as applied knowledge, should be applicable to more than one employer as much as practicable, and should help workers advance along a career path.

HOW WILL EDA INVEST IN PROJECTS?

The ARPA Good Jobs Challenge is designed to meet the needs of businesses and workers in each type of region and help develop or strengthen dynamic regional workforce training systems and the sectoral partnerships they implement.

EDA anticipates funding the following three phases of regional workforce training systems/sectoral partnerships, as applicable to regional needs:
- **System Development** funding to **help a System Lead Entity establish and develop a regional workforce training system comprised of multiple sector partnerships**,
- **Program Design** funding for sectoral partnership(s) to **identify the skills needed by industry and workers, develop the skills training curriculum and materials, and secure technical expertise needed to train workers with the skills needed by businesses,** including providing professional development and capacity-building to trainers and educators, and
- **Program Implementation** funding to d**eliver workforce training and wrap-around services that place workers into quality jobs through a new or expanded sectoral partnership**(s).

Note: the applicant for Program Design and Program Implementation may be the System Lead Entity or Backbone Organization, as is appropriate for the specific situation.

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TYPES OF PROJECTS EDA IS SEEKING TO SUPPORT:

EDA plans to make an award to a System Lead Entity or Backbone Organization to **fund the System Development, Program Design, and/or Program Implementation requirements of the system, as appropriate**.

The idea behind the ARPA Good Jobs Challenge NOFO is to s**upport the needs of an applicant's identified system and/or partnership(s) through a single integrated award**. The System Lead Entity or Backbone Organization may make subawards as necessary and as approved by EDA.

Regional, Industry, and Occupation Focus; Benchmark Approach to Funding

A regional workforce training system may focus on the skills needs of a region or multiple regions in one or more industries or occupations within that region or regions.

> *- an occupation has the same meaning as a "worker role," defined as a workplace need of a region, an industry, or employer that requires specific training or skills and that creates a career pathway for a worker (e.g., a skilled machine technician, registered nurse).*

The size and scope of a given workforce training system and/or sectoral partnership can vary significantly based on the needs of the employers and workers in a region and the focus of the workforce training system and/or partnership itself.

The size of award available will depend on the proposed geographic, industry, and occupation coverage of a given regional system or partnership
- Applicants should justify their budget requests by reference to those factorsEach application should identify a System Lead Entity or Backbone Organization that:
- is an Eligible Applicant
- with convening power in the region and
- the capacity to coordinate all necessary regional system or partnership stakeholders

EDA anticipates making an overarching award to each successful System Lead Entity (on behalf of a regional workforce training system) or Backbone Organization (on behalf of a sectoral partnership) and then approving the release of award funds over the period of performance based on successful completion of specific applicant-proposed benchmarks that will be clearly identified in the award as the organization moves through System Development, Program Design, and/or Program Implementation, as applicable to the particular award.

Applicants should submit one application to simultaneously request funding for as many phases (System Development, Program Design, and/or Program Implementation) as necessary.

System Lead Entities and Backbone Organizations

The System Lead Entity or Backbone Organization for each regional workforce training system and sectoral partnership, respectively, is an essential element to the success of the system.

A System Lead Entity or Backbone Organization s**erves as an intermediary that organizes and works with employers, training participants, employees, government agencies, and other organizations to solve problems within sectors and help grow sectors by developing trust and a base of knowledge about the organizations and businesses, as well as available public and private resources.**

In a mature regional workforce training system, a System Lead Entity supports multiple sectoral partnerships, and each of those sectoral partnerships is convened by its respective Backbone Organization. **The System Lead Entity supports and facilitates connections between the Backbone Organizations.**

An effective System Lead Entity will have most or all the following characteristics:

- Convening power in the region;
- Committed support of the executive leadership from the region and buy-in from appropriate stakeholders (e.g., a governor, mayor or chief executive of a jurisdiction, chief executives of major employers, heads of labor unions, presidents of two- and four- year institutions of higher education, etc.);

- Relationships and credibility with key players in the workforce ecosystem, including employers, governmental entities, state or local workforce development boards, educational institutions, labor organizations, and worker-serving organizations;

- A proven track record of coordinating across sectors and partners and of driving stakeholders to successful action;
- Ability to translate various sectors' objectives and key concerns to other sectors;
- Strong fundraising capabilities; and
- Dedicated full-time employee(s) focused on addressing regional workforce issues to support regional economic development.

An effective Backbone Organization will have most or all the following characteristics:

- Convening power in the region;
- Committed support of the executive leadership from the region and buy-in from appropriate stakeholders (e.g., a governor, mayor or chief executive of a jurisdiction, chief executives of major employers, heads of labor unions, presidents of two- and four- year institutions of higher education, etc.);

- Relationships and credibility with the key industry leaders within the sector and strong knowledge of the industry and its needs;

- Relationships and credibility with key players in the workforce ecosystem, including employers, governmental entities, state or local workforce development boards, educational institutions, labor organizations, worker-serving organizations;

- A proven track record of coordinating across the sector and of driving stakeholders to successful action;
- Strong fundraising capabilities or connection to a system with strong fundraising capabilities; and
- Dedicated full-time employee(s) focused on addressing the industry's workforce issues to support the industry's economic growth.

Regional Workforce Training Systems and Sectoral Partnerships
Regional workforce training systems contain multiple sectoral partnerships representing important industries within a region.

Each sectoral partnership is a collaboration of stakeholders in a region brought together by a Backbone Organization to jointly address specific workforce needs of that sector's employers.

Stakeholders include, but are not limited to, any of the following kinds of organizations:
- State, Tribal, and local governmental entities
- economic development organizations
- state or local workforce development boards
- Career OneStops
- employers
- employer-facing organizations and employer associations
- education and training providers like community colleges
- community-based organizations (CBOs) (including faith- based organizations)
- worker-serving organizations (WSOs)
- labor unions
- other key stakeholders with responsibilities in advancing the goals of the sectoral partnerships

The purpose of these partnerships is to:
- implement strategies that meet employers' workforce needs
- advance the skills and employment prospects of workers and jobseekers
- grow regional economies, and
- increase employment in resilient and high-quality jobs.

The key to effective partnerships is that they include a representative group of employers that are from the same industry or have a similar workforce need and are meaningfully engaged in the development of the system and/or partnership.

Training Models

A key component is upfront employer engagement and mobilization, and employer commitments to hire workers .

Models may differ in the type of worker skills training they provide and will differ based on the sectors or occupations that the trainings are aligned to. Examples that meet the interests of this Good Jobs Challenge - to develop and strengthen regional partnerships and systems and train workers with in-demand skills that lead to well-paying, high-quality jobs - include:

- ✓ **Skills Training Programs**: Programs that train workers with the foundational skills needed for in-demand, quality jobs and prepare workers for employment that provides career pathways after completion of the program.

- ✓ **Registered Apprenticeship Model**: These programs combine paid on-the-job training under the direction of a mentor with classroom instruction and result in an industry- recognized credential certifying occupational proficiency.
- ✓ **Other Work-and-Learn Models:** For example, a worker is conditionally hired for a specific training period and earns wages while receiving on-the-job training in foundational skills as well as applied concepts. After successful completion of the training period, the worker is officially hired as a full-time employee.

- ✓ **Certification or Credentialing Programs**: Programs in which participants obtain an industry-recognized certificate or certification and/or a license recognized by the State involved or the Federal Government.

Programs may target unemployed or underemployed workers or incumbent workers with opportunity for increased wages through targeted upskilling.

Employer Leadership

One of the primary goals of the Good Jobs Challenge is to get Americans back to work with good, quality jobs. To that end, EDA is seeking applications that have firm employer commitments to hire. The employer commitment may come in different formats. Some examples include:

- ✓ **Work-and-Learn, including Registered Apprenticeships:** See descriptions above.

- ✓ **Conditional Hire:** Employer hires worker on the condition of successful completion of the training program and demonstration of skill acquisition.

- ✓ **Employer Commitments:** Employers commit to hiring a specific number of workers who successfully complete the training program provided through the regional workforce training partnership.

In addition to these commitments, employers should be leading partners in the sectoral partnership and drive the sectoral partnership's agenda.

While sectoral partnerships contain a broad-based team of partners and are a "team effort" made up of education, worker groups, workforce development, and economic development leaders who collaborate to support the partnership, the partnership should focus on responding to the industry's needs.

This requires strong leadership from employers. Business leaders should define the priorities and be integrally involved in crafting the solutions (as opposed to providing input only).

Employers define their skills needs and the priorities for addressing them; these needs may be linked to joint competitiveness needs that they face and wish to resolve.

Employers and the other partners should all commit resources to identify and solve the problems.

BUCKEYE HILLS regional council

Funding Available	**$510,000,000 - STATE TOURISM GRANT — NON-COMPETITIVE - DIRECT TO STATES** **$240,000,000** - Competitive Tourism Grants - Chicago Region = **$26,236,391** Expected: 150 projects that cost between **$500,000 and $10,000,000**
Match	**0% - 20% of eligible project costs** Considered on a case-by-case basis Projects with match may be considered more competitive
Application Deadline(s)	NONE - ROLLING DEADLINE - SUGGESTED: **NO LATER THAN JANUARY 31, 2022**

Grant Period	Non Construction: 12-24 Months
	Construction: 12-48 Months
	   Awards must be made by September 30, 2022
	   Performance completed by September 30, 2027

Eligible Applicants	EDDs; State, county, city or other political subdivision, including a special purpose unit of state or local government engaged in economic infrastructure development activities, or a consortium of political subdivisions; institution of higher education or a consortium of institutions of higher education; public or private non-profit organization or association acting in cooperation with officials of a general purpose political subdivision of a State.
Overall Purpose	Help communities and regions devise and implement sustainable economic recovery strategies through a variety of non-construction and construction projects to respond to the damage to the travel, tourism and outdoor recreation sectors from the coronavirus pandemic and to promote the economic resilience of regions dependent on those industries.
PROGRAM INFO	Through this program, EDA can support: 1. the development of travel, tourism, and outdoor recreation pandemic recovery strategies and 2. the implementation of recovery projects, including in communities adjacent to National Park Service units, State Parks, National Marine Sanctuaries, and other natural destinations. This includes construction activities where the project is owned by the Eligible Applicant such as: • Water and stormwater/wastewater improvements, • Pier construction and improvements, • New outdoor recreation and trail infrastructure and public access enhancements, • Nature-based infrastructure projects to improve access to recreation, • Cultural, arts, and tourism facilities (e.g., visitor or tourist information centers), • Workforce training facilities and capacity building programs, • Accessibility enhancements, and • Country-wide or multi-state travel, tourism, or outdoor recreation promotion. ACTIVITIES should NOT be part of another NOFO.

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https://eda.gov/arpa/travel-tourism/

RESILIENCY REQUIREMENT - broadly defined as the ability of a community or region to anticipate, withstand, and bounce back from various disruptions to its economic base. These disruptions can be caused by a variety of things, including a downturn in the national or local economy as a result of the pandemic. Enhancing resilience in the face of the pandemic, especially in light of the ongoing impacts of a changing climate, is a multi-dimensional effort emphasizing engagement and support from all aspects of the community, including economic development practitioners.	To be competitive under this ARPA EAA NOFO, application submissions must explicitly incorporate resilience principles. Examples of Multi-Dimensional efforts: - Efforts to broaden the industrial base or local sectoral specialization with diversification initiatives (e.g., m**oving away from a local or regional economy overly dependent on one industry that might be susceptible to downturns caused by the pandemic**); - **Enhancing business retention and expansion programs to strengthen existing high-growth sectors and industries** - **Development and construction of high-performance and resilient infrastructure and buildings** (e.g., broadband, energy, flexible and natural infrastructure, safe development practices, business incubators) to mitigate future risk and vulnerability; - **Comprehensive planning efforts that involve extensive engagement from the community to define and implement a collective vision for economic recovery**; and - **Investing and enhancing community human capital development through workforce training to broaden the skills base of the regional workforce**. - **Development & Adoption of New Technologies** - **Deploying technologies** (e.g., through modern infrastructure like broadband and renewable energy) enables resilience in the face of natural disasters made worse by pandemics and changing climates, and nurturing technology ecosystems supports dynamic, diverse economies that better withstand acute disruptions.
ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES	Diversification Projects are eligible
NON ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES	✓ State and local tourism promotion and marketing projects (these ARE eligible uses of funds under STATE Tourism Grants) ✓ Projects that are primarily residential in nature ✓ Projects to create community amenities that are not specific to regional tourism (e.g. swimming pools, golf courses) ✓ Projects that directly support casinos or gaming ✓ Projects that support general governmental or public safety functions ✓ Requests for funding to supplement operating budgets or replace lost revenue ✓ Primarily directed at public health responses to the coronavirus pandemic (incidental public health costs may be included in program budgets, e.g. cost of PPE for personnel providing TA, larger spaces to accommodate social distancing, increased travel costs to accommodate pandemic safety measures)
TIPS/GUIDANCE	✓ Clearly notify EDA in the application if the applicant is also seeking or receives any other funding for the project, including funding under a STATE TOURISM GRANT. ✓ All projects must be consistent with CDC guidelines for safe travel. ✓ Projects should support economic recovery through strong employment opportunities for workers including: 1. workforce development 2. rehiring of laid off workers creating and retaining union jobs and well-paying jobs with good benefits. ✓ Investments in infrastructure and construction projects should be carried out in ways that: 1. produce high-quality infrastructure 2. avert disruptive and costly delays and 3. promote efficiency ✓ Should be consistent and align with the region's current CEDS

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https://eda.gov/arpa/travel-tourism/

Investment Review Committee (IRC)(*For All projects except CEDS preparation or revision*)	Each Regional Office will convene periodic IRCs, as necessary depending on the volume of applications, that consist of at least three EDA staff members to review each complete application.All IRC members will review each complete application before the IRC discussion and evaluation. The IRC will make a group evaluation of the merits of each application based on the extent to which the application meets the program-specific award and application requirements.For all projects, the IRC will use the following criteria in its review, with each criterion receiving equal weight:
Regional Economic Injury	The extent to which the region to be served by the project has suffered economic injury as a result of job and gross domestic product losses in the travel, tourism, and outdoor recreation sectors
Community Responsiveness	The extent to which the project is responsive to the needs of communities impacted by the coronavirus pandemic's impact on the travel, tourism, and outdoor recreation sectors;
Economic Recovery	The extent to which the project supports the economic recovery and long-term resilience to future pandemics or other sudden and severe economic dislocations for the travel, tourism, and outdoor recreation sectors;
Job Creation/Retention	The project's demonstrated ability to foster the creation or retention of union and well-paying jobs with good benefits, as well as the extent to which the applicant proposes to incorporate strong labor protections into the performance of the project;
Economic Distress	The degree of economic distress experienced in the project region, including the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic.
Feasibility/Readiness to Proceed/Successful Completion	The project's feasibility, including the likelihood that the project can be started quickly, the immediacy of its impacts, and the likelihood that it will be completed before September 30, 2027;
Sustainability/Durability	The project's sustainability/durability, including the extent to which the project demonstrates support from regional stakeholders (private, public, and non- profit entities, community-based, etc.) and is aligned with and integrated into other public or private investments currently ongoing or planned for the community and region.
Organization/Financial/ Management Capacity	The applicant's organizational capacity, including its financial and management capacity
Alignment with the CEDS	The project's alignment with the applicable CEDS, Tribal strategy, or other EDA-accepted economic development strategy
Alignment with EDA Investment Priorities	The project's demonstrated alignment with EDA's Recovery and Resilience Investment Priority, as well as other current Investment Priorities as outlined at https://www.eda.gov/about/investment-priorities/disaster-recovery/ and described in section A.2 of this Indigenous Communities NOFO
Collaboration	The extent to which the project is based upon community-oriented and collaborative economic development and redevelopment strategies;
Equity	The extent to which the application articulates a plan for ensuring that the project's benefits are shared across all affected communities, both urban and rural. Although not required, EDA encourages efforts to reach historically excluded populations, racial minorities, and women.

BUCKEYE HILLS

regional council

You are invited to attend our

ANNUAL RIVER CRUISE & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 3, 2021

We will board the Valley Gem Sternwheeler at the Washington Street Bridge overpass on Front Street in Marietta, departing promptly at 11:00 a.m. and returning to the docks at 1:00 p.m.

Space on the Valley Gem is limited, so make your reservation today!

Lunch will be provided. Dress for the afternoon is business casual. Register by Friday, August 27.

To register visit: buckeyehills.org/cruise

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