



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING WITH NOTES

OCTOBER 7, 2022

Buckeye Hills Regional Council

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order | Lenny Eliason, Vice President
- II. Roll Call | Chasity Schmelzenbach, Executive Director, Secretary (per BHRC Bylaws)
- III. Consent Agenda | Lenny Eliason, Vice President TAB #1
- IV. Vibrant Communities | Ed Looman, OhioSE Economic Development
- V. Legislator and Partner Agency Updates
 - a. Office of Ohio Treasurer Sprague | Cody Pettit, Southeast Ohio Representative
- VI. Executive Director Report | Chasity Schmelzenbach TAB #2
- VII. Citizen Participation
- VIII. Other Business
- IX. Adjournment

THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 4, 2022

CONSENT AGENDA

- **MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 5, 2022 MEETING**
- **STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**
 - **ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE REPORT**
 - **AGING & DISABILITY PROGRAM SERVICE REPORT**
 - **GRANTS AGREEMENTS RECEIVED AND EXECUTED**
- **DIVISION & DIRECTOR'S REPORTS**
 - **ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**
 - **AGING & DISABILITY DIVISION**
 - **COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR**
 - **DEVELOPMENT DIVISION**
 - **HUMAN RESOURCES**

**Minutes of the August 5, 2022
Buckeye Hills Regional Council Executive Committee Meeting**

The Buckeye Hills Regional Council (BHRC) Executive Committee meeting was held August 5, 2022. The meeting was held at Buckeye Hills, Marietta, Ohio.

In attendance were:

OFFICERS:	Ron Moore, President	Morgan County (Private Sector)
	Lenny Eliason, Vice President	Athens County
	Kevin Ritter, Treasurer	Washington County
	Chasity Schmelzenbach, Secretary (non-voting member per Bylaws)	BHRC Executive Director
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:	Steve Patterson	City of Athens
	Tim Ihle	Meigs County
	Brian Howard	Meigs County (Private Sector)
	Adam Shriver	Morgan County
	Brad Peoples	Noble County
	Jeff Dennis	Perry County (Private Sector)
	Misty Crosby	Emeritus
GUEST:	Beth Clodfelter	Office of US Senator Brown
	Curtis Hanson	Appalachian Regional Commission
	Amber Kohler	Office of Congressman Johnson
	Zach Manuel	Meigs County Commissioner
	Cody Pettit	Office of Ohio Treasurer Sprague
STAFF:	Rick Hindman	Assistant Executive Director
	Madee Brewer	Development Specialist III
	Ryan Collins	Special Projects Manager – Broadband
	Carly Fitz	Development Specialist I
	Julia Hinzman	Mobility Manager
	Michelle Hyer	Program Manager/OPWC Liaison
	Denise Keyes	Fiscal Director
	Angie Lawrence	HR & Payroll Manager
	Kate Perani	Special Projects Manager – RISE Ohio
	Jenny Simmons	Executive Assistant
	Drew Tanner	Communications Director
	Dawn Weber	Homecare Director
	Melissa Zoller	Transportation Manager

CALL TO ORDER

Ron Moore, President, called the meeting to order.

ROLE CALL

Chasity Schmelzenbach, Executive Director, conducted roll call.

**RESOLUTION RATIFYING THE SELECTION OF CHASITY SCHMELZENBACH AS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Lenny Eliason moved to approve the resolution ratifying the selection of Chasity Schmelzenbach as the new BHRC Executive Director. Kevin Ritter seconded the motion. All yes. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Brian Howard moved to approve the consent agenda which included the Minutes from the June 3, 2022 meeting; Statement of Activities, Administrative Expense YTD; Quarterly Budget Adjustment; Aging and Disability Programs Services and Funding Report for period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, Grant Agreements Received and Executed for June and July 2022 and Division and Director's Reports. Brad Peoples seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

LEGISLATOR AND PARTNER AGENCY UPDATES

Curtis Hansen, Program Manager, Appalachian Regional Commission, provided an update to the members via videoconference.

Beth Clodfelter, Appalachian Regional Representative, Office of Senator Brown, provided an update to the members.

Amber Kohler, Field Representative, Office of Congressman Johnson, provided an update to the members.

Cody Pettit, Southeast Ohio Representative, Office of Ohio Treasurer Sprague, provided an update to the members.

BHRC INSURANCE UPDATE

Angie Lawrence, HR Manager, provided information on the insurance renewals beginning September 1, 2022 to the members.

REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION FOR THE 2023-2026 REGION 8 AREA PLAN

Kevin Ritter moved to approve the 2023 – 2026 Region 8 Area Plan recommended by the Regional Advisory Council. Steve Patterson seconded the motion. All yea. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION 2023 PROJECTS

Steve Patterson moved to approve the Resolution of Support for Appalachian Regional Commission 2023 Projects. Kevin Ritter seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

BUCKEYE HILLS SUPPORT SERVICES (BHSS) UPDATE

Rick Hindman, BHSS Executive Director, provided an update on the Buckeye Fields project to the members.

BUCKEYE HILLS FOUNDATION (BHF) UPDATE

Misty Crosby, BHF Executive Director, provided an update to the members.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

No citizens present wished to address the committee.

OTHER

Ron Moore stated that the River Cruise is scheduled for September 16 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Approved By: _____
Chasity Schmelzenbach, Secretary

Date: _____

DRAFT



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

July 1, 2022 through August 31, 2022

YEAR TO DATE ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE DETAIL

Administrative Expenses for Fiscal Year 2022 totaled \$1,030,675.86 at August 31. This total represents 16.43% of the Council's administrative budget utilized. Total spending for this time period is budgeted to be 16.67%. The cumulative Indirect Cost rate for this period is 46%. 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 August 31, over \$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.



Administrative Expense Detail
For the Period July 1, 2022 - August 31, 2022

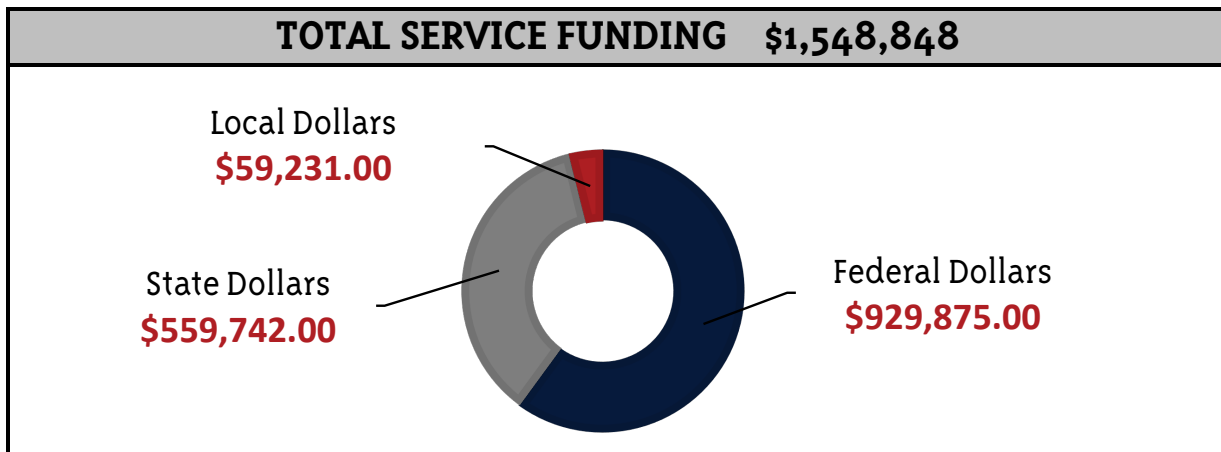
	2022 YTD Actual	2023 YTD Actual	2023 Budget	% of Budget
Salary	\$ 496,683.75	\$ 539,712.75	\$ 3,234,826.00	16.68%
Fringe Benefits	\$ 223,092.24	\$ 267,550.44	\$ 1,620,331.00	16.51%
Advertising	\$ 32,875.81	\$ 39,544.37	\$ 100,000.00	39.54%
Audit Costs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,000.00	0.00%
Building Maintenance	\$ 823.00	\$ 1,898.06	\$ 11,000.00	17.26%
Communications	\$ 17,424.40	\$ 19,566.36	\$ 92,300.00	21.20%
Conference Registration Fee	\$ 185.00	\$ 5,347.00	\$ 18,300.00	29.22%
Contract Services	\$ 22,521.34	\$ 8,146.75	\$ 371,552.00	2.19%
Employee/Governing Board	\$ 790.66	\$ 5,039.15	\$ 15,000.00	33.59%
Equipment Purchase/Maintenance	\$ 1,634.26	\$ 7,276.19	\$ 18,350.00	39.65%
Insurance	\$ 34,195.93	\$ 20,867.16	\$ 40,000.00	52.17%
Legal Costs	\$ 3,187.25	\$ 1,025.00	\$ 1,500.00	68.33%
Organizational Dues	\$ 900.00	\$ 3,550.00	\$ 39,250.00	9.04%
Other Costs	\$ 2,443.47	\$ 11,955.97	\$ 15,000.00	79.71%
Postage	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 24,408.00	12.29%
Printing Costs	\$ 2,905.00	\$ 135.00	\$ 6,750.00	2.00%
Software & Licenses	\$ 25,480.75	\$ 9,741.41	\$ 87,683.00	11.11%
Space	\$ 42,556.82	\$ 42,556.83	\$ 255,342.00	16.67%
Staff Training Fees	\$ 345.43	\$ 2,420.58	\$ 10,000.00	24.21%
Subscriptions	\$ 1,769.80	\$ 2,527.88	\$ 5,000.00	50.56%
Supplies	\$ 56,648.60	\$ 7,501.54	\$ 86,839.00	8.64%
Travel - Mileage Reimbursement	\$ 5,223.61	\$ 15,423.92	\$ 94,903.00	16.25%
Travel - Out of Town Expense	\$ 3,393.82	\$ 15,889.50	\$ 94,903.00	16.74%
TOTAL EXPENSES FOR THE PERIOD	\$ 978,080.94	\$ 1,030,675.86	\$ 6,273,237.00	16.43%
INDIRECT COST RATE FOR THE PERIOD	53%	46%		

Buckeye Hills Regional Council

Aging and Disability Programs Services & Funding Report

July 1, 2022 - August 31, 2022

SERVICES PROVIDED		
Direct Service Hours Provided	Transportation Trips	Adult Day Service Days Attended
50,581	1,803	224
Adult Day Service Miles Traveled	Meals Provided	Home Medical Equipment & Emergency Response Units
989	41,168	712
Legal Services Contacts	Home Accessibility Modification And Pest Control Jobs	Senior Farmers Market Coupons Redeemed
176	4	8,976
Grocery Shopping and Delivery	Telephone Reassurance	Evidence Based Classes
81	176	120
Assisted Living Days	Alzheimers Education Contacts	Senior Volunteer Hours
2,313	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 2022

PROGRAM NAME	FUNDING AGENCY	GRANT PERIOD	AMOUNT
2023-2024 Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA)	Ohio Department of Aging	September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2024	TBD
2023 HEAP Outreach	Ohio Department of Aging	September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023	\$20,929
PY 2022 Appalachian Community Technical Assistance Grant	Ohio Department of Development	July 1, 2000 to September 30, 2023	\$20,000
Buckeye Hills Partnership Planning	US Department of Commerce Economic Development	July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025	\$210,000
Brownfield Assessment Grant	US Environmental Protection Agency	October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2025	\$500,000

CURRENT INITIATIVES

Age-Friendly/Athens | This initiative is a 5-year process intended to ensure that people of all ages can grow healthfully, safely and independently in a supportive and inclusive community. Over 100 local people and partners are engaged in this process that involves addressing 9 domains of livability including: social participation/inclusion; outdoor recreation; housing; transportation; climate resilience; and employment/civic engagement. BHRC participates on the Housing Committee.

***Update:** An Age-Friendly Athens County (AFAC) planning retreat was held on August 10th.*

SolSmart Designation | BHRC has started the process to secure SolSmart designation for the region. SolSmart is a national program led by the International City/County Management Association and the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC), along with a team of partners with deep expertise in solar energy and local governments. The designation program recognizes cities, counties, and regional organizations that foster the development of mature local solar markets. There are currently four communities that have secured local SolSmart designation within the BHRC Region.

Through regional designation, BHRC seeks to influence other communities throughout our region to take advantage of the benefits of solar energy.

***Update:** Solar landing page will be added to the BHRC website by end of October 2022. This will include links to member communities, construction guidelines, a SolSmart commitment letter, and a description of BHRC's roles and responsibilities related to solar.*

Community Health Workers (CHWs) Initiatives | Currently we do not have CHWs deployed to supplement our aging program outreach. We plan to have two more CHWs to assist homebound clients in the near future when the next certification class is underway. Also, we are continuing to work on establishing the Community Pathways program. This evidence-based program will enable us to utilize community health worker-certified Community Care Coordinators (CCCs) to provide face-to-face assistance to vulnerable populations of all ages throughout our region. This assistance is essentially connecting folks up to resources and programming based on each individual's need.

***Update:** We are continuing to work with Access Tusc to begin the Pathways program. Our current plan is to begin on a part-time basis utilizing current employees for supervision and community care coordination and generate referrals for the program through forming/strengthening partnerships and identifying individuals through our screening department.*

Substance Use Disorder Initiative | The team that had collaborated on last year's DDAA SUD Learning Collaborative has been awarded \$500,000 from ARC's INSPIRE initiative. ARC's Investments Supporting Partnerships in Recovery Ecosystems (INSPIRE) initiative, which is a 3-year program, is providing funding for our team's efforts to further address the SUD (substance use disorder) crisis in Appalachia through assisting individuals in recovery in moving successfully toward securing employment; the focus is on support services that enable and support an individual's successful entry or reentry into the workforce, thereby creating an employment recovery ecosystem. The project includes Wood, Washington and Athens Counties, but will also benefit the residents of bordering counties.

***Update:** The second regional conference was held at the Broughton Community Building in Marietta on September 1st.*

BHSS, Inc./Buckeye Fields Status | A closing date will be announced soon. We are expecting closing to occur in mid-October. Applications for residency will begin to be accepted shortly after closing.

***Update:** The team has secured an additional commitment of \$500,000 from the Washington County Commissioners to serve as reserve funds for the project. We are waiting for the syndicator to present collateral notes to trigger the closing process.*

CONTACT INFO: Rick Hindman, Assistant Executive Director | rhindman@buckeyehills.org | 740-376-1029

CURRENT INITIATIVE/ NEWS

ODM To Submit Plan For MyCare To Become Permanent | Last week the Ohio Department of Medicaid shared with stakeholders a draft charter describing the stakeholder process it will undertake to make the MyCare demonstration project a permanent feature of Ohio’s Medicaid program by transitioning it to a Medicare Special Needs Plan for dual eligible (D-SNP). *More details are attached to this report.*

The federal **Public Health Emergency (PHE)** | The public health emergency has not been announced as ending. State agencies are required to give the aging network a 60-day notice for ending the PHE. Once a new expiration date is announced it will be shared with the provider network. The continuation prevents PASSPORT Administration Agencies from disenrolling individuals if the pending disenrollment would result in the individual becoming ineligible for Medicaid.

CMS Reopens Rule to Reassess Allowing Medicaid Terminations During the Public Health Emergency | Last week, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that it is reassessing an interim final rule due to the negative effects it has had on Medicaid enrollees. CMS is proposing to adopt the original protections established in the law that requires states to keep beneficiaries enrolled in Medicaid during the PHE.

FY 2023 Budget | Senate released FY 2023 Funding bills end of July. Includes some increases but not as much as House or President’s budget. Senate bills do not have any Republican support. *More details regarding budget initiatives are attached to this report.*

PROGRAM & SERVICE UPDATE

Regional Advisory Council (RAC) | members met for the August 24th RAC Meeting. It was a very well attended meeting and included a presentation by BHRC staff member Ryan Collins in regards to connectivity and community programs. The RAC voted to move the bi monthly meeting to the last Wednesday of each month instead of the last Friday of each month. The group felt attendance would improve with the move to Wednesday. **The remaining dates for RAC in 2022 are October 26th and December 9th from 10am to noon.** The December meeting will be our holiday meeting with lunch provided.

Senior Farmers Market 2022 numbers to date:

388	ATHENS	143	MORGAN
238	HOCKING	133	NOBLE
215	MEIGS	247	PERRY
141	MONROE	515	WASHINGTON
		2,021	TOTAL

PASSPORT AND ASSISTED LIVING CASELOAD REGIONWIDE

Current PASSPORT caseload is **755 individuals** and **54 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

Serving Athens, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry and Washington Counties in Southeast Ohio.
 1400 Pike Street | Marietta, OH 45750 | 1.800.331.2644 | 740.373.6400 | fax: 740.373.1594

04A 2024-2025 STATE BUDGET PRIORITIES

TOP PRIORITIES

1. **PASSPORT Direct Care Workforce**

- **Rate and Wage Increases:** \$20/hour wage for direct care workforce providing personal care, and 50% increase in the reimbursement rate

Rationale:

- Aligns with other LTSS programs, including Developmental Disability waivers and nursing home staffing, so that there is parity among programs who all seek the same workers
 - DD providers are asking for \$20/hour base rate wage increase (from \$13.76/hour) and 50% increase in reimbursement rate

DD Indept. Provider (DSP) Base Rate	\$13.76/hour
DD IP Statewide Avg Hourly Rate	\$21.45/hour
DD Statewide Hourly IP Rate with Add-ons and Overtime	\$31.32/hour
PASSPORT Agency Rate	\$19.68/hour
PASSPORT Avg Worker Avg Wage	\$10-12/hour
PASSPORT Consumer Direction Rate	\$13.76/hour

- Will address shortage and increase capacity
- Is a competitive wage
- **Streamlined Housekeeping Service:** provide voucher or service for at least one housecleaning a month, laundry service and grocery delivery
 - Example of \$250/month one-time cleaning, for 2000 PASSPORT consumers going without personal care; estimate of \$6 million in a year
 - Can be applicable across programs
 - Could reduce costs for major housecleaning
 - Description attached
- **Provider Engagement Coach:** include at least an additional \$1 million per year, estimated \$40,000 per year per AAA, to hire provider engagement coaches to link, assist and coach participants and providers (particularly participant-directed) to successful certification and timely delivery of home and community-based services.
 - Will increase the amount of certified direct care workers who move from initial interest to first day of paid services to participants, especially with the participant-directed option.
 - Decrease the number of days it takes for providers to be located and certified. An AAA 2 pilot for participant direction has some initial early with an average time from application to service start from 58 days to 30 days.
 - Includes funding for outreach and supervisory tasks
 - Description attached
- **Home Care Licensure (R.C. 3740.01 et seq.):** include language explicitly excluding participant-directed providers from the licensure requirement

2. **PASSPORT - PAA Budgets:** include Provider Engagement Coach in the Provider Relations budget

Serving Athens, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry and Washington Counties in Southeast Ohio.

1400 Pike Street | Marietta, OH 45750 | 1.800.331.2644 | 740.373.6400 | fax: 740.373.1594

Considerations:

- Need to change methodology – base on cost of doing work
 - Consider MyCare waiver service coordination rate calculated by actuary as guide for PASSPORT case management
 - Account for increased staffing cost; with limited funding, the starting wage for PASSPORT is, at least for one AAA, \$20,000 below market rate
 - MyCare churn (from PASSPORT to MyCare) for MyCare AAAs – some AAAs actually had an increase because of this
 - Parity with nursing homes and health systems
 - Impact of inflation
 - Consumer needs are more complex (e.g. more mental health and substance abuse issues)
- Maintain flexibility with spending between cost centers
- Rename the “Other Operating” cost center so that it is reflective of all of the work, especially AAA front door operations, which are a service. Avoid using the word “administration” to describe the entire cost center. The cost center includes:
 - Screening and assessment – the “front door”
 - Provider Relations
 - Administration

3. MyCare/MLTSS

- Ensure AAA role in new MyCare (maintaining existing uncodified language)

ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES

1. Adult Day Services:

- Support rate increases and initiatives to increase capacity

2. PACE:

- Include PAA role in screening and assessment, including annual assessment or level of care, so that eligibility is validated by a separate entity (PAA)
- Support opportunities for additional AAA involvement

3. Increased Senior Community Services/Other State Funding for Older Adult Services (for discussion)

- Support additional funding for existing services – especially to meet increasing demand with wait lists
- Benefits counseling
- Elder abuse supportive services
- AAA innovations



September xx, 2022

MyCare Conversion Charter and Principles

Moving to the Next Generation of Managed Care for Individuals

Dually Eligible for Medicare and Medicaid

DRAFT of CMS Submission-Due October 1, 2022

Purpose

This “Conversion Charter” is a preliminary draft for the purpose of beginning stakeholder discussions and initiating discussion with CMS prior to the October 1st deadline for submission.

This initial Conversion Charter is subject to future amendments based on the feedback received from all the relevant stakeholders and CMS as outlined below.

MyCare Overview

Since the initial award in December 2012, the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) has supported the Medicare-Medicaid Financial Alignment Initiative (FAI) demonstration known as MyCare. See attachment 1 for a list of abbreviations. The MyCare program was designed to provide coordinated care for the individual’s Medicaid and Medicare services and to pay the MyCare Medicaid-Medicare managed care plans (MMP or MyCare plans) a capitated, blended payment using a three-way contract among MMP, Ohio Medicaid, and CMS. All individuals are mandatorily enrolled in Medicaid managed care and may choose to be “in” or “out” of managed care for their Medicare benefit. This is referred to as “opt in” (to managed care for Medicare) or “opt out” (of managed Medicare). Individuals who are 18 years old and over who are eligible for Medicare and Medicaid are included if they live in the seven regions comprising 29 counties. (See figure 1) See attachment 2 “Ohio Findings at a Glance, the second evaluation report”.ⁱ

In addition to Medicare benefits, Medicaid benefits currently required of the MMPs include acute care, behavioral health, long-term services and supports (LTSS), dental, vision, home health, and durable medical equipment. Providing person-centered planning and coordination of services is key. MyCare utilizes a combination of care coordination strategies. Specifically, regarding care coordination, there are two groups of responsibilities, known as “waiver service coordination” and “care management”. The roles of the MMP and the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) in carrying out these

responsibilities differ among MMPs and AAAs. This will be discussed further later in this Conversion Charter. (See figure 2)

Figure 1. MyCare Ohio Regions and Plans

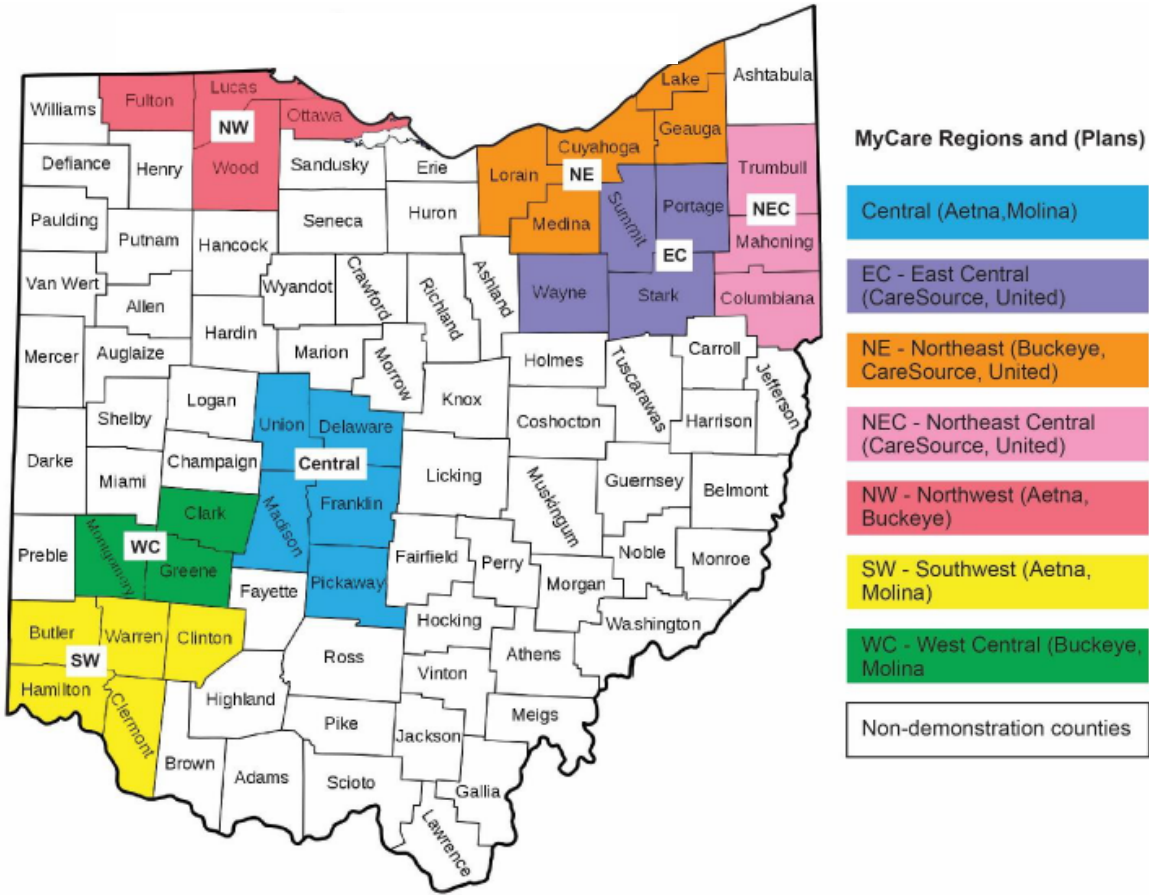


Figure 2. My Care Regions and MMP/AAA Responsibility

MyCare Region	Counties	Area Agency Aging (AAA)	My Care Plans
NW	Fulton, Lucas, Wood, Ottawa	4	Aetna & Buckeye
NE	Lorain, Cuyahoga, Medina, Geauga, Lake	10a	Buckeye, CareSource & United Health Care (UHC)
E Central	Summit, Portage, Stark Wayne	10b	CareSource & UHC
NE Central	Trumbull, Mahoning, Columbiana	11	CareSource & UHC
W Central	Montgomery, Greene, Clark	2	Buckeye & Molina
SW	Butler, Warren, Clinton, Clermont, Hamilton	1	Aetna & Molina
Central	Union, Madison, Franklin, Delaware, Pickaway	6	Aetna & Molina
Non MyCare		3, 5, 7, 8, 9	

The Starting Point for Discussion with Stakeholders

The starting point for discussion with stakeholders is as follows. We propose to transition the current MyCare program to a Fully Integrated Dual Eligible Special Needs Plan (FIDE SNP) model with fully aligned enrollment in a companion Medicaid managed care plan (MMC) subject to the Next Generation program requirements, in the same geographic territories as they exist in MyCare today, serving individuals 21 years of age and older. The benefit package will remain the same, recognizing that each of the MMPs provides value added benefits. The choice to opt in or opt out of Medicare managed care will remain. Self-direction will be streamlined, making it amenable to greater use by individuals. Care coordination has a variety of issues that will be discussed, and modifications considered. For example, the large number of younger individuals who have significant mental health needs, while benefiting from the integration of their care, may require changes to the care coordination model to meet their needs.

With the expiration of Ohio's demonstration authority, CMS promulgated a new rule that informs what Ohio can do to continue offering integrated care to individuals who are dually eligible and must navigate both Medicare and Medicaid, and gives additional time to Ohio, if needed, to transition the MyCare program in a thoughtful and seamless mannerⁱⁱ. The FAI demonstration will end no later than December 31, 2025.

The Importance of Medicare and Medicaid Integration

Individuals who receive services funded by both Medicare and Medicaid have a daunting challenge in a system with multiple payers with different rules and different coverage of needed healthcare services.ⁱⁱⁱ According to the Integrated Care Resource Center (ICRC)^{iv}, dually eligible individuals often have a substantial need with multiple chronic conditions and often have a need for long-term services and supports or behavioral health services. According to the ICRC, dually eligible individuals represent a disproportionate amount of both Medicare and Medicaid spending compared to the number of enrolled individuals in either program. The MyCare program has demonstrated the need to continue the improved coordination that has contributed to the reduction in

Definition of an Individual who is Dually Eligible for Medicare & Medicaid

How do Medicare and Medicaid Intersect?

Individuals can qualify for Medicare based on their age as well as various disabilities. Ohioans who are on Medicare can qualify for Medicaid in one of approximately 50 Medicaid "aid categories". The various Medicaid aid categories fall into three groups: Full, QMB and SLMB.

- o Full Medicare coverage and full Medicaid coverage. Only this group is eligible for MyCare.
- o Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries (QMB)—Medicaid pays Medicare co-insurance and premium support only.
- o Specified Low Income Medicare Beneficiaries (SLMB)—Medicaid pays only Medicare premium support.

hospitalizations for this population. By integrating the coordination of Medicare and Medicaid funded services, there is the opportunity to help dually eligible individuals navigate this system better, ease their stress, improve their outcomes, and more effectively care for this important group of older Ohioans and individuals with disabilities.

Below is a figure regarding individuals enrolled in MyCare. There is a total of 258,149 who are dually eligible, with 201,030 with full dual eligibility and 68% of them enrolled in MyCare.

Figure 3. MyCare Enrollment by Age and Race (July 2022 data)

Breakdown by Age	Opt-In	%	Opt-Out	%
Over 65	35,805	49%	36,781	51%
45-64	22,497	52%	21,165	48%
Under 45	14,176	68%	6,569	32%
	72,478	53%	64,515	47%
Breakdown by Race and Ethnicity	Opt-In	%	Opt-Out	%
NH White	40,713	54%	34,217	46%
All other race/ethnicity groups	31,765	51%	30,298	49%
	72,478	53%	64,515	47%
Breakdown by Type of Member	Opt-In	%	Opt-Out	%
Community-Well	49,882	55%	40,926	45%
LTSS Waiver	14,458	50%	14,177	50%
LTSS NF (≥ 100 days LOS)	8,138	46%	9,412	54%
	72,478	53%	64,515	47%

Timeline for Stakeholder Collaborative Discussion for Finalizing the Conversion Charter to the Next Generation MyCare Program

The stakeholder process will begin in September 2022, with ODM meeting informally with stakeholders to gather ideas for the formal input and advisory process. A workgroup will be created to meet on a more frequent basis and provide input into the design and implementation of the Conversion Charter and final program design. ODM and sister agencies, Ohio Department of Aging (ODA), Ohio Department of Insurance (ODI), Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), and the Ohio

Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (ODMHAS) will collaborate and meet as needed.

ODM may adjust the Conversion Charter based on this initial and informal stakeholder input prior to the formal submission of the Conversion Charter to CMS by October 1, 2022.

1. ODM will publicly post the Conversion Charter submitted to CMS for external feedback for at least a sixty-day period.
2. In October and November 2022, ODM will hold several formal stakeholder meetings with stakeholder groups including but not limited to consumers, family members, providers, managed care plans, and others:

AARP of Ohio	Arc of Ohio
Breaking Silences	Ohio Family Health Information Center
Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence	Ohio Self Determination Association
Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council	National Alliance on Mental Illness Ohio
Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging	Academy of Senior Health Sciences
Ohio Council for Home Care & Hospice	Leading Age
Ohio Health Care Association	Ohio Assisted Living Association
The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health and Family Service Providers	Ohio Adult Day Healthcare Association
Current Ohio D-SNP Plans	Ohio Association of Health Plans
General public, consumers & families	PACE Representatives

3. In January 2023, ODM will hold a second round of meetings with external stakeholders to continue these conversations and receive continued feedback on the transition plan. This meeting may also include any changes to the transition plan made based on either earlier stakeholder feedback or CMS recommendations. ODM’s budget will be considered by the Ohio General Assembly beginning in February 2023, with adoption by June 30, 2023. We anticipate that MyCare will be a topic for consideration.

Starting in the second half of 2023, ODM will hold a series of stakeholder meetings to give updates and get input. These meetings will continue until the transition to the new program. (The process for initial and ongoing input will be similar to the process ODM is utilizing for the development of the Next Generation Managed Care program that began in 2019 and continues today with stages of implementation underway.)

4. Subsequent work will include developing the selection and implementation processes and timelines. Federal amendments, renewals or new authorities; any needed legislative authority and administrative rules, and information technology system changes will be completed. A more precise set of steps and timelines will be developed after receiving stakeholder input. The effective date for the new program will be no later than January 1, 2026.
5. ODM will continue the external stakeholder process through the first quarter following transition, if not longer.

Maximize Integration with a Fully Integrated Dual Eligible Special Needs Plan (FIDE SNP) model with Next Generation Medicaid Managed Care Enhancements

Since 2019, ODM has been engaged in a process of seeking significant stakeholder input to our Medicaid Managed Care Program, which currently serves more than three million Ohioans. The implementation of this new program, referred to as the “Next Generation” began July 1, 2022, with OhioRISE, and will continue October 1st with implementation of the provider network module (PNM) /centralized credentialing and single pharmacy benefit manager (SPBM). On December 1st, with the full cutover to the new program with seven statewide managed care plans, the remaining two stages of the staggered implementation will be complete. The policy, program, and IT changes with the Ohio Medicaid Enterprise System (OMES) modular design are significant. The Next Generation changes will represent the new platform for the MyCare conversion. Additional specificity regarding the Next Generation program is included below.

Below is a figure based on information from the CMS Rule describing the federal requirements for Medicare-Medicaid Managed Care Plans (MMP) operating in the new model of FIDE SNPs.

Figure 4. New Requirements of FIDE SNPs Based on 2022 CMS Rule

MMP Characteristic	FIDE SNP
Enrollee advisory committee	Required
Health Risk Assessment of members to include social risk factors	Required
Exclusively aligned enrollment	Required starting 2025
Capitation for Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS) & behavioral health	Required starting 2025
Capitation for Medicare cost-sharing	Required starting 2025
Unified appeals & grievances process for Medicare & Medicaid	Required starting 2025 for all FIDE SNPs
Continuation of Medicare benefits pending appeal (This is already required for Medicaid)	Required starting 2025 for all FIDE SNPs

Integrated member materials	Finalized a new pathway for States to require for certain plans
State Medicaid Agency Contract (SMAC or Contract) includes duals living in-state only	Finalized a new pathway for States to require for certain plans
Mechanisms for joint Federal-State oversight	Finalized for States meeting specified criteria at CFR 422.107€
State Health Plan Management System (HPMS) access ^v	Finalized for States meeting specified criteria at CFR 422.107€

What is the difference between MyCare and the proposed FIDE SNP?

When we compare the current MyCare demonstration program to the changes in the federal rules, the following figure illustrates the impact of the transition.

Figure 5. Similarities and Differences between MyCare to the Next Generation FIDE SNP Plan ^{vi}

Similarities:

- Integrated coordination of care across both Medicare and Medicaid with integrated member materials
- Unified appeals and grievances
- Enrollee advisory committees continue
- Default enrollment is very similar to passive enrollment
- Continuation of Medicare benefits pending appeals
- Existing federal funding for Ombudsman and other informational supports is ending but Ohio is committed to continuing these supports

Differences:

- Transition to the next generation managed care requirements
- Rather than the current three-way contract between CMS, ODM, and each MyCare Plan, there will be a SMAC contract for the FIDE SNP and a Medicaid Managed Care plan contract or one contract combining both.
- The Medicare and Medicaid Medical Loss Ratios (MLR) will not be combined into a single MLR
- Enrollment processing may look a little different
- Additional changes based on stakeholder feedback

Sustain Ombudsman Support for the MMPs/Integrated FIDE-SNPs Without Federal Funding

Through the MyCare demonstration there has been federal funding to support Ombudsman programs assisting MMP members to resolve problems they may encounter. It has also funded counseling programs such as State Health Insurance

Assistance Programs (SHIP) that help individuals make an informed decision in the choice of Medicare options or Aged and Disabled Resource Centers (ADRC) that may help educate potential enrollees on different options and settings that are available for long-term services and supports. Beginning with the start-up of the new Next Generation MyCare program, ODM intends to continue funding the current MyCare Ombudsman program and one-to-one counseling programs, by providing funding to the Ohio Department of Aging when the current federal funding ends. The amount of annual funding would be approximately \$960,000, the amount that has previously been federally funded. This state funding would continue after the FAI demonstration transitions.

Description of Necessary Policy and Operational Tasks and the Estimated Timeline

As a component of the Conversion Charter, CMS requires the State to identify those policy and operational issues that are central to the design and implementation of the new Next Generation MyCare program.

The following is an initial list of key issues that will be discussed with stakeholders. We expect that additional issues will be identified. Several of these issues are discussed in further detail below.

- Geography: Stay with the same seven catchment areas (29 counties), expand statewide or somewhere in between. If not statewide, are there other considerations for the non-FIDE areas?
- Application of the Next Generation Managed Care program requirements to the new MyCare program and conditions for the State Medicaid Agency Contract (SMAC)
- Enhancements to the ombudsman role
- Expansion of consumer self-direction, including streamlining the processes to enroll direct care providers and increase consumer budget authority
- Default enrollment to increase the opportunity for improving coordination of care
- The roles of the MMP and the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) in carrying out the responsibilities of “waiver service coordination” and “care management”
- Selection of new plans
- Coordination with the Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), especially regarding member transitions
- Current D-SNPs operating in Ohio

A variety of opportunities and “pain points” have been identified with the current MyCare program by providers and individuals served by the program. Additional information will be collected through discussions with stakeholders, so these can be addressed with the new program.

- Improving the availability of information through the enrollment broker to facilitate the individual's decision making; the enrollment broker making contact with the individual and maintaining a list of active providers.
- Timelines for authorization requirements
- Transportation- add the Next Generation requirements to improve transportation access.
- Alignment/resolution of confusion between waiver rules
- Developing value-based arrangements with nursing facilities

Obtaining Necessary State Legislative or Additional Federal Medicaid Approvals

As noted earlier, ODM and sister agencies, ODA, ODI, DODD, and the ODMHAS will be working together and with the Governor's Office. The Human Services Cluster, convened by the Governor's Assistant Policy Director, is one vehicle that currently exists.

Also as noted, ODM's budget will be considered by the Ohio General Assembly beginning in February 2023, with adoption by June 30, 2023. We anticipate that MyCare will be a topic for consideration. In addition, Ohio's General Assembly has a joint legislative committee, the Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee (JMOC), will be consulted.

Regarding federal authorities, ODM would likely submit either an amendment/renewal or submit a new 1915(b)(c) waiver combination to CMS to obtain federal authority for the transition of the FAI demonstration to a FIDE SNP model with fully aligned enrollment with a companion Medicaid managed care plan subject to the Next Generation program requirements.

Transition to Next Generation Managed Care Requirements

With a focus on better transparency and accountability, ODM has been in the process of improving the existing managed care process for the Medicaid managed care (MMC) program. With extensive stakeholder feedback, the various concerns identified with the Medicaid managed care program are also instructive to the MyCare program.

The Next Generation program is focused on the individual, rather than the business of managed care, putting the individual—and person-centered care—at the center of our design. Consumer and provider input was overwhelming, that it doesn't feel like "a" Medicaid program, but like six different programs each with its own unique administrative requirements. So, there is a significant priority on reducing the burden on providers and streamlining the overall consumer and provider experience.

The implementation of the new, modular Ohio Medicaid Enterprise System (OMES) uses various modules, simplifies the processes for providers, including centralized provider enrollment, credentialing, securing authorizations, and billing. The single pharmacy benefit manager (SPBM) provides a single benefit management function for all those served by the seven Next Generation plans. The Fiscal Intermediary will serve

as the central clearinghouse for Ohio Medicaid’s claims and prior authorization activity, giving Ohio Medicaid unprecedented accountability and access to timely information about the member and provider experience in the Medicaid managed care program.

Coordination of Care

Improved coordination of care is also a priority for the Next Generation program. In order to offer better coordination of care, which is the central intention for improving the integration of services and supports for dual eligible individuals, there are several areas of needed focus:

- MyCare is uniquely positioned nationally, using a combination of care coordination strategies. (See figure 6) Specifically, regarding care coordination, there are two groups of responsibilities, known as “waiver service coordination” and “care management”. The MyCare plans are required to contract with the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) for waiver service coordination for individuals 60 years and older, at a minimum. The roles of the MyCare plans and the AAAs in carrying out these responsibilities differs among MMPs and AAAs.
 - Aetna and CareSource use “Fully-Delegated Waiver Care Management”, with the AAA creating and implementing the care plan and coordinating medical, behavioral and HCBS services for those 18 years and older. In this case the individual has one care manager.
 - Buckeye, Molina and United create and implement the care plan, coordinate medical, behavioral health services for all ages, and HCBS waiver services for those 18 to 59 years of age, while the AAA coordinates the HCBS services for those age 60 years and older. In this case, the individual has two care managers.
- In addition to the design described above, feedback will be solicited to refine this set of responsibilities, caseloads, types of activities required, degree of delegation, opportunities to streamline the relationships, etc. Information sharing and access to case management information has been identified as an opportunity for improvement.
- Care coordination for individuals with behavioral health needs is an area of significant concern.
- Self-Direction is currently an option in the MyCare program. However, extensive feedback in this area has already identified the need to streamline and expand the options here for individuals.

Figure 6. Current Individual Categorization & Care Coordination Responsibilities

Categorization of Individuals	Care Management & Waiver Service Coordination
#1 & #2 Individual has a Nursing Facility Level of Care (NF-LOC)	
6. HCBS: Receiving Home & Community Based Waiver services	AAA responsible for waiver service coordination for individuals ≥ 60 and MyCare plan for those 18-59. OR fully delegated to the AAA.
7. NF: Individual is receiving Nursing Facility services	MyCare plan is responsible.
#3 Individual does <u>not</u> have a NF-LOC	
8. Community Well^{vii}: Individual not receiving NF or HCBS services	MyCare plan is responsible.

Network Adequacy and Delegation/Sub-Delegation Relationships

Several issues that have been identified in this area have also been raised through the course of our work on the Next Generation program. As we work through discussions with stakeholders on these issues, we think many will be addressed by the Next Gen changes.

Individuals with Significant Behavioral Health Needs

Inclusion of the full array of behavioral health benefits has been identified as a strength of the current MyCare program. It is important to note the age profile of those with behavioral health conditions is more varied than that of individuals with a nursing facility level of care, with more individuals under age 65. See figure 7A and 7B. To help address the needs for these individuals, all the MyCare plans have dedicated behavioral health professionals to work with members. Community behavioral health providers serve as essential partners to the MyCare plans in working with individuals with significant behavioral health needs, many who have other chronic conditions as well. Within the full scope of care coordination, attention is needed to identify best practices to meet the unique needs of these individuals.

Figure 7A. Individuals with any BH Condition Served by MyCare¹ (7/2022)

MyCare Group	Total Population	Percent with a current BH Condition			
		All Years	Under 45 yrs.	45-64 yrs.	65 yrs. & Over
NF Residents	17,550	90%	90%	91%	90%
MyCare Waiver	28,635	58%	65%	66%	56%
Community Well	90,808	46%	55%	55%	32%
	136,993	54%			
		Percent with an Identified BH Condition			
NF Residents	17,550	95%	94%	97%	95%
MyCare Waiver	28,635	77%	81%	85%	75%
Community Well	90,808	64%	74%	74%	50%
	136,993	71%			

For comparison, the total of all individuals served by MyCare is reflected below:

Figure 7B. All Individuals Served by MyCare (7/2022)

MyCare Group	Total Population		Total MyCare Individuals by Age					
			Under 45 yrs.		45-64 yrs.		65 yrs. & Over	
NF Residents	17,550	100%	268	2%	2,956	17%	14,326	82%
MyCare Waiver	28,635	100%	1,025	4%	6,794	24%	20,816	73%
Community Well	90,808	100%	19,452	21%	33,912	37%	37,444	41%
	136,993		20,745	15%	43,662	32%	72,586	53%

Provider Appeals

Additional enhancements from the Next Generation provider agreement would be included related to provider appeal processes, as follows.

- Peer-to-Peer Consultation – When the MCO denies a service authorization request from a provider, the MCO must notify and offer the provider the option to request a peer-to-peer consultation.
- Provider Internal Appeal Process - Available to providers for adverse prior authorization decisions as required in Ohio Revised Code 5160.34.
- Provider Claim Dispute Process – The MCO must establish and maintain a provider claim dispute resolution process for its network and out-of-network providers to dispute adverse claims payment decisions made by the MCO.

¹ Notes:

1. "Current BH condition" = any BH condition within past 6 months (2/22-7/22)
2. "Identified BH condition" = any BH condition within past 24 mos. (8/20-7/22)
3. Includes primary and secondary BH diagnoses
4. The most common BH diagnoses among MyCare individuals are, in order: anxiety, major depressive disorder, schizophrenia, bipolar disorders, PTSD, dementia, and opioid dependence.
5. Example interpretation: NF Residents; Current BH; Under 45 yrs. = "90% of MyCare recipients under 45 yrs. who had resided in a NF for >= 100 days as of 7/1/22 had a BH claim within the past 6 months"

- External Medical Review – The MCO must offer an external medical review to a provider who is not satisfied with the MCO's decision to deny, limit, reduce, suspend, or terminate a covered service (specified in Appendix B of the Next Generation provider agreement, Coverage and Services) for lack of medical necessity. This will be at no cost to the provider.

Non-Emergency Transportation (NEMT)

To address concerns about NEMT, ODM will include the following requirements in the Next Generation Medicaid MyCare contract to align with the Next Generation requirements.

- The MCO's member services call center must have a selection for transportation for members.
- Member services representatives must be trained to respond to transportation requests in accordance with MCO policies and procedures for arranging and providing transportation services. The MCO must not require more than 48 hours of advance notice for transportation needs and must provide exceptions for advance notice requirements for urgent member needs (e.g., for same or next day urgent appointments) and hospital discharges.

Identifying and Executing System Changes and Process to Implement Exclusive Alignment

As described very briefly above, the Next Generation policy and IT changes in OMES are significant. In addition to this new functionality, ODM will work with vendors to identify system and process changes necessary to implement exclusively aligned enrollment. The review would include who notifies CMS of the enrollment into Medicare. Today, ODM notifies CMS for MyCare enrollment. However, it is the D-SNP who notifies CMS if the individual resides in a region not served by MyCare or the individual opts-out of the Medicare managed care component. It would also identify what systems need to share with one another, as well as reviewing all related enrollment documents a consumer may receive.

Executing Medicaid Selection and State Medicaid Agency Contracts (SMACs)

There are several important considerations that will determine how Ohio proceeds with selection and developing provider agreements and SMACs; including maintaining or expanding geography, the role of the current D-SNPs in the Next Generation MyCare program, care coordination and alignment, and others. The final decisions in these areas will have an impact on the final timeline for the complete conversion to the new program.

The State Medicaid Agency Contract (SMAC) will be updated to include additional requirements to ensure FIDE SNP requirements are met and to ensure integration and a smooth transition from the current MyCare program to the FIDE SNP Next Generation Medicaid Managed Care program.

As described in figure 1, today five MyCare plans operate in three specific regions; with two plans in all the regions, except for the northeast region with three plans. A variety of issues factor into the decision whether to limit the Next Gen MyCare plans to specific regions.

Also, for consideration as noted above, ODM will engage the current D-SNP plans in stakeholder discussion, including the role of the current D-SNPs and whether to contract with any additional D-SNPs in existing MyCare geographic regions or statewide for the new program.

Figure 8 below utilizes ODM data to depict the current full dually eligible enrollment in different D-SNPs that operate in Ohio today, as well as their current Medicaid and Medicare expertise in Ohio. Some of the organizations may have more than one D-SNP. In that case these totals are cumulative.

Figure 8. Current Ohio D-SNPs--Enrollment, MMP and MMC Experience

Current Ohio D-SNPs	D-SNP Enrollment	Ohio Next Gen MMC & MyCare Plan	Ohio Next Gen MMC but <u>not</u> MyCare	<u>No</u> Ohio MMC or MMP
Aetna	7,806			
Anthem	31,720		Yes	
Buckeye	2,869	Yes		
CareSource	1,538	Yes		
Cigna	0			Yes
Devoted	0			Yes
HealthPlan WV	204			Yes
Humana	12,992		Yes	
Molina	1,166	Yes		
United Health Care	36,288	Yes		
			AmeriHealth	

Fiscal Impact & Financial Considerations

Figures 9 and 10 provide some financial information for the most complete fiscal year, SFY 2021, comparing location of service and expenditures.

Note: additional information is being compiled related to this topic.

Figure 9. MyCare Opt In and Opt Out SFY21 PMPM

MyCare Opt In	MyCare Opt Out
\$1,538	\$2,010

Figure 10. SFY 21 MyCare Individuals and Expenditures PMPM

Category	Expenditures	PMPM	Ave. # Individuals per month
NF	\$2,416,464,457	\$3,948.42	18,880
MyCare Waiver			32,120
Community Well	\$361,701,009	\$366.53	82,236
	\$2,778,165,466	\$1,737.61	\$133,237

Conclusion

As noted above, this “Conversion Charter” is a preliminary draft for the purpose of beginning stakeholder discussions and initiating discussion with CMS prior to the October 1st deadline for submission. The October 1st submission, as well as subsequent updated versions will be amended based on feedback received from all the relevant stakeholders and CMS as outlined above. We look forward to these discussions.

Attachment 1

List of Abbreviations

AAA	Area Agency on Aging
CMS	Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
D-SNP	Dual Eligible Special Needs Plan
FIA	Medicare – Medicaid Financial Alignment Initiative Demonstration; in Ohio, known as MyCare
FIDE SNP	Fully Integrated Dual Eligible Special Needs Plan
FFS	Fee-For-Service
HCBS	Home and Community-Based Service
JMOC	Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee of the Ohio General Assembly
LOC	Level of Care
LTC	Long-Term Care
LTSS	Long-Term Services and Supports
MA	Medicaid Advantage
MCO	Managed Care Organization
MLR	Medical Loss Ratio
MMC	Medicaid Managed Care Plan
MMP	Medicare-Medicaid Plan
NF	Nursing Facility
OMES	Ohio Medicaid Enterprise System
PACE	Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly
PHE	Public Health Emergency
PMPM	Per Member Per Month
SMAC	State Medicaid Agency Contract

End Notes:

- ⁱ Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Financial Alignment Initiative (FAI) MyCare Ohio Demonstration Second Evaluation Report Findings at a Glance (March 8, 2022), [Financial Alignment Initiative \(FAI\) MyCare Ohio Demonstration \(cms.gov\)](#),^[JOB:JOB] visited Sep. 9, 2022). (Results are limited to Medicare only).
- ⁱⁱ United States, Department of Health & Human Services. “Medicare Program; Contract Year 2023 Policy and Technical Changes to the Medicare Advantage and Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Programs.” 87 Fed. Reg. 27704 (May 9, 2022). Available at [Federal Register :: Medicare Program; Contract Year 2023 Policy and Technical Changes to the Medicare Advantage and Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Programs; Policy and Regulatory Revisions in Response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency; Additional Policy and Regulatory Revisions in Response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#)
- ⁱⁱⁱ Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. People Dually Eligible for Medicare and Medicaid. Fact Sheet March 2020, [People Dually Eligible for Medicare and Medicaid Fact Sheet \(032020\) \(cms.gov\)](#), (last visited Sep. 9, 2022).
- ^{iv} Integrated Care Resource Center (ICRC), FACT SHEET (April 2022), [Dually Eligible Individuals: The Basics \(integratedcareresourcecenter.com\)](#) (last visited September 2nd, 2022).
- ^v Health Plan Management System (HPMS), [Health Plan Management System Login Page \(cms.gov\)](#) (last visited September 2nd, 2022). (HPMS allows Plans, CMS, & others for compliance requirements).
- ^{vi} Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (January 2022), *Overview of D-SNP and MMP Provisions in CY 2023 Medicare Advantage and Part D Proposed Rule* [PowerPoint slide 9].
- ^{vii} The term “Community Well” may be misleading. While individuals in this group do not receive NF or HCBS waivers, the individual’s behavioral health or other health related needs are significant enough to qualify for SSI disability.



Findings at a Glance

MODEL OVERVIEW

The Financial Alignment Initiative (FAI) aims to provide individuals dually enrolled in Medicare and Medicaid with a better care experience and better align the financial incentives of the Medicare and Medicaid programs. CMS is working with States to test two integrated care delivery models: a capitated model and a managed fee-for-service model.

Ohio and CMS launched the MyCare Ohio demonstration in 2014. The demonstration has been extended until 2022.

Key Features of the Ohio Demonstration

- Uses the capitated model based on a three-way contract between each Medicare-Medicaid Plan (MMP), CMS and the State to finance all Medicare and Medicaid services.
- MMPs provide care coordination and flexible benefits that vary by MMP.
- MMPs provide integrated benefits to all full-benefit Medicare-Medicaid enrollees age 18 and older.

PARTICIPANTS



MEDICARE-MEDICAID PLANS

- The demonstration operates in seven regions, comprising 29 of Ohio's 88 counties.
- Five MMPs contract with medical, behavioral health, and long-term services and supports (LTSS) providers to provide integrated Medicare and Medicaid services.
- Medicare-Medicaid beneficiaries who choose not to receive their Medicare benefits through a MyCare Ohio MMP are not enrolled in the demonstration but are still required to receive their Medicaid benefits through a MyCare Ohio plan.
- MMPs are required to contract with Area Agencies on Aging waiver service coordinators to coordinate waiver services for members who are age 60 or older and have the option to delegate waiver service coordination for enrollees under age 60.



BENEFICIARIES

As of December 2020,



were enrolled in a **Medicare-Medicaid Plan**.

82,863 of the total 134,194 eligible Medicare-Medicaid beneficiaries were participating in the Ohio demonstration.

FINDINGS



IMPLEMENTATION

- MMPs credited the design of MyCare Ohio with the **relatively high rate of enrollment**.
- The State requires MMPs to adopt a **population health management** model for care management and has **developed an assessment** that captures information about the **social determinants of health**.
- MMPs are working collaboratively to **reduce the administrative burden on nursing facilities** by creating more **consistent processes and tools across MMPs**.
- The percentage of members with **at least one documented discussion of care goals** in their care plan has been **consistently high throughout the demonstration**.
- The percentage of MyCare Ohio enrollees who rated their health plan as a 9 or 10 **increased from 51% to 66% between 2015 and 2018**.

Findings at a Glance

FINDINGS (continued)



MEDICARE EXPENDITURES

Regression analyses of the demonstration impact on Medicare Parts A and B costs, relative to a comparison group, found statistically significant increases during the overall demonstration period.

Monthly demonstration effect on Medicare Parts A and B costs, by demonstration year

Demonstration Period	Average Demonstration Effect on Medicare Expenditures, PMPM
DY 1 (May 2014–Dec 2015)	\$-24.52
DY 2 (Jan 2016–Dec 2016)	\$127.35*
DY 3 (Jan 2017–Dec 2017)	\$147.66*
DY 4 (Jan 2018–Dec 2018)	\$183.89*
Cumulative (DY 1–4)	\$97.55*

DY = demonstration year; PMPM = per member per month

*p<0.05



**SERVICE UTILIZATION AND QUALITY OF CARE:
Demonstration Years 1 through 4 (2014–2018)**

Favorable Results	Unfavorable Results
<p>↑ Increased monthly number of physician visits</p>	<p>↑ Increased monthly probability of any emergency department visit</p>
<p>↑ Increased probability of any 30-day mental health follow up after a mental health discharge</p>	<p>↑ Increased number of preventable emergency department visits</p>
<p>↓ Decreased monthly probability of any inpatient admission</p>	<p>↑ Increased probability of ambulatory care sensitive condition admissions</p>
<p>↓ Decreased annual probability of any long-stay nursing facility use</p>	

- There was no demonstration effect on the probability of skilled nursing facility admissions or the probability of 30-day readmissions.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

There was strong support among Ohio stakeholders for extending the demonstration, despite some challenges in 2018–2020. MyCare Ohio has maintained relatively high enrollment during the demonstration. The proportion of enrollees with documented discussions of care goals has also been consistently high, and care quality and enrollee satisfaction have improved over time. There were statistically significant increases in cumulative Medicare costs. The demonstration had mixed results on service use.

CURRENT INITIATIVES

HEAP Outreach | HEAP Summer Crisis Program ended on September 30th. In total we had eight billboard messages posted in six of our counties, a series of television PSAs on WOUB, and paid FB video ads that reached 11,000 views. Planning and preparation has already taken place for the Winter/Regular Program outreach and contracts are secured for a run of billboards in all eight of our counties thanks to discovering a new billboard advertiser (Huntington Billboards). These will begin around December-January depending on availability and run through March of 2023.

Aging Outreach | Buckeye Hills is scheduled to be a sponsor or participate in outreach events throughout the year. These include Senior Fairs, Health Fairs, virtual presentations, and speaking engagements with community groups. Recent outreach events have included:

- Meigs County Fair (August 15-20)
- Perry County Health Fair (August 18)
- Washington Community Resource Fair (August 28)
- Senior Day at Noble County Fair (September 2)
- Washington Jobs/Disability Resource Fair (September 15)
- Athens Farmers' Market 50th Anniversary (September 21)
- Lunch N' Learn Series at O'Neill Center (October 6)

Upcoming events include:

- Washington County Food Drive (October 28)
- BB2C: Family Career Awareness Day (November 2)
- Veterans Appreciation Day Middleport (November 9)

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.

Walk to End Alzheimer's Sponsorship and Event | The 2022 Walk to End Alzheimer's Event took place on Saturday, September 17 at Tomlinson Park in Williamstown, WV. Buckeye Hills Regional Council was a sponsor of the Champions Tent and provided over 30 bags of handouts and materials to individuals that raised \$500 or more. Snacks and drinks were also made available by staff. In total our team raised \$670 toward the walk through individual fundraising, selling balloon flowers, and offering up a balloon flower bouquet as an online auction item.

Medicare Outreach | Medicare Open Enrollment runs from October 15- December 7 and we have advertisements scheduled across seven radio stations reaching all eight counties. Newspaper advertisements will be run in Monroe, Morgan, Perry, and Meigs county papers. There will also be a WOUB commercial airing 148 times throughout the enrollment period encouraging individuals to call the OSHIIP hotline for assistance with enrollment.

Mobility Management Video Project | The Communications team provided project management oversight for Washington County Mobility Management in the creation of a consumer instructional video on how to utilize Community Action Bus Lines (CABL) throughout Marietta and Washington County. A YouTube ad campaign in August and September reached more than 67,000 potential riders in Washington County.

Serving Athens, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry and Washington Counties in Southeast Ohio.

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2023 State of the Region Conference | The Communications Director has been attending monthly virtual meetings to plan the themes and sessions for the May 2023 State of the Region Conference. As part of the conference, each Buckeye Hills Regional Council and its sister Local Development Districts will be featured in short (3-5 minute) profile videos. The Communications team has been coordinating production of these videos with Ohio University media students this fall.

OARC Candidates Forum | The Communications Director assisted with promotion of the Ohio Association of Regional Council's Gubernatorial Candidates Forum. He also assisted the BHRC Executive Director with preparation for a panel discussion on the outlook for development across Ohio with counterparts from across the state.

Buckeye Hills Foundation | The Communications Director helped organize and promote the Annual River Cruise in September. This year's well-attended event served as a relaunch of the Buckeye Hills Foundation (buckeyehillsfoundation.org). Ten sponsors and eighty guests joined this year's cruise, which featured remarks by the BHF and BRCH Executive Directors and updates on broadband developments by the BHRC Broadband Coordinator and Reid Consulting Group, as well as an update on The Ridges redevelopment by Community Building Partners.

NEWS

• Recent Press Releases & Notices

- August 4: [District 18 – Ohio Public Works Commission \(OPWC\) Natural Resources Assistance Council Solicitation for Nominations](#)
- August 8: [Celebrating National Farmers Market Week 2022](#)
- August 9: [Buckeye Hills Regional Council Broadband Committee Meeting - August 22](#)
- August 12: [OneOhio Region 12 Organizational Meeting - August 26](#)
- August 19: [RFP: In- and Out-of-County Non-Emergency Medical Transportation Services](#)
- August 25: [Affordable Connectivity Program Events Coming to Marietta, Caldwell](#)
- August 29: [New Studies Detail Regional Broadband Feasibility and Business Broadband Connectivity](#)
- September 9: [Noble County Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting – September 21](#)
- September 9: [Monroe County Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting – September 20](#)
- September 20: [Buckeye Hills Regional Council to Host Rural Consultation Meeting for ODOT Transportation Projects – October 11](#)
- September 26: [Perry County Broadband Committee Meeting – October 13](#)
- September 28: [EDA Invests \\$2.5 Million in Monroe and Morgan County Water Projects](#)

• Notable Media Mentions

- August 1: WOUB - [Appalachian counties have plans to use American Rescue Plan funding but still face project obstacles](#)
- August 6: Marietta Times - [GoPacks to host event to educate community about resources available](#)
- August 10: Athens Messenger - [Voinovich School names senior executive in residence for local government services](#)
- August 10: Perry County Tribune - [Buckeye Hills Regional Council has new executive director](#)
- August 13: Logan Daily News - [OneOhio Region 12 to hold organizational meeting](#)
- August 26: Morgan County Herald - [Buckeye Hills Regional Council names new Executive Director](#)
- September 29: Ohio Means Jobs Meigs County Podcast – [Buckeye Hills Regional Council \(broadband\)](#)

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

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CURRENT INITIATIVES

EDA Invests \$2.5 Million in Monroe and Morgan County Water Projects | On September 27, it was announced the Department's Economic Development Administration (EDA) is awarding \$2.5 million for improvements to water systems in Monroe and Morgan counties. In Monroe County, the EDA is awarding a \$1.2 million grant to Monroe Water Systems to support economic development by relocating and upgrading a 3,700-foot water main. The main had been subject to numerous breaks along its route between State Route 7 and the Ohio River caused by flooding, landslips, and erosion. The resulting breaks had caused losses of production for many industries served by the water system and service interruptions for more than 1,700 customers. In Morgan County, the EDA is awarding \$1.3 million for water infrastructure improvements to ensure reliable water service to residential, commercial, and industrial facilities located along State Route 60 north of the Village of McConnelsville.

NEWS

Program & Service Updates

- **Ohio BUILDS: Small Communities, Big Impact** | Buckeye Hills Regional Council staff continue to work closely with the staffs of the Governor's Office of Appalachia and the Ohio Department of Development to get the information to share with our communities regarding the \$500 million investment. We have retained Brenda Haas and Burton Planning Services to provide technical assistance to our communities.
- **OneOhio Region 12 Update** | The first organizational meeting of the OneOhio Region 12 was held on August 26. The committee passed the new bylaws and appointed members to the executive committee. From the committee the following officers were elected: Gracee Poorman (Perry County private sector), President; John Jackson (Washington County health representative), Vice President; and Mollie Crooks (Muskingum County Commissioner), Secretary.
- **Arts & Economic Prosperity 6 Study** | In addition to survey collection by BHRC staff, collection of the survey by our area venues has increased. We continue to raise awareness of the survey in our community and have established venues who are fully involved in the process of distributing and collecting both paper and online surveys. Our goal is to increase the number of venues that feel comfortable using their own staff and volunteers to collect the survey as it will only widen the scope of data we are trying to capture in our region. We are utilizing the help of the Ohio Arts Council's marketing team to help spread the message of what we're trying to do with the survey. Finally, we are putting as many dates as possible on our calendar that BHRC staff are able to attend. These are events where the venue's staff and volunteers are limited.

STAFF UPDATES

- **Brandi Beaver** has worked on increasing outreach to Monroe, Morgan and Noble counties over the last months.
- **Madelyn Brewer** has been assisting communities in completing applications for state Area Development funds for FY 2023 and finishing up federal applications for FY 2022. In the next month, communities submitting applications for federal Area Development funds will begin working on their applications. If any communities in Athens, Meigs, or Noble counties (ARC designated distressed counties) have updates to project profiles submitted for consideration, please let her know!
- **Ryan Collins** has been working to stay up to date on the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund builds as they continue to expand through region and monitor Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant builds as they get ready to start. He continues to provide Affordable Connectivity Program Training for organizations around the region.

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- **Carly Fitz** is working for the Rio Grande Community College environmental review and is continuing to send out Fair Housing mailings. She finalized the Bid Packet for Washington County CDBG projects.
- **Julia Hinzman and Kelly Islay** are compiling the required documents for a section 5310 technical assistance review for the non-emergency medical grant for Washington and Monroe counties.
- **Michelle Hyer** recently completed the rating of the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) applications for Round 37 that were received. The total request for funds is \$17,536,557 with a total project cost of \$42,768,928. Michelle is currently working on releasing individual application scores to each applicant. Those applicants will then have a cure period that will end October 21. County sub-committees will meet the week of November 7 and the District 18 OPWC Executive Committee will approve a slate of projects on December 6.
- **Kate Perani** has worked on the RISE Ohio initiative and will be tackling 12 projects in our Opportunity Zones throughout the Buckeye Hills region and plan to have at least one project in all eight of our counties.
- **Jada Riley** has been working with Designing Local to complete the Downtown Revitalization Guidebook that came as a result of the workshops hosted in each of our 8 counties this summer. The guidebook will provide professional strategies on community branding, placemaking, wayfinding, public space improvement, technology infrastructure, and historic preservation. The guide will also provide case study examples of existing strategies implemented in our region's downtowns. The guidebook is on track to be completed and printed by October 14 and will be available for our partners' use.
- **Melissa Zoller** has been working on an upcoming event with ODOT for the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) on October 11 from 10-12. ODOT District offices 5 and 10 will be on site for discussion of upcoming projects. During that event we will also begin the discussion of how we will spend the second round of capital funds for the district.

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

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CURRENT INITIATIVES

BHRC Apparel Store | BHRC has partnered with Hyde Brothers to set up an online apparel store for staff as well as board members interested in purchasing your own BHRC items. You may order tee shirts, polos, hats, and more and have them shipped straight to your home. Sizing charts are listed with each item, where applicable. If you have any questions about the store or items, please reach out to Drew Tanner at dtanner@buckeyehills.org. You can order items at: <https://buckeyehillsregionalcouncil.buyproforma.com/#/>

Halloween Door Decorating | Staff will be decorating doors in the office or at their homes for Halloween. The deadline for doors to be decorated is October 28. Watch our BHRC Facebook page for pictures of the doors, or visit our office in person.

Staff Evaluations | Staff evaluations have been completed and scores will be brought to the Management Committee during the November board meeting.

UPCOMING STAFF EVENT

October 26, 2022	E-Waste pick up
October 28, 2022	Deadline to submit a decorated door
November 10, 2022	Garage Clean Out
November 11, 2022	BHRC Office Closed in observance of Veterans Day
November 24 & 25, 2022	BHRC Office Closed in observance of Thanksgiving
December 14, 2022	Movie day at BHRC
December 16, 2022	Staff Christmas Luncheon

STAFF UPDATES

Sam Miller, Development Director – Congratulations to Sam on being accepted into the new class of the Appalachian Leadership Institute!! It is always an honor to have our staff accepted into programs to build their skills and to provide additional knowledge to our operations.

- **Tonia Blevins**, resigned as Information & Assistance Specialist, effective August 17
- **Kellie Lewis**, retired from Clinical Assistant, effective August 19
- **Cheryl Handschumaker**, hired as Clinical Assistant, effective September 19
- **Denise Wheeler**, hired as Clinical Assistant, effective September 19
- **Mirya Hanes**, resigned as Clinical Assistant, effective September 23
- **Joe Gage**, retired from Housing Coordinator, effective September 30
- **Stephanie Murphy**, resigned as Care Management Coordinator, effective September 30
- **Kindra Hecker**, hired as Information & Assistance Specialist, effective October 10
- **Angela Dowler**, hired as Clinical Assistant, effective October 24

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

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Vibrant Communities Program

Grant Funding Guidelines

The Vibrant Communities Program was established to assist distressed, small and mid-sized cities with catalytic development projects that fulfill a market need and represent a significant reinvestment in the community. This program recognizes that distressed communities often do not have adequate resources to support these types of economic development projects that can attract private investment and create new jobs opportunities. The Vibrant Communities Program intends to reduce risk and remove barriers the community faces in moving these investments forward. The definition of catalytic may vary community-to-community and JobsOhio intends to evaluate each project on its merits.

Guiding Principles for Program

- The primary focus is on generating reinvestment in eligible distressed communities that have experienced chronic disinvestment.
- Projects must have at least one identified end-user, however, this end-user does not have to align with JobsOhio target industries.
- Projects will lead to significantly improved quality of place in order to improve employer and employee retention and attraction. The projects should be catalytic in nature, making the surrounding area more attractive for future development.
- JobsOhio seeks to invest in projects that demonstrate leverage of outside funds and encourages the utilization and formation of public-private partnerships.
- Projects will align with broader JobsOhio goals and programs. As such they will increase real estate inventory, real estate appraisal value, attract capital investment, and job creation potential in participating communities.
- JobsOhio will support a diverse set of projects in varied geography of eligible communities across the state.



Funding

- Duration of Program: July 2020 – June 2025
- JobsOhio Funding will typically not exceed \$1 million per Project and should not exceed 50% of eligible costs unless authorized by the JobsOhio President.

Eligible Applicants and Communities

- Municipalities with populations under 75,000 and poverty rates that are at or above the state's average poverty rate are eligible for support.
- The lead applicant should be the eligible community or appropriate local/regional economic development organization. The Project Beneficiary (Beneficiary is the recipient of the grant funds) may be the owner of the building/property, developer, or other Project company. The beneficiary will be discussed as part of the application process. All key partners in the Project should be active participants in the application process and understand their commitments as presented in the application for the Program.
- Ideally, either the applicant or Project Beneficiary should have control of the property in question or have a cooperative agreement with property owners. However, at minimum, the community must present a feasible plan to control the property.
- The Project Beneficiary cannot be the contaminator of environmental issues, if such issues exist.
- The JobsOhio President may allow a project in townships contiguous to an eligible municipality if the project meets all other eligibility criteria.

Vibrant Communities Program

Grant Funding Guidelines

Eligible Projects

- Projects must be in an eligible community as defined above in Eligible Applicants.
- Projects will typically be in downtowns or a similar commercial district.
- The Project site should be in an area where added inducement is needed to reduce risk and attract new investment.
- Projects may include renovation of existing buildings, new construction, or a combination of both.
- The Project may be defined as a single building or parcel, or multiple buildings and parcels in the same area.
- Projects must have an Eligible Anchor Tenant, or Tenants, committed to at least 30% of the Project's usable square footage. (See next section for Eligible Required Anchor Tenants and End Users.)
- Mixed-use projects are eligible and encouraged.
- Operated Shared spaces such as business incubators, accelerators, innovation centers, maker spaces, and co-working spaces that contribute to the business community as well as workforce may be an Anchor Tenant, however, must meet additional requirements, including:
 - » Shared spaces must target appropriate users, preferably within defined JobsOhio target industries but may also include small and early-stage businesses.
 - » Operation of the space must be managed by an experienced entity. Applications must include a business plan, financials and proforma for review.
 - » Co-working spaces must also provide programming such as small business assistance, technical training, and other workshops that assist businesses or individuals in a targeted way.

Eligible Required Anchor Tenants and other End-Uses

Anchor tenants may fall outside of JobsOhio targeted industries; however, the number and quality of jobs are a program consideration.

- Eligible Anchor Tenants (must be at least 30% of usable square footage)
 - » Office
 - » Co-Working Spaces
 - » Business Incubators
 - » Business Accelerators
 - » Research and Development Spaces
 - » Innovation Centers
 - » Maker spaces
 - » Light Industrial
- Eligible as part of mixed-use developments
 - » Retail
 - » Housing
 - » Hotel
 - » Healthcare*
 - » Education (i.e. Universities, Technical Centers)
- Ineligible
 - » Recreational Facilities and Parks
 - » Streetscaping (sidewalks, lighting, signage)
 - » Parking lots/garages*
 - » Sports or entertainment venues
 - » 100% speculative development projects

**Special Consideration*

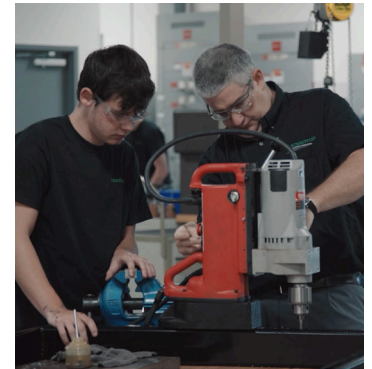
Vibrant Communities Program

Grant Funding Guidelines

Project Selection and Funding Determination

Anchor tenants may fall outside of JobsOhio targeted industries; however, the number and quality of jobs are a program consideration.

- Financial feasibility and strength of capital stack
- Experience and strength of developer, anchor tenant(s), and/or entity leading the Project
- Degree of community and economic impact
- Job Creation and Retention
- Level of community distress
- Alignment with broader JobsOhio goals
- Alignment with community plan and vision
- Local support for project, including public and private stakeholders
- Additional public or private sector participation (additional funds leveraged)
- Demonstrated need/funding gap



Eligible & Ineligible Project Costs:

- Eligible
 - » Building construction & expansions
 - » On-site infrastructure
 - » Environmental remediation
 - » Demolition, removal & disposal of universal construction waste
 - » Asbestos abatement
 - » Lead-based paint abatement
 - » Machinery & equipment (fixed assets)
 - » Building Renovation
- Special Consideration (must be approved in advance)
 - » Administrative or general project management costs
 - » Engineering services
 - » Planning fees and material costs
 - » Other relevant professional fees
 - » Parking lots and structures
 - » Real estate acquisition
 - » Legal fees associated with engagement & site marketing
 - » Tenant improvements
 - » Furniture & fixtures
 - » Marketing & site visit education
 - » Off-site infrastructure
 - » Phase I studies
 - » Phase II studies
 - » IT equipment
- Ineligible
 - » Signage, lighting, landscaping
 - » Environmental insurances & clearances
 - » Operational costs
 - » Meals, entertainment, travel expenses
 - » Fees or owed promised money such as
 - Fines & costs from violation of law
 - Contributions & donations
 - Interest on borrowed money
 - Debt servicing
 - Rolling stock
 - Taxes
 - Lease & rent payments
 - Retirement of bonds or other interest vehicles
 - Legal fees



Vibrant Communities Program

Grant Funding Guidelines



Application Process

- Eligible communities should contact their JobsOhio Regional Network Partner to discuss eligibility and preliminary vetting of the Project.
- While program eligibility requirements exist, meeting those requirements is not indicative the Project will receive approval or support.

Eligible Cities

Aberdeen	Beaverdam	Cambridge	Congress	Fairport Harbor
Ada	Bedford Heights	Camden	Conneaut	Fairview
Addyston	Bellaire	Campbell	Corning	Fayette
Adelphi	Bellefontaine	Canton	Coshocton	Fayetteville
Adena	Bergholz	Cardington	Craig Beach	Felicity
Alger	Bethel	Castalia	Crestline	Florida
Alliance	Bethesda	Castine	Cridersville	Fostoria
Amsterdam	Beverly	Cedarville	Crooksville	Frankfort
Andover	Blakeslee	Chatfield	Crown City	Franklin
Ansonia	Blanchester	Chauncey	Custar	Fazeysburg
Antioch	Bloomington	Chesapeake	Cygnets	Freeport
Apple Creek	Bloomington	Chesterhill	Danville	Fremont
Arlington Heights	Bowerston	Chesterville	Defiance	Fulton
Ashland	Bowling Green	Cheviot	Dellroy	Galion
Ashley	Bradford	Chillicothe	Dennison	Gallipolis
Ashtabula	Bremen	Christiansburg	Dillonvale	Garfield Heights
Athalia	Brewster	Circleville	Dresden	Garrettsville
Athens	Bridgeport	Clarington	Dunkirk	Geneva
Bainbridge	Broughton	Clarksburg	East Cleveland	Georgetown
Baltimore	Buckeye Lake	Clay Center	East Liverpool	Gibsonburg
Barberton	Buckland	Cleveland Heights	Elmwood Place	Gilboa
Batavia	Bucyrus	Cloverdale	Elyria	Girard
Beach City	Byesville	Coal Grove	Empire	Glouster
Beallsville	Cadiz	Coalton	Euclid	Golf Manor
Beaver	Caldwell	College Corner	Fairborn	Gratiot

Vibrant Communities Program

Grant Funding Guidelines



Eligible Cities

Graysville	Jerry City	McArthur	Moscow	Ney
Greenfield	Jerusalem	McGuffey	Mount Healthy	North Baltimore
Greenville	Junction City	Macksburg	Mount Orab	North College Hill
Greenwich	Kent	Malta	Mount Sterling	Norwalk
Grover Hill	Kenton	Malvern	Mount Vernon	Norwood
Hamden	Killbuck	Manchester	Mowrystown	Oak Hill
Hamersville	Lakeview	Mansfield	Murray City	Oakwood village (Cuyahoga County), Ohio
Hamilton	Lancaster	Mantua	Napoleon	
Hanoverton	La Rue	Maple Heights	Navarre	Oberlin
Harrisburg	Laurelville	Marietta	Nellie	Octa
Harrisville	Leesburg	Marion	Nelsonville	Old Washington
Hartford (Croton)	Leipsic	Martinsburg	Nevada	Orwell
Haviland	Lewisville	Martins Ferry	Neville	Ottawa
Hebron	Lima	Massillon	Newark	Owensville
Higginsport	Lincoln Heights	Matamoras	New Bloomington	Oxford
Highland	Lindsey	Mechanicsburg	New Boston	Painesville
Highland Hills	Linndale	Melrose	Newburgh Heights	Patterson
Hillsboro	Lisbon	Metamora	New Carlisle	Payne
Hollansburg	Lockbourne	Middleport	Newcomerstown	Peebles
Holloway	Lockland	Middletown	New Concord	Perrysville
Hopedale	Lodi	Midland	New Holland	Philo
Irondale	Logan	Midway	New Lebanon	Piketon
Ironton	Lorain	Mifflin	New Lexington	Pleasant City
Jackson	Lore City	Miltonsburg	New London	Pleasantville
Jackson Center	Loudonville	Mineral City	New Miami	Pomeroy
Jacksonville	Lowell	Minerva	New Paris	Portage
Jamestown	Lower Salem	Mingo Junction	New Philadelphia	Port Clinton
Jefferson	Lynchburg	Montpelier	New Straitsville	Portsmouth
Jeffersonville	Lyons	Moraine	New Vienna	Port William

Vibrant Communities Program

Grant Funding Guidelines



Eligible Cities

Potsdam	Savannah	Trotwood	Whitehall
Powhatan Point	Scio	Tuscarawas	Williamsburg
Proctorville	Seaman	Uhrichsville	Williamsport
Racine	Sebring	Union City	Willshire
Rarden	Shawnee	Urbana	Wilmington
Ravenna	Silverton	Urbancrest	Winchester
Rawson	Somerset	Valleyview	Windham
Rayland	South Charleston	Van Wert	Woodlawn
Rendville	South Euclid	Venedocia	Woodsfield
Rio Grande	South Salem	Vinton	Woodstock
Ripley	South Zanesville	Walbridge	Xenia
Rittman	Sparta	Wapakoneta	Yorkville
Riverside	Spencer	Warren	Youngstown
Rock Creek	Spencerville	Warrensville Heights	Zanesfield
Rogers	Springdale	Washington Court House	Zanesville
Rome (Stout)	Springfield	Washingtonville	
Roseville	Steubenville	Wayne	
Rossburg	Stockport	Waynesburg	
Roswell	Stratton	Wellston	
Rushsylvania	Struthers	Wellsville	
Rushville	Summerfield	West Carrollton	
Russells Point	Syracuse	West Farmington	
Russellville	Tarlton	West Lafayette	
Sabina	Thurston	West Manchester	
St. Paris	Tiltonsville	Weston	
Salem	Tiro	West Union	
Salineville	Toronto	West Unity	
Sandusky	Tremont City	Wharton	
Sardinia	Trimble		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **JobsOhio Vibrant Communities Program Expands to Include More Buckeye Hills Communities** | The JobsOhio Vibrant Communities program will be expanding for 2022-2023, from 13 communities to 123 across Ohio's Appalachian counties. Nearly one-third of the newly-eligible communities are in the Buckeye Hills Region. You can view the new map of eligible communities [HERE](#). Additional details will be listed on the JobsOhio Vibrant Communities page [HERE](#) in the coming days. This support has the potential to be layered into an Appalachian Community Grants Program application.
- **Registration Open for WealthWorks Institute 2022: Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems** | Join us on Tuesday, October 25, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., at Stuart's Opera House for a FREE workshop highlighting successes in agriculture, food access, value-added food business, and more in the Buckeye Hills Region. This one-day workshop, hosted by Rural Action, Buckeye Hills Regional Council, and ACEnet, will show how the WealthWorks strategic capital framework emphasizes the creation of value chains, and is a proven tool for growing economic opportunities in rural communities. The workshop will feature several panels, a catered lunch, and site visits to ACEnet's Nelsonville Food & Farm Enterprise Center, as well as the Southeast Ohio Food Bank. A full agenda and speakers will be posted in the coming days. Register [HERE](#).
- **EDA Invests \$2.5 Million in Monroe and Morgan County Water Projects** | On September 27, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo announced the Department's Economic Development Administration (EDA) is awarding \$2.5 million for improvements to water systems in Monroe and Morgan counties. In Monroe County, the EDA is awarding a \$1.2 million grant to Monroe Water Systems to support economic development by relocating and upgrading a 3,700-foot water main. The main had been subject to numerous breaks along its route between State Route 7 and the Ohio River caused by flooding, landslips, and erosion. The resulting breaks have caused losses of production for many industries served by the water system and service interruptions for more than 1,700 customers. In Morgan County, the EDA is awarding \$1.3 million for water infrastructure improvements to ensure reliable water service to residential, commercial and industrial facilities located along State Route 60 north of the Village of McConnelsville. Learn more [HERE](#).
- **Governor DeWine Announces H2Ohio Support to Improve Drinking Water Infrastructure in Lowell** | Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Ohio EPA Director Laurie A. Stevenson announced on September 13 that the village of Lowell in Washington County will receive \$200,000 in H2Ohio funding to improve drinking water quality. The village of Lowell will use the H2Ohio funding to purchase new water filters to remove iron and manganese from its water and improve long-term water quality in the village. See the full announcement [HERE](#).
- **Rural Action Receives \$1.4 Million DOL/ARC Workforce Grant** | Rural Action was among 13 Appalachian organizations awarded funding last week by the U.S. Department of Labor, in partnership with ARC. The agencies awarded \$17.1+ million to 13 projects through the [Workforce Opportunities for Rural Communities](#) Initiative. Recipients will use funds to provide education, training, and career support services across Appalachia - particularly for those who have been professionally displaced, are in recovery from substance use disorder, or are completely new to the workforce.

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- **New Studies Detail Regional Broadband Feasibility and Business Broadband Connectivity** | A new Regional Broadband Feasibility Study report, created by Reid Consulting Group in collaboration with Buckeye Hills Regional Council and the Buckeye Hills Foundation, focuses on expanding the availability of “last mile” broadband infrastructure that reaches individual homes and businesses. While some portions of the Buckeye Hills region would benefit from having additional “middle mile” fiber to bridge the gap between unserved territories and internet providers’ home offices, the last mile remains the region’s most significant challenge. In addition to the Regional Broadband Feasibility Study, Reid Consulting Group conducted a public survey regarding the state of business internet accessibility and usage in Appalachian Ohio. An examination of broadband speed ratings and business revenues shows that revenue correlates with speed. Businesses located in census blocks with higher speed ratings show higher average revenues than those located in blocks with slower service. Both reports are available at buckeyehills.org/broadband.
- **Congratulations to BHRC Development Director, Sam Miller for being accepted into ARC’s Appalachian Leadership Institute:** Sam is among 40 fellows selected from across the 13-state Appalachian region to participate in this free leadership and economic development training opportunity over the next nine months. We’re excited for Sam to share the lessons and strategies she learns from the institute with our staff and region’s leaders. Learn more about the institute and fellows at arc.gov/leadership/

CURRENT INITIATIVES

- **Ohio BUILDS: Appalachian Community Grant Program** | Like many of you, we are still anxiously awaiting the announcement of the guidelines and timeline for the Ohio BUILDS Appalachian Community Grant Program. While we wait to learn details about eligible applicants and projects, here are some steps we are taking at Buckeye Hills Regional Council to prepare to assist you and your communities:
 - With support from the Governor’s Office of Appalachia, we have retained the services of Brenda Haas to help provide technical assistance with applications. It’s our understanding that the application process may look very similar to the Appalachian Regional Commission’s POWER application process. Brenda has years of experience assisting communities with POWER applications and ensuring their projects are ready to proceed.
 - Support from the Governor’s Office of Appalachia is also allowing us to contract with **Burton Planning Services** to assist communities in the Buckeye Hills region to learn more about the Ohio BUILDS Appalachian Community Grant Program, answer questions about the program, and facilitate discussions on potential projects. The staff at Burton Planning Services has a strong background working with local governments.
 - Members of our development staff have recently attended training to become familiar with the Governor’s Office of Appalachia’s new Salesforce grant management system. This will allow us to hit the ground running to provide support entering applications for Ohio BUILDS and other state funding.
 - Our staff are attending meetings throughout our member counties with local jurisdictions and other organizations looking to put together projects.
 - We are encouraging communities to vision their future and brainstorm all of their projects through this process. The opportunity to plan is not lost, nor is it limited to just this funding source. If a particular project doesn’t fit the Ohio BUILDS Appalachian Community Grant Program guidance when it is released, then other funding can be sought.

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This new initiative comes atop already historic investments in infrastructure, broadband, and public health, and its effects will surely be felt across Appalachian Ohio for years to come. Having worked with many of you on ARC, Ohio Public Works, CDBG, and other funding sources over the years, we know how important it is to get your projects right the first time, to ensure transparency, accountability, and clean audits, and to stay on budget and on time. We also know that, like OneOhio and ARPA spending, this funding will invite heightened public interest and scrutiny. As the regional council for our eight counties, we are invested in helping you rise to the moment and deliver for your community.

As we wait for the program guidelines to be announced, please don't hesitate to reach out to our development staff and me with your questions, ideas, or concerns. We're here for you.

- **Appalachia Forward** | BHRC partnered with the Voinovich School, GOA, and LDDs to present Appalachia Forward on October 5 at the Shawnee Lodge & Conference Center. The day's sessions were recorded and will soon be available to view online here: <https://www.ohio.edu/voinovich-school/appalachia-forward>

STATE UPDATES

- **State Awarded \$23.5M EDA 'Good Jobs Challenge' Grant** | The State of Ohio and the Ohio Manufacturers' Association (OMA) have been awarded a three-year, \$23,492,808 federal grant through the U.S. Economic Development Administration's (EDA) \$500 million "Good Jobs Challenge" program. The initiative aims to strengthen workforce partnerships that lead to well-paying jobs. The OMA-State of Ohio proposal is one of 32 grants funded nationwide. The proposal highlights partnerships on initiatives, partner support, and more than \$100 million in leveraged funds from entities including the Ohio Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation, Ohio Department of Development, JobsOhio, Ohio Manufacturing Extension Partnership, Ohio Department of Higher Education, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, and others.
- **International Market Access Grant for Exporters (IMAGE)** | An IMAGE grant provides eligible businesses a 50% reimbursement of up to \$10,000 for activities that promote international business. Activities include:
 - Exhibiting at International Trade Shows
 - EXIM Credit Insurance Premiums
 - Services provided by US Commercial Service
 - Supported Individual Market Visits
 - Trade Missions

The first application period opens September 29 at 10:00 a.m. The application period will close when \$200,000 in funding has been exhausted. Funding for the first round can be used between October 1, 2022, and March 31, 2023. Applications must be approved before starting grant activities. For more information, visit [IMAGE.Development.Ohio.Gov](https://www.ohio.gov/development/IMAGE) or email: IMAGE@development.ohio.gov.

- **October 19 & 20: Tourism Ohio 2023 Co-Op Advertising Program Presentations** | The *Ohio. Find It Here*. Co-Op Advertising Program is open to all Ohio organizations that contribute to a healthy tourism economy – from CVBs to destinations, lodging, restaurants, attractions, festivals, and more. The program provides tourism industry members the opportunity to purchase advertising such as paid social, digital, and paid search, for instance, which deliver upon the target segments and markets most relevant to your destination or attraction, as well as content creation including storytelling, influencer, photography, and videography.

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Participating in the co-op program is a great way to grow your advertising budget! *Ohio. Find It Here.* will match your investment in the program up to \$25,000, in exchange for displaying the *Ohio. Find It Here.* logo on your advertising.

During the webinar, Tourism Ohio staff will review the program features and benefits, offerings, reporting schedules, give details on how to sign up, review deadlines, and answer questions about the program.

- Click [HERE](#) to register for the webinar on Wednesday, October 19 at 1:00 p.m.
- Click [HERE](#) to register for the webinar on Thursday, October 20 at 10:00 a.m.

FEDERAL UPDATES

- **USDA ReConnect Applications Due November 2** | USDA is making additional funding available for high-speed internet in Round 4 of the ReConnect Program. The Department will begin accepting applications on September 6 for up to \$150 million in loans, up to \$300 million in loan/grant combinations, and up to \$700 million in grants. The Department will use funds appropriated under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, also known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides a historic \$65 billion investment to expand affordable, high-speed internet to all communities across the US. **The application deadline is November 2.** USDA has made several improvements to the ReConnect Program for Round 4. Collectively, they increase the availability of funding in rural areas where residents and businesses lack access to affordable, high-speed internet.
- **DOE Seeking Comments on Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnership Programs by October 14** | The U.S. Department of Energy recently issued a Request for Information (RFI) seeking input on the \$10.5 billion Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnership Program to enhance the resilience and reliability of America's electric grid. The RFI seeks information from states, Tribes, communities, utilities, project developers, and other key stakeholders to help refine the funding opportunity announcement that will be made later this year and to guide the implementation of the funding over five years to enhance the electric grid. Comments are due October 14, 2022, by 5:00 pm. Learn more [HERE](#).
- **\$73.5 Million Available Through New ARC ARISE Funding Opportunity** | ARC's new funding opportunity, the [Appalachian Regional Initiative for Stronger Economies \(ARISE\)](#), makes \$73.5 million available for large-scale, multi-state projects that drive regional economic transformation. ARISE will empower ARC partners to work across state lines and collaborate at an even higher level to reach the region's economic potential. Explore the [prospective applicant toolkit](#), which includes case studies of successful regional multi-state partnerships, to help better understand the types of projects that will qualify for funding. For Planning Grants, the maximum award is \$500,000. For Implementation Grants, the maximum award is \$10,000,000. ARISE projects must address at least one of ARC's five strategic investment priorities: 1.) building workforce developments, 2.) building businesses, 3.) building infrastructure, 4.) building regional culture and tourism, or 5.) building leaders and community capacity. Proposals will be accepted on a rolling basis, but ARC will prioritize reviewing complete applications on a quarterly basis, with the first review on November 30, 2022.
- **FEMA State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Applications Due November 15** | Applications for the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant program remain open through Nov 15. This new program provides \$185 million to counter the growing threats of ransomware, denial of service attacks, and other cyberattacks. Review the funding notice [HERE](#).

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- **U.S. EPA Brownfield Grant Deadline is November 22** | Guidelines and application materials are available for U.S. EPA's 2023 brownfield grants program. Applications are due by November 22, 2022, and upcoming webinars will offer information and support for potential applicants. Resources for this program are now available at www.grants.gov and on the [U.S. EPA website](#). Grants may be used to address sites contaminated by hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants (including hazardous substances commingled with petroleum), and petroleum.
- **FEMA Planning Guides and Webinars** | FEMA's latest Local Elected and Appointed Officials Guide and associated quick reference guide and checklists provide an executive-level introduction to emergency management concepts and principles for local senior officials and identifies local senior officials' roles and responsibilities for emergency management before, during and after disasters. Learn more about the guide [HERE](#) and register for FEMA's upcoming webinars [HERE](#).
- **Senators Introduce Legislation to Impose Financial Reporting Standards on Local Governments** | According to analysis by the [National Association of Counties](#) and the [National League of Cities](#), the [Financial Data Transparency Act of 2022](#) (S. 4295) would mandate that local government financial information be reported in a standardized format to ensure uniform financial reporting across all types of bond-issuing entities. Companion legislation passed the U.S. House on July 14, 2022, as an amendment to the House version of the 2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which is annual, must-pass legislation. The Senate is actively considering attaching S. 4295 to the 2023 NDAA. While recognizing the need for transparency and accountability by making financial information readily accessible to the public, both NACo and NLC have noted that the unfunded and federally mandated financial reporting standards included in this bill may require costly updates to financial systems or extensive workarounds. NACo has provided a letter template [HERE](#) asking senators to oppose the inclusion of S. 4295 in the NDAA.
- **NACo Urging Passage of Recovery Fund Flexibility Legislation** | The bipartisan [State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Fiscal Recovery, Infrastructure, and Disaster Relief Flexibility Act](#) (S. 3011/H.R. 5735) would provide additional flexibility for the \$350 billion [Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund](#) authorized under the American Rescue Plan Act, clarify county-eligibility for the \$1.5 billion Sec. 605 Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund, and unlock resources to allow the U.S. Department of Treasury to work with counties to implement these historic funds. Counties can send a letter to members of Congress urging passage of this bill using [NACo's template letter](#).
- **Athens Mayor Steve Patterson, Rural Action Executive Director Debbie Phillips Visit White House to Discuss Impacts of Federal Investments** | Athens Mayor Steve Patterson and Rural Action Executive Director Debbie Phillips attended a forum at the White House on Wednesday to meet with President Joe Biden and members of his administration to discuss the impacts of recent federal legislation, including the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL Act), and the CHIPS Act, has had on the community and state. This meeting, "Communities in Action: Building a Better Ohio", included other local elected leaders from across Ohio, including the other mayors of Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati, Dayton, Toledo, Akron, Youngstown, Elyria, Lorain, Lima, Chillicothe, and Lakewood.
- **Alternative Compliance Examination Engagement Option for Fiscal Recovery Recipients** | The U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is now permitting an option to State and Local Fiscal Recovery recipients, including Non-Entitlement Units of Local Government, to have an Alternative Compliance Examination Engagement (ACEE) conducted in lieu of a Single Audit. For a recipient to be eligible for this alternative to the single audit, both of the following must be true:
 - The local government has less than \$750,000 in federal award spending other than State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, AND

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- The local government received less than \$10 million in ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. This alternative approach is intended to reduce the burden of a full Single Audit on eligible recipients and auditors, as well as uphold Treasury’s responsibility to be good stewards of federal funds.

The Ohio Auditor of State released a bulletin on these Alternative Engagements ([Bulletin 2022-008](#)) and developed a checklist ([the AL “#21.027 Alternative Compliance Examination Checklist”](#)) to assist in evaluating and documenting entity eligibility. In addition, the U.S. Treasury has released the [Alternative Compliance Examination Engagement Report User Guide](#) which provides information on using the Treasury’s Portal for eligible recipients to submit the ACEE report.

- **ARC Chartbook Provides Updated Look at Appalachia** | ARC released their 12th annual update of [The Appalachian Region: A Data Overview from the 2016-2020 American Community Survey](#) last week. Written in partnership with Population Reference Bureau, “The Chartbook” features over 300,000 data points on Appalachia’s economy, income, employment, education, and more prior to – and during – the first 10 months of the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2022 report indicates that Appalachia was improving in educational attainment, labor force participation, income levels, and reduced poverty prior to the onset of COVID-19 in March 2020. However, unique vulnerabilities among the region’s oldest, youngest, and most rural residents were likely exacerbated by the pandemic.

AFFILIATE PARTNERS MEETINGS/EVENTS/OTHER

- **OARC 2022 Gubernatorial Candidates Forum** | On August 26, I was joined by several BHRC staff members at the Candidates Forum hosted in Columbus by the Ohio Association of Regional Councils. In addition to Q&A sessions with Governor Mike DeWine and Former Mayor Nan Whaley, the day included panels with OARC members and partners, including myself, on Planning for a More Prosperous Ohio and Policy Insights on Economic Development and Infrastructure. Below are the links to the recordings of each portion of the program.
 - [Morning Session – Planning for a More Prosperous Ohio](#)
 - [Governor Mike DeWine](#)
 - [Afternoon Session – Ohio’s Future: Policy Insights on Economic Development & Infrastructure](#)
 - [Former Mayor Nan Whaley](#)
- **Buckeye Hills Annual River Cruise & Foundation Luncheon** | On September 16, Buckeye Hills Regional Council and the Buckeye Hills Foundation hosted our annual River Cruise & Luncheon aboard the Valley Gem. This year’s cruise provided us an opportunity to relaunch the foundation and acquaint our members and partners with its work. Foundation Executive Director Misty Crosby presented the BHF Impact Report, highlighting work in broadband, on The Ridges, and its support of our 2021 National Caregiver Month webinar series. We had 80 attendees, including representatives from 10 sponsors. There’s a strong foundation to make the river cruise an annual fundraiser event for the Foundation in support of the Council’s work.
- **Local Development Districts + Mayor’s Partnership for Progress** | At the September meeting in Athens, Ohio the MPP hosted the Ohio EPA. Roxanne Anderson, Brownfields Coordinator, presented information on the funding available to provide targeted brownfield assistance by supporting projects to conduct Phase 1&2 Assessments. Jerome Rouch, Deputy Director for Infrastructure Funding, presented information about the traditional funding programs Ohio EPA has for the Water, Wastewater and Storm Water programs known as the SRF Programs. Those programs are also being augmented with additional funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act (IIJA) from 2022-2026.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES & EVENTS:

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- **October 11: STIP Rural Consultation** | The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) is beginning the development of the 2024-2027 **Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)**. The STIP is Ohio's four-year transportation planning document. Meeting with local officials is a vital first step in the development of the STIP. Local officials are invited to attend the STIP Rural Consultation meeting on October 11, 2022, 10:00 a.m., at Buckeye Hills Regional Council, 1400 Pike Street in Marietta. As the Regional Transportation Planning Organization for Southeast Ohio, Buckeye Hills Regional Council wants to collaborate on the transportation concerns in the region and share with local officials a draft list of programmed projects planned for some phase of implementation during the 2024-2027 STIP period.
- **October 13: Perry County Broadband Committee Meeting** | October 13, 10:00 a.m. at the New Lexington Library.
- **October 15-18: NADO Annual Training Conference** | Held in Pittsburgh this year, the National Association of Development Organizations' Annual Training Conference will focus on organizational capacity building, regional resilience, and infrastructure and regional development through a mix of learning labs, mobile workshops, best practice sessions, plenary sessions, conversation cafés, and networking opportunities. Session topics will cover housing, state associations, board engagement, equity and economic development, project development, Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies, broadband, measuring success and much more. For information about hotel reservations and conference registration. Registration is available at nado.org.
- **October 17-19: ARC One Appalachia Conference** | Registration is now open for the Appalachian Regional Commission's 2022 annual conference, One Appalachia: Connection & Collaboration, co-hosted with the state of Maryland. The conference will be held from October 17-19 at the Rocky Gap Resort. One Appalachia will highlight how the 13 states and 423 counties of Appalachia are collaborating to bring each of ARC's strategic investments to life. Learn more and register [HERE](#).
- **October 20: RISE Ohio Virtual Workshop Series – Opportunity Zones & Operating Businesses** | Buckeye Hills Regional Council, in partnership with Steadfast City Economic and Community Partners and Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association, is presenting a series of monthly virtual workshops to help local leaders build their community development toolkit to make the most of Opportunity Zones. Join us on October 20 at 10:00 a.m. for a one-hour session on Opportunity Zones & Operating Businesses, featuring John Sciarretti from Novogradac and Al Puchala, CEO of Capstone Impact Investments. Register at buckeyehills.org/rise-ohio.
- **October 24: BHRC Broadband Committee** | October 24, 1:00 p.m. at Buckeye Hills Regional Council.
- **October 26: Aging & Disability Regional Advisory Council** | October 26, 10:00 a.m. at Buckeye Hills Regional Council.
- **October 27: District 18 Natural Resources Assistance Council Committee Meeting** | October 27, 10:00 a.m. at Buckeye Hills Regional Council.

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