



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

OCTOBER 1, 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 **MOTION TAB #1**
- IV. Legislator and Partner Agency Updates **TAB #2**
 - a. Office of Ohio Treasurer Sprague | Cody Pettit, Public Affairs Liaison
 - b. OhioSE Economic Development | Destiny Bryson, Manager of Engagement & Partnership
 - c. National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) | Joe McKinney, Executive Director and Mirielle Burgoyne, Deputy Executive Director/Director of Government Relations
- V. County Broadband Profiles | Tom Reid and Sean O'Malley, Reid Consulting Group **TAB #3**
- VI. Personnel Committee Report | Lenny Eliason, Chair **TAB #4**
 - a. New Hires, Promotions, Resignation, Terminations, Transfers Report **MOTION**
 - b. Planning Division Creation **MOTION**
 - c. Job Descriptions/Salary Ranges **MOTION**
 - d. Personnel Committee Vacancy Appointment by President
- VII. Aging & Disability Division | Jennifer Westfall, Aging & Disability Director **TAB #5**
 - a. Resolution Authorizing Submission to the ODOD to Compete to Secure Funding through the 2022 Housing Assistance Grant Program to Provide Home Accessibility Modifications and Minor Home Repairs in the Region **MOTION**
 - b. 2022-2023 Older Americans Act/Title-III Request for Proposals **MOTION**
 - c. ARPA Update
- VIII. Appalachian Growth Capital | Glenda Bumgarner, Appalachian Partnership, Inc & Affiliates
- IX. Development Division | Sam Miller, Development Director **TAB #6**
 - a. Resolution Supporting the Transfer of BHRC USDA Farmers Home Administration Revolving Loan Fund to Appalachian Growth Capital
 - b. Resolution of Support for Appalachian Regional Commission 2022 Projects
 - c. *Introduction of New Broadband Coordinator*
- X. Buckeye Hills Regional Council Broadband Committee | Ryan Collins, Broadband Coordinator
- XI. Buckeye Hills Regional Council Succession Plan | Rick Hindman, Assist. Executive Director **TAB #7**
- XII. Executive Director Update | Misty Crosby **TAB #8**
 - a. *ARC 2021 Power Awards in Ohio*
 - b. *Opportunity Appalachia Expanding*

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- c. Resolution Authorizing Participation in Build Back Better Regional Challenge Submission to the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration to Revitalize Downtown Communities in Appalachian Ohio **MOTION**
- d. *Questions?*

- XIII. Citizen Participation
- XIV. Other Business
- XV. Adjournment

NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 5, 2021

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CONSENT AGENDA

- **MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 6, 2021 MEETING**
- **STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**
 - **ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE YTD REPORT**
 - **AGING & DISABILITY PROGRAM SERVICE REPORT**
- **GRANT AGREEMENTS AUGUST-SEPT. 2021**
- **DIVISION & DIRECTOR'S REPORTS**
 - **AGING & DISABILITY DIVISION**
 - **COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR**
 - **DEVELOPMENT DIVISION**
 - **HUMAN RESOURCES**

**Minutes of the August 6, 2021
Buckeye Hills Regional Council Executive Committee Meeting**

The Buckeye Hills Regional Council Executive Committee meeting was held August 6, 2021. The meeting was held at Buckeye Hills, Marietta, Ohio.

In attendance were:

OFFICERS:	Ron Moore, President Lenny Eliason, Vice President Kevin Ritter, Treasurer	Morgan County (Private Sector) Athens County Washington County
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:	Steve Patterson Gary Waugh Tim Ihle Brian Howard Adam Shriver Brad Peoples Ben Carpenter	City of Athens Hocking County Meigs County Meigs County (Private Sector) Morgan County Noble County Perry County
GENERAL POLICY COUNCIL:	Diane Burkhart Tom Johnson Fred Redfern	Monroe County Perry County Perry County
GUESTS:	Gretchen Gregory Matt Kaido Amber Kohler Kelly Morman Bryn Stepp	Hocking County Foundation for Appalachian Ohio Office of Congressman Johnson Foundation for Appalachian Ohio Office of Ohio Lt. Governor Husted
STAFF:	Misty Crosby Rick Hindman Madelyn Brewer Angie Lawrence Sam Miller Jenny Simmons Jennifer Westfall Melissa Zoller	Executive Director Assistant Executive Director Development Specialist III Human Resource/Payroll Manager Development Director Executive Assistant Aging & Disability Director Development Specialist III

CALL TO ORDER

Ron Moore, President, called the meeting to order.

ROLE CALL

Misty Crosby, Executive Director, conducted roll call.

CONSENT AGENDA

Lenny Eliason moved to approve the consent agenda which included the Minutes from the June 4, 2021 meeting; Statement of Activities, Administrative Expense YTD and Quarterly Reports; Aging and Disability Programs Services and Funding Report for period July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021, Grant Agreements received and executed for May through July 2021, and; Division and Director's Reports. Brian Howard seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

LEGISLATOR AND PARTNER AGENCY UPDATES

Amber Kohler, Field Representative, provided updates to the members from the Office of Congressman Johnson.

Bryn Stepp, Southeast Ohio Representative, provided updates to the members from the Office of Ohio of Lt. Governor Husted.

Matt Kaido, Director of Strategic Initiatives, and Kelly Morman, Director of Local Impact, from the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio provided requested member support on the Welcome Home Scholarships. Steve Patterson moved to approve the Resolution in Support of the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio Appalachian Ohio Welcome Home Scholarship Fund. Adam Shriver seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

PERSONNEL & AUDIT BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT

Lenny Eliason moved to approve the Resignation, Terminations, Retirements, New Hires, Promotions, Transfers Report for the time period of July 6, 2021 through August 6, 2021. Brian Howard seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

Lenny Eliason moved to approve the annual insurance renewal, employee/employer contributions and HAS deposits. Gary Waugh seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

Lenny Eliason moved to amend the Employee Handbook to include the new federal holiday Juneteenth. Steve Patterson second the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

VACCINE HESITANCE GRANT – RATIFICATION OF ACTION

Steve Patterson moved the Ratification of Action by Executive Director to accept the Ohio Department of Aging Vaccine Hesitancy Grant in the amount of \$42,372 to support community-based efforts to address vaccine hesitancy throughout the region.

DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

Ron Moore tabled the motion for the Resolution of Support for Appalachian Regional Commission 2022 Project until the October meeting in order for staff to revisit each county and discuss the project list.

Steve Patterson moved to approve the Resolution Authorizing Participation in the Americans for the Arts: Arts & Economic Prosperity 6 Study. Lenny Eliason seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

Brad Peoples moved to approve the Resolution Granting Permission to Apply for U.S. EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant. Tim Ihle seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

Misty Crosby provided BHRC 2020 Return on Investment regional numbers to the members. She stated that over the next few months she will be meeting with each county to provide the county specific return on investments.

Crosby provided the times when the OBM Director Kim Murnieks and program staff will be in the region to meet with county commissioners and mayors.

Crosby announced that BHRC created a page on the website containing resources for the American Rescue Plan Act.

Crosby discussed various funding opportunities including EDA and Community Infrastructure grants.

Crosby was happy to report that ARC Co-Chair Gayle Machin took time to visit Athens and Marietta during her Ohio Appalachia tour.

Crosby provided a Succession Plan update and timeline to the members. The final Succession Plan will be presented to the members for approval at the October meeting. The search for the new Executive Director will begin January 2022.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

No citizens wished to address the committee.

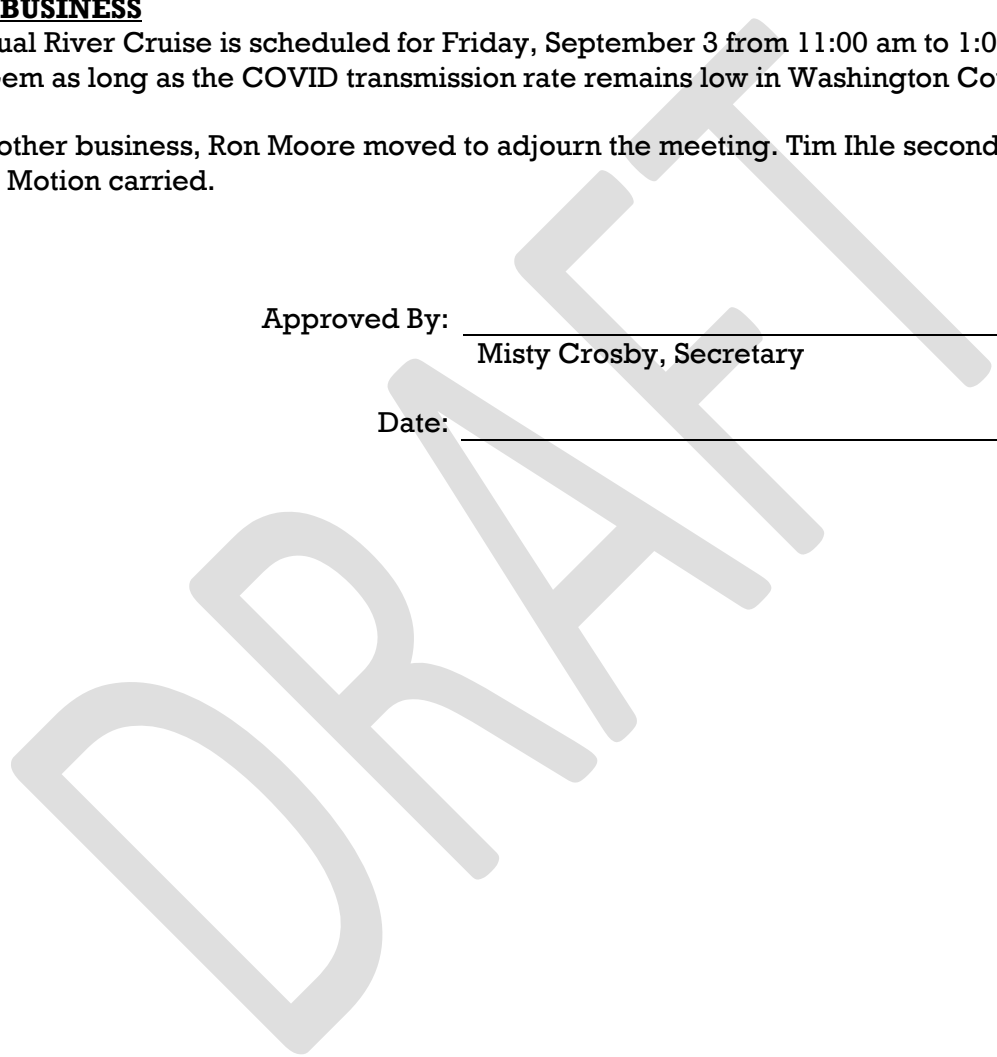
OTHER BUSINESS

The Annual River Cruise is scheduled for Friday, September 3 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm upon the Valley Gem as long as the COVID transmission rate remains low in Washington County.

With no other business, Ron Moore moved to adjourn the meeting. Tim Ihle seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

Approved By: _____
Misty Crosby, Secretary

Date: _____





STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

July 1, 2021 through August 31, 2021

YEAR TO DATE ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE DETAIL

Administrative Expenses for Fiscal Year 2022 totaled \$950,872.47 at August 31. This total represents 15.48% of the Council's administrative budget utilized. Total spending for this time period is budgeted to be 17%. Insurance, and Subscriptions are above the 17% spending budget as most of these costs are paid in the beginning of the year. Supplies and Software and Licenses are above 17% due to the purchase of computers for new staff. Spending for Advertising and Legal costs is higher than anticipated and will be reconciled during budget review and revision. As new projects and funds are awarded, budgets are adjusted and presented to the Committee quarterly. The cumulative Indirect Cost rate for this period is 52%. Projected Indirect Costs for Fiscal Year 2022 are 53%.

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 August 31, more than \$1.5 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.



Administrative Expense Detail
For the Period July 1, 2021 - August 31, 2021

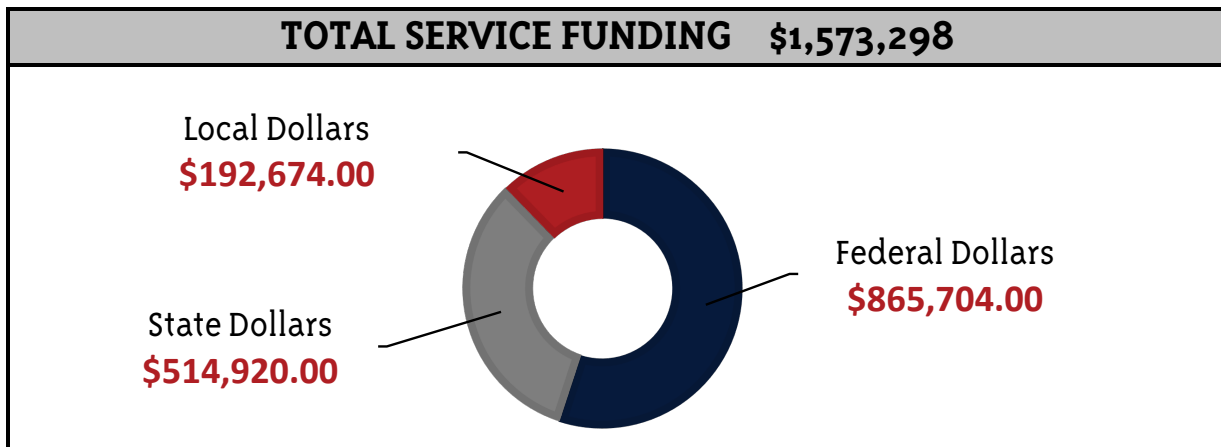
	2021 YTD Actual	2022 YTD Actual	2022 Budget	% of Budget
Salary	\$ 500,500.57	\$ 496,683.75	\$ 3,092,717.30	16.06%
Fringe Benefits	\$ 249,921.90	\$ 220,092.24	\$ 1,499,755.26	14.68%
Advertising	\$ 17,046.75	\$ 32,875.81	\$ 69,220.25	47.49%
Audit Costs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,000.00	0.00%
Building Maintenance	\$ 817.00	\$ 823.00	\$ 11,000.00	7.48%
Communications	\$ 9,552.71	\$ 12,377.36	\$ 87,884.86	14.08%
Conference Registration Fee	\$ 1,620.00	\$ 185.00	\$ 16,200.00	1.14%
Contract Services	\$ 34,107.63	\$ 22,521.34	\$ 636,919.00	3.54%
Employee/Governing Board	\$ -	\$ 790.66	\$ 15,000.00	5.27%
Equipment Purchase/Maintenance	\$ 7,837.13	\$ 1,634.26	\$ 23,350.00	7.00%
Insurance	\$ 29,710.16	\$ 34,195.93	\$ 40,000.00	85.49%
Legal Costs	\$ -	\$ 3,187.25	\$ 5,000.00	63.75%
Organizational Dues	\$ 12,108.42	\$ 900.00	\$ 38,900.00	2.31%
Other Costs	\$ 856.00	\$ 2,768.90	\$ 7,730.00	35.82%
Postage	\$ 2,998.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 18,050.00	16.62%
Printing Costs	\$ 2,224.00	\$ 2,950.00	\$ 8,850.00	33.33%
Software & Licenses	\$ 26,181.11	\$ 25,480.75	\$ 104,665.00	24.35%
Space	\$ 42,556.81	\$ 42,556.82	\$ 255,342.00	16.67%
Staff Training Fees	\$ 105.00	\$ -	\$ 8,000.00	0.00%
Subscriptions	\$ 1,877.71	\$ 1,769.80	\$ 2,100.00	84.28%
Supplies	\$ 21,437.19	\$ 37,462.17	\$ 56,376.00	66.45%
Travel - Mileage Reimbursement	\$ 1,376.68	\$ 5,223.61	\$ 79,800.00	6.55%
Travel - Out of Town Expense	\$ 630.96	\$ 3,393.82	\$ 34,200.00	9.92%
TOTAL EXPENSES FOR THE PERIOD	\$ 963,465.73	\$ 950,872.47	\$ 6,141,059.67	15.48%
INDIRECT COST RATE FOR THE PERIOD	51%	52%		

Buckeye Hills Regional Council

Aging and Disability Programs Services & Funding Report

July 1, 2021 - August 31, 2021

SERVICES PROVIDED		
Direct Service Hours Provided	Transportation Trips	Adult Day Service Days Attended
54,434	2,697	187
Adult Day Service Miles Traveled	Meals Provided	Home Medical Equipment & Emergency Response Units
150	46,871	780
Legal Services Contacts	Home Accessibility Modification And Pest Control Jobs	Senior Farmers Market Coupons Redeemed
79	8	6,780
Grocery Shopping and Delivery	Telephone Reassurance	Evidence Based Classes
132	208	81
Assisted Living Days	Alzheimers Education Contacts	Senior Volunteer Hours
1,948	0	0



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



Grant Agreements Received and Executed August - September 2021

Program Name	Funding Agency	Grant Period	Amount
Home Energy Assistance Program – HEAP Outreach	Ohio Department of Aging	September 1, 2021 to August 31, 2022	\$20,929.00
Arts & Economic Prosperity Survey	Ohio Arts Council	September 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022	\$9,000.00
Regional Medicaid Transportation Scheduling Assessment	Hocking, Athens, Perry Community Action Program	August 2021 to June 30, 2022	\$6,516.00
Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act – MIPPA Outreach	Ohio Department of Aging	September 1, 2021 to August 31, 2022	\$36,775.00
American Rescue Plan Act – Older Americans Act Funds	Ohio Department of Aging	July 1, 2021 to September 30, 2024	\$223,839.00 through December 31, 2021

CURRENT INITIATIVES

- **Rate increase for providers** | The comment period for rate increases in PASSPORT and the Assisted Living Waiver programs is open during September. This comment period is to allow discussion around increasing rates for providers, with the anticipated outcome of a more secure provider network. Current waiver rates are low in comparison to other program reimbursement rates. The rate increase for the Employer-Employee/Participant Directed reimbursement (The Choices Program) has been announced. The program will receive an increase of 6.1% beginning November 1, 2021. Information regarding the rate increases is attached to this report.
- **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)** | \$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 will be distributed according to the funding formula established by the OAA.
Nationally allocated funding amounts;
 - **\$750,000,000** to support nutrition 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- BHRC has received the grant agreement and reporting requirements for the ARPA funds. In-house discussions and contact with our OAA providers will occur in the coming days. Match IS required for ARPA funds. The community-based organizations will be required to provide match ranging from 15 to 25% of funding amount. This may be a burden for agencies and the aging network continues to advocate for match relief.

- **2022-2023 Older Americans Act/Title-III Request for Proposals** have been returned by the CBOs. The proposals have been reviewed by in-house staff and were provided to the Regional Advisory Council via mail. The RAC recommendations will be shared with the executive board on October 1st.
- **Senior Farmers Market** has been fully implemented and coupons have been mailed. The data below shows the distribution of coupons by county. At this time, there is no waitlist and coupons are still available for 130

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additional individuals. Redemption rates have been low and staff have been working to address the low redemption rate. Staff have called farmers to insure coupons are being sent in for reimbursement and media campaigns have been implemented encouraging and reminding individuals to redeem their allocated coupons.

Distributed Coupons	Redemption Rate	
Athens	380	290 out of 380
Hocking	242	122 out of 242
Meigs	223	137 out of 223
Monroe	147	108 out of 147
Morgan	166	130 out of 166
Noble	146	131 out of 146
Perry	278	209 out of 276
Washington	540	412 out of 537
Total	2122	

NEWS

Program & Service Updates

- **Regional Advisory Council** | RAC meetings were scheduled to resume in August. BHRC determined that it was in the best interest of our RAC members to postpone in-person meeting until there is a slow-down in COVID-19 infection rates. We will continue to provide updates to the RAC via mail and email.
- **Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging Annual Conference** | The O4A conference will be held on **October 20 and 21** at the Hilton at Easton, just outside Columbus, Ohio. The one-and-a-half-day event features presentation from both 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. UPDATE- O4A is providing a virtual education track for those who are not comfortable attending in person.**
- **OBLTSS Activities** | BHRC's OBLTSS staff supported **147 calls leading to 328 tasks** (questionnaire Screening, I and R activities which are non-Medicaid related activities like Medicare/OHSHIP help, walk-ins etc., follow up on Waiver referrals, support navigation which is research, mailing info etc.) for the month of August.
- **PASSPORT and Assisted Living Caseload Regionwide** | Current PASSPORT caseload is **808 individuals and 57 individuals** on the Assisted Living Waiver. PASSPORT has experienced several deaths and NF disenrollments; 51 disenrollments since August 1. The PASSPORT team enrolled 31 new individuals in August and 20 individuals as of September 24.
- In-person visits continue to be conducted only if there is an immediate health and safety issue that emerges. ODA has requested each AAA provide a plan for our return to face to face visits. BHRC has determined that staff will return to a normal face to face schedule once infection rates drop below "red" on the State's COVID-19 Dashboard. Management does not feel that it is in the best interest of the region's high-risk elderly population to return to face to face with high COVID-19 infections rates active in the region.

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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Assisted Living Waiver Amendment Posted for Public Comment

The Assisted Living waiver amendment reflects service tier rate increases as a result of Ohio's recently passed biennium budget. Rate increases are applicable to the Assisted Living waiver benefit package.

Changes to the Assisted Living waiver amendment

Below is a summary of the key changes to the waiver. A link to the full waiver amendment is included below the summary. If you'd like a paper copy of the amendment, please call 1 (855) 926-0994.

The State is posting the Assisted Living waiver amendment application for the public's review and comment prior to submitting the proposed amendment to CMS for consideration.

- Statements regarding the budget increases and applicable changes to waiver appendices were added to the "Purpose of Amendment" section in the waiver;
- Rate Determination Methods located in section I-2 of the waiver application was updated reflecting the 2022/2023 budget initiative to increase rates for the waiver services;
- Cost-neutrality projections in Appendix J were updated as needed beginning in waiver year 3 of the Assisted Living waiver.

Public comments welcome

As part of the waiver amendment process, the public can comment on the proposed amendment. The public comment period is September 1 - September 30, 2021. Comments must be received by midnight on September 30, 2021 and can be submitted by:

E-mail: Waiverfeedback@age.ohio.gov

Written comments sent to:

Attn: Assisted Living Waiver Amendment
Ohio Department of Aging, 1st Floor
Division for Community Living
246 North High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Call toll-free to leave a voicemail message 1 (855) 926-0994

Courier or in-person submission to Attn: Department of Aging, 246 North High Street, Columbus OH 43215

PASSPORT Waiver Amendment Posted for Public Comment

The Pre-admission screening system providing options and resources today (PASSPORT) waiver amendment reflects reimbursement rate increases as a result of Ohio's recently passed biennium budget. Rate increases are applicable to specific home and community base and adult day services provided under the PASSPORT waiver benefit package.

Changes to the PASSPORT waiver amendment

Below is a summary of the key changes to the waiver. A link to the full waiver amendment is included below the summary. If you'd like a paper copy of the amendment, please call 1 (855) 926-0994.

The State is posting the PASSPORT waiver amendment application for the public's review and comment prior to submitting the proposed amendment to CMS for consideration.

- Statements regarding the budget increases and applicable changes to waiver appendices were added to the "Purpose of Amendment" section in the waiver;
- Rate Determination Methods located in section I-2 of the waiver application was updated reflecting the 2022/2023 budget initiative to increase rates for applicable home and community based services;
- Cost-neutrality projections in Appendix J were updated as needed beginning in waiver year 4 of the PASSPORT waiver.

Public comments welcome

As part of the waiver amendment process, the public can comment on the proposed amendment. The public comment period is September 1 - September 30, 2021. Comments must be received by midnight on September 30, 2021 and can be submitted by:

E-mail: Waiverfeedback@age.ohio.gov

Written comments sent to:

Attn: PASSPORT Waiver Amendment
Ohio Department of Aging, 1st Floor
Division for Community Living
246 North High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Call toll-free to leave a voicemail message 1 (855) 926-0994

Courier or in-person submission to Attn: Department of Aging, 246 North High Street, Columbus OH 43215

CURRENT INITIATIVES

- **Vaccine Hesitancy Grant** | The Communications team and Aging Program Development staff are finalizing plans for the recently-awarded Vaccine Hesitancy Grant from the Ohio Department of Aging.
- **Funding & Grants Page** | We've added a new Funding & Grants page to our website at buckeyehills.org/funding. This page is also accessible from the "Tools + Resources" tab at the top of our home page. The page contains a news feed of state and federal funding opportunities for local governments and communities, as well as a listing of many of the near-term and perennial funding programs for water, sewer, and transportation projects. We will do our best to keep this listing up-to-date, however, new programs are added and existing programs are modified on an ongoing basis. Communities are still encouraged to submit a [Project Profile](#) for our Development team to review for potential funding eligibility and opportunities.

NEWS

Program & Service Updates

- **National Farmers' Market Week Spotlights** | The week of August 1-7, Buckeye Hills spotlighted a selection of local farmers and markets who are participating in this year's Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition program. A compilation of these spotlight posts can be found [HERE](#).
- **HEAP Outreach** | Summer Crisis HEAP outreach concluded at the end of September. Outreach channels included billboards, radio and television, and weekly social media posts. Information is available on our website at buckeyehills.org/heap. Regular HEAP outreach will continue over the fall and winter months on these same channels.
- **Medicare Outreach** | Remaining Medicare ads from the previous funding period wrapped up at the end of August. This included newspaper ads in Monroe, Morgan, Perry, and Noble County and radio advertisements across two stations that cover much of the region. We are preparing promotions for Medicare Open Enrollment beginning in October and running through December. Radio, newspaper and social media will be utilized throughout the region. We also have a contract with Medibag for 24,000 printed prescription medication bags through Davis Drug in Caldwell.
- **Aging & Disability Outreach** | Our awareness campaign for Aging & Disability services began in April and concluded in 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 had 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 was also produced and is featured on our website at buckeyehills.org/aging.
 - Overall, the digital campaign performed well. Below are some highlights:
 - Paid search tactic generated 414 clicks with a very strong 11.7% click through rate (CTR)
 - Paid Search also experienced a very low bounce rate, an average session duration of roughly two minutes and 2 pages per session, indicating a fairly engaged end-user
 - Paid Facebook was a strong contributor as well, generating over 2,100 clicks, a respectable .57% CTR and 268 post-click engagements

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- While overall traffic was down to flat compared to the June-August timeframe, organic traffic was up over the same time period in 2020, which is largely attributable to the bigger share of traditional media in this year's campaign (TV, billboards, and radio).

As a result of the outreach campaign, the information & assistance team reported a marked increase in call volume, and assessments have picked up as well, bringing us back to pre-pandemic levels.

- **Walk to End Alzheimer's Sponsorship** | Buckeye Hills was a Walk Route sponsor of the [2021 Mid-Ohio Valley Walk to End Alzheimer's](#) on September 18. Our staff participated virtually this year. Around neighborhoods, lakes, and even Hocking Hills State Park, our socially distant team joined together for one cause. Prior to the walk, our team hosted an office lemonade stand on National Lemonade Day and created our own Flower Garden in our lobby. In total, our team raised \$869.73 toward the walk's \$55,000 goal, ranking fifth among participating corporate supporters.
- **10 Million Steps to Prevent Falls** | September is National Falls Prevention Month, and the Ohio Department of Aging brought back their popular 10 Million Steps to Prevent Falls campaign. This campaign from the department's [STEADY U Ohio](#) initiative encourages Ohioans of all ages to walk at least one mile during the month of September. Throughout the month, Buckeye Hills joined with AAAs around the state to log our steps. More information is available on the 10 Million Steps to Prevent Falls webpage: aging.ohio.gov/10millionsteps.
- **Preparedness and Summer Safety Awareness** | Throughout the month of August we shared Summer Safety tips on our social media channels. In September we recognized National Preparedness Month with a series of posts encouraging and guiding the public on how to plan for emergency situations.
- **Recent Press Releases & Notices**
 - August 5, 2021: [ODOD Announces Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Grant Program Applications](#)
 - August 9, 2021: [ODOT Township Stimulus Program](#)
 - August 10, 2021: [National Farmers' Market Week Spotlights](#)
 - August 21, 2021: [New Survey Will Assist Transportation in Monroe County](#)
 - August 27, 2021: [Buckeye Hills Regional Council Welcomes Broadband Staff](#)
 - August 27, 2021: [Ohio Department of Aging Presents 10 Million Steps to Prevent Falls](#)
 - September 2, 2021: [Requests for Proposals - EDA CARES Act Projects: Hocking, Meigs, Morgan, and Perry Counties](#)
 - September 7, 2021: [MyRecoveryLink.org Receives NADO Impact Award](#)
 - September 16, 2021: [Seniors in Southeast Ohio Empowered to Age Well During National Senior Center Month](#)
- **Notable Media Mentions**
 - July 17, 2021 – Times Leader: [Projects under review for funding opportunity](#)
 - August 4, 2021 – Heartland Forward: [Lead for America, Heartland Forward Place Two American Connection Corps Fellows in Ohio](#)
 - August 11, 2021 – Farm and Dairy: [More broadband funds in the works, advocates looking for accountability](#)
 - September 18, 2021 – Logan Daily News: [Seniors in southeast Ohio empowered to age well during national Senior Center Month](#)
 - September 20, 2021 – Marietta Times: [Second Annual Recovery Walk held Saturday](#)

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

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October 1, 2021

CURRENT INITIATIVES

- **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. Attached is a list of the projects competitive for federal and state ARC funding.

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 from 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.
- **RTPO Capital Block Grant Update** | As part of the ODOT transportation budget SFY 2022-23, the Ohio RTPOs have been tasked to develop and administer within each region a first-of-its-kind surface transportation block grant that is competitive, regionally important, and in alignment with the region's Long-Range Transportation Plan. Projects eligible to apply for the grant are a variety of multimodal maintenance, safety, new construction, and planning projects. Starting in SFY 2022, BHRC RTPO has received a sub-allocation of \$407,262. The BHRC RTPO staff is currently in the process of developing a framework for the competitive block grant in consultation with ODOT Statewide Planning and partner agencies of OVRDC, OMEGA, and MORPC. The RTPO Technical Advisory Committee will be engaged for stakeholder input, program design, the development of sub-committee for application scoring and award recommendations, and to provide approval of the project award recommendations. The program design and any recommendations for project applicant award will be submitted to the BHRC Executive Committee for final approval thru passage of board resolution. The success of the program in 2022-23 will help determine whether the State continues or expands the block grant in future years. For more information contact Sam Wallace, Transportation Planning Manager, at swallace@buckeyehills.org.
- **MyRecoveryLink.org Receives Impact Award** | Created to assist individuals in southeast Ohio affected by substance use disorder, **MyRecoveryLink.org** has received a 2021 Aliceann Wohlbruck Impact Award from the National Association of Development Organizations. The Impact Awards program honors NADO members for their creative approaches to advancing regional economic development and improved quality of life. To learn more about recovery resources in the region, visit www.myrecoverylink.org

Staff Updates

- **Brandi Beaver** is expanding outreach efforts and collecting recovery resources in Monroe, Morgan and Noble counties.
- **Madelyn Brewer** is working on kicking off the EDA CARES Planning projects in the amount of \$27,5000 per county. Half of them have started and we are seeing exciting results! The other four RFPS will close at the end of the month, and we've gotten interest in all of them.
- **Ryan Collins**, Special Projects Manager – Broadband Coordinator, and **Carly Fitz**, Perry County Broadband Access Specialist through Lead For America, have been partnering with local organizations like county Job and Family Services offices and Farm Bureaus in order to collect more data for our mapping efforts and to gain more stories for our broadband advocacy efforts.
- **Brandi Hesson** was congratulated by ODOT on the impressive work she did on the 5310 application to expand in and out of county medical transportation in Washington County. She was happy to learn the whole amount asked for will be awarded out of state funds so there is no match dollars needed for this project.
- **Michelle Hyer** is working on Fiscal Year '23/Round 36 of the Ohio Public Work Council's program. BHRC had some concerns regarding the new OPWC Workwise Portal requirement, but we are happy to report that we received approximately 52 applications. This is more applications then we received last year. AS we are still reviewing applications the approximate total requested amount (grant/loan) is \$25,000,000 with a total project cost of over \$137,000,000.
- **Nicole Gilliam** has started data collection on the water systems in Perry County. She has worked in New Straitsville the week of September 20 and in Thornville week of September 27.
- **Jason Pyles** has collaborated with Building Bridges to Careers (BB2C) to update data they're maintaining of similar entities and participating in Real World Problem Scenarios with Warren High School.
- **Sam Wallace** and the Buckeye Hills RTPO has been a major stakeholder and contributor in the development of an Active Transportation Plan for the Village of Beverly in Washington County. The final draft of the Active Transportation Plan has been completed and is slated to be delivered to the Village of Beverly Council for formal review on October 6, and tentatively slated for approval on October 15. The completion of this plan provides for the need, evidence, and priority that justifies any active transportation infrastructure and safety improvement project development, as well as ODOT funding eligibility moving forward.
- **Melissa Zoller** has been meeting with Executive Committee members to discuss the selected ARC projects and the way we can improve the process moving forward.

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

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CURRENT INITIATIVES

- **Planning Division** | Within the Buckeye Hills Regional Council Succession Plan, the creation of a Planning Division is seen as a more distant future goal. However, current initiatives and funding opportunities coming from state and federal agencies show that a Planning Division within Buckeye Hills Regional Council is needed now. Because of an influx of federal and state dollars that are asking our communities to quickly identify their deep needs and priorities, we recognize that our communities lack the tools necessary to think into their future and plan actions to bring them to their desired outcomes.

Buckeye Hills Regional Council currently has staff in place for a Planning Division to be created. There are multiple people performing planning activities as a significant portion of their work. Namely the Transportation Planning Manager, Mobility Manager and the GIS team. These positions are not coordinated at a high level, and they are within a department whose priorities are not forward-looking but instead seeking solutions to alleviate immediate problems. A Planning Division's primary goal would be setting up BHRC and our communities with the tools to think about the things that are wanted, which of those are priorities, and how those might be achieved. It would help both the communities and Buckeye Hills better realize the outcomes of our planning efforts. By tying all planning efforts in the organization into one group, we more easily reduce redundant work, and ensure that all plans are pushing in the same direction.

Working with the Ohio Governor's Office of Appalachia, Buckeye Hills Regional Council put together an ask that would use Economic Development Administration (EDA) Statewide Planning, Research and Networks funds through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to create this division and fund the Planning Director position. The window for this funding once awarded is 30 months. Along with these funds, the Planning Director position would also utilize Ohio Department of Transportation Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) dollars. Once the EDA ARPA money is no longer available, BHRC will continue this position with funding through the EDA Planning Partnership Grant and a mix of RTPO and Mobility Management dollars.

- **Job Descriptions/Salary Ranges** | We are currently using the Special Projects Manager job description along with a Scope of Work for our Mobility Manger position. As the funding and need have arisen to hire an additional Mobility Manager, we have created a specific job description and salary range for the Mobility Manager positions. (Attached) Based upon salaries provided by other counties our range will be as follows: Minimum \$38,538, Midpoint \$48,172, Maximum \$57,806

Comparison of Salary Ranges for Mobility Mangers:

Athens/Hocking	\$46,000 to \$52,000
Meigs	\$ 44,304.00
Morgan	\$ 35,000.00
BHRC (currently as a Special Project Manager)	\$ 40,000.00

Attached is the job description for the Planning Director. The salary range to be used for this position corresponds to the Development Director salary range. Minimum \$53,456, Midpoint \$66,820, Maximum \$80,184.

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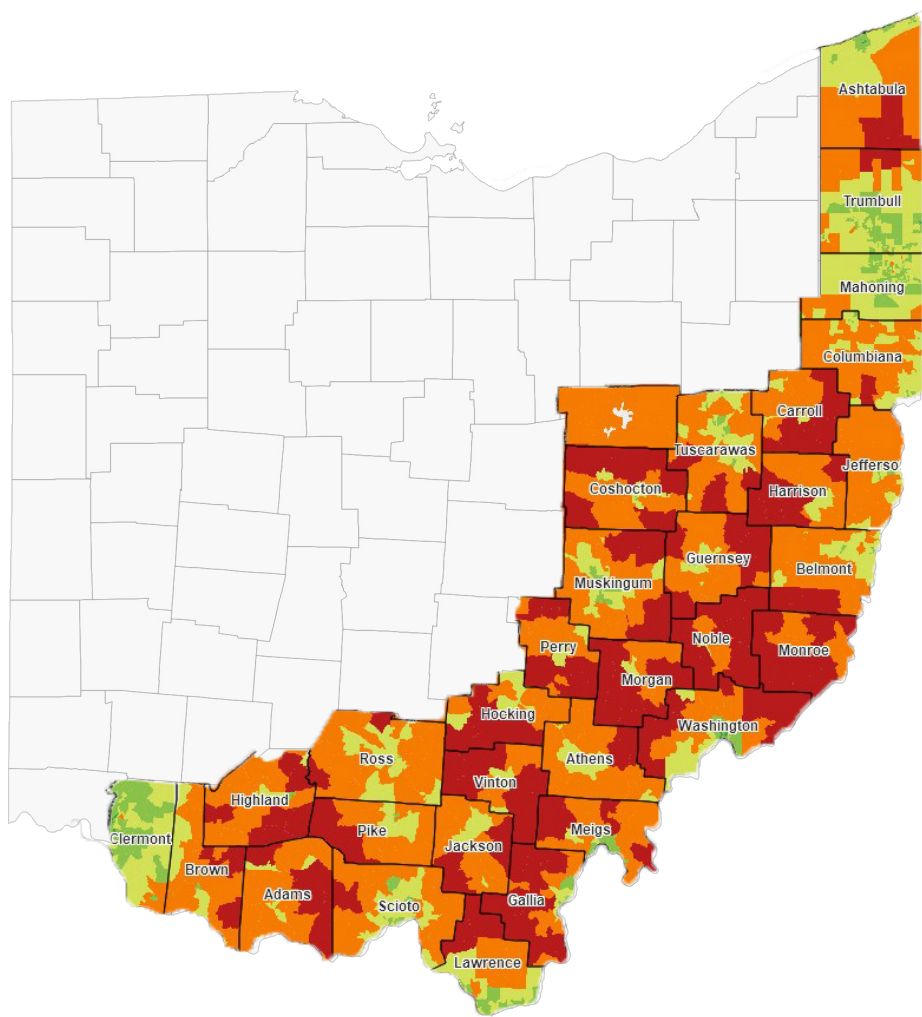
NEWS

- **Staff Vacancies** | Office Coordinator, Mobility Manager, Special Project Manager – RISE OH, Planning Director
- **Personnel Committee Vacancy** | *The Personnel Committee shall consist of a minimum of five (5) members of the Executive Committee appointed by the President. The Vice President will serve as the chairperson. The President shall appoint the remaining members.* The Personnel Committee will discuss and President, Ron Moore will appoint a new member.
- **Staff and Executive Director Evaluation** | For the November meeting, we will plan to review staff evaluation scores as well as complete Misty Crosby's evaluation. The packet of information will be emailed to you mid-October and time will be allotted prior to the November Executive Committee Meeting to complete and review with her the results of the evaluation should the Committee so desire.

CONTACT: Angie Lawrence, Human Resources Manager | alawrence@buckeyehills.org | 740-376-1031

APPALACHIAN OHIO COUNTIES

broadband profile



73%
of the populated area
& **26%**
of households

DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO MINIMUM 25/3 Mbps

the 32 county region has

15,211 mi²
of populated area

➔ **10,931 mi²**
are unserved
0-10 Mbps: **53%**
10-25 Mbps: **20%**
**no data for 1.6% of area*

957,013
households

➔ **252,833**
are unserved
0-10 Mbps: **15%**
10-25 Mbps: **11%**
**no data for 18% of households*

0-10 Mbps **10-25Mbps** **25-50 Mbps** **50-100 Mbps** **100+ Mbps**

State owned land or park Existing Open Middle-Mile
lake, river, or body of water Proposed Fiber

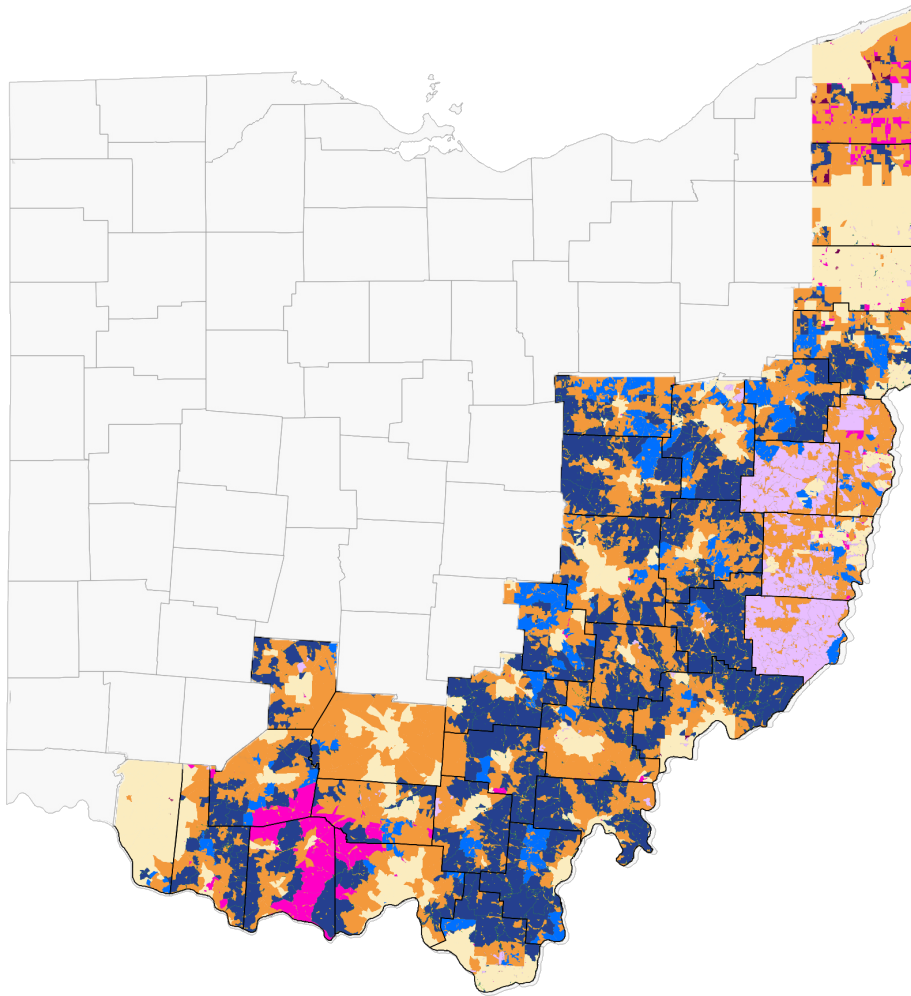
3028.16 miles of Open Middle-Mile in the Appalachia Ohio

Open middle mile fiber lets competing providers lease capacity on an equal footing to bridge the gap between their central offices and local communities. Middle mile is needed not only to reach homes and businesses but also to support 5G mobile coverage.

Coverage ratings are derived from Ookla Speedtest Intelligence® data licensed by InnovateOhio from the State of Ohio for the months of February 2020 through May 2021. Ratings are color-coded based on median calculated download/upload speeds. Cellular (LTE, 5G) and satellite providers were excluded from our data. Coverage ratings in areas marked as state owned land and parks is not visible on the printed map for clarity, but was included in data calculation. For a full description of our methodology visit connectingappalachia.org

PRIORITY AREAS

below 25/3 Mbps



Providers that have received Federal RDOF subsidy to improve internet access are illustrated by color

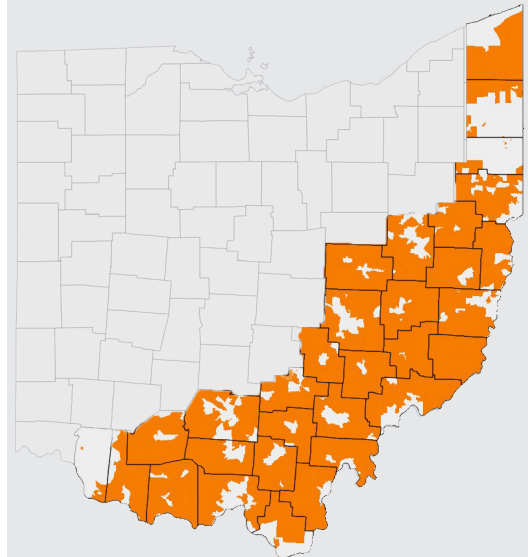
- Charter Communications
- Mercury Wireless
- Windstream
- Connect Everyone
- LTD Broadband

- Areas of greatest need that are likely to remain below 25/3 Mbps without new government investment

WHY NOW?

As funding is approved at the state and federal level **advocacy to prioritize the areas of greatest need are essential** to working towards eliminating the digital divide in Appalachia Ohio

In our post-COVID economy, broadband is as important as water, electricity, and roads.



ORANGE = current extent of areas with less 25/3 Mbps, this is the base map beneath the RDOF auction winners in the map to the left.

OUR METHODOLOGY

..... *breaking down the data*

Ohio Broadband Availability Map Methodology

About This Map

This map was created under contract by Reid Consulting Group, LLC. for Buckeye Hills Regional Commission (BHRC) This map, collectively with county level maps created for Buckeye Hills Regional Commission (BHRC), Ohio Mid-Eastern Government Association (OMEGA) and Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission (OVRDC) being provided to Connecting Appalachia. Connecting Appalachia is a consortium of local governments, regional economic development councils, and industry professionals working to increase economic opportunity for Appalachia by expanding access to quality, affordable broadband. This project was funded in part by the *I'm a Child of Appalachia Fund* of the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio through the Buckeye Hills Foundation.

Broadband availability is displayed at the Census Block Group level.

Methodology

Coverage ratings are derived from Ookla Speedtest Intelligence® data licensed by InnovateOhio from the State of Ohio for the months of February 2020 through May 2021. Ratings are color coded based on median calculated speed tiers (i.e., download/upload speeds): Below 10/1Mbps is deep red; at least 10/1Mbps and less than 25/3Mbps is orange; at least 25/3Mbps and less than 50/10Mbps is yellow; at least 50/10Mbps and less than 100/20 Mbps is light green; and above 100/20Mbps is bright green.

Where possible, areas with no Ookla data have been assigned an extrapolated rating based on comparative analysis of population density, FCC Form 477 data, and RDOF Phase 1 auction award maps. Extrapolation is effective at low population densities but becomes less accurate as density increases. Areas that cannot be assigned an extrapolated rating are shown in white on the map. To protect consumer privacy, Ookla limits location precision to 100 meters by 100 meters. As a result, a single location may include multiple households and many individual tests. All speed tests within a 100 meter radius were averaged to generate an overall speed by location. Census block ratings were derived by taking the median of all location averages within each block. The following filters were applied to the Ookla data before ratings were calculated:

- Only fixed broadband sources (Cable, DSL, fixed wireless) were included. 3G/LTE/5G mobile data connections were excluded, as were satellite providers.
- Test results with high first-hop latency were excluded to limit the 'skewing' effects of misconfigured wi-fi routers, interference from unshielded household devices, and low wi-fi signal strength.

Reference Layers

The map includes LBRS address data from the State of Ohio. Block Group, Census Block Group and Block boundaries are taken from the 2010 U.S. Census.

Disclaimer

This map is presented "as is" for informational purposes. Reid Consulting Group does not warrant the accuracy, adequacy or completeness of this information and expressly disclaims liability for any errors or omissions. For More Information To learn more about rural broadband issues in Ohio or to request additional information about how this map was developed visit: connectingappalachia.org.



Connecting Appalachia





PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT
August 7, 2021 through October 1, 2021

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS

James Burt	Special Project Manager – RISE OH	9/3/21
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RETIREMENT

Jeff Flaherty	Assessor	8/21/21
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NEW HIRE

Holly Dickerson	Administrative Assistant	8/16/21
Ryan Collins	Broadband Coordinator	8/23/21
Jennifer Huck	Fiscal Assistant	9/7/21

PROMOTIONS

None

TRANSFERS

None



**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION TO THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT
(FORMERLY THE OHIO DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AGENCY) TO COMPETE TO SECURE FUNDING THROUGH THE 2022
HOUSING ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE HOME ACCESSIBILITY MODIFICATIONS
AND MINOR HOME REPAIRS IN THE REGION**

Resolution#2021/10-04

WHEREAS, Buckeye Hills Regional Council's Housing Assistance Grant Program's (HAGP) mission is to ensure seniors can age in place comfortably in their homes; and

WHEREAS, through HAGP, Buckeye Hills offers home accessibility modifications and minor home repairs for seniors aged 60 years and older and for individuals under 60 years old with a disability and in need of handicap accessibility repairs; and

WHEREAS, Buckeye Hills Regional Council will support projects for homeowners who meet the income eligibility requirements of the HAGP, including those residing within the boundary of the eight-county BHRS service region and who are at or below 50% of the Median Household Income; and

WHEREAS, priority is given to projects that 1. assure a resident's health and safety, 2. projects in which repairs are necessary to protect the integrity of the home structure, and 3. projects for which the resident is threatened with losing independence; and

WHEREAS, matching funds of greater than 50% of the \$500,000 grant request are required and include a combination of commitments of financial support from USDA Rural Development and Ohio Department of Aging Senior Community Services Block Grant, and supplemental funding from BHRC's allocation of Title III Older American Act will be used as necessary and available throughout the project period to provide HGAP services.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the **Buckeye Hills Regional Council Executive Board** hereby approves the submission of an application to the Ohio Department of Development's (formerly Ohio Development Services Agency's) PY 2022 Housing Assistance Grant Program to provide funding for the **BHRC Housing Assistance Grant Program** in the amount of **\$500,000 (five hundred thousand)**, in accordance with the application guidelines;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, the Buckeye Hills Regional Council Executive Board hereby authorizes the Executive Director Misty Crosby to prepare, sign, and submit all documents required for inclusion in the proposal, and, should funds be awarded, to execute all subsequent agreements necessary to receive funding and expend funds necessary to carry out the scope of work specified in the execute contract documents in accordance with procurement policies and procedures.

Executed at Marietta, Ohio this 1st day of October 2021.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ron Moore".

Ron Moore, Board President

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lenny Eliason".

Lenny Eliason, Board Vice President

JANUARY 1, 2022 TO DECEMBER 21, 2023 OLDER AMERICANS ACT/TITLE III FUNDING

ATHENS COUNTY

ORGANIZATION	SERVICE	FUNDING TYPE	BHRC Funding Recommendation	BHRC Proposed Funded Units	UNIT COST	Add'l match Provider Proposed	Add'l Match Units Provider Proposed
HAPCAP - ATHENS	CONGREGATE MEALS	TITLE III-C-1	\$ 49,511.34	2074	\$11.62	\$69,823.53	2,925
HAPCAP - ATHENS	HOME DELIVERED MEALS	TITLE III-C-2	\$ 82,342.09	3895	\$7.81	\$179,733.46	8,502
UNITED SENIORS OF ATHENS COUNTY, INC.	ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION EXERCISE	TITLE III-D	\$ 1,764.71	137	\$5.00	\$2,099.70	163
UNITED SENIORS OF ATHENS COUNTY, INC.	CHRONIC PAIN SELF-MANAGEMENT	TITLE III-D	\$ 2,941.18	40	\$52.08	\$600.00	8
UNITED SENIORS OF ATHENS COUNTY, INC.	CHRONIC DISEASE SELF-MANAGEMENT	TITLE III-D	\$ 4,588.24	80	\$40.63	\$900.18	16
UNITED SENIORS OF ATHENS COUNTY, INC.	MATTER OF BALANCE	TITLE III-D	\$ 2,941.18	53	\$39.06	\$600.70	11
UNITED SENIORS OF ATHENS COUNTY, INC.	TAI CHI	TITLE III-D	\$ 1,764.71	99	\$6.94	\$2,099.70	117
UNITED SENIORS OF ATHENS COUNTY, INC.	ADULT DAY CARE	TITLE III-B	\$ 10,686.34	19	\$84.68	\$28,434.83	51
UNITED SENIORS OF ATHENS COUNTY, INC.	GROCERY ORDER & DELIVERY	TITLE III-B	\$ 10,686.34	170	\$18.52	0.00	0
UNITED SENIORS OF ATHENS COUNTY, INC.	TELEPHONING	TITLE III-B	\$ 10,686.34	169	\$37.05	\$9,434.81	149
UNITED SENIORS OF ATHENS COUNTY, INC.	TRANSPORTATION ONE-WAY RATE 2	TITLE III-B	\$ 16,699.16	65	\$81.06	\$23,326.59	91
UNITED SENIORS OF ATHENS COUNTY, INC.	TRANSPORTATION ONE-WAY RATE 1	TITLE III-B	\$ 25,048.73	260	\$37.93	\$23,189.88	240

HOCKING COUNTY

ORGANIZATION	SERVICE	FUNDING TYPE	BHRC Funding Recommendation	BHRC Proposed Funded Units	UNIT COST	Add'l match Provider Proposed	Add'l Match Units Provider Proposed
HAPCAP - HOCKING	CONGREGATE MEALS	TITLE III-C-1	\$ 30,423.22	810	\$14.31	\$112,329.42	2,990
HAPCAP - HOCKING	HOME DELIVERED MEALS	TITLE III-C-2	\$ 52,665.00	2312	\$8.40	\$118,214.84	5,189
HAPCAP - HOCKING	TRANSPORTATION ONE-WAY RATE 1	TITLE III-B	\$ 18,345.07	645	\$24.18		
HAPCAP - HOCKING	TRANSPORTATION ONE-WAY RATE 2	TITLE III-B	\$ 15,544.48	200	\$50.00		

JANUARY 1, 2022 TO DECEMBER 21, 2023 OLDER AMERICANS ACT/TITLE III FUNDING

MEIGS COUNTY

ORGANIZATION	SERVICE	FUNDING TYPE	BHRC Funding Recommendation	BHRC Proposed Funded Units	UNIT COST	Add'l match Provider Proposed	Add'l Match Units Provider Proposed
MEIGS COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING, INC.	CONGREGATE MEALS	TITLE III-C-1	\$ 27,477.84	4603	\$5.19		
MEIGS COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING, INC.	HOME DELIVERED MEALS	TITLE III-C-2	\$ 48,085.67	4507	\$7.62		
MEIGS COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING, INC.	HOMEMAKER	TITLE III-B	\$ 25,268.46	1673	\$8.89		
MEIGS COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING, INC.	NUTRITION EDUCATION SERVICE	TITLE III-C-1	\$ -	0	\$0.00	\$200.00	200
MEIGS COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING, INC.	NUTRITION EDUCATION SERVICE	TITLE III-C-2	\$ -	0	\$0.00	\$25.00	25
MEIGS COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING, INC.	NUTRITION SCREENING SERVICE	TITLE III-C-1	\$ -	0	\$0.00	\$25.00	192
MEIGS COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING, INC.	NUTRITION SCREENING SERVICE	TITLE III-C-2	\$ -	0	\$0.00	\$15.00	25
MEIGS COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING, INC.	TRANSPORTATION ONE-WAY TRIP RATE 1	TITLE III-B	\$ 24,507.73	1764	\$10.88		
MEIGS COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING, INC.	TRANSPORTATION ONE-WAY TRIP RATE 2	TITLE III-B	\$ 8,169.25	156	\$41.11		

MONROE COUNTY

ORGANIZATION	SERVICE	FUNDING TYPE	BHRC Funding Recommendation	BHRC Proposed Funded Units	UNIT COST	Add'l match Provider Proposed	Add'l Match Units Provider Proposed
GMN TRI-COUNTY CAC, INC. - MONROE	CONGREGATE MEALS	TITLE III-C-1	\$ 18,007.60	2637	\$5.17	\$2,298.86	337
GMN TRI-COUNTY CAC, INC. - MONROE	GROCERY ORDER & DELIVERY	TITLE III-B	\$ 4,705.88	132	\$28.57	\$294.12	8
GMN TRI-COUNTY CAC, INC. - MONROE	HOME DELIVERED MEALS	TITLE III-C-2	\$ 33,361.26	3479	\$5.62	\$4,995.81	521
GMN TRI-COUNTY CAC, INC. - MONROE	HOMEMAKER	TITLE III-B	\$ 17,643.92	929	\$8.19	\$1,353.41	71
GMN TRI-COUNTY CAC, INC. - MONROE	NUTRITION EDUCATION SERVICE	N/A	\$ -	0	\$0.00	\$200.00	8
GMN TRI-COUNTY CAC, INC. - MONROE	TRANSPORTATION ONE-WAY	TITLE III-B	\$ 28,778.19	1954	\$10.84	\$683.27	46

JANUARY 1, 2022 TO DECEMBER 21, 2023 OLDER AMERICANS ACT/TITLE III FUNDING

MORGAN COUNTY

ORGANIZATION	SERVICE	FUNDING TYPE	BHRC Funding Recommendation	BHRC Proposed Funded Units	UNIT COST	Addt'l match Provider Proposed	Addt'l Match Units Provider Proposed
MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS	HOMEMAKER	TITLE III-B	\$ 22,431.76	369	\$25.09	\$6,965.24	114
MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS	TRANSPORTATION ONE-WAY RATE 1	TITLE III-B	\$ 15,048.24	600	\$21.32	-0.24	-0.01
MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS	TRANSPORTATION ONE-WAY RATE 2	TITLE III-B	\$ 13,838.82	88	\$93.45	\$1,281.18	8
WMCAP - MORGAN	CONGREGATE MEALS	TITLE III-C-1	\$ 18,274.98	1332	\$9.57		0
WMCAP - MORGAN	HOME DELIVERED MEALS	TITLE III-C-2	\$ 33,777.60	2261	\$10.73		0
WMCAP - MORGAN	NUTRITION EDUCATION SERVICE	TITLE III-C-1	\$ -	2	\$0.00		
WMCAP - MORGAN	NUTRITION EDUCATION SERVICE	TITLE III-C-2	\$ -	2	\$0.00		
WMCAP - MORGAN	NUTRITION HEALTH SCREENING	TITLE III-C-1	\$ -	8	\$0.00		
WMCAP - MORGAN	NUTRITION HEALTH SCREENING	TITLE III-C-2	\$ -	8	\$0.00		

NOBLE COUNTY

ORGANIZATION	SERVICE	FUNDING TYPE	BHRC Funding Recommendation	BHRC Proposed Funded Units	UNIT COST	Addt'l match Provider Proposed	Addt'l Match Units Provider Proposed
GMN TRI-COUNTY CAC, INC. - NOBLE	CONGREGATE MEALS	TITLE III-C-1	\$ 17,033.26	2625	\$4.83	\$2,445.01	377
GMN TRI-COUNTY CAC, INC. - NOBLE	GROCERY ORDER & DELIVERY	TITLE III-B	\$ 4,705.88	132	\$28.57	\$294.12	8
GMN TRI-COUNTY CAC, INC. - NOBLE	HOME DELIVERED MEALS	TITLE III-C-2	\$ 31,847.04	3435	\$5.32	\$5,222.94	563
GMN TRI-COUNTY CAC, INC. - NOBLE	HOMEMAKER	TITLE III-B	\$ 16,167.16	863	\$8.02	\$1,574.93	84
GMN TRI-COUNTY CAC, INC. - NOBLE	NUTRITION EDUCATION SERVICE	N/A	\$ -	0	\$0.00	\$200.00	8
GMN TRI-COUNTY CAC, INC. - NOBLE	TRANSPORTATION ONE-WAY	TITLE III-B	\$ 28,377.07	1949	\$10.69	\$743.44	51

JANUARY 1, 2022 TO DECEMBER 21, 2023 OLDER AMERICANS ACT/TITLE III FUNDING

PERRY COUNTY

ORGANIZATION	SERVICE	FUNDING TYPE	BHRC Funding Recommendation	BHRC Proposed Funded Units	UNIT COST	Add'l match Provider Proposed	Add'l Match Units Provider Proposed
PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS	CONGREGATE MEALS	TITLE III-C-1	\$ 31,578.13	4799	\$5.59	\$0.00	0
PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS	HOME DELIVERED MEALS	TITLE III-C-2	\$ 54,460.56	5933	\$6.80		
PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS	HOMEMAKER	TITLE III-B	\$ 26,532.14	1373	\$11.23		
PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS	TRANSPORTATION ONE-WAY	TITLE III-B	\$ 34,365.02	1017	\$25.96		

JANUARY 1, 2022 TO DECEMBER 21, 2023 OLDER AMERICANS ACT/TITLE III FUNDING

WASHINGTON COUNTY

ORGANIZATION	SERVICE	FUNDING TYPE	BHRC Funding Recommendation	BHRC Proposed Funded Units	UNIT COST	Addt'l match Provider Proposed	Addt'l Match Units Provider Proposed
O'NEILL SENIOR CENTER	ADULT DAY CARE	TITLE III-B	\$ 29,652.11	365	\$40.62	\$3,450.00	42
O'NEILL SENIOR CENTER	ADULT DAY RESPITE	TITLE III-E	\$ 14,714.12	181	\$58.50	\$1,731.88	21
O'NEILL SENIOR CENTER	CHRONIC PAIN SELF-MANAGEMENT	TITLE III-D	\$ 1,786.35	4	\$379.60		
O'NEILL SENIOR CENTER	CHRONIC PAIN SELF-MANAGEMENT	TITLE III-D	\$ 832.24	2	\$353.70		
O'NEILL SENIOR CENTER	MATTER OF BALANCE	TITLE III-D	\$ 1,242.35	3	\$352.00		
O'NEILL SENIOR CENTER	TAI CHI	TITLE III-D	\$ 960.00	6	\$136.00		
O'NEILL SENIOR CENTER	TRANSPORTATION ONE WAY RATE 1	TITLE III-B	\$ 38,748.24	1344	\$20.74	\$2,125.00	74
O'NEILL SENIOR CENTER	TRANSPORTATION ONE-WAY RATE 2	TITLE III-B	\$ 9,685.88	103	\$45.91	\$250.00	3
O'NEILL SENIOR CENTER	WALK WITH EASE	TITLE III-D	\$ 240.00	10	\$20.40		
WMCAP - WASHINGTON	CONGREGATE MEALS	TITLE III-C-1	\$ 65,754.85	4963	\$8.66		
WMCAP - WASHINGTON	HOME DELIVERED MEALS	TITLE III-C-2	\$ 107,596.56	6858	\$12.21		
WMCAP - WASHINGTON	HOMEMAKER	TITLE III-B	\$ 7,413.42	156	\$25.35		
WMCAP - WASHINGTON	NUTRITION EDUCATION SERVICE	TITLE III-C-1	\$ -	6	\$0.00		
WMCAP - WASHINGTON	NUTRITION EDUCATION SERVICE	TITLE III-C-2	\$ -	2	\$0.00		
WMCAP - WASHINGTON	NUTRITION HEALTH SCREENING	TITLE III-C-1	\$ -	25	\$0.00		
WMCAP - WASHINGTON	NUTRITION HEALTH SCREENING	TITLE III-C-2	\$ -	15	\$0.00		

ALL COUNTIES – Services will be provided as an “on demand” to ensure that service is provided where needed.

ORGANIZATION	SERVICE	FUNDING TYPE	BHRC Funding Recommendation	Proposed Funded Units	UNIT COST	Addt'l match Provider Proposed	Addt'l Match Units Provider Proposed
OHIO STATE LEGAL SERVICES	LEGAL ASSISTANCE	TITLE III-B	\$32,000.00	520	\$72.40	\$6,647.06	

JANUARY 1, 2022 TO DECEMBER 21, 2023 OLDER AMERICANS ACT/TITLE III FUNDING



**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE TRANSFER OF BUCKEYE HILLS REGIONAL COUNCIL UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION REVOLVING LOAN FUND TO
APPALACHIAN GROWTH CAPITAL**

Resolution #2021/10-01

WHEREAS, Buckeye Hills Regional Council is a Council of Government created in 1968 as an agency established by agreement among its members pursuant to Section 167.01-08 of the Ohio Revised Code; and

WHEREAS, the agency is organized as a voluntary organization of local government political subdivisions in Athens, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry and Washington Counties to foster a cooperative effort in regional planning, programming, and to implement regional plans and programs; and

WHEREAS, the agency is also organized 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 received a grant in 1991 from the USDA Farmers Home Administration to establish a Revolving Loan Fund; and

WHEREAS, Buckeye Hills Regional Council has been unable to financially support the Business Development Coordinator (RLF) position since September 2016; and

WHEREAS, Buckeye Hills Regional Council has no open RLF loans.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

1. The Executive Board of the Buckeye Hills Regional Council supports transfer of the USDA Farmers Home Administration RLF program as described, effective on the date of this resolution, and contingent on concurrence of USDA staff, based on the review of requested materials.
2. Buckeye Hills Regional Council will transfer USDA RLF funds to Appalachian Growth Capital as directed, and will comply with further guidance and directives necessary to conclude RLF activities as they are received from USDA.

Passed on this 1st day of October, 2021.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ron Moore".

Ron Moore, President

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lenny Eliason".

Lenny Eliason, Vice President



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 /Appalachian Regional Commission

Resolution #2021/10-02

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 Governor's Office of Appalachia and ARC as listed in the table; and

WHEREAS, the project pre-applications will advance one or more strategic goal 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 first day of October, 2021

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ron Moore".

Ron Moore, President

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lenny Eliason".

Lenny Eliason, Vice President

PROJECT 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	Building 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 Commissioners	\$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

Project Title	County	Project Grantee	Funding Requested	Total Project Cost
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&l 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
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

BACKUP PROJECTS

Project Title	County	Project Grantee	Funding Requested	Total Project Cost
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 Woodfield	\$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
Sarahsville Storm Water Improvements	Noble	Village of Sarahsville	\$250,000	\$388,000
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

BACKUP PROJECTS

Project Title	County	Project Grantee	Funding Requested	Total Project Cost
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
Bone Road Water Extension	Morgan	Morgan Meigsville Water	\$250,000	\$824,200



BUCKEYE HILLS REGIONAL COUNCIL SUCCESSION PLAN

OCTOBER 2021

Informed by the Regional Council Assessment conducted by the
SouthEast Regional Directors Institute
Winter-Spring 2020



THE BUCKEYE HILLS REGIONAL COUNCIL (BHRC)

DRAFT SUCCESSION PLAN

JUNE 2020

ABOUT THE BUCKEYE HILLS REGIONAL COUNCIL (BHRC)

Buckeye Hills Regional Council (BHRC) is a council of governments dedicated to improving the lives of residents in southeast Ohio. By working collaboratively with elected officials across Athens, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry, and Washington counties, BHRC works to grow strong communities through their five divisions: Aging & Disability, Community Development, Mapping & Data, Population Health, and Transportation Planning.

ABOUT THE SOUTHEAST REGIONAL DIRECTORS INSTITUTE (SERDI)

The SouthEast Regional Directors Institute (SERDI) is a professional development association for regional council executive directors and when applicable their councils and state associations in the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. Associate Memberships are open to any regional council executive director in any of the other non-SERDI states. One of the on-going services provided by SERDI is conducting the strategic council assessment process at the request of a member regional council.

INTRODUCTION

A strategic assessment of Buckeye Hills Regional Council (BHRC) was completed by the SouthEast Regional Directors Institute (SERDI) in February 2020. The succession plan that follows is in large part based on the strategic assessment as well as an exhaustive review of current BHRC personnel credentials and experiences and a study of the current staffing and supervisory structure of BHRC. Additionally, discussions with the BHRC Executive Director and BHRC Assistant Executive Director provided insight on leadership qualities that exist within the current staff members. The timing of the strategic assessment and this succession plan are important due to the fact that the BHRC Executive Director and Assistant Executive Director will be retiring within two years of the completion of the SERDI assessment, and there are a number of current staff members who will be retiring within the next few years.

In analyzing the overall responses during the assessment process, it was evident that there was a fundamental difference in opinion among members about BHRC's role around community and economic development, and the value placed upon that role. On the one hand, some respondents placed a higher value on BHRC staff assisting local communities with locally-generated and locally-identified projects by supplementing the local community's capacity to manage and administer projects; alternatively, other respondents placed a higher value on BHRC putting much more emphasis on, and activity toward, regional initiatives and the broader, multi-jurisdictional projects that grow out of those initiatives; this latter group of respondents favored a locally-based, but regionally-driven approach.

Responders' criticisms of BHRC's inadequate levels of response, coupled with perceptions of unfairness and lack of transparency, appear to stem from BHRC staff members' inability to respond simultaneously to local needs from across the region due to its constrained staff capacity and resources. Attempting to satisfy this expectation, while also fulfilling the more proactive role of addressing regional issues and needs through convening and advocacy, was recognized as a source of frustration that contributed to a lack of focus and direction for the staff. These dual roles were recognized as being often in conflict with one another and contradictory in purpose.

The BHRC Executive Director presented this conclusion to members of the Succession Planning Committee on May 21st, 2021; that Committee had been formed by Ron Moore, The BHRC Board Chairman, at the May 7, 2021 BHRC Board meeting. **In general, the attendees expressed the opinion that, given the choice, BHRC should begin evolving toward an emphasis and a focus on developing projects based on regional initiatives that have been identified through a regional planning process conducted by a committee comprised of representatives from local communities throughout the BHRC region. It was agreed that, as an organization created as a regional entity, this broader approach would continue to move the region toward parity with other areas of the state and nation.**

BHRC ESSENTIAL ROLES: REGIONAL CONVENING/PLANNING/ADVOCACY

Regional Convening: During the SERDI assessment process it was suggested by several members that 'Regional Planning' would involve BHRC convening county-level committees to determine what the local needs and challenges of the county are, and then proceed to take all the counties' needs and issues and combine them into a strategic plan for the region. This approach does not constitute a regional plan; it has a tendency not to represent the broad-based, multi-jurisdictional projects and initiatives that make an impact that is visible to, and therefore acknowledged by, legislators; nor are these the types of initiatives that funders and investors readily get behind and foundations recognize as valuable; these are not the broad initiatives that benefit various communities, are favorable to advocacy efforts, and move the region toward parity.

A truly regional approach is characterized by representatives from the local communities meeting in a region-wide forum convened and facilitated by BHRC to identify and designate four to six regional initiatives that local communities can benefit from as a whole (e.g. broadband, asset-based development; arts/tourism; shared services). Each county would then meet in a BHRC convened and facilitated county-level forum to discuss how their local communities can best engage with, and benefit from, the designated regional initiatives based upon the assets and needs of their community. This information on local communities' needs, assets and challenges will inform BHRC staff for the process of developing projects that emerge out of the regional initiatives. The process is regionally-

driven because it is targeted to defined regional goals, but at the same time it is locally-based because it addresses the local community's needs on the ground.

Those who expressed support for the regional emphasis tended to directly associate BHRC's primary role convening members, partners, and subject-matter experts around regional issues/challenges (such as broadband, shared water and sewer systems, transportation, energy in response to the post coal-powered economy, asset-based development, etc.) and the advocacy around such issues, as the driving force required to move the region toward parity with the more densely-populated and urbanized areas of the state and country. A regional strategic approach that is implemented locally is the agreed-upon direction that BHRC will begin evolving toward.

By convening its members, partners, and subject-area experts around these bigger, fundamental issues to begin to address them in a collaborative way together, BHRC is fulfilling a role that no other organization is taking on. These issues are broad, overarching, at times unpalatable, and tend to be unwieldy and very difficult to be adequately addressed or confronted by one community or entity; these are the issues that local officials are, understandably, reluctant to confront and are therefore habitually placed on the back-burner to be handled, hopefully, by someone else at a later, more opportune date.

These are the types of issues that BHRC, as a regionally-based entity, can convene folks around in order to adequately address them. BHRC's proven ability to work around controversial and potentially divisive issues to secure consensus among its members puts it in a position to represent the interests of all its members, convey the benefits of the collaborative work to state and federal funders and officials, and advocate for the support of the initiatives and projects that emerge from this strategic process.

Regional Planning: This locally-based, regionally-driven approach is brought home and solidified in the tool we use as our strategy-driven planning process for regional economic development, the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). It is actually defined by the Economic Development Administration (EDA) as a locally-based, regionally-driven economic development planning process. Of the four main elements that comprise a CEDS, the strategic direction/action plan is at its heart:

The strategic direction and corresponding action plan contained within the CEDS are the heart and soul of the document. They should answer the questions "Where do we want to go?" and "How are we going to get there?" by leveraging the analysis undertaken in the SWOT. The strategic direction and associated action plan should logically flow from the critical internal and external factors that speak to the region's assets and limitations and its role in capacity building. The strategic direction should evolve from a clearly defined vision with prioritized goals and measurable objectives. A successful action plan should then

focus on those regionally-driven strategic priorities that will be undertaken to bring the prosperity aspirations of the region's stakeholders to fruition.

EDA's above description speaks to building capacity based upon the region's assets. The CEDS is a regionally-owned planning process designed to guide the economic prosperity and resiliency of our region; ideally, it should direct us where to go and how to get there. Historically, our list of projects included in the CEDS (an expression of our action plan?) has not directly and logically flowed from our analysis, but from various, independently sourced community needs. Consequently, the connection between our analysis and action plan has been, at best, tenuous.

Adding to the CEDS document the designated regional initiatives that have been selected through regional collaboration will more clearly define the vision and thus strengthen the causal link between the analysis of the region's assets and needs, and the goals and direction that the region should move in toward gaining parity with other parts of the state and nation. As BHRC staff members engage with communities in determining how to best take advantage of these opportunities, goals and objectives will be established and projects developed through which progress can be measured and recorded. This will add substantive qualities to the CEDS document and more utility to the strategic planning process.

Regional Advocacy: Along with BHRC's role as convener around regional issues that benefit multiple communities, its advocacy role for the region has been, time and again, acknowledged by Council members, partners, and legislators as an essential aspect of BHRC's value and key to its relevance to the region in addressing its needs and challenges. BHRC has demonstrated its ability to maintain neutrality on potentially controversial and divisive issues, while at the same time attaining consensus among the members on how best to secure the most benefit and least harm to the region from the effects of such issues.

BHRC's ability to educate and consistently update legislators on the needs of the region and gain the support of legislators, regardless of political affiliation, has been acknowledged as essential to BHRC's value as an asset to the region. Also held in high regard is the BHRC leadership's (particularly the Executive Director's) success in gaining the attention of state and federal legislators and officials, getting them to acknowledge Appalachian Ohio's needs in regard to such issues as broadband and transportation, and to recognize the inequity inherent in the status quo. 'Putting us on the map', and phrasing similar to this, was used by several respondents during the course of the assessment process.

EVOLVING TOWARD A REGIONALLY-DRIVEN APPROACH

A primary role of a Regional Development Organization (RDO), like BHRC, is to assist in building the local capacity for its communities so that a more effective and impactful

working partnership can be established between the RDO and its local communities in planning and implementing initiatives and projects.

Historically, BHRC has served the role of augmenting or enhancing a unit of local government's capacity with BHRC staff on a situational and temporary basis in order to assist a community in implementing and managing a local project or initiative; BHRC has temporarily served as a community's capacity, rather than assisting in building that capacity.

In the process of evolving toward a regionally-driven approach, assisting our community members in actually building local capacity will be essential. A more thorough assessment needs to be conducted of our local communities' current and potential capacity to work on projects and initiatives independently and in partnership with BHRC staff. Currently, our eight county-level units of government have varying degrees of local capacity, in the form of staffing and resources, to implement and manage projects. Four of the Region's eight counties have local capacity ranging from a partial position to 2 positions; whereas, the other four counties have little-to-no capacity in which to undertake such work.

Initially, BHRC should strengthen and standardize the working relationship between BHRC Development Division staff members and the staff member(s) of those counties that have, at least partially, dedicated them to identifying and working on local projects and initiatives. By standardizing this working relationship, BHRC staff can routinely update and educate local community staff on programming, eligibility, and funding opportunities pertaining to the designated regional initiatives (e.g. broadband, traditional infrastructure funding opportunities, energy programs, housing), while the local community staff communicate their community's activities, needs, assets and resources in efforts to take best advantage of these opportunities.

BHRC plans to establish job positions, over time, with subject-area expertise directly related to the designated regional initiatives. For example, BHRC recently hired a broadband coordinator. Subject-based (i.e., regional initiative-based) committees should also be formed so that these working relationships and discussions with local community staff can be routinized and a firm basis established in order to position communities to better anticipate and quickly respond to opportunities. Because a manageable number of regional initiatives will be targeted, BHRC staff and communities can concentrate attention on them and not be overwhelmed by trying to react to a variety of opportunities that continually arise. A proactive stance, rather than a reactionary mode, can be established to continually move the community forward by taking advantage of opportunities in a controlled manner as they arise.

To assist those four counties with little-to-no capacity to position themselves in a way to be able to take on such work, ideas and resources need to be brought to bear to begin

establishing some level of capacity. Those counties that have developed some capacity can assist by demonstrating what actions they took to gain the additional capacity, and what can be accomplished with such a resource.

County commissioners, mayors and other community leaders have broad-ranging responsibilities. They do not have extra time to dedicate to programmatic details such as eligibility and compliance guidelines, tracking continual program updates and keeping tabs on constantly evolving opportunities. Community leaders should be freed-up as much as possible to dedicate their time and attention to making the decisions that need to be made at critical junctures. Without at least one staff member partially dedicated to such programmatic details, the community must depend on limited BHRC staff capacity that is stretched to the limit in attempting to address the needs and respond to the requests of communities throughout the entire region.

Until each county in the region has some capacity through which to establish routinized working relationships with BHRC staff in targeting designated regional initiatives, BHRC will continue to support local communities' needs through deploying our limited capacity as broadly as possible.

BOARD STRUCTURE AND ENGAGEMENT

The issue of working committees and increased engagement by General Policy Council and Executive Committee members was raised at the May 21st meeting. The approach the Council is moving toward involves a region-wide collaborative process through which four to six broad regional initiatives are identified. As such, discussions and planning will be necessary around how the local communities can best engage in, and gain the most benefit from, these initiatives. Also, the types of projects that best meet the needs of the local communities that these members represent must be determined. Although Development Division staff will work on developing projects, significant contribution from the representatives of the local communities will be essential to the success of the process.

Will this new emphasis and approach make it necessary to restructure the Executive Committee and General Policy Council and/or look at a different mix of representation that is more appropriate to the task at hand? The members will have to determine that as we move forward.

Additionally, there has also been a lot of discussion on the need to continue to provide, and improving the quality of, orientation and training for incoming Executive Committee members and General Council members on the mission, purpose and roles of BHRC. This process could be more focused and targeted around: the regional initiatives that BHRC is leading on, and the types of project being generated; the programming and projects that

BHRC is partnering on; the region-wide programs that BHRC coordinates and administers (e.g. OPWC, NRAC, Workforce).

BUDGET AND FUTURE STABILITY

A review of the current BHRC operating budget reveals that 80% is dedicated to wages and benefits. The budget relies to a great extent on federal and state funding. Local government financial contributions make up less than 10% of the budget. The largest portion of the budget is comprised of federal/state pass-through dollars to fund personnel costs associated with the Area Agency on Aging's home care programming. As a result, the Council has to rely to a great extent on federal and state funding, which does not lend itself to future funding stability.

BHRC has taken some steps in the pursuit of alternative funding sources, and has some opportunities on the horizon:

- The Council has established a BHRC Foundation. The focus of the Foundation is to establish alternative funding sources for BHRC.
- Buckeye Hills Support Services, Inc. (BHSS) is a separate non-profit that was spun off from BHRC and works in tandem with BHRC on establishing a model of senior housing fully integrated with support services. BHSS is moving forward with its first housing project financed with private investment dollars. As the model is replicated throughout the region, accumulated revenue could benefit BHRC.
- Going forward, the Population Health Division can be structured to take advantage of private and/or state-sponsored revenue-generating possibilities in the current managed care environment. Examples of such possibilities are: our evolving partnerships with Medical Mutual of Ohio and Anthem managed care organizations.
- Taking advantage of future opportunities to establish private care coordination/case management and care transitions business lines.

Another approach is to conduct a thorough search of foundations, and identify those whose focus aligns with the current and evolving purposes and goals of BHRC, with special emphasis on foundations whose interests are in rural areas of Appalachia.

Work needs to continue through the BHRC Foundation to explore new revenue streams for the Council. The Foundation Board, which is comprised of the Officers of the BHRC Executive Committee, should explore funding streams based on the services and initiatives they have determined will make BHRC even more relevant to the local governments in the region.

If the owners of BHRC, the region's local governments, find themselves in a position in which they feel they can no longer financially support the Council, that would not necessarily result in a complete cessation of assistance provided by BHRC staff. While it

might be considered somewhat unorthodox, professional guidance and support could be provided to the local governments by adjusting by-laws to reflect that BHRC serves the municipal and county governments of Athens, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry and Washington through state of Ohio, federal government, and local government contract work. This would eliminate the need for local per capita dues. The BHRC could restructure the Board to best accommodate representation from state and federal representatives/agencies (major funding sources), and fill the remaining seats on the Board by some combination of local government appointed/elected officials and other regional partners. The Board's major responsibility would then be to consider proposed projects and how they might be funded. It should be noted that this could result in BHRC no longer considered a public employer and therefore its employees would be unable to participate in the Public Employees Retirement (PERS) system. The owners should research any proposed changes in Bylaws and discuss with legal counsel the resulting impacts to staff.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Refer to the tables of organization attached for a representation of the current and near-term structure of the organization including the divisions and departments with leadership positions, direct reports and other staff positions. Attachment #1 depicts the current organizational structure, and attachment #2 depicts potential near-term changes in structure and job positions based upon the results of the SERDI assessment.

Additional positions include: Program Development Manager (in the Development Division); IT Specialist (Information Technology Department); GIS Specialist/IT Specialist (embedded within the Information Technology Department); Aging Programs Manager (Aging & Disability Division); Assistant Aging & Disability Director (Aging and Disability Division [replacing the current Home Care Director position]).

As depicted in the chart at attachment #2, the Planning Division will be established in order to merge planning activity (currently arbitrarily separated under nominal aging and development program categories) into an agency-wide master plan. The Planning Division will be put in place as of October 1, 2021. Also, within the next year, the Home Care Division is slated to collapse in under the Aging & Disability Division in order to better align programming going forward. The elimination of the Home Care Division will not adversely impact the fire walls erected between care management and assessment.

CURRENT EMPLOYEES TENURE AND LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

There are several employees at BHRC who have 20 or more years of service with the organization. A number of them are in supervisory roles. Full retirement in the state of Ohio retirement system is 32 years. Based on the results derived from the review of

employees' credentials and discussions conducted with key staff, it is apparent that there are strong leaders among the staff members, and leadership potential is clearly observable. Historically, there have been numerous occasions in which informal leaders have shown reluctance to assume formal leadership roles. The reasons for this reluctance have not been determined with certainty. Possible reasons are that the increase in salary is not perceived as sufficient to justify the additional responsibility, that employees are simply not comfortable taking on that responsibility, or they do not feel that they will be adequately supported in that role. There have also been indications that employees have been unwilling to give up their travel reimbursement for a position that requires much less travel.

At the appropriate time, discussions should take place with those staff members who have been identified as emerging leaders to gauge their interest in moving up into leadership roles within the Council. Based on past experience with employees, as detailed above, assurance that employees are fully supported in their new role and sufficient monetary incentive will be factors in successfully promoting individuals into leadership positions. These discussions will reveal the remaining gaps in experience and skill sets that will need to be filled through external searches of candidates who possess these characteristics.

As mentioned above, the Assistant Executive Director will be retiring at or about the same time as the Executive Director. As stated in the BHRC Bylaws, one of the essential duties of the Executive Committee is to "approve the hiring of the Executive Director with a majority vote of the entire Executive Committee Membership". Therefore, the appointed Succession Planning Committee/Executive Search Committee will determine who the next Executive Director will be and in what manner that search/appointment will be carried out. One of the essential duties of the Executive Director is staffing the council and he/she will ultimately choose the next Assistant Executive Director upon the retirement of Rick Hindman.

It has been recommended that either the Executive Director or the Assistant Executive Director be hired from within the organization so that organizational experience is possessed by at least one of those positions. The Succession Planning Committee/Executive Search Committee is to be made aware of the recommendation and search for the next Executive Director both internally and outside of the organization. Should the next Executive Director be selected from outside the organization, he/she should be made aware of the recommendation to select an Assistant Executive Director from within the organization who possesses that organizational experience, but also be allowed the flexibility to hire the best candidate who also meets the qualifications to fulfill the duties of the position.

STAFFING LEADERSHIP AND KEY POSITIONS

The information gleaned from the assessment, and the discussion and decisions that followed, will have the most direct impact on the competencies, qualifications and roles of staff members working with communities on community and economic development initiatives and projects. Though job responsibilities and duties for the majority of positions throughout the Agency will not change significantly in the near future, placing more of an emphasis on developing projects out of agreed-upon initiatives will make that process central to Agency operations as time goes on, and will have ramifications throughout the organization on the evolving roles of staff members and the nature of the working relationships among them.

SERDI reviewed the credentials of each staff member, his/her time in the organization, and other attributes and aspects of personnel, job positions and responsibilities. The Executive Director and Assistant Executive Director were asked specific questions on current division/department/program heads and those that report to those heads at the time of review. They were asked about potential leadership roles of current staff and the need to conduct external searches for leadership positions based upon future retirement and/or lack of appropriate skill sets. Following are brief descriptions of the status and succession implications of key personnel and job positions:

LEADERSHIP PLANNING TO RETIRE WITHIN 1 TO 2 YEARS:

- **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

This position requires a thorough and comprehensive knowledge of public programming and initiatives. Experience/competencies: working with various types of non-profit, government, health and human services, social services, health, and utilities agencies and organizations at the local, regional, state and federal level; managing and directing broad, overarching and complex initiatives, programs and projects and working with various funding agencies; effectively communicating strategy, priorities and needs of the region to legislators and funders; an appreciation of, and insight into, the subtleties and nuances of the political and cultural environment. Private sector and business experience are a plus.

Though it is possible, an internal succession scenario for this position is unlikely based upon an assessment of the probability that any current employees will apply for this position. This position will most likely require an external search for candidates to fill it. However, SERDI strongly urges, based on experience working with regional councils in executive transitions, that the policy board conduct an external search even in the event that an internal candidate applies.

If an internal candidate rises to the top in conjunction with an external search of candidates interviewed and considered for the position, it provides that person with immediate credibility and validates that he/she is the best candidate for the position. A direct appointment by the BHRC Executive Committee that is then ratified by the BHRC Policy Board (in the absence of conducting an external search and considering external candidates), does not give that individual the same level of validation.

In the future, the Assistant Executive Director is a possible successor to this position. Although the Executive Director tends to focus more on factors external to the organization and the Assistant Executive Director should have more of an internal focus, these positions should work closely together as there is some overlap in responsibilities as well as a sharing of the vision for the agency.

- **ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

This position requires experience in overseeing and directing supervisory level personnel and managing public programming, initiatives, and projects. Experience working with various public and government organizations and funding agencies.

An internal succession scenario for this position is possible for the Development Director and the Aging & Disability Director, provided they have at least 3-5 years of service with the Agency.

- **HOUSING COORDINATOR**

The responsibilities and competencies as laid out in the job description for this position are not likely to change significantly for the foreseeable future.

The hiring for this position would normally require an external search, because there are no other positions within the Agency that have the necessary competencies/responsibilities. However, the leadership has identified an employee who is being trained to take over this position when the current Housing Coordinator retires in two years.

LEADERSHIP OR KEY POSITIONS LIKELY TO RETIRE IN 5-7 YEARS:

- **FISCAL DIRECTOR**

The requirements and qualifications of this position will not change significantly in the foreseeable future. However, with the addition of two non-profits and the potential to develop private and state-sponsored business lines under the Population Health Division, this position and the fiscal department as a whole will likely take on additional responsibilities.

The Assistant Fiscal Director is fully qualified to move into the Fiscal Director position on retirement of the Fiscal Director. The Assistant Fiscal Director works closely with the Fiscal Director on all aspects of the Fiscal Department's operations, including the work of the non-profits. The Assistant Fiscal Director has expressed a willingness to succeed into this position when it opens up.

LEADERSHIP OR KEY POSITIONS LIKELY TO RETIRE IN 8-10 YEARS:

- **DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST**

The duties and responsibilities of this position, including managing and administering projects as well as administering region-wide programs like OPWC, Workforce, and NRAC, will not change significantly in the near term. However, in the near future, a position with different competencies and requirements, the Program Development Manager, (see attached #2, table of organization) will be added to the Development Division. This new position will require specific subject area expertise (e.g. arts/tourism; energy; infrastructure/shared services; broadband; transportation), and this person will be responsible for developing projects related to that area of expertise. The Program Development Director will oversee and work in conjunction with the Development Specialists in assisting communities in engaging with, and participating in, projects that have been developed around a designated regional initiative.

- **IT DIRECTOR & HIPAA SECURITY OFFICER**

The basic responsibilities of this position will not change, but some of the duties ideally should be transferred to a new position that would have to be created, namely an IT Specialist position. This would free up the IT Director to take a more strategic approach in anticipating and responding to the technology and security needs and challenges of the Agency.

The GIS Coordinator possesses many of the competencies required to move into this position upon retirement of the IT Director. The GIS Coordinator has a lot of broad knowledge of internet technology and equipment. However, the competencies and experience required for the GIS position itself are very specialized and don't include a requirement of a broader knowledge of IT. The GIS Specialist currently backs up the IT Director when he/she is out of the office. The GIS Coordinator position could continue to serve as the back-up to the IT Director. This relationship would ensure that the person holding the GIS Coordinator position is receiving the training necessary to eventually succeed the IT Director.

OTHER LEADERSHIP AND KEY POSITIONS:

- **DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**

The Development Director's job responsibilities are not expected to change significantly in the near future, but there is a plan to establish a position with subject matter expertise within the Division that will be responsible for developing projects out of regional initiatives. The person in this position is expected to work closely with the Development Director and, considering the expertise and competencies expected of this new position, has the potential to succeed to the Development Director position.

- **AGING AND DISABILITY DIRECTOR**

This position's responsibilities are not expected to significantly change in the foreseeable future. The Home Care Director, Clinical Program Manager, and the Care Access Manager all work very closely together at the highest levels of Division operations. There is sufficient experience and expertise among the people currently holding these positions to readily succeed the Aging & Disability Director.

- **PROVIDER DEVELOPMENT RISK ASSESSMENT MANAGER**

This position responsibilities as laid out in the job description are not expected to change in the foreseeable future. However, ideally, hiring a third Provider Development Risk Assessment Specialist would free up the Manager to operate more strategically and spend more time on provider relations, provider development, and proactive coordination with state level agencies. Currently, the Manager must participate directly in on-site provider reviews, which is not preferable due to the fact that it is not the best use of time for a management level position.

The Provider Development Risk Assessment Specialist works closely enough with the Manager to potentially move into the Manager position. This holds true even in the event that the Manager position is freed up to enable the Manager to relinquish the site visit duties. The current Provider Development Risk Assessment Specialist is eminently qualified to succeed the current Manager when the position becomes available.

- **COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR**

The responsibilities for this position are not likely to change significantly in the near future. The Communications Specialist works closely enough with the

Director, and the responsibilities of both positions overlap enough, that there is a potential for a relatively smooth succession to the Director position.

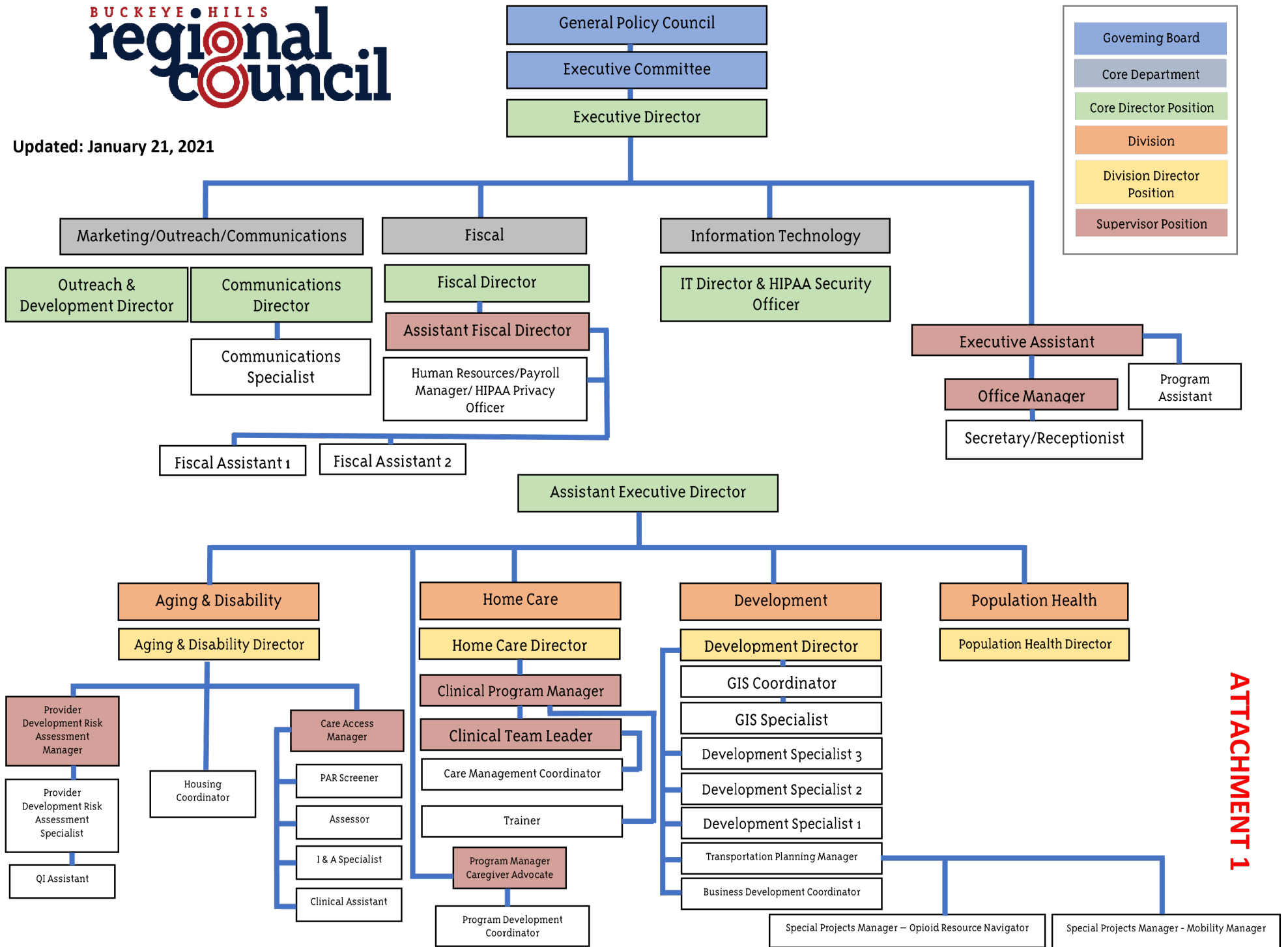
MOVING FORWARD FROM HERE

Inclusive of a review of issues pertaining to staffing, funding and operating BHRC in the years to come, this plan contains information that will assist the Executive Board to replace the long-serving and soon retiring Executive and Assistant Executive Director.

The plan moving forward is to collect input from members of the Succession Planning Committee in order to finalize this plan for final approval on October 1, 2021. Contingent upon this plan's approval, the Succession Planning Committee will: delegate the staffing and organizational structure responsibilities of this plan to the BHRC leadership; with assistance from representatives of SERDI, transition to a role primarily dedicated to a nationwide search for an Executive Director to succeed Misty Crosby.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Misty Crosby and Frederick Hindman
BHRC Executive Director and Assistant Executive Director
October 2021

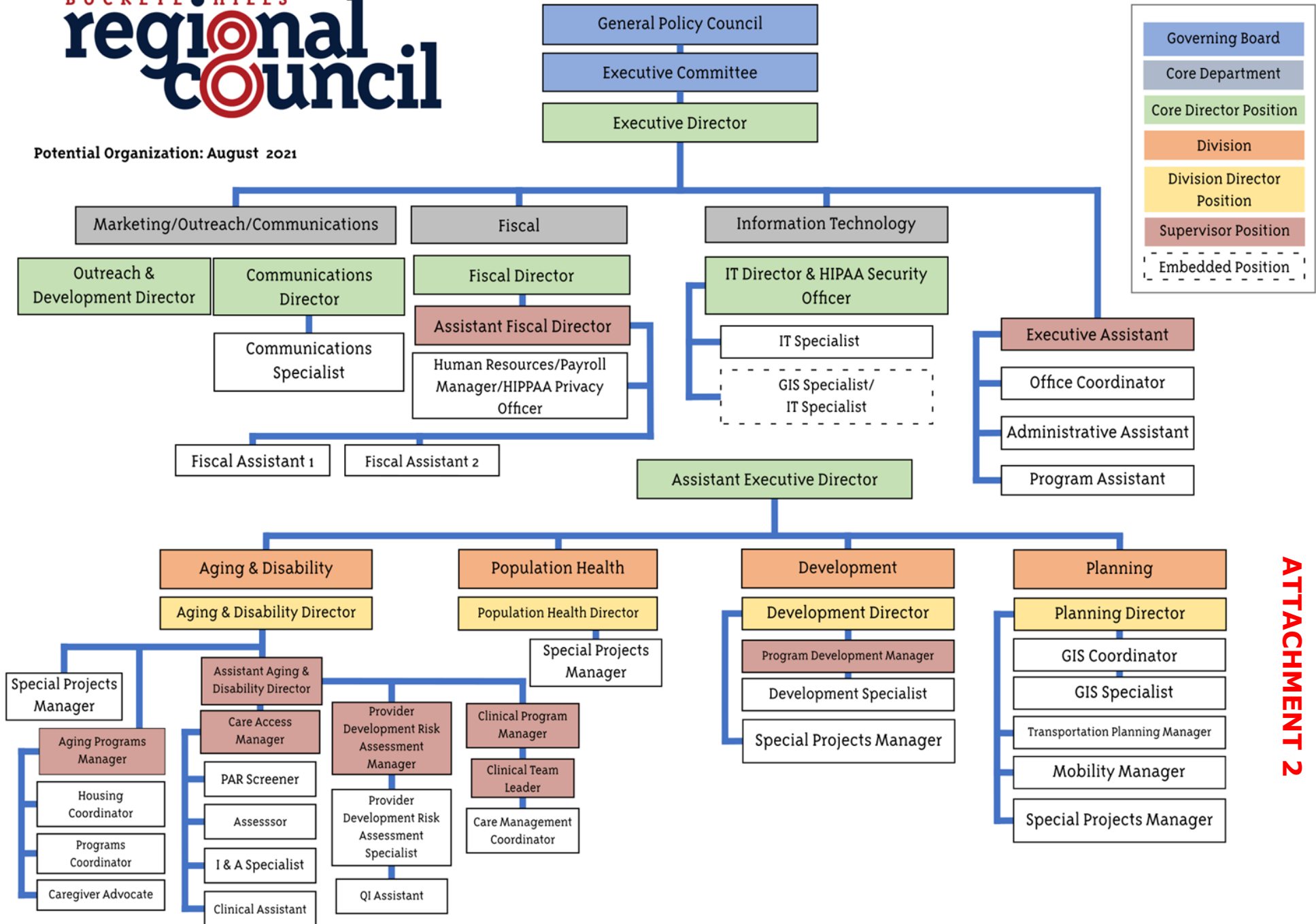
Updated: January 21, 2021



Governing Board
Core Department
Core Director Position
Division
Division Director Position
Supervisor Position



Potential Organization: August 2021



ATTACHMENT 2

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **ARC Announces 2021 POWER Projects** | The Appalachian Regional Commission announced its largest POWER package to date: Over \$46 million for 57 projects in 184 coal-impacted counties. This year's announcement includes more than \$4,750,000 for projects in Noble, Athens, Monroe, and Morgan counties, to improve broadband, grow our workforce, and open new economic opportunities for our region. These projects include:
 - **\$1,500,000 to Washington Electric Cooperative** for Noble County grid modernization and make-ready for broadband deployment. The affected electrical distribution routes will also extend into adjacent areas of Morgan, Monroe, and Washington counties.
 - **\$1,493,716 to the Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia** in Athens County for asset-based community and economic development investments in trail and gateway community infrastructure in Athens, Hocking, Meigs, Morgan, Perry, Vinton, and Washington counties.
 - **\$1,314,880 to the Switzerland of Ohio Local School District** for the Ohio River Valley Workforce Development Initiative, to serve unemployed, underemployed, and displaced workers and veterans transitioning to new job skills. The Initiative will enhance in-person and remote education and workforce training programs centered at the Swiss Hills Career Center in Monroe County, enabling workers to obtain the skills and industry credentials necessary to access jobs in regional industry growth sectors, including healthcare, advanced manufacturing, and the transportation/automotive sectors.
 - **\$404,856 to Noble Local School District** for Green Acres: A Regional Workforce Education/ Training Ecosystem. This phase of a multi-phase project will provide vital funding for essential agribusiness training-related equipment and upskilling programming that targets six counties (Belmont, Guernsey, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, and Noble) to create a regional ecosystem to support agribusiness.
 - **\$50,000 to Morgan County** for Broadband Technical Assistance. This project includes broadband asset mapping in Morgan County to identify unserved and underserved areas. The final comprehensive report will also include an analysis of broadband demand in the county, recommendations for potential broadband projects, and strategies for converting broadband demand into economic growth.

The full list of this year's 2021 POWER awardees is available [HERE](#).

- **Appalachian Community Capital Receives \$1.5 Million Grant from ARC** | On September 17, Appalachian Community Capital announced receipt of a \$1,500,000 technical assistance grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission to expand the Opportunity Appalachia program and to help bring investment into Central Appalachian communities in five states: Tennessee, North Carolina, Ohio, Virginia, and West Virginia. Ohio Southeast Economic Development (OhioSE) is a lead partner in Opportunity Appalachia. The initiative is designed to provide targeted support for downtown and rural development to build entrepreneurial communities where local businesses can thrive, creating quality jobs for residents that revitalize local *Serving Athens, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry and Washington Counties in Southeast Ohio.*

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economies. More information on Opportunity Appalachia regarding upcoming outreach meetings and how to participate will be provided shortly at: appalachiancommunitycapitalcdfi.org/oa-program/

- **Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program Now Accepting Applications** | The state began accepting online applications on Monday for grants to facilitate the expansion of high-speed internet to more users throughout Ohio. The new Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant program has \$250 million in available funding via the operating budget for internet service providers to expand or improve access to unserved and underserved areas of the state. Internet service providers can apply online for grants until 5 p.m. November 8. Their submissions will be reviewed by the Department of Development and BroadbandOhio, and eligible applications will be sent to the newly created Broadband Expansion Program Authority for potential approval and funding. Program guidelines and the application portal can be found [HERE](#).

CURRENT INITIATIVES

- **ARC 6-State Potential EDA Build Back Better Challenge Grant** | Governor's Office of Appalachian Director John Carey pulled together a group of stakeholders, including BHRC, to meet with ARC Federal Co-chair Gayle Manchin and representatives from 5 other states (West Virginia, Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia) to secure an EDA Build Back Better EDA Grant to transform distressed counties in the Central Appalachian Region. During our discussion, six themes emerged as priorities for further exploration: Manufacturing, Broadband/Technology, Downtown Revitalization (including small businesses), Agriculture, Tourism/Outdoor Recreation and Site Development. I am leading the effort for the Site Development Team. I am seeking input from each of the 6 states to develop a narrative describing how we collectively could collaborate under each cluster to move the 6-state targeted sub-region toward economic parity with the rest of the ARC region and the country. Ohio has only five distressed counties: Adams, Athens, Meigs, Monroe and Noble – of which four are within the BHRC service area. Although the grant application is targeted toward these counties, Director Carey has communicated this effort will have a regional impact for the region in Ohio and neighboring states.
- **Connecting Appalachia County Broadband Profiles** | Over the past month we have been meeting with our member counties to introduce the [new County Broadband Profiles](#) developed by Reid Consulting Group with support from the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio and OhioSE with Ookla Speedtest data made available by BroadbandOhio. These profiles and maps are being accepted by the state to show where service is truly located and can help you and local providers identify and prioritize areas for broadband investment. The Speedtest data will also allow Connecting Appalachia to track the progress and impact of broadband projects as they move forward. At our October 1 Executive Committee meeting, we will have printed copies of County Broadband Profiles available, as well as a presentation on the regional profile by Reid Consulting Group.

STATE UPDATES

- **Lt. Governor Highlights Fiber Optic Technician Training Program, Broadband Workforce Initiative** | In September, Lt. Governor Jon Husted visited Nelsonville to spotlight Tri-County Career Center's new Fiber Optic Technician Training Program. This 40-hour course trains students in the various methods of splicing, terminating, testing, and commissioning fiber optic cable. After successfully completing this course *Serving Athens, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry and Washington Counties in Southeast Ohio.*
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students will have the skills necessary to become fiber optic technicians. The Lt. Governor also introduced a new initiative by the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation and BroadbandOhio to **grow the workforce needed to expand broadband access.**

- **House, Senate Leaders Weigh Options on Vaccine Mandates** | Public and private entities' requirements that people be vaccinated against COVID-19 have legislative leaders navigating tricky political waters. A slew of bills has been introduced in the House regarding vaccine mandates, ranging from limited measures that would only apply to the COVID-19 vaccine and requirements by public entities to the more sweeping HB248, which would apply to all vaccines and both public and private entities. Speaker Bob Cupp (R-Lima) told reporters Wednesday that his caucus is trying to find a balance. Read more [HERE](#).

FEDERAL UPDATES

- **Mayors' Partnership for Progress: Guide to Spending ARPA Dollars** | The Mayors' Partnership for Progress recently shared a helpful **Overview of Guidelines on ARPA Funds and Spending**, which we are sharing for your reference. You can find additional guidance and information in our American Rescue Plan Act Resource Center at buckeyehills.org/arpa.
- **NACo Releases Employer Vaccine Mandate FAQ** | On September 9, the Biden administration announced a new COVID-19 Action Plan, titled "**The Path Out of the Pandemic**." The plan takes a six-pronged approach to combat COVID-19, which includes advancing COVID-19 mitigation and response efforts through vaccination and masking, keeping schools safely open, and bolstering our economic recovery. The first portion of this six-part plan outlines efforts to reduce the number of unvaccinated Americans through regulatory powers and authorities. The National Association of Counties released a **brief FAQ** that provides an overview of common questions and answers regarding the new regulations and their potential impact on counties.
- **House Passes Continuing Resolution** | Last week, the House **passed** a continuing resolution (CR) along party lines in an effort to keep the government funded beyond the current fiscal year, which ends on September 30. The House-passed stopgap measure (**H.R. 5305**) would fund the government through December 3, 2021. The CR also contains a provision to suspend the debt ceiling through December 16, 2022, designed to prevent a national default when the debt ceiling is reached, which is projected to occur sometime next month. Additionally, the CR includes \$28.6 billion to aid in relief from recent natural disasters across the country, including wildfires, hurricanes, and other storms. The bill will now be sent to the Senate for consideration and is projected to be brought to the floor this week. However, passage in the Senate may be challenging, given that at least ten Republicans would need to join with all Democrats for passage – but many Republican Senators have already voiced their opposition to a suspension of the debt ceiling. A CR is needed by October 1 to prevent a government shutdown.
- **Infrastructure Negotiations Continue** | Congressional negotiations continued last week around the \$3.5 trillion reconciliation bill. The Biden Administration and Congressional Democrats hope to use the budget reconciliation process as an avenue to pass so-called "human infrastructure" priorities, including a variety of social spending programs. The eventual passage of the bill hinges on support from the vast majority of House Democrats and unwavering support from Senate Democrats; this would allow the measure to be passed on a

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party-line vote without any Republican support. Notably, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's markup contains \$9.5 billion for the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA). If passed, this would provide a historic amount of funding for the EDA and its stakeholders.

Meanwhile, House leadership is planning to bring the \$1.2 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, up for a vote this week. The bipartisan infrastructure bill has already been passed in the Senate and if approved by the House, would authorize \$550 billion in new spending on infrastructure priorities such as roads, bridges, and other major projects; transit; clean drinking water; and broadband expansion.

- **USDA Launches Resource Guide to Help Rural Communities Seeking Disaster Resiliency and Recovery Assistance** | The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) unveiled a [resource guide](#) as part of National Preparedness Month to help rural communities seeking disaster resiliency and recovery assistance. The resource guide outlines USDA Rural Development (RD) programs and services that can help rural residents, businesses, and communities impacted by disasters and support long-term planning and recovery efforts. The guide also includes information on technical assistance providers and other federal agencies that work with USDA to support rural communities in disaster planning and recovery efforts. Additional resources to support rural communities seeking disaster assistance are available [HERE](#).

CONTACT INFO: Misty Crosby, Executive Director | mcrosby@buckeyehills.org | 740-376-1034



**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN A BUILD BACK BETTER REGIONAL CHALLENGE
SUBMISSION TO THE US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION TO
REVITALIZE DOWNTOWN COMMUNITIES IN APPALACHIAN OHIO**

Resolution #2021/10-03

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) has available grant funding under the American Rescue Plan and is soliciting applications to assist communities nationwide in their efforts to build back better by accelerating the economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic and building local economies that will be resilient to future economic shocks; and

WHEREAS, the Buckeye Hills Regional Council and coalition partners are outlining a proposal to EDA seeking funding through the Build Back Better Regional Challenge, which will provide a transformational investment to 20-30 regions across the country that want to revitalize their economies by growing new regional industry clusters or scale existing ones through planning, infrastructure, innovation and entrepreneurship, workforce development, and access to capital; and

WHEREAS, EDA investment will enable Buckeye Hills Regional Council, the Economic Development District serving 8 rural southeastern Ohio counties and their communities, to create a sustainable regional strategy and implementation plan focused on downtown revitalization of identified community hubs as a driver for economic development; and

WHEREAS, Buckeye Hills Builds Back Better will identify and highlight the opportunity that exists and is being utilized in other rural communities across the country to attract remote workers by offering the availability of high-speed internet, walkable access to services necessary for daily living, quality and affordable housing opportunities, and access to unique cultural, entertainment, and community assets; and

WHEREAS, the Buckeye Hills Regional Council's Development Division plans to seek \$500,000 in technical assistance funds to develop and support three to eight projects to grow a regional growth cluster with the goal of receiving up to \$100 million to implement those projects; and

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 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Misty Crosby, Executive Director, is hereby authorized to:

1. Complete, sign, execute and/or submit in conjunction with coalition partners a grant application to EDA for federal funding of \$500,000; and
2. Execute and/or submit materials or contract instruments required to request, receive and administer funding related to the Buckeye Hills Builds Back Better project; and

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3. Expend funds to carry out the scope of work as specified in the executed contract documents in accordance with procurement policies and procedures.

Passed by roll-call vote this 1st day of October, 2021.



Ron Moore, President



Lenny Eliason, Vice President