

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



2019 GENERAL POLICY COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ron Moore, President
Lenny Eliason, Vice President
Joe Matthews, Treasurer

Private Sector, Morgan County
County Commissioner, Athens County
Mayor, City of Marietta, Washington County

Ben Carpenter
John Curtis
Carl Davis
Brian Howard
Tim Ihle
Bradley Peoples
Steve Patterson
Kevin Ritter
Adam Shriver
Gary Waugh

County Commissioner, Perry County
Private Sector, Monroe County
County Commissioner, Monroe County
Private Sector, Meigs County
County Commissioner, Meigs County
County Commissioner, Noble County
Mayor, City of Athens, Athens County
County Commissioner, Washington County
County Commissioner, Morgan County
County Commissioner, Hocking County

ATHENS COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Charlie Adkins County Commissioner
Chris Chmiel County Commissioner
Christine Knisely City Council President
Ted Linscott Trustee, Athens Township
John Simpson Private Sector
Chris Cooper Private Sector

HOCKING COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Greg Fraunfelter Mayor, City of Logan
Larry Kienzle Private Sector
Ken Wilson County Auditor

MEIGS COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Randy Smith County Commissioner

MONROE COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Mick Schumacher County Commissioner

MORGAN COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Tim VanHorn County Commissioner

NOBLE COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Gwynn Stewart Private Sector

PERRY COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Jeff Dennis Private Sector
Scott Owen County Commissioner
Fred Redfern Mayor, Village of Crooksville

WASHINGTON COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Gary Doan Trustee, Muskingum Township
Ron Feathers County Commissioner
Mike Lorentz Mayor, City of Belpre
David White County Commissioner



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Our mission to work cooperatively to improve our region comes to life through those who do the work. We are grateful to the Buckeye Hills Board of Directors and the Buckeye Hills staff for bringing that mission to life each and every day.

The end of the year found us giving careful thought to the future of our organization through a succession planning process led by the Southeast Regional Directors Institute. What we found was encouraging. The process confirmed that we have been moving in the right direction as a neutral convener for our region and as a go-to organization to address opportunities and challenges in the areas of community development, the needs of older southeast Ohioans, and assistance across our eight-county region. During our focus groups with members and partners throughout Southeast Ohio, our staff was praised for the support, expertise, and insight they provide.

Throughout 2019, we remained focused on serving our mission to improve the quality of life for our southeast Ohio communities and the individuals who call our region home. Little did we know that 2019 would be known as “the year before the pandemic.” Our mission resonates all the more clearly as Buckeye Hills Regional Council responds to the pandemic and works with our region’s communities toward recovery through 2020 and beyond.

Ron Moore
Executive Committee President

Misty Crosby
Executive Director



HIGHLIGHTS



BROADBAND STUDY FINDS DIGITAL DESERT PERSISTS

In 2019, Buckeye Hills Regional Council conducted an eight-county study funded by the Appalachian Regional Commission in collaboration with Ohio University Voinovich School and The Athens County Economic Development Council. Our findings present a stark picture of the areas left behind in a digital desert: Between 80% and 90% of households in the “rural expanse” have no access to broadband services. (“Rural Expanse” defined as areas with 20 or fewer households per square mile.) At least 75% of the study area lacks availability of broadband at the current FCC minimum of 25/3. Mobile data and voice services

are also largely absent from the rural expanse. Degradation of basic telephone services due to beyond end-of-life copper cables is leaving affected areas without crucial life & safety communications, reverting to the 1930s, in terms of capabilities. These findings have provided a springboard for further advocacy and calls to action from our state and federal legislators and agency partners. In the same way that the Rural Electrification Act transformed Southeast Ohio communities in the 1930s and the Interstate Highway System reshaped our economy 30 years later, broadband access—or the lack thereof—will shape our region’s economic participation and outcomes for generations.



GIS TEAM DEVELOPS NEW TOOL FOR OUTREACH

With help from the Building Bridges to Careers Makerspace, Buckeye Hills Regional Council has a new tool for education and outreach that blends augmented reality technology with the fun of an old-fashioned sandbox. At the recent Family Career Awareness Day hosted by BB2C, the AR sandbox drew as much interest and interaction from adults as it did from the students in attendance. The AR sandbox is a great tool for helping youth and local officials alike understand the importance of mapping. The AR sandbox allows users to create topography models by shaping real sand, which is then augmented in

real-time by an elevation color map, topographic contour lines, and simulated water. The system teaches geographic, geologic, and hydrologic concepts such as how to read a topography map, the meaning of contour lines, watersheds, catchment areas, levees, etc. After its successful debut at Family Career Awareness Day, the Buckeye Hills GIS team is excited to share the AR sandbox at future education and outreach events throughout southeast Ohio.

AGING IN APPALACHIA: A SUMMIT FOR SOUTHEAST OHIO

Our very first Aging summit brought together community leaders, elected officials, practitioners, and more to explore the topic of aging in Appalachia. From healthcare to transportation to community building, this one-day event featured an overview of current challenges as well as innovative solutions highlighting real work being accomplished on the ground to improve the lives of seniors in southeast Ohio. Keynote speaker Dr. Gail Rymer discussed the State of Aging in Appalachia, while the day's workshops included Access to Food & Nutrition for Seniors in Appalachia, Addressing Transportation Problems, Dental Care & Access for Seniors in Appalachia, and Multi-generational Relationships & Community Centers. Presenters came from provider agencies within the region, as well as Area Agencies on Aging 3 and the Ohio Department of Aging. Attendees gained deeper insight into what it means to age in Appalachia and the challenges seniors in rural Appalachian Ohio face in maintaining quality of life, health and wellness, and accessing resources. The success of the Aging summit was carried through the summer and fall with additional topic summits on development, regional collaboration, and policy and advocacy.



MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT SUCCESS

Medicare Open Enrollment was a busy time for our Information & Assistance team. Between October 15 and December 7, the team fielded hundreds of Open Enrollment related phone calls and scores of over-the-phone and in-person Medicare Check-Ups at our office and senior centers throughout our region. During the month of November, the Information & Assistance team traveled to provide in-person consultations at six Medicare Check-Up events at senior centers in Athens, Monroe, Noble, and Perry counties. During these one-on-one consultations, the Information & Assistance team helped clients evaluate their coverage options and make sure they would receive the best coverage possible. On average, each appointment helped save Medicare enrollees \$1,000-\$2,000 for 2020. In one extraordinary case, a client with multiple chronic conditions uncovered \$22,000 in savings in premium and prescription costs for next year. Our eight-county region saw 676 new Medicare Part D enrollees in 2019, in addition to 2,955 consumers who re-enrolled for the coming year, according to the Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.



2019 SNAPSHOT



Aging
& Disability

\$15
MILLION



Community
Development

\$17.6
MILLION



Mapping
& Data

\$4,260



Population
Health

\$20,670



Transportation
Planning

\$908,896

Buckeye Hills Regional Council facilitated investments of

\$68.5 MILLION

IN SOUTHEAST OHIO IN 2019

with local communities and private businesses leveraging

\$35 MILLION against **\$33.5 MILLION**

in state and federal funding.

2019 SNAPSHOT

AGING & DISABILITY

\$15
MILLION

257,100
MEALS SERVED

499,954
DIRECT SERVICE HOURS

5,359
SENIORS SERVED



2019 SNAPSHOT

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

\$17.6
MILLION

47
PROJECTS

185
BUSINESSES IMPROVED

70
SITES INVENTORIED

A background image showing a hand holding a pen, poised to write on a map. The map features topographical contour lines and some colored regions in shades of green and purple. The overall scene is slightly blurred, focusing attention on the text overlays.

2019 SNAPSHOT

MAPPING & DATA

\$4,260

43

MAPS CREATED

4

DATA ANALYSES

110

ITEM REQUESTS

2019 SNAPSHOT

POPULATION HEALTH

\$20,670

22

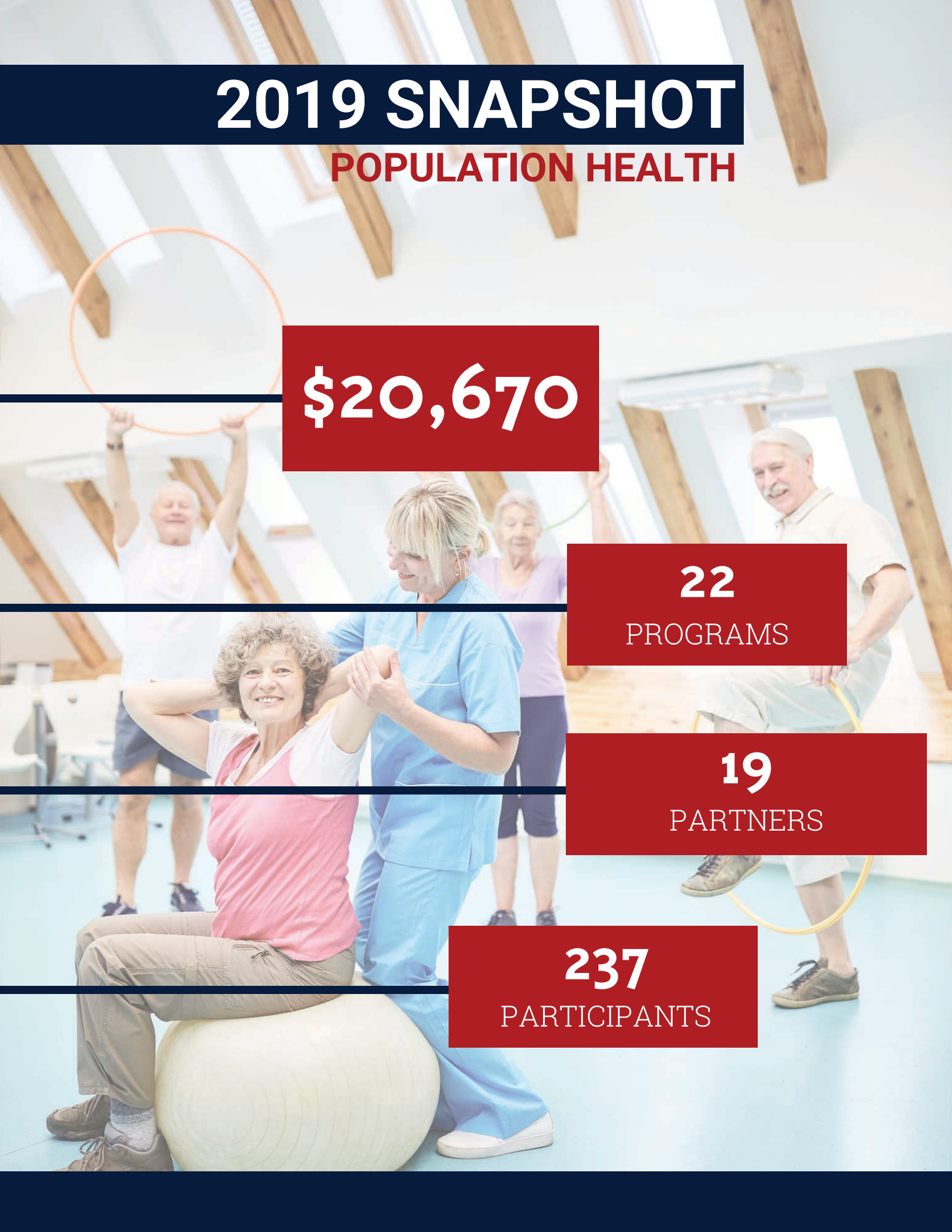
PROGRAMS

19

PARTNERS

237

PARTICIPANTS



2019 SNAPSHOT

TRANSPORTATION

\$908,896

3

PROJECTS

7

TRAFFIC COUNTS

3

BIKE/PED COUNTS

2019 IN PHOTOS



Aging staff participated in several wellness events throughout the region, including the Perry County Senior Expo & Health Fair in New Lexington.



In March, we welcomed Ohio Department of Aging Director Ursel McElroy to Buckeye Hills. Director McElroy met with agency staff as well as service providers from our region to discuss the impact of our increasingly aging population and how we can strengthen our services to better reach residents, caregivers, and more.



In June, several Buckeye Hills Regional Council employees teamed up with Habitat for Humanity of the Mid-Ohio Valley and spent the day outside working on a house for the Curry Family in Vincent, Ohio



The Hocking Makers Network celebrated the ribbon cutting of a new woodworking shop at Hocking College. The facility was made possible, in part, by a \$1.2 million investment in the Innovation Gateway Network of Appalachian Ohio by the Appalachian Regional Commission's POWER Initiative



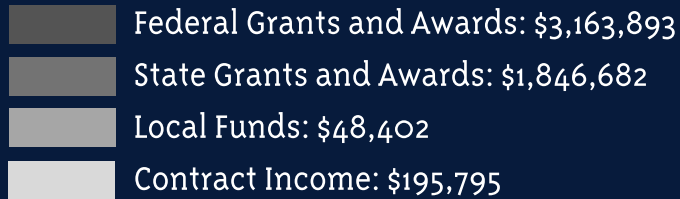
It wasn't our first rodeo, but it was our first one like this. In October, we partnered with ODOT District 10 for a Roundabout Rodeo to give McConnellsville and Malta residents practice time before their new roundabouts opened.



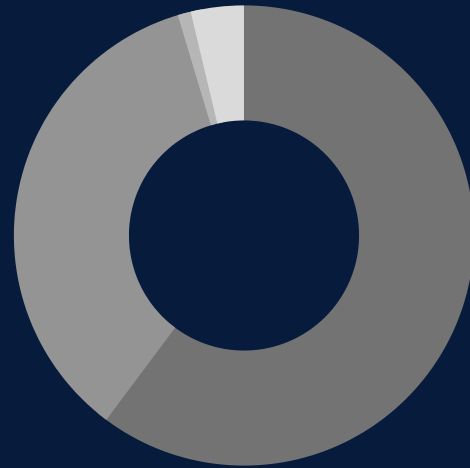
Our final meeting of 2019 was also our last meeting with Marietta Mayor Joe Matthews. Mayor Matthews served on the Buckeye Hills Executive Committee for 20 years and as Treasurer for 19 of those years.

2019 OPERATIONS

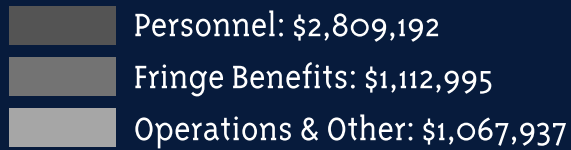
REVENUE



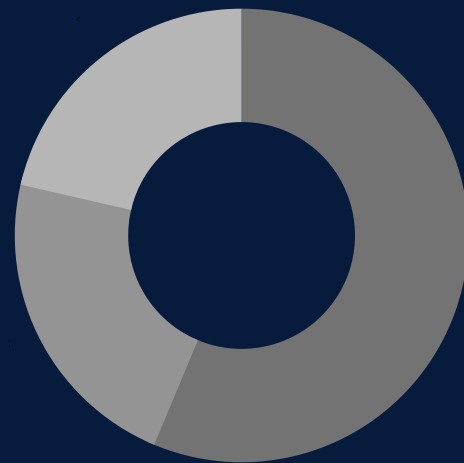
TOTAL: \$5,254,772



EXPENDITURES



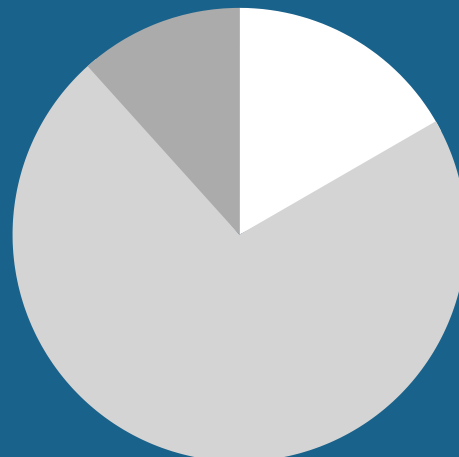
TOTAL: \$4,990,124



BALANCE: \$264,648

EMPLOYEES

In 2019, Buckeye Hills employed 60 staff members.





BUCKEYE HILLS REGIONAL COUNCIL

**IS A COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS DEDICATED TO
IMPROVING THE LIVES
OF RESIDENTS IN SOUTHEAST OHIO.**

**BY WORKING COLLABORATIVELY
WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS ACROSS ATHENS,
HOCKING, MEIGS, MONROE,
MORGAN, NOBLE, PERRY, AND
WASHINGTON COUNTIES**

**WE GROW STRONG COMMUNITIES
THROUGH OUR FIVE DIVISIONS:**

**AGING & DISABILITY, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT,
MAPPING & DATA, POPULATION HEALTH, AND
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING.**

BUCKEYE HILLS LEAD STAFF

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ABOUT BUCKEYE HILLS

Buckeye Hills serves as a forum through which local communities work cooperatively to improve our region. Founded in 1968, we work closely with government leaders, state and federal partners, and community partners to serve Ohio's Appalachian region.

Our organization is a designated Area Agency on Aging, District Liaison for the Ohio Public Works Commission, Economic Development District, Local Development District, Regional Transportation Planning Organization, and the Southeast Ohio Aging & Disability Resource Network

Since our inception, Buckeye Hills has brought over \$1.3 billion in programs and services to the Southeast Ohio region.



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