



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

JUNE 2, 2023

Buckeye Hills Regional Council

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order | Lenny Eliason, President
- II. Roll Call | Chasity Schmelzenbach, Executive Director, Secretary (per BHRC Bylaws)
- III. Consent Agenda | Lenny Eliason, President **TAB #1**
- IV. Legislator and Partner Agency Updates
 - a. Cody Pettit, Office of Ohio Treasurer Sprague
 - b. Ed Looman, OhioSE Economic Development
- V. Development Division | Sam Miller, Development Director
 - a. Appalachian Community Grant Program Consultant Contracts
- VI. Staff Spotlight **TAB #2**
 - a. Ryan Collins, Program Manager
 - b. Carolyn Ditchendorf, Care Access Manager
- VII. Executive Director Report | Chasity Schmelzenbach **TAB #3**
 - a. Regional Coordinating Advisory Committee
- VIII. Citizen Participation
- IX. Other Business
- X. Adjournment

THE NEXT REGULAR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR JULY 7, 2023

**Minutes of the May 5, 2023
Buckeye Hills Regional Council Executive Committee Meeting**

The Buckeye Hills Regional Council (BHRC) Executive Committee meeting was held March 5, 2023. The meeting was held at Buckeye Hills, Marietta, Ohio.

In attendance were:

OFFICERS:	Lenny Eliason, President	Athens County
	Ron Moore, Vice President	Morgan County (Private Sector)
	Kevin Ritter, Treasurer	Washington County
	Chasity Schmelzenbach, Secretary	BHRC Executive Director
	(non-voting member per Bylaws)	

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:	Steve Patterson	City of Athens
	Jason D'Onofrio	Hocking County
	Diane Burkhart	Monroe County
	Ty Moore	Noble County
	Josh Schlicher	City of Marietta

GENERAL POLICY COUNCIL:	James Booth	Washington County
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GUEST:	Brad Kennedy	Office of U.S. Senator JD Vance
	Brent Lane	Ohio University
	Dawn Schultheis	OSU Extension – Noble County
	Deb Watts	Ohio University

STAFF:	Ryan Collins	Program Manager
	Carolyn Ditchendorf	Care Access Manager
	Rick Hindman	Assistant Executive Director
	Julia Hinzman	Mobility Manager
	Jen Huck	Fiscal Assistant
	Denise Keyes	Fiscal Director
	Angie Lawrence	HR & Payroll Manager
	Sam Miller	Development Director
	Jenny Simmons	Executive Assistant
	Dawn Weber	Home Care Director
	Melissa Zoller	Planning Director

CALL TO ORDER

Lenny Eliason, President, called the meeting to order. He informed the Executive Committee that he was elected to the President office, Ron Moore to the Vice President office, and Kevin Ritter to the Treasurer office at the General Policy Council meeting last month.

ROLE CALL

Chasity Schmelzenbach, Executive Director, conducted roll call.

CONSENT AGENDA

Kevin Ritter moved to approve the consent agenda which included the minutes from the March 3, 2023, meeting; Statement of Activities: Administrative Expense YTD; Quarterly Budget Adjustment; Aging and Disability Programs Services and Funding Report for period July 1, 2022, through March 31, 2023, and Division and Director's Reports. Steve Patterson seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

APPALACHIAN FLYOHIO INITIATIVE

Brent Lane, Executive in Residence for Economic Strategies, Center for Economic Development and Community Resilience, Voinovich School of Leadership & Public Service, provided a presentation on the Appalachian FlyOhio Initiative to the committee members.

LEGISLATOR AND PARTNER AGENCY UPDATE

Brad Kennedy, Office of U.S. Senator JD Vance, was present but didn't have any updates to provide to the members.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE VACANCY APPOINTMENT

Kevin Ritter moved the Ratification of Action by President to appoint Mayor Steve Patterson to the Management Committee. Ron Moore seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Steve Patterson moved to approve the Management Committee Report from March 4, 2023, to May 5, 2023. Kevin Ritter seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

Kevin Ritter moved to approve the Employee Handbook updates. Josh Schlicher seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

Steve Patterson moved to approve the required Ohio Department of Transportation Policies which include the Procurement Policy, Title VI Policy, and the ADA & Reasonable Modification Policies. Ron Moore seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

Ron Moore moved to approve the BHRC Purchasing Policy update changing the amount for small purchases and micro purchase located under the Informal Bid section. Kevin Ritter seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

Kevin Ritter moved to approve the Request for Approval of Expenditures in the amount not to exceed \$90,000 for laptop renewals. Ty Moore seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

Kevin Ritter moved to approve the PY2024-2025 Alzheimer's Respite Service Proposals recommended by the Regional Advisory Committee and the Management Committee. Steve Patterson seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

Kevin Ritter moved to approve the 2024 Dietician Contract from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, with Rhonda Davis in the amount of \$53.00 hour not to exceed 250 hours for the contract period. Josh Schlicher seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RETIREMENT

The members presented Rick Hindman, Assistant Executive Director, a retirement gift from the organization. Hindman will retire at the end of May after serving BHRC for 29 years.

PLANNING DIVISION

Steve Patterson moved to approve the Resolution of the BHRC to Approve STBG Capital Funds. Kevin Ritter seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

Ron Moore moved to approve the Resolution of the BHRC to Approve the SFY2024 RTPO Work Plan. Kevin Ritter seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

Kevin Ritter moved to approve the Resolution to Adopt the SFY2024-2027 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP). Josh Schlicher seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

DEVELOPMENT DIVISION UPDATE

Steve Patterson moved to approve increasing the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) funding up to \$750,000. Josh Schlicher seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

Sam Miller, Development Director, asked the members to rank their ARC priorities on the handout provided and leave it at their spot for staff to pick up following the meeting.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Chasity Schmelzenbach provided an update to the members:

- The Aging in Appalachian: A Summit for Southeast Ohio will be held on May 10, 2023, at BHRC. There is a discount code for members if interested in attending the summit.
- The 11th Appalachian Ohio State of the Region Conference: Placemaking & Reimagining Rural Economies would be held on May 23, 2023, in Athens, Ohio. Virtual and in-person options.
- Financial Tools & Incentives for Downtown Revitalization will be held on May 24, 2023, at BHRC.
- Monroe County received \$1.5M in Roadwork Development Grant.
- BHRC provided testimony regarding Home-and Community-Based Services for older adults.
- Appalachian Community Grant Program
- Call of Projects: BHRC Brownfields Assessment Program
- Dates to remember:
 - May 11: District 18 Natural Resource Assistance Council (NRAC) Committee meeting at the BHRC office
 - May 11: Noble County Transportation Advisory Committee meeting will be held at the Allwell Behavioral Health Services in Caldwell, Ohio.
 - May 12: Region 12 OneOhio Committee meeting will be held at the Guernsey County Administration Building in Cambridge, Ohio.
 - May 17: Monroe County Transportation Advisory Committee meeting will be held at the Generations Complex in Woodsfield, Ohio.
 - June 8: American in Bloom Leaders’ Summit being held in Logan, Ohio on June 8, 2023, from 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm
 - October 17-22, 2023: The Wall that Heals Coming to Caldwell, Ohio.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

No citizens present wished to address the committee.

ADJOURMENT

With no other business, Steve Patterson moved to adjourn the meeting. Kevin Ritter seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

Approved By: _____
Chasity Schmelzenbach, Secretary

Date: _____



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

July 1, 2022 through April 30, 2023

YEAR TO DATE ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE DETAIL

Administrative Expenses for Fiscal Year 2023 totaled \$5,017,896.29 on April 30. This total represents 79.99% of the Council's administrative budget utilized. Total spending for this time period is budgeted to be 83%. Individual line-item budgets and expenses are monitored monthly to ensure funds are utilized appropriately and budget revisions are requested from funding agencies as needed. The cumulative Indirect Cost rate for this period is 48%. Projected Indirect Costs for Fiscal Year 2023 are 50.69%.

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 April 30, more than \$9 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.



Administrative Expense Detail
For the Period July 1, 2022 - April 30, 2023

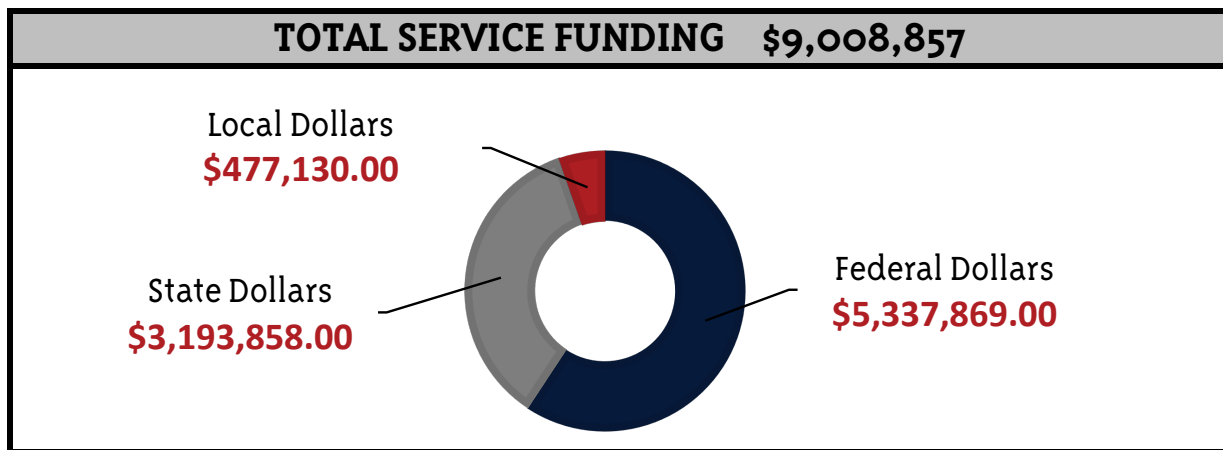
	2022 Actual	YTD	2023 YTD Actual	2023 Budget	% of Budget
Salary	\$ 2,468,388.40		\$ 2,669,742.86	\$ 3,234,826.00	82.53%
Fringe Benefits	\$ 1,077,725.79		\$ 1,152,780.13	\$ 1,611,331.00	71.54%
Advertising	\$ 134,451.86		\$ 194,389.74	\$ 250,000.00	77.76%
Audit Costs	\$ 13,470.00		\$ 36,983.20	\$ 37,000.00	99.95%
Building Maintenance	\$ 8,770.78		\$ 9,935.80	\$ 11,000.00	90.33%
Communications	\$ 73,986.64		\$ 81,636.85	\$ 102,300.00	79.80%
Conference Registration Fee	\$ 28,547.00		\$ 43,995.00	\$ 45,000.00	97.77%
Contract Services	\$ 55,745.96		\$ 38,751.83	\$ 76,952.00	50.36%
Employee/Governing Board	\$ 12,193.12		\$ 25,762.26	\$ 30,000.00	85.87%
Equipment Purchase/Maintenance	\$ 8,331.53		\$ 19,248.43	\$ 20,000.00	96.24%
Insurance	\$ 48,878.93		\$ 39,575.92	\$ 40,000.00	98.94%
Legal Costs	\$ 7,841.25		\$ 2,167.50	\$ 3,500.00	61.93%
Organizational Dues	\$ 34,816.40		\$ 48,798.57	\$ 54,250.00	89.95%
Other Costs	\$ 11,859.74		\$ 17,397.15	\$ 20,000.00	86.99%
Postage	\$ 15,528.37		\$ 13,000.00	\$ 16,408.00	79.23%
Printing Costs	\$ 13,397.43		\$ 18,403.91	\$ 20,000.00	92.02%
Software & Licenses	\$ 88,253.01		\$ 91,914.76	\$ 87,683.00	104.83%
Space	\$ 212,784.11		\$ 212,784.13	\$ 255,342.00	83.33%
Staff Training Fees	\$ 4,523.77		\$ 15,636.73	\$ 17,000.00	91.98%
Subscriptions	\$ 8,235.13		\$ 7,604.39	\$ 9,000.00	84.49%
Supplies	\$ 134,782.90		\$ 104,754.32	\$ 141,839.00	73.85%
Travel - Mileage Reimbursement	\$ 37,384.94		\$ 88,943.27	\$ 94,903.00	93.72%
Travel - Out of Town Expense	\$ 70,723.95		\$ 83,689.54	\$ 94,903.00	88.18%
TOTAL EXPENSES FOR THE PERIOD	\$ 4,570,621.01		\$ 5,017,896.29	\$ 6,273,237.00	79.99%
INDIRECT COST RATE FOR THE PERIOD		46%	48%		

Buckeye Hills Regional Council

Aging and Disability Programs Services & Funding Report

July 1, 2022 - April 30, 2023

SERVICES PROVIDED		
Direct Service Hours Provided	Transportation Trips	Adult Day Service Days Attended
274,485	10,698	1,971
Adult Day Service Miles Traveled	Meals Provided	Home Medical Equipment & Emergency Response Units
8,354	282,565	1,514
Legal Services Contacts	Home Accessibility Modification And Pest Control Jobs	Senior Farmers Market Coupons Redeemed
790	25	17,811
Grocery Shopping and Delivery	Telephone Reassurance	Evidence Based Classes
405	844	457
Assisted Living Days	Alzheimers Education Contacts	Senior Volunteer Hours
11,255	164	23,605



REGIONAL STATS		
Total Consumers Served	Total Population	Total Population Eligible for Services by Age (60+)
3,375	249,172	65,746

CURRENT INITIATIVE/ NEWS

State Budget Updates: Department of Aging

Healthy Aging Grants | \$40 million in ARPA appropriated in 2024 but changes language from being distributed to “local partners” to **county commissioners**. These funds will be distributed by formula to each of Ohio’s 88 counties. The amount awarded will be a \$100,000 base with additional funds based on non-Medicaid eligible population census. Funds must be used for projects serving older adults and must have measurable outcomes.

Senior Community Services | Reduction of Senior Community services appropriation from \$ 12,832,194 (2024) \$ 12,832,323 (2025) in Governor’s budget to \$11 million per year in House substitute bill.

The Ohio Association of Area Agencies are requesting a return to the Governor’s original amount requested in the Executive Budget.

State Budget Updates: Department of Medicaid

Assisted Living | Retains 48% increase and removal of tiers with memory care add on,

Rates and Adjustments | Requires that in FY 2024 and FY 2025, ODM include in each nursing facility’s base rate only 40% of the sum of the increase in its rate for the direct care costs and its rate for ancillary and support costs resulting from the nursing facility rebasing.

Increases the rate of rebasing beginning in FY 2024 to at least every two years, from at least every five years.

Extends quality incentive payments indefinitely, rather than ending the payments after FY 2023.

Modifies existing law procedures under which an individual or entity that assumes operation of a nursing home must disclose certain information to the ODH Director, to instead require the individual or entity to first complete a change of operator application.

Declares the General Assembly’s intent to require full and complete disclosure and transparency with respect to the ownership, operation, and management of licensed nursing homes in Ohio.

Program & Service Update

Home Care Director Dawn Weber and Aging and Health Director Jenn Westfall traveled to Washington DC in late April to attend the USAging Policy Conference. The two-day conference included updates on the federal budget and aging priorities as well as Capitol Hill visits with Congressman Balderson and the staffers with Congressman Johnson, Senator Brown, Senator Vance and Congressman Wenstrup teams.

Aging Staff | Will be attending professional development training in Kansas City, Missouri in the month of June. The team will learn about the latest updates and abilities of the WellSky SAMs software system. This software system is used to monitor and track Older American Act funding for the agency and providers.

Senior Farmers Market | Program coupons are being distributed throughout the 8-county region. If anyone is in need of assistance or additional information refer them to Janie Collins at jcollins@buckeyehills.org

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Current program numbers:

County	Consumers Served	Waitlist
Athens	366	9
Hocking	224	25
Meigs	221	94
Monroe	121	2
Morgan	179	26
Noble	144	0
Perry	310	66
Washington	548	184

BHRC's Housing Grant and Home Modification Program | In need of independent contractors to complete general contracting work. The types of work completed include bathroom remodels, ramps, doorways and minor roof repairs. Please reach out the Dave at dherbert@buckeyehills.org if you have any questions or a referral.

Assessments completed in April 2023

Athens	14
Hocking	7
Meigs	6
Monroe	2
Morgan	1
Noble	6
Perry	9
Washington	35
TOTALS	80

PASSPORT AND ASSISTED LIVING CASELOAD REGIONWIDE

- The current PASSPORT caseload is **746 individuals** and **53 individuals** on the Assisted Living Waiver.

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

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CURRENT INITIATIVES

HEAP Outreach | Regular Program outreach is occurring with weekly social media posts through the end of May. HEAP Summer Crisis begins in July, but we are still awaiting a new budget to start planning outreach. There is a training and update call with the state scheduled for June 6.

Ageing Outreach | Spring outreach events are underway, recently staff attended the Senior Resource Day on May 11, the O'Neill Center Health Fair on May 12, and Senior Advocacy Group on May 23.

Upcoming Events:

- World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Events— May 15 in both Meigs and Washington counties.

If there is an upcoming outreach event in your community we should attend or a civic group that would like to have a speaker on Aging topics, please contact Amanda Reeder at areeder@buckeyehills.org.

Medicare Outreach | General Medicare posts and information on Extra Help, Medicare Savings Programs, and Preventative Services run on a weekly basis across our social media channels. Pharmacy bags with Medicare information and advertising are being distributed in six of our eight counties.

Government Social Media Conference | The communications team attended the Government Social Media Conference in Reno, Nevada, May 2-4. The largest government communications conference of its kind, it gave our team the opportunity to hear from and meet with representatives with platforms including HootSuite, NextDoor, LinkedIn, Meta, and more. We also gained several valuable resources and templates for the council to use in developing and updating our crisis and emergency communications plans, the ADA accessibility of our website and communications resources, and best practices in adhering to First Amendment and open government standards.

Ageing Summit | The events planning committee hosted our Aging Summit: Aging in Today's Appalachia on May 10 in the Buckeye Hills Conference Room. Global Meals and Public Partnerships sponsored the event, which is presented in partnership with the Buckeye Hills Foundation. Around 30 partners and staff attended and provided positive, constructive feedback on the content and ideas for the 2024 summit.

Broadband Listening Sessions | Working with Program Manager Ryan Collins, the Communications Director is working with media outlets across Southeast Ohio to promote our series of ten Broadband Listening Sessions May 30 through June 22.

State of the Region Conference | The Communications Director served on the planning committee for the 11th Annual State of the Region Conference, which took place at Ohio University on May 23. The Comms Director facilitated active roles in the conference for our staff, from moderating panels to presenting at the May 22 roundtable discussion with leadership from the Appalachian Regional Commission and U.S. Economic Development Administration. The conference itself had record attendance of more than 300.

Website Usage Questionnaire | Our last major website redesign was in early 2019. As we consider updates and plan for the next iteration of buckeyehills.org, we'd like to get your feedback on what's working, what's not, and what would be helpful to add for the benefit of our consumers, member communities, partner agencies, and the general public. We invite you to share your input by completing our questionnaire by June 16:

<https://forms.office.com/r/t5cax05z>

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NEWS

- **Recent Press Releases & Notices**

- April 18 – Logan Daily News: [Senior Expo & Health Fair returns to Logan Friday](#)
- May 2: [Older Americans Month 2023: Aging Unbound](#)
- May 5: [Buckeye Hills Celebrates Region's Assets During Economic Development Week](#)
- May 12: [Buckeye Hills Hosts Broadband Listening Sessions May 30–June 22](#)
- May 13 – Marietta Times, Coshocton Tribune, Logan Daily News, River Cities Tribune, WTAP, etc.: [Buckeye Hills Slates Broadband Listening Sessions](#)
- May 24 – WTAP: [Ohio Heritage joins Buckeye Hills Regional Council for educational workshop](#)
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CONTACT INFO: Drew Tanner, Communications Director | dtanner@buckeyehills.org | 740-376-1030

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CURRENT INITIATIVES

Buckeye Hills Selected to Lead Regional Digital Inclusion Alliance | BHRC serves as collaborative partners to BroadbandOhio, bringing together diverse stakeholders to coordinate regional planning efforts, support digital inclusion activities, and collect local feedback to better inform Ohio’s Digital Equity Plan. To aid in gathering local feedback, BHRC has scheduled 10 listening sessions across the 21-county footprint. The details are below. Meetings will be held from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Tuesday, May 30: Coshocton County	Coshocton County Library 665 Main Street Coshocton, OH
Thursday, June 1: Hocking County	Logan Theater 86 E. Main Street Logan, OH
Monday, June 5: Jackson County	Jackson City Library 21 Broadway Street Jackson, OH
Tuesday, May 6: Ross County	Ross County Library – Northside Branch 550 Buckeye Street Chillicothe, OH
Thursday, June 8: Guernsey County	Guernsey County Library – Crossroads Branch 63500 Bylesville Road Cambridge, OH
Monday, June 12: Athens County	Athens Community Center Multi-Purpose Room A 701 E. State Street Athens, OH
Thursday, June 15: Washington County	Washington County Community College Community Room 710 Colegate Drive Marietta, OH
Tuesday, June 20: Meigs County	Meigs County District Public Library 216 W. Main Street Pomeroy, OH
Wednesday, June 21: Noble County	Caldwell Public Library – Genealogy Building 524 North Street Caldwell, OH
Thursday, June 22: Gallia County	Bossard Memorial Library Large Meeting Room 7 Spruce Street Gallipolis, OH

Department of Energy Funding Opportunities | On February 13, the US Department of Energy (DOE), the US Department of Treasury, and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) [announced](#) new opportunities available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act:

- DOE’s [Advanced Energy Manufacturing and Recycling Grant Program](#) (40209) is investing \$750 million to accelerate clean energy manufacturing in coal communities across the country.
- The [Qualifying Advanced Energy Project Credit](#) Program (48C) provides \$10 billion in tax credits to qualifying investments in clean energy technology manufacturing and recycling; industrial greenhouse gas emissions reductions; or critical minerals processing, refining, and recycling. Under the Inflation Reduction Act, at least \$4 billion in credits are set aside for projects in communities with closed coal mines or retired coal-fired power plants.

DOE Removes Match Requirements and Streamlines Application Process to Ensure Rural and Remote Communities Benefit from New Funding | The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) [announced](#) \$50 million in new grant funding made available by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for community-based energy projects located in rural and remote areas across the country. The [Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas \(ERA\)](#) Program allows for grant funding for community-based projects between \$500,000-\$5 million. This funding requires no cost share from recipients and projects funded will improve the cost, reliability, environmental impact, and climate resilience of energy systems in rural or remote areas with 10,000 or fewer inhabitants. Pre-Application Submission Deadline is July 13, 2023.

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NEWS

Program & Service Updates

Appalachian Ohio State of the Region | The 11th Annual Appalachian Ohio State of the Region Conference brought public officials, economic development experts, business and organizational leaders and others to discuss different issues related to economic growth in the Appalachian Ohio region. This year it was held on Tuesday, May 23, 2023, on Ohio University's Athens Campus. BHRC was proud of our many partners who presented during the event, including Jada Riley, Development Specialist, who moderated a panel on Revitalizing Downtown Districts.

Buckeye Hills Celebrates Region's Assets During Economic Development Week | Buckeye Hills Regional Council marked the week of May 8 to May 12, 2023, as the celebration of Economic Development Week. During this week, communities across North America recognized the contributions made by professional economic developers to create more economically vibrant and livable communities. BHRC took the opportunity to highlight the way we take an asset-based approach to development and highlighted several of our recent successes. The blog and social media posts were some of our most well received content this year! The blog post can be found at: buckeyehills.org/news/2023/5/4/buckeye-hills-celebrates-regions-assets-during-economic-development-week.

State of Ohio Digital Equity Plan Survey | BroadbandOhio released their Internet Access Survey that will be used to inform the state's broadband and digital equity plan, with a particular focus on SE Ohio. The survey should take about ten minutes to complete and can be found here: https://www.surveys.online/jfe/form/SV_89bsk2XxKNdkKuG

STAFF UPDATES

- **Brandi Beaver** has been working with the Ohio Valley Employment Resource: Ohio Means Jobs centers to offer VR hands-on experience to those seeking employment on possible careers.
- **Ryan Collins** is coordinating broadband listening sessions for the next couple of weeks. He will be reaching out to Commissioners to set up meetings to discuss ARC/GOA projects in their communities soon.
- **Michelle Hyer** has continued to work with the team on the Appalachian Community Grant Program, meeting with GOA and Planners weekly. Buckeye Hills received notice on May 11th that all five Small Government applications submitted to OPWC to compete statewide, were funded. Fiscal Year 2025 (Round 38) applications are due to Buckeye Hills on September 1st. The kickoff for Fiscal Year 2024 (Round 18) Clean Ohio-NRAC funding took place also on May 11th and applications are due on September 29th.
- **Brad Peoples** has been working on the formation of OneOhio Region 12's proprietary scoring criteria. There are challenges associated with this, but he's confident that the Region 12 group is going to form impactful, practical scoring criteria that could have lifechanging effects to those suffering from a lack of recovery services and programs currently available in these communities.
- **Jada Riley** has spent time preparing to moderate the Revitalizing Downtown Districts panel at the 11th Annual Appalachian Ohio State of the Region, which was held on May 23rd. She has also been coordinating with area venues to have them complete Americans for the Arts' Organizational Survey as a component of the Arts & Economic Prosperity 6 Impact Study.
- **Emma Yeager** has been gearing up for our 10 upcoming broadband listening sessions over the next month. She has also been working with Ryan to score ARC projects.

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

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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

May 6, 2023 through June 2, 2023

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS

April Labonte	Care Management Coordinator	05/19/2023
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RETIREMENT

Rick Hindman	Assistant Executive Director	05/31/2023
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NEW HIRE

Carrie Kempton	Care Management Coordinator	05/08/2023
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PROMOTIONS

None

TRANSFERS

None

NEWS

Program & Service Updates

Specialized Transportation 5310 In and Out of County Non-Emergency Medical Contracts | \$8,839.29 of the non-emergency medical transportation has been spent in Washington and Monroe counties for the first quarter.

USEPA Brownfield Assessment Grant | BHRC has requested project submission of former brownfield sites in the region. The Planning Division will now start the review and approval process for each site submission.

Regional Coordinated Plan for Transportation | BHRC and RLS will begin to work with the mobility managers in the region to develop the governing body for the regional coordinated plan.

Staff Updates

- **Kate Dunn** has been working on Noble Demolition Projects, and they have gone out to bid. The bid due date is June 7th at 9am, and the bid opening will happen at 11am that day at the Noble County Commissioner's Office. The Noble Remediation projects in Caldwell and Summerfield are well underway. RISE Ohio projects are also well underway with at least one project having been identified in each county. The USEPA Brownfields project intake has closed, and the review process has begun. This process will determine which projects go forward to participate in the grant.
- **Keegan Gault** attended the Ohio Basic Economic Development Course in Dublin with others from the Development Division. He attended a few brownfield & opening bid meetings with Kate to get a better understanding of those topics. He also met with consultants from American Structurepoint and representatives from Logan for a downtown Logan Strategic Plan kickoff meeting. He met with Tony Lang from Warren Water to obtain some of their waterline data to update their project mapping. He is representing BHRC on the Meigs County Hazard Mitigation Steering Committee and attended the first meeting to update the county's Hazard Mitigation Plan. Finally, he attended the Mayor's Partnership for Progress meeting in Athens and connected with some of the GIS specialists from Ohio University they work with.
- **Melissa Zoller** has been working with ODOT and RLS to create a regional plan, and the first steps will be discussed during the June meeting. ODOT District 10 office held local meetings in each of the counties, and I was able to attend the Noble County meeting. I have been working with Kate to develop bid packets for the Noble County Demo projects. She attended the ODOT 5310 conference in Toledo on May 23rd & 24th and attended the Planner check-in meeting for the Appalachian Community Grant Program. She worked with County Engineer Amy Zwick to secure funding for County Road 26 in the amount of \$1.5 million.
- **Kelly Isaly** attended Region 8 meeting at BHRC in regard to a Regional Coordinated Plan that will be coordinated by BHRC, the Monroe County Transportation Advisory Committee meeting on May 17th and the Noble County Health Department meeting to discuss her role in the County. She attended the ODOT 5310 conference in Toledo on May 23rd & 24th. She performed continuous networking throughout Monroe

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County, advertising, and assisting in the preparation of surveys to be distributed in June. She provides on-going support in working with Morgan County for the Monroe County Public Transit programming and participates in various on-going committee calls.

- **Julia Hinzman** attended the Region 8 meeting at BHRC regarding a Regional Coordinated Plan that will be coordinated by BHRC, continued to work with ODOT committees, the New Mobility Manager group, a Welcome Committee, & Google Committee bi-monthly. She held the Noble Transportation Advisory Committee meeting to review county goals and upcoming projects. She will be presenting Mobility Management at the Family and Children's First meeting in Caldwell and met with the Noble County Commissioners to discuss Mobility Management and what is being done in the community. She attended the ODOT 5310 conference in Toledo on May 23rd & 24th and continues participation with the Belpre Transit Study group for extended transit services into Belpre. Currently, WWW Interstate Planning Committee is leading the study as a continuation of Parkersburg Area Transit, and they will be the provider into Belpre with Fixed Route and Paratransit. A public meeting was held May 4, 2023. She continued outreach visits to Washington and Noble Counties, distributing pamphlets and flyers. The surveys for Noble County will be ready for distribution in the community by mid-June and will be collected by mid-August.

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SOUTHEAST OHIO

BROADBAND LISTENING SESSIONS

Join us for a listening session near you May 30 through June 22!

These listening sessions are an opportunity for all Ohioans to share the issues they face, as well as possible solutions, to accessing internet services, whether those issues are affordability, access to services, access to devices, or lack of digital skills. This information will be gathered and transmitted to BroadbandOhio, where it will directly inform and affect Ohio's Digital Equity Plan.

Coshocton County

May 30, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Coshocton Public Library - Large Meeting Room
655 Main Street, Coshocton, OH

(The Coshocton Public Library is not sponsoring or participating in this event)

Hocking County

June 1, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Logan Theater - 2nd floor meeting room
86 E. Main Street, Logan, OH

Jackson County

June 5, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Jackson City Library - Large Meeting Room
21 Broadway Street, Jackson, OH

Ross County

June 6, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Ross County Library - Northside Branch
550 Buckeye Street, Chillicothe, OH

Guernsey County

June 8, noon – 5:00 p.m.

Guernsey County Public Library - Crossroads Branch
Large Meeting Room
63500 Bylesville Road, Cambridge, OH

Athens County

June 12, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Athens Community Center - Room A
701 E. State Street, Athens, OH

Washington County

June 15, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Washington State Community College
Community Room
710 Colegate Drive, Marietta, OH

Meigs County

June 20, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Meigs County District Public Library
216 W. Main Street, Pomeroy, OH

Noble County

June 21, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Caldwell Public Library - Genealogy Building
517 Spruce Street, Caldwell, OH

Gallia County

June 22, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Bossard Memorial Library - Large Meeting Room
7 Spruce Street, Gallipolis, OH



BUCKEYEHILLS.ORG/BROADBAND



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **June 8: America in Bloom Leaders' Summit Coming to Logan** | Southeast Ohio's community leaders are invited to join America in Bloom on **June 8, 1:00 - 4:30 p.m.** for their Leaders' Summit in Logan. Tour the pollinator garden and butterfly trail; enjoy complimentary appetizers and beverages at the new 58 West brewery, winery, distillery, and restaurant. This event is hosted by Logan Mayor Greg Fraunfelter, Logan in Bloom, and America in Bloom. Register at americainbloom.wufoo.com/forms/mdzz9d7ofgptyh/.
- **June 21: Ohio EPA Brownfields Funding Opportunities Webinar** | Does your community have an abandoned building or potentially contaminated property that is impeding future growth? Ohio EPA will help you and your community gain a better understanding of what a brownfield is, learn how brownfield revitalization can be a part of your community's economic development strategy, and hear from state and national representatives on funding opportunities, including the newest resources available to you and your community. Register at register.gotowebinar.com/register/5618885277544202329
- **September 28: 2023 Sunshine Laws Training** | Buckeye Hills Regional Council has worked with the Ohio Attorney General's Office to bring their Sunshine Laws Training to Southeast Ohio! On September 28, the OAG staff will host a 2023 Sunshine Laws Training at the Blakeslee Center, 100 Blakeslee Drive, in Middleport. Registration and reference materials for the session are available at our online events calendar: buckeyehills.org/events.
- **BroadbandOhio Digital Inclusion Pilot Projects Applications due June 16** | Ohio is participating in the [State Digital Equity Planning Grant Program](#), a federally funded grant, to develop a statewide plan for achieving digital equity goals and closing the digital divide. Ohio's Digital Equity Plan will serve all Ohioans with an aim to promote meaningful adoption and use of high-speed internet service, with a special emphasis on key populations. As part of this planning process, BroadbandOhio is granting funds for Digital Inclusion Pilot Projects to organizations supporting digital inclusion efforts across the state. Digital inclusion efforts provide Ohioans access to:
 - Reliable, affordable, high-speed internet;
 - Computers and other devices to meet users' online needs; and
 - Digital skills training and technical support.

These efforts help ensure every Ohioan has the technology, skills, and resources needed to fully engage in their communities, seek and often maintain employment, better connect with loved ones, learn, and access healthcare and other essential services. Organizations may request up to \$100,000 of funding for a Digital Inclusion Pilot Project. **Applications are due via e-mail to broadbandohio@development.ohio.gov by Friday, June 16, 2023, with the subject line "Digital Inclusion Pilot Grant Application"**. You must return the form attached here and can include additional attachments with information that may be relevant as part of your application (e.g., existing project plans). If you have any questions, please reach out to broadbandohio@development.ohio.gov.

CURRENT INITIATIVES

- **The Ridges** | The Master Plan has been completed and the final report filed with ARC for the planning grant BHRC applied for to support the project. The Athens 317 Board has reached a tentative agreement with Ohio University to transfer a small section of land to expand their operations adjacent to the property. Community stakeholders and Ohio University representatives continue to work on the language for the conservation easement. The

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Purchase Agreement has been signed by the Developer (Buckeye Hills Foundation and Community Building Partners) and Ohio University. The petition to create the New Community Authority has been filed with the Athens City Council. On June 15, 2023, a work session with Ohio University and the City of Athens and the Developer will be held to finalize details and revisions as the ongoing discussions and feedback have occurred throughout the 30-day period. Once that is completed, the Ohio University Board of Trustees will meet and approve the request to go to the Department of Administrative Services and request them to prepare a package for the State Controlling Board to approve the transfer of land. The Athens City Council will also place the matter up for consideration and hopefully approval on their agenda as well. The target is to have all approvals and have a deed, all New Community Authority, Tax Incremental Financing, and Community Reinvestment Act structures in place, and be open to investment in Q4 of 2023.

- **Appalachian Community Grant Program Updates** | Planners continue to work with our communities and partners to gain knowledge and refine their projects. In several cases, the projects are not well suited to this program and those are beginning to be identified and redirected to other programming. We are hopeful that not only will we garner large investment in the BHRC area for this program but also investment from other programs as well now that effective projects have been scoped.

FEDERAL UPDATES

- **USDA Announces Rural Community Development Initiative Grants due June 28** | U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development recently announced they are accepting applications for grants that will improve housing, community facilities, and community and economic development projects in rural areas around the country. USDA is making the grants available under the **Rural Community Development Initiative**. The program provides grants to organizations that will provide financial and technical assistance for housing, community facilities, or community and economic development projects. Grants may be used to train sub-grantees to conduct educational training on homeownership or minority-owned business entrepreneurship. They also may be used to provide technical assistance to sub-grantees on:
 - strategic plan development
 - accessing alternative funding sources
 - training and resources for board operations, management, financial systems and information technology

Applications are due June 28. To learn more, read the full Stakeholder Announcement at

www.rd.usda.gov/media/file/download/usda-rd-sa-rcdi-nosa-stakeholder-announcement-05042023.pdf

UPCOMING CONFERENCES & EVENTS:

- **May 30-June 22: Broadband Listening Sessions** | See handout or buckeyehills.org/broadband
- **June 13: Ohio's Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan** | 3:00-5:00 p.m., Athens Community Center
- **June 28: Aging & Health Regional Advisory Council** | 10:00 a.m., Buckeye Hills Regional Council
- **September 11-12: ARC Annual Conference** | Ashland, Kentucky

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Website Usage Questionnaire: Members & Partners

Our last major website redesign was in early 2019. As we consider updates and plan for the next iteration of buckeyehills.org, we'd like to get your feedback on what's working, what's not, and what would be helpful to add for the benefit of our consumers, member communities, partner agencies, and the general public. Please take a moment to complete the questionnaire below. You may leave your completed survey at your seat or on the sign-in table at the back of the conference room. Thank you!

How often do you visit buckeyehills.org?

Daily Weekly Monthly Yearly Never

What information are you looking for when you visit buckeyehills.org?

Which section(s) of our website do you visit most often?

If you can't find what you're looking for on buckeyehills.org, what do you do next?

What kind of device do you normally use to access buckeyehills.org?

Continued on reverse →



What do you like most about our website?

What do you dislike most about our website?

Which functions or features do you think are important to include on our website?

Are there any resources you would like to see added to buckeyehills.org?

You may leave your completed survey at your seat
or on the sign-in table at the back of the conference room.
Thank you!