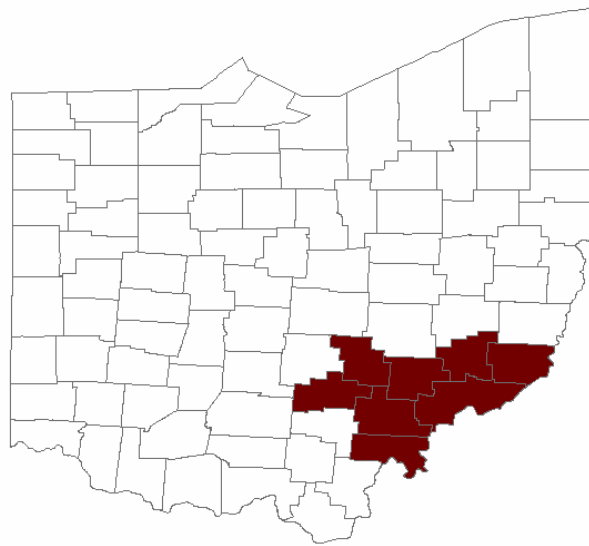




**Buckeye Hills - Hocking Valley**  
*Regional Development District*

**2005**

**C o m p r e h e n s i v e  
E c o n o m i c  
D e v e l o p m e n t  
S t r a t e g y**



SERVING ATHENS, HOCKING, MEIGS, MONROE, MORGAN, NOBLE, PERRY AND  
WASHINGTON COUNTIES

# Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

Prepared by:

**Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley  
Regional Development District  
Marietta, Ohio**

Prepared for:

**Economic Development Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce**

The preparation of the document was financed in part through a grant from the Economic Development Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce, and the Ohio Department of Development and through contributions from the member jurisdictions of the Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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General Policy Council - Hocking County

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Noble County

**Honorable Ron Moore** – Vice President  
Morgan County

**Honorable Fred Shriner**  
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**Monroe-Noble:**

Barbara Way (CAC)

**Labor Council:**

Steven Crum

**Washington-Morgan:**

Raymond Craig (CAC)

**Athens-Hocking-Perry**

Vacant (CAC)

**C. Boyer Simcox**  
**Executive Director**

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## FORWARD

The Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District (BH-HVRDD) is designated as an Economic Development District by the Economic Development Administration (EDA), U.S. Department of Commerce, and as a Local Development District by the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). In order to comply with the statutory requirement (13 CFR, Chapter III, Section 304.1-b) that the designated areas maintain a currently approved Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), BH-HVRDD has been updating the District CEDS document annually. Approval of the annual CEDS report continues the area's eligibility for EDA financial assistance.

This report is a five-year rewrite that includes local input on major issues impacting communities in the region. The intent here is to evaluate and describe changes in the area's economy, update development goals, strategies, and strategy implementation, as required by EDA.

The CEDS Advisory Committee, which included professionals from a wide and varied field, performed a key role in the identification of program strategies for the region.

We hope that this document will be a guide to local communities as they prepare their local plans, with our ultimate goal being the timely implementation of the activities/projects contained herein.

Comments on this report may be addressed to:

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## MISSION

The mission of the CEDS report is to assist local communities in using available resources to assess economic problems, identify opportunities, set goals, and implement strategies.

2005 CEDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The CEDS Advisory committee performed a key role in analyzing current data, identifying development strategies and development-related projects that would generate new dollars and tax revenue for local communities. The following are key individuals from the designated trades/fields in our district, as set out by the CEDS guidelines.

Women, Minorities, Aged And Disabled	Joetta Lane Director- Area Agency on Aging Region 8
Economic and Business Development Organizations	Perry Varnadoe Governors Regional Economic Development Representative – Region 11
Economic and Business Development Organizations	Tina Meunier Buckeye Hills Revolving Loan Fund Coordinator
Employment and Training Sector	John Curtis Monroe County
Public Leadership	Ron Moore President, Morgan County Commissioners
Public Leadership	Mark Forni President, Monroe County Commissioners
Community Organizations	Jim Coutts Appalachian Nutrition Network
Community Organizations	J.T. Kneen Moxahala Watershed Coordinator
Economic and Business Development Organizations	David Cater Noble County Travel and Tourism/CIC
Buckeye Hills - HVRDD Representative	Bret Allphin GIS Specialist/Development Specialist

## **CHAPTER I**

### **ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION**

The Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District (BH-HVRDD), created in 1968, is a voluntary organization of the local governmental subdivisions in Athens, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry and Washington Counties in southeastern Ohio.

The Region is bordered to the south and east across the Ohio River by the state of West Virginia. There are four major highways serving the area: Interstate 77, U.S. Routes 33 and 50 and Ohio Route 7. As it passes through the area, Route 50 follows the Appalachian Highway Corridor D. These highways network the area internally and connect it to the Ohio metropolitan areas of Columbus, Cleveland and Cincinnati.

The purpose of the organization is to coordinate the economic and community development activities of the area, to provide a forum for the discussion and study of common problems of a regional nature, and to develop cooperative policy and action recommendations.

The agency is designated as an Economic Development District by the Economic Development Administration; Local Development District by the Appalachian Regional Commission; Regional Planning and Development Organization by the State of Ohio; Regional Clearinghouse by the Governor and the Office of Budget and Management; Ohio Industrial Training Program facilitator by the Ohio Department of Development; and the Area Agency on Aging for Region Eight by the Ohio Department of Aging.

#### **Staff Structure**

A General Policy Council made up of two-thirds local government officials, and one-third private citizens govern BH-HVRDD in its development efforts. The council's primary objective is to establish an annual budget and work program for the agency. Meeting semi-annually, the council oversees the actions of the Executive Committee. This smaller body acts as an extension of the General Policy Council. The Executive Committee maintains a working understanding of the programs in operation at BH-HVRDD, and makes the decisions that provide guidance to the agency. Although this Committee provides guidance and direction on a more immediate basis, final ruling on all decisions remains with the General Policy Council

Under the authority of the Executive Committee, the Executive Director of BH-HVRDD serves as the Chief Administrative Officer. The Executive Director oversees the agency's day-to-day operation in all areas. These areas include preparation and execution of budget and work programs, and staffing, as required by the overall mission of the agency.

BH-HVRDD is comprised of two functional areas/departments: The Development Department and The Area Agency on Aging.



### **CEDS Advisory Committee**

Since the early 1970's, BH-HVRDD, in concert with federal, state and local units of government, has pursued the goal of consolidating the myriad of planning requirements facing municipal/county governments and area-wide organizations into a single document. To achieve this aim, BH-HVRDD opted in 1970 to prepare an Overall Economic Development Program (OEDP), which was previously referred to as Areawide Action Program (AAP). The name and focus was changed in 1998 to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The CEDS represented a continuing process of coordinated planning, development and implementation. This process was based upon local participation and a partnership with various federal and state agencies.

The CEDS Advisory Committee performs a key role in the CEDS review process. The committee examines local priorities and formalizes a recommendation of critically needed programs and projects (ranked in order of priority) included in the CEDS's project package.

It is this valuable input that continues to make the CEDS an essential tool in making locally related economic development decisions.

### **CEDS Planning Process**

The planning process begins with establishing a vision statement followed by specific goals and strategies.

The mission of the CEDS report is to identify long-term issues confronting local communities and to outline strategies that can be pursued by these communities. The report also encourages the implementation of short-range programs and projects.

The CEDS planning process begins with a vision statement, which serves as the basis from which to formulate programs that create jobs, raise income levels, diversify the economy and improve the quality of life.

The following section describes the basic elements of the CEDS planning process.

1. Organize the CEDS Committee.
2. Analyze area's demographic and economic trends.
3. Identify and evaluate existing resources.
4. Identify strengths and weaknesses (internal to the area); opportunities and threats (external to the area).
5. Adopt a strategic vision for the region that creates a community-based planning process.

6. Identify priority issues and set broad goals for a five-year initiative.
7. Develop program strategies that assist in achieving each goal.
8. Identify activities, programs, and projects that would begin in the following two years.
9. Evaluate the progress to reach the past year's goals.
10. Review and update the plan annually.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **PAST YEAR'S ACTIVITIES**

The planning and development activities undertaken by BH-HVRDD are directed by the Annual Work Program. These work programs contribute to implementing the program strategies of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

During Fiscal Year '04, the staff at Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District administered the following programs:

- I. CEDS Update;
- II. Technical Assistance;
- III. Water and Sewer;
- IV. CDBG Formula Allocation Program;
- V. State Capital Improvement Program/Local Transportation Improvement Program;
- VI. Conservation Activities;
- VII. Brownfield Revitalization;
- VIII. Geographical Information Systems;
- IX. Regional Promotion;
- X. Business Assistance Programs;
- XI. Data Center Services;

## **I. CEDS Update**

The CEDS helps state and federal officials make effective area investment decisions. The planning process includes meeting with the CEDS Advisory Committee and analyzing changes in the area's economy. In 2004 the CEDS was updated. This is the final of 4 successive update years; a five-year rewrite is due to the EDA in September 2005.

Similar to the previous annual updates, the CEDS update included current information on demographic and economic trends in the district, regional issues, development strategies, and a project listing.

The basic work elements of FY'04 CEDS Update were as follows:

- The staff held two planning sessions with the Advisory Committee, notes and discussions from that meeting can be found in the appendix.
- The staff compiled and analyzed recent demographic and economic information to analyze environmental changes that might affect the CEDS. This data was compiled and presented in the analysis and statistical chapters of the 2004 CEDS.
- The staff began preparing for the revised CEDS, which is due to the EDA in September 2005. The document will be prepared and presented to the CEDS Advisory Committee and BH-HVRDD staff in late September 2005.

The final CEDS report was presented to the Economic Development Administration in September 2004. The CEDS was reviewed and accepted by the EDA, as acknowledged in a letter dated February 14, 2005.

## **II. Technical Assistance**

Buckeye Hills serves an eight-county region through promoting the interests of and providing technical assistance to local public entities. Buckeye Hills provides technical assistance to local public entities in acquiring funding for programs and projects to improve the quality of life in communities through improvement of public infrastructure, educational facilities, and public service facilities. This technical assistance includes preparation of applications for funding, providing liaison between funding agencies and local government officials, providing guidance to local communities on administrative tasks, and assuring compliance of state and federal requirements. Buckeye Hills also provides technical assistance to communities and organizations in their travel and tourism activities.

Over the past year, Development Department staff secured financing for various projects that have a positive impact on residential and commercial sectors. These projects enhance the quality of life for the people of our region by enabling businesses to create and retain jobs, by providing education and training opportunities, by increasing the

quality and availability of water and sanitary sewer services, by repairing and upgrading our roads and bridges, and increasing accessibility and availability of quality health care.

Total costs for projects completed over the past year was approximately \$36 million, with local communities and private businesses leveraging \$6 million (17%) against the \$30 million(83%) provided through state and federal funding sources.

### **III. Water & Sewer**

#### **Tri-County Water Project**

Buckeye Hills administered CDBG Water and Sewer Program funds to assist the Washington County Commissioners in financing a water line extension to Adams and Watertown Townships. The project extended water lines into Adams and Watertown Townships creating a safe water supply to the residents. The cost of this project was estimated at \$631,640. The project involves 12.4 miles of water line and services approximately 47 homes. The service area is made up of County roads 60 and 4. This project will promote a positive community growth, which is needed to attract residents and businesses to the area.

The project was completed in December 2004 and services 243 residents of Watertown and Adams Townships in Washington County.

#### **Old Straitsville Water Project**

Buckeye Hills was approached by Old Straitsville Water and Sewer Association seeking funding for a project to extend water lines onto Crossenville, New Salem, Van Horn, and Marietta roads in Perry County, creating a safe water supply to the residents. The cost of this project was estimated at \$648,000. The project involves the installation of approximately 5 miles of water line and services approximately 85 homes. The project will promote positive community growth. the best funding source for a project of this type is CDBG Water and Sewer program funding, which requires the application be submitted by the County Commissioners.

BH-HVRDD staff worked with the Old Straitsville Water and Sewer Association to develop a relationship with Hocking-Athens-Perry Community Action Program (HAPCAP). HAPCAP has an ongoing relationship with the Perry County Commissioners to apply for and administer CDBG Formula and Water and Sewer program funding. Currently, HAPCAP has applied for ARC funding on behalf of the Perry County Commissioners for the water project, and will apply for CDBG Water and Sewer Program funds after plans have been submitted to EPA for approval (September2005). BH-HVRDD will continue to work with HAPCAP, OSWSA, and the Perry County Commissioners on securing funding for this project.

#### **West Malta Water Project**

Buckeye Hills assisted and will continue to assist Morgan County in administering CDBG Water and Sewer Program funding that is financing a project to extend water

service to approximately 200 households in Malta and Penn Townships. This project will also allow for future expansion with the construction of a new storage tank and booster station. The estimated cost of the project is \$3,184,000 with construction anticipated to begin in the fall of 2005.

### **Bishopville Water Project**

Buckeye Hills assisted and will continue to assist Morgan County in administering CDBG Water and Sewer Program funding that is financing a project to extend water service to areas of Union Township. The project involves the installation of 30,028 linear feet of 6" main water line, 1996 feet of 4" water line and 47,505 linear feet of 3" water line. This project also includes the construction of a booster station and storage tank. The estimated total cost of the project is \$1,065,558 with construction slated to begin in the fall of 2005.

### **Coffee Ridge Water Project**

Buckeye Hills administered CDBG Water and Sewer program funding for the Noble County Commissioners. The Coffee Ridge Waterline Project allowed for the installation of a 4" water line from a 10" water main in Sharon which supplied this system with a capacity of 350,000 gallons of water per day as needed to service 19 residential taps with an average daily use of 250 gallons each, and 2 commercial taps with an average daily use of 400 gallons each.

## **IV. CDBG Formula Allocation**

### **Washington County Formula – 2003**

Buckeye Hills served as the administrator of the Washington County CDBG Formula Program for FY'2003, assisting the grantee by assuring that the six projects within Washington County, and one project for the City of Belpre complied with grant funding requirements (i.e. – compliance with state and federal regulations, following correct bidding procedures, consulting with contractors during pre-construction conferences to assure compliance with Davis Bacon prevailing wage rate requirements, etc.). Total project costs for this program were \$280,000, with CDBG providing \$213,000 in grant funds.

The following projects were completed with Washington County CDBG Formula funds for Program Year 2003:

- Purchase of a Vehicle for the Wesley VFD
- Purchase of Park and Recreation Equipment for the City of Belpre
- General Park Improvement for the residents of Cutler
- Facility Rehabilitation project for Ludlow Township.

### **Washington County Formula – 2004**

Buckeye Hills served and will continued to serve as the administrator of the Washington County CDBG Formula Program for FY'2004, assisting the grantee by assuring that the six projects within Washington County, and one project for the City of Belpre comply with grant funding requirements (i.e. – compliance with state and federal regulations, following correct bidding procedures, consulting with contractors during pre-construction conferences to assure compliance with Davis Bacon prevailing wage rate requirements, etc.). Total project costs for this program are \$252,761, with CDBG providing \$212,000 in grant funds.

The projects are being completed at this time, with total program completion expected in December 2005.

### **Morgan County Formula – 2003**

Buckeye Hills served as the administrator of the Morgan County CDBG Formula Program for FY'2003, assisting the grantee by assuring that the six projects within Morgan County complied with grant funding requirements (i.e. – compliance with state and federal regulations, following correct bidding procedures, consulting with contractors during pre-construction conferences to assure compliance with Davis Bacon prevailing wage rate requirements, etc.). Total project costs for this program were \$105,887, with CDBG providing \$95,000 in grant funds.

The following projects were completed with Morgan County CDBG Formula funds for Program Year 2003:

- Purchase of Equipment for the Chesterhill VFD
- Building Rehabilitation for the Malta-McConnelsville VFD
- Installation of a Heating and Air Conditioning System in the Chesterhill Theater
- Purchase of a Generator for the Village of Stockport Sewage Lift Station
- Purchase of Property for the West Malta Rural Water District Storage Tank

### **Morgan County Formula – 2004**

Buckeye Hills served and will continue to serve as the administrator of the Morgan County Formula Program for FY'2004, assisting the grantee by assuring that all six projects comply with grant funding requirements (i.e. – compliance with state and federal regulations, following correct bidding procedures, consulting with contractors during pre-construction conferences to assure compliance with Davis Bacon prevailing wage rate requirements, etc.). Total project costs for this program are \$115,458, with CDBG providing \$94,000 in grant money.

The projects are being completed at this time, with total program completion expected in December 2005.

## **V. State Capital Improvement/ Local Transportation Improvement Program**

The Buckeye Hills Community Development staff is the liaison for the Ohio Public Works Commission 18<sup>th</sup> District. The District includes Athens, Belmont, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, and Washington counties. The SCIP/LTIP program provides funding to counties, townships, villages, and water and sewer districts to enable them to repair or replace roads, bridges, culverts, water supply, wastewater, solid waste and storm water systems.

The staff provided technical assistance and training to assist in the completion of the SCIP/LTIP application. The staff coordinated the activities of the various District 18 communities, which included, but is not limited to: setting up meetings, distributing meeting notices, publishing newspaper announcements, collecting applications, rating and ranking applications, and forwarding applications to the Ohio Public Works Commission for funding or consideration for funding under the various SCIP/LTIP programs.

A total of 30 Infrastructure projects were funded under Round 19 of the SCIP/LTIP Program. Total project costs for these projects were \$11,819,157; OPWC provided \$7,602,207 in grant and loan funding for these projects.

In addition 5 projects were funded under the Small Government portion of the program. The total project costs for these 5 Small Government projects was \$6,371,674; with OPWC providing \$1,115,698 in funding towards those activities. Buckeye Hills Staff will continue to work as liaison for District 18.

## **VI. Conservation Activities**

### **Clean Ohio Fund – Conservation Program**

The Community Development Staff serves as the liaison for the Ohio Public Works Commission 18<sup>th</sup> District. The District includes Athens, Belmont, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, and Washington counties in Southeastern Ohio.

The Clean Ohio Conservation Fund is a part of the \$400 million Clean Ohio Fund and provides monies to counties, townships, cities, villages, conservancy districts, soil and water conservation districts, joint recreational districts, park districts, and other non-profit organizations with a primary purpose in conservation and preservation. The purpose of the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund is the purchase of open spaces and the costs of making them accessible to the public and for the protection of stream corridors, providing wildlife habitat and reducing erosion.

The staff provided technical assistance and training to assist in the completion of the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund Application. The staff also coordinated the activities of the District 18 Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC), including, but not limited to: setting up meetings, distributing meeting notices, publishing newspaper announcements, collecting applications, rating and ranking applications, and forwarding



applications to the Ohio Public Works Commission for funding or consideration for funding under the Clean Ohio Program.

Seven applications were submitted for funding during the latest round. Total costs for these projects were \$1,692,602, with Clean Ohio providing \$1,111,573.

## **VII. Brownfield Revitalization**

The staff awarded three (3) Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment Grants (\$5,000 each) to three entities within the district, enabling them to perform environmental site assessments on potential industrial/commercial sites.

The Perry County Commissioners were awarded two of the Phase 1's and Hocking County received the remaining. These studies will be used to evaluate the properties' environmental conditions and to determine if any mitigation/ clean up activities will be necessary. Staff will also assist one community in preparing a Phase 2 Environmental Site Assessment grant through the Clean Ohio Revitalization fund. At the present time all three Phase 1's have been completed, and it is anticipated that Phase 2 funding will be pursued for these sites as well.

### **Clean Ohio Fund – Revitalization Program**

The Community Development staff is the liaison for the Ohio Public Works Commission 18<sup>th</sup> District. The District includes Athens, Belmont, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, and Washington counties. The Clean Ohio- Revitalization program provides funding to local governments, port authorities, conservancy districts, non-profit organizations, and for-profit entities to enable them to acquire and clean up an identified Brownfield area, demolish existing buildings, upgrade infrastructure and redevelop the identified property. The staff continued to coordinate the activities of the various District 18 communities, which includes, but is not limited to: setting up meetings, distributing meeting notices, publishing newspaper announcements, collecting applications, rating and ranking applications, and forwarding applications to the Ohio Department of Development for funding.

## **VIII. Geographical Information Systems**

Buckeye Hills continued to offer GIS mapping and GPS location services to municipalities and parties throughout the region during FY '04. These services included specialized map preparation, spatial data collection and/or manipulation, as well as data analysis. In order to complete these tasks Buckeye Hills has been utilizing ESRI's ArcGIS desktop software for the past 5 years. (ArcView 3.x, 8.x, and 9.x) These services are regularly used to augment assistance applications, complete studies, or as a tool in other decision making processes.

The Buckeye Hills Data Center filled 116 overall data requests for the year between July 1, 2004 and June 30, 2005, with 51 of those requests being requests for various types of GIS maps or map products.

Buckeye Hills' GIS capabilities have been called upon by many parties throughout the region in the past year, such as; the Monroe County Chamber of Commerce, Meigs County Economic Development Office, Washington County Water and Soil Office, the City of Belpre, Moxahala Watershed Group, Wolf Creek Watershed Group/Morgan County Water and Soil Conservation District, the Monroe County Commissioners, the Morgan County Commissioners, and FEMA among others. Buckeye Hills also continues to offer GPS location / data creation services as an additional feature of our GIS department. This technology was heavily used in Monroe County in response to flooding in September 2004 and January 2005. Basic Census Maps and GIS maps have also become the most commonly requested piece of data from the Buckeye Hills Data Center.

## **IX. Regional Promotion**

Buckeye Hills holds the promotion of the Southeastern Ohio region as one of its core values. One activity we have undertaken in the pursuit of this goal is maintaining a web presence to promote the regions resources and characteristics to businesses. One aspect of this activity was the creation of the [www.seovirtual.com](http://www.seovirtual.com) website in 2001. Our staff has, and will continue to work with local Economic Development officials to update the information on the website as well as to keep them informed about potential opportunities for growth and expansion into the region.

To aid in the accomplishment of our promotional and marketing goals, the staff also continues to distribute important information through the Data Center and the official agency website, [www.buckeyehills.org](http://www.buckeyehills.org). The staff of Buckeye Hills has been administering and operating these websites for nearly 5 years. Buckeyehills.org is our agency web address, which is filled with information about the programs, funding opportunities, and services provided by the staff of Buckeye Hills. From this website you can view or download various documents produced by the staff, as well as applications, forms, and other documentation needed to take part in our many programs.

As was mentioned above, seovirtual.com is a website which was created to showcase available commercial properties and structures throughout the region. Local economic development officials can log in to this website and add, remove, and edit listings of available properties. At the time of this report, these two websites are in the process of being merged in to a new site, to be found at [www.buckeyehills.org](http://www.buckeyehills.org).

## **X. Business Assistance Programs**

### **Revolving Loan Fund**

Buckeye Hills continued to provide loan money to businesses within the region using ARC, EDA, and FmHA funding. These loans, in conjunction with private funding, allow for start up and expansion of businesses when full conventional financing cannot be obtained. All loan funds are tied to job creation for the region.

Since its creation, the Buckeye Hills Revolving Loan Fund has made 96 loans amounting to \$4,857,464 and creating and retaining 1,497 jobs, with private businesses leveraging \$23,606,067.

During the past year, the Business Development Coordinator updated the RLF Operating Plans, increased the maximum loan amount and adjusted the loan-to-job ratio. This change was made to enable the RLF program to be up to date with the rising costs of projects, and to allow the program to participate in more projects throughout the service area.

Buckeye Hills made three loans totaling \$195,000, this past year, resulting in 2 business start-ups and 1 business expansion. 16 jobs have been created/retained in the district due to these loans.

### **Trickle Up Program**

Buckeye Hills continued to work with entrepreneurs to apply for grants through the Trickle Up Program. The Trickle Up Program is available to assist entrepreneurs in the purchase of tools, supplies, and raw materials needed to start their own business or expand their business to the next level. The program is targeted to the most economically disadvantaged sectors of the population in the Appalachian region, and can assist a wide variety of businesses such as food processing, clothes making, crafts and retail enterprises. Since 2001, 70 grants have been awarded to entrepreneurs for a total of \$40,200. The entrepreneurs have used the grants to purchase items required to make their business sustainable. Buckeye Hills staff meets with eligible applicants to assist them with the development of a business plan and help complete the application for the grant.

During the reporting period Buckeye Hills awarded 32 grants in the amount of \$500 for a total of \$16,000 and 17 grants in the amount of \$200 for a total of \$3,400. Buckeye Hills provided grants to a large variety of home-based businesses (ex. pet styling salon, cake shop, cleaning services, gardening service, soaps, childcare, pet sitting service, candles).

### **Business Technical Assistance**

As the regional clearinghouse, on-going assistance was provided to officials and agencies in the district by reviewing and receiving comments on projects being completed throughout the region. The reviews were completed in accordance with State Clearinghouse regulations.

Buckeye Hills continued its role as the Regional Clearinghouse, reviewing 29 projects within the region during FY '04.

## **XI. Data Center**

The Data Center provides public and private entities with demographic and economic data. This data is used for various reasons, such as writing media reports or preparing grant applications.

The center receives the most current data from the state data center in both print and electronic formats. The data center uses this vast information system to help keep citizens in the region informed through:

The dissemination of demographic and economic data including: population, housing characteristics, labor force, and other economic characteristics.

The production of census maps for specific community and business applications.

The preparation of reports depicting area wide community characteristics.

The Data Center is also an affiliate of the Business and Industry Data Center (BIDC), which is a service provided by regional planning and development agencies in Ohio.

Below is a summary of data requests for FY '04.

Ranked by Number of Requests

Organization	Number of Requests	Percentage of Requests
Government	82	47.95%
Business	6	3.51%
Media	0	0.00%
Public Institution	11	6.43%
Consultant	0	0.00%
Other	17	9.94%
<b>Totals</b>	116	

Type of Request	Number of Requests	Percentage of Requests
Population	12	7.02%
Housing	1	0.58%
Income	8	4.68%
Labor Force	6	3.51%
Community Profile	30	17.54%
Census/GIS Map	36	21.05%
Other Map	15	8.77%
Misc.	8	4.68%
<b>Totals</b>	116	

The Data Center received 116 requests between July 1, 2004 and June 30, 2005. Data requests came from local units of government, financial institutions, private developers, students, and various community organizations. 47.95 percent of the requests came from government agencies, 9.94 percent from 'other' organizations, and the remainder from businesses and public organizations. Census maps/ GIS maps were the most requested form of data from all parties.

### **Chapter III** **Regional Demographics**

#### **CONSTITUENCY** **Population Profile**

	Census			Percentage Change	
	1980	1990	2000	1980-1990	1990-2000
Ohio	10,797,604	10,847,115	11,353,140	0.5	3.8
Region	242,575	242,907	255,000	0.1	5
Athens	56,399	59,549	62,223	5.6	4.5
Hocking	24,304	25,533	28,241	5.1	10.6
Meigs	23,641	22,987	23,072	-2.8	0.4
Monroe	17,382	15,497	15,180	-10.8	-2
Morgan	14,241	14,194	14,897	-0.3	5
Nobel	11,310	11,336	14,058	0.2	24
Perry	31,032	31,557	34,078	1.7	8
Washington	64,266	62,254	63,251	-3.1	1.6

	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	% Change
Ohio	11,353,140	11,501,181	11,666,854	11,816,168	12,005,733	12,164,199	12,317,613	8.50%
BHHVRDD	255,000	260,638	263,855	269,048	269,207	270,723	270,106	5.92%
Athens	62,223	63,967	64,535	67,207	66,003	66,576	66,337	6.61%
Hocking	28,241	28,873	29,839	30,298	31,001	31,195	31,496	11.53%
Meigs	23,072	23,503	23,687	23,962	23,989	24,047	23,834	3.30%
Monroe	15,180	14,757	14,800	14,384	14,277	13,762	13,485	-11.17%
Morgan	14,897	15,203	15,198	15,274	15,123	14,962	14,618	-1.87%
Noble	14,058	14,728	15,365	15,843	16,227	16,486	16,690	18.72%
Perry	34,078	35,717	36,923	38,431	39,502	40,935	41,993	23.23%
Washington	63,251	63,890	63,508	63,649	63,085	62,760	61,653	-2.53%

The Buckeye Hills- Hocking Valley Regional Development District Region is projected to have an overall population increase of nearly 6,000 people by the year 2015, a 6.9% increase. The greatest population gains are projected in Noble and Hocking Counties, with the biggest losses foreseen in Monroe and Washington Counties.

	Total	0-4	5-13	14-17	18-24	15-44	25-64	16+	18+	65+	85+
BHHVRDD	257,669	14,354	28,476	13,681	36,401	115,353	130,970	208,208	201,158	33,787	4,123
Athens	64,380	3,116	5,494	2,620	17,291	36,998	30,020	54,484	53,150	5,839	725
Hocking	28,644	1,832	3,535	1,652	2,657	11,650	15,289	22,463	21,625	3,679	397
Meigs	23,242	1,387	2,584	1,348	2,195	9,370	12,248	18,638	17,923	3,480	435
Monroe	14,927	756	1,653	866	1,316	5,573	7,832	12,088	11,652	2,504	306
Morgan	14,843	876	1,818	877	1,418	5,791	7,504	11,730	11,272	2,350	299
Noble	14,054	610	1,473	777	1,877	6,715	7,394	11,606	11,194	1,923	260
Perry	35,074	2,400	4,844	2,141	3,395	14,490	17,941	26,791	25,689	4,353	528
Washington	62,505	3,377	7,075	3,400	6,252	24,766	32,742	50,408	48,653	9,659	1,173

Table 3.03 shows us the breakdown of population in the Buckeye Hills region by age cohort. As could be expected, the 25-64 segment was the most populous, followed by 15-44. Also of note is the population in the 65+ and 85+ cohorts. These numbers compose nearly 15 percent of the total population of the district.

	Total Population	White	Black	Aboriginal American	Asian	Native Hawaiian & Oth. Pac. Isl.	Hispanic	Bi & Multi Racial	Total Minorities*
Ohio	11,435,799	9,770,269	1,334,473	25,952	165,245	3,569	232,448	136,291	1,868,086
BHHVRDD	257,669	248,582	4,092	696	1,912	36	1,563	2,351	10,504
Athens	64,380	60,535	1,462	211	1,401	6	626	765	4,393
Hocking	28,644	27,933	286	78	46	0	130	301	832
Meigs	23,242	22,753	191	55	44	0	114	199	596
Monroe	14,927	14,780	41	17	15	2	67	72	204
Morgan	14,843	13,973	478	51	15	0	61	326	926
Noble	14,054	13,051	940	38	17	0	67	8	1,068
Perry	35,074	34,642	85	96	41	2	168	208	591
Washington	62,505	60,915	609	150	333	26	330	472	1,894

\* The total minorities category is computed by subtracting non-Hispanic-one-race-only-whites (data not shown) from the total pop.

Table 3.04 illustrates the racial makeup of the population in the eight-county district based on 2003 population estimates. 96.47 percent of the population was ‘White’, and 1.58 percent was ‘Black’. The other racial categories and multi racial designations make up the small remainder. Of the total population in the region, 4.07 percent were minority.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

People

	Total Births (2002)	Rate (1,000)	Teen Birth (2002)	Rate (1,000)	Deaths (2002)	Rate (1,000)	Marriages (2002)	Rate (1,000)	Divorces (2002)	Rate (1,000)
Ohio	151,410	13.3	17,294	42.5	107,560	9.5	86,153	7.7	47,563	4.2
BHHVRDD	2,929	11.46	415	43.49	2,477	10.06	1,834	7.16	1,078	4.23
Athens	640	10.3	92	20.4	476	7.6	407	6.6	202	3.3
Hocking	377	13.3	68	66.9	308	10.9	209	7.2	134	4.6
Meigs	294	12.7	40	48.4	263	11.4	177	7.4	107	4.5
Monroe	163	10.7	20	38.8	191	12.6	141	9.1	56	3.6
Morgan	172	11.5	31	57.3	170	11.4	100	6.9	77	5.3
Noble	112	8	11	23.6	110	7.8	77	5.2	50	3.4
Perry	491	14.4	69	54.9	273	8	256	7.5	149	4.3
Washington	680	10.8	84	37.6	686	10.8	467	7.4	303	4.8

The table above shows personal vital statistics for the constituents of the region. The Buckeye Hills region had a birth rate of 11.46 in 2002, behind the state figure of 13.3. However the region's teen birth rate of 43.49 was slightly higher than the state's. Our region also surpasses the state rates of deaths and divorces. Perry County led the way with the highest birth rate (14.4); Hocking County had the highest teen birth rate (66.9). Monroe County came in with the highest death rate (12.6) as well as the highest marriage rate (9.1). At the time of this report (September 2005), more recent vital statistics had not been released.

	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95	95-96	96-97	97-98	98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	Net 90-03
BHHVRDD	370	950	1,462	765	1,038	915	71	-229	-320	39	-138	122	645	5,526
Athens	196	-76	212	-129	6	65	-44	-1	-163	211	-136	61	276	655
Hocking	175	361	352	245	363	240	122	110	153	23	191	164	89	2,473
Meigs	90	131	257	250	314	77	20	-15	54	-96	-13	91	27	1,160
Monroe	-104	-55	-128	-52	24	7	-1	71	62	0	28	-78	-17	-285
Morgan	-23	91	62	81	95	-19	-29	6	-28	44	34	-26	48	314
Noble	188	23	101	23	141	122	155	23	38	73	-48	15	57	893
Perry	12	244	282	196	134	441	103	-99	-99	35	55	29	186	1,468
Washington	-164	231	324	151	-39	-18	-255	-324	-337	-251	-249	-134	-21	-1,152

Table 3.06 shows the net migration of each county in the district from 1990 to 2003. Migration can be caused by many factors; in most cases these numbers are influenced by orientation to a local job market (i.e. people commuting in or out of a county to find work.), or orientation to a major transportation artery. The largest net gain was seen in Hocking County (2,473), while Washington County suffered the biggest loss (-1,152).

## Employment

	In-Commuters	Out-Commuters	Commuting Balance Net Flow
BH-HVRDD	19,519	38,790	-19,271
Athens	4,866	4,307	559
Hocking	1,885	6,082	-4197
Meigs	800	4,521	-3721
Monroe	1,797	2,219	-422
Morgan	528	2,754	-2226
Noble	1,044	2,276	-1232
Perry	1,742	8,395	-6653
Washington	6,857	8,236	-1379

Table 3.07 shows us that seven of eight counties in the Buckeye Hills region have more people commuting to jobs outside of the county than there are people commuting in to that same county for work. Athens County was the only county in the region that had more in-commuters than out-commuters; this is most likely due to the presence of Ohio University in Athens.

## Income

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
United States	\$23,255	\$24,270	\$25,412	\$26,893	\$27,843	\$29,469	\$30,413	\$30,906	\$31,472
Ohio	\$22,790	\$23,496	\$24,772	\$25,921	\$26,753	\$27,977	\$28,699	\$29,195	\$30,129
BHHVRDD	\$15,449	\$16,032	\$16,843	\$17,403	\$17,800	\$18,684	\$19,108	\$20,406	\$20,473
Athens	\$14,958	\$15,853	\$17,298	\$17,806	\$17,838	\$18,660	\$19,805	\$19,885	\$20,293
Hocking	\$16,695	\$17,310	\$18,428	\$18,922	\$19,588	\$20,799	\$21,081	\$21,376	\$21,762
Meigs	\$14,002	\$14,629	\$15,555	\$16,407	\$16,758	\$17,575	\$18,405	\$19,760	\$18,931
Monroe	\$15,514	\$15,880	\$16,691	\$17,448	\$17,889	\$18,904	\$19,162	\$20,615	\$21,277
Morgan	\$15,572	\$16,106	\$17,071	\$17,612	\$17,713	\$18,320	\$18,944	\$20,052	\$20,150
Noble	\$13,673	\$14,601	\$13,699	\$13,916	\$14,513	\$15,308	\$15,403	\$17,055	\$16,872
Perry	\$14,515	\$14,546	\$15,353	\$15,855	\$16,242	\$17,096	\$16,899	\$19,277	\$19,569
Washington	\$18,662	\$19,328	\$20,651	\$21,255	\$21,861	\$22,810	\$23,165	\$25,230	\$24,929

Table 3.08 illustrates the per capita income of the counties in the region as compared to the state and federal levels over the period from 1995 to 2003. In 2003 the average per capita income for the Buckeye Hills district was \$20,473; which was \$9,656 below the state average and \$10,999 below the national average. Over this nine-year span, Noble County had the lowest average annual per capita income in the region at \$15,004.44.

The Personal Per Capita Income figure is calculated by the Bureau of Economic Analysis on an annual basis. The BEA Per Capita Income figures include the value of food stamps, Medicaid, and Medicare, as well as other forms of assistance to individuals and families.



According to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, the counties in the Buckeye Hills region ranked as follows in per capita personal income in the state for 2003:

- Noble County – 88 (out of 88)
- Meigs County – 86
- Perry County – 85
- Morgan County – 82
- Athens County – 81
- Monroe County – 77
- Hocking County – 75
- Washington County – 51

With the exception of Washington County, the district clearly has the lowest per capita incomes in the state.

	Years			Percentage Change		
	1980	1990	2000	1980-1990	1990-2000	1980-2000
Ohio	11.1	13.6	10.6	2.5	-3	-0.5
BHHVRDD	13.7	19.3	16.0	5.6	-3.4	2.3
Athens	21.6	28.7	27.4	7.1	-1.3	5.8
Hocking	12.4	15.7	13.5	3.3	-2.2	1.1
Meigs	17.1	27	19.8	9.9	-7.2	2.7
Monroe	13.5	21.5	13.9	8	-7.6	0.4
Morgan	14.8	21.2	18.4	6.4	-2.8	3.6
Noble	13	16.4	11.4	3.4	-5	-1.6
Perry	12.5	19.1	11.8	6.6	-7.3	-0.7
Washington	9.8	13.7	11.4	3.9	-2.3	1.6

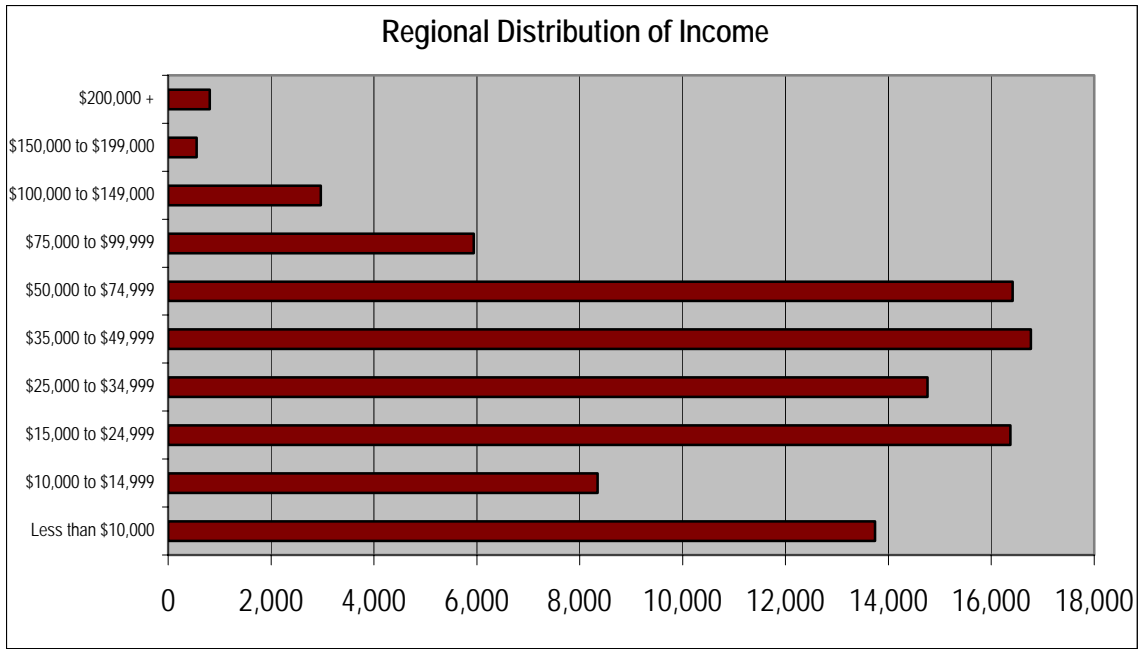
The poverty rate of nearly every county in the region has historically been higher than the state average. The rate of change has also been higher than the state rate as well. Table 3.09 shows some of these historical levels, as well as the changes in percentages over the last 20 years. Table 3.10 below shows us poverty rates in selected age categories. This table shows us some alarmingly high poverty rates in very sensitive areas, especially related children under the age of 18.

	All	Related Children Under 18	18+	65+
Ohio	10.6	14	10.9	8.1
BHHVRDD	16.0	18.9	14.8	12.6
Athens	27.4	21.2	28.8	12.9
Hocking	13.5	15.8	12.6	14.5
Meigs	19.8	26.3	17.7	14.5
Monroe	13.9	18.3	12.5	11.4
Morgan	18.4	25.1	16.1	12.4
Noble	11.4	13.9	10.3	11.9
Perry	11.8	15.2	10.3	12.7
Washington	11.4	15.7	9.9	10.2

Less than \$10,000	13,741
\$10,000 to \$14,999	8,350
\$15,000 to \$24,999	16,369
\$25,000 to \$34,999	14,761
\$35,000 to \$49,999	16,771
\$50,000 to \$74,999	16,411
\$75,000 to \$99,999	5,941
\$100,000 to \$149,000	2,964
\$150,000 to \$199,000	551
\$200,000 +	809

Table 3.11 gives us a numerical representation of the income levels found in the Buckeye Hills region according to the 2000 Census; below is a graph that represents the same data.

Of all the incomes reported in the district during the 2000 Census, 14.2 percent were below \$10,000. 22.85 percent of the incomes reported were below \$15,000 in 2000. For comparison, the U.S. Census Bureau reported the poverty threshold in 2000 to be \$8,794 for one person (unrelated individual).



### Quality of Life

**Table 3.12 - Housing Units in 2000**

	Total Housing Units	Occupied Housing Units	Occupancy Rate
BHHVRDD	109,702	96,672	86
Athens	24,901	22,501	90.4
Hocking	12,141	10,843	89.3
Meigs	10,782	9,234	85.6
Monroe	7,212	6,021	83.5
Morgan	7,771	5,890	75.8
Noble	5,480	4,546	83
Perry	13,655	12,500	91.5
Washington	27,760	25,137	90.6

Table 3.12 shows the total housing units in the region in 2000, as well as the total occupied housing units. The total occupied housing units includes both rental and owner occupied units. Morgan County had the lowest occupancy rate in the district, with 24.2 percent of all housing units in the county remaining vacant.

	Number of renter occupied units	Median rent	Rent as Percentage					More than 35%
			Less than 15%					
				15-19.9%	20-24.9%	25-29.9%	30--34.9%	
BHHVRDD	23,829	\$386	4,559	2,874	2,197	1,987	1,429	7,619
Athens	8,622	\$469	1,028	846	579	728	515	3,948
Hocking	2,451	\$386	555	399	255	188	137	633
Meigs	1,663	\$351	343	201	127	98	105	378
Monroe	966	\$352	189	97	91	69	57	240
Morgan	1181	\$347	252	148	107	93	71	292
Noble	831	\$368	238	89	71	66	48	192
Perry	2,433	\$415	652	355	301	248	133	433
Washington	5,682	\$400	1,302	739	666	497	363	1,503

Table 3.13 illustrates the number of rental units and the district as well as monthly rent cost information. Median rent in the region was \$386, up \$93 since 1990. Athens had the highest median rent (\$469), while Morgan County had the lowest (\$347). Some counties in the district, especially Washington, have been experiencing low levels of available, affordable rental properties being available. This may be one factor leading to the high levels of out migration from Washington County, as was illustrated in Table 3.06.

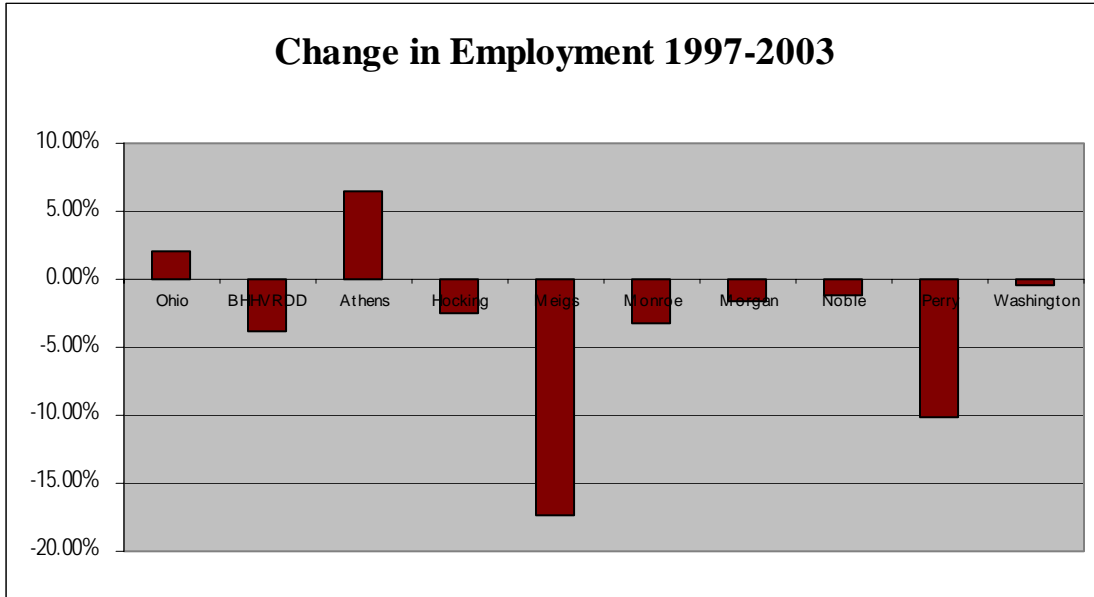
## ECONOMIC STRUCTURE

### Jobs

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Changes: 97-03	
Ohio	6,540,651	6,660,094	6,746,632	6,835,688	6,759,196	6,693,278	6,674,406	133,755	2.00%
BHHVRDD	107,470	107,036	106,759	106,622	105,294	106,788	105,937	-1,533	-3.75%
Athens	27,008	27,548	27,721	27,910	28,030	28,496	28,763	1,755	6.50%
Hocking	10,225	10,066	9,975	9,754	9,804	9,999	9,966	-259	-2.50%
Meigs	7,878	7,789	7,758	7,796	7,489	6,971	6,518	-1360	-17.30%
Monroe	7,639	7,742	7,525	7,392	7,313	7,299	7,387	-252	-3.30%
Morgan	5,791	6,215	6,002	5,934	5,860	5,820	5,697	-94	-1.60%
Noble	4,973	4,814	4,908	5,039	5,034	5,026	4,911	-62	-1.20%
Perry	10,659	10,051	10,048	10,115	9,582	9,688	9,580	-1,079	-10.10%
Washington	33,297	32,811	32,822	32,682	32,182	33,489	33,115	-182	-0.50%

Table 3.14 shows the changes in full and part time employment between 1997 and 2003. During that time the state has increased full and part time employment by 2 percent, while the Buckeye Hills region as a whole has decreased 3.75 percent. The state experienced highs in employment in 2000. Many of the counties experienced their employment highs for this period in the late 1990's. Athens and Washington Counties however have experienced their highs in the post-2001 time period. Only Athens County posted a positive change in total employment during this time period, with a 6.5 percent increase. Meigs County saw the biggest loss, seeing their total full and part time

employment decrease by 17.3 percent. The chart below illustrates the overall changes from 1997 to 2003.



County	Company	City	Product	Jobs	Investment	Square Feet
Athens	Super 8 Motel	Athens	Hotel		\$1,000,000	26,000
Athens	TS Trim	Athens	Auto Stampings	15	\$6,000,000	53,000
Hocking	Rocky Shoes & Boots	Green Twp	Footwear	45	\$6,400,000	190,000
Washington	Amoco	Warren Twp	Plastic resins	4	\$5,200,000	
Washington	Broughton Foods Co	Marietta	Dairy products	130	\$16,100,000	70,000
Washington	Degussa Corp	Belpre Twp	Carbon Black	7	\$7,000,000	
Washington	Lee Middletown Doll	Belpre	Collectibles	95	\$2,800,000	56,000
Washington	Settlers Bank	Marietta	Bank		\$1,200,000	12,000
Washington	Wetz Investments	Belpre	Speculative distbtn			30,000
Washington	Wetz Investments	Belpre	Speculative distbtn			54,000

In 1998, most of the major expansions and attractions of business in the district took place in Athens and Washington Counties. Disclosed investments totaled \$44.7 million, and the creation/ retention of 296 jobs.

County	Company	City	Product	Jobs	Investment	Square Feet
Athens	DEPS	Nelsonville	Data Entry	100		
Athens	Holiday Inn	Athens	Hotel		\$10,000,000	
Athens	Sunpower Inc.	Athens	Cryocooler	31	\$1,300,000	
Hocking	Norse Dairy Systems	Logan	Sandwich Wafers	66	\$5,800,000	40,000
Noble	Greif Brothers	Olive Twp	Steel Drums	25	\$6,000,000	30,000
Washington	Alliance Industries	Marietta	Sewage Treatment	40	\$2,000,000	45,000
Washington	Eclipse Blind Systems	Warren Twp	Vertical Blind	31	\$1,200,000	
Washington	Hampton Inn	Marietta	Hotel		\$2,000,000	

In 1999 the greatest concentration of private investment was again located in Washington and Athens Counties. In the case of Washington County, transportation access, both to the interstate highway system and to the Ohio River may have played a part in the location of these businesses. In the case of Athens County, Ohio University and the people surrounding it may have played a part in the location of these businesses. These industries do not seem to have any direct relationship to one another. Total disclosed investment for these expansions and attractions in 1999 was \$28.3 million, with 193 jobs created or retained.

County	Company	City	Product	Jobs	Investment	Square Feet
Meigs	Millennium Teleservices	Pomeroy	Telemarketing	200	\$1,000,000	10,000
Monroe	Industrial Paint & Strip (IPS)	Center Twp	Industrial coatings	29	\$2,058,000	12,000
Monroe	Monroe Resources LLC	Jackson Twp	Truck terminal	125	\$10,900,000	
Monroe	Safe Auto Group	Center Twp	Call center	150	\$1,620,000	
Morgan	EZ Grout	McConnelsville	Concrete machinery	23	\$1,000,000	13,000
Morgan	Federal Mogul	McConnelsville	Engine bearings	70	\$1,500,000	
Perry	Appalachian Synfuels	New Lexington	Alternative fuel		\$6,000,000	
Washington	Duke Energy	Beverly	Electricity	24	\$200,000,000	
Washington	PSEG Global	Waterford Twp	Electricity	25	\$300,000,000	
Washington	Wetz Investment co	Warren Twp	General warehousing			200,000

For the first time in the last several years, Washington and Athens Counties were not at the top of the list of business expansions in the year 2000. Monroe and Morgan Counties saw several large businesses develop in their counties over the course of 2000. Washington County did see two extremely large projects come to the county, as two new power plants were announced and funded. Total disclosed investment for these expansions and attractions was \$524,078,000. 646 jobs were created or retained as a result of these investments.

County	Company	City	Product	Jobs	Investment	Square Feet
Athens	Starr Machine	Nelsonville	Machine shop	13		30,000
Athens	TS Trim	Athens	Motor vehicle seating	1	\$2,300,000	
Hocking	International Panel Group	Logan	Wood panels	35	\$6,600,000	35,000
Hocking	Smead Manufacturing Co	Logan	Paper products		\$4,500,000	90,000
Monroe	Central Mine	Sunsbury Twp	Coal	500		
Monroe	Monroe County CIC	Woodsfield	Spec bldg		\$1,200,000	23,000
Perry	Petroware	Crooksville	Pottery products		\$1,300,000	
Washington	BP Amoco	Marietta	Polymer products		\$14,000,000	
Washington	Chevron	Marietta	Plastic resins		\$4,300,000	
Washington	Eramet Marietta	Marietta	Ferro alloy products		\$5,000,000	
Washington	Hi Vac	Marietta	Industrial vacuum cleaners	30	\$1,812,000	
Washington	Interactive Teleservices	Marietta Twp	Call center	300		
Washington	Riverview Financial Services	Belpre	Call center	78		

In 2001 Athens and Washington Counties continued to be the regional leaders, with 8 expansions/ attractions between them. There were two large attractions to note, Central Mine in Monroe County with 500 jobs created, and Interactive Teleservices in Washington County with 300 jobs created. Total disclosed investments for these expansions and attractions were \$41,012,000. 957 jobs were created or retained as a result of these projects.

County	Company	City	Product	Jobs	Investment	Square Feet
Athens	Nebraska Book Co	York Twp	Books	40	\$1,011,000	49,500
Hocking	Gabriel Logan LLC	Logan	Store fixtures	97	\$2,400,000	150,000
Morgan	Draper Inc	Malta	Sports equipment	15		20,000
Morgan	Win.Dor.Tek Inc	Malta	Wood windows	30	\$1,115,000	33,000
Washington	Dimex Corp	Marietta Twp	Plastic products	25	\$7,030,000	
Washington	Kraton Polymers	Belpre	Polymer resins	4	\$18,000,000	
Washington	Sequelle Inc	Marietta	Internet services	20	\$5,610,000	

2002 saw some much needed investment take place in Morgan County, while other investments took place in Washington and Hocking Counties. Total disclosed investments for these expansions and attractions were \$35,166,000. 231 jobs were created or retained as a result of these projects.

County	Company	City	Product	Jobs	Investment	Square Feet
Meigs	Meigs CIC	Orange Twp.	Spec. Building		\$1,300,000	20,000
Monroe	Ormet Corp.	Hannibal	Aluminum		\$15,000,000	
Noble	Int'l. Converter	Caldwell	Laminated Foil		\$1,000,000	
Washington	Eramet Marietta	Marietta	Ferro Manganese		\$20,000,000	
Washington	Solvay Advanced Polymers	Marietta	Plastic Resins		\$10,164,000	

2003 saw expansions happen in Meigs, Monroe, Noble, and Washington Counties. The total number of expansions/ attractions may have been lower, but the average investment in these projects was slightly higher overall. The total disclosed investments for these attractions and expansions were \$47,464,000. The number of jobs created or retained as a result of these projects was not disclosed.

County	Company	City	Product	Jobs	Investment	Square Feet
Hocking	RoKeith Enterp.	Logan	Spec. Bldg.		\$1,500,000	24,000
Perry	Perry Ehtanol		Ethanol	100	\$58,000,000	
Washington	KRATON Polymers	Belpre	Polymer Resins		\$20,000,000	
Washington	Leasco Equip.	Warren Twp.	Machinery		\$3,200,000	63,000
Washington	Miller Real Est. Dev.	Musk. Twp.	Spec. Dist.		\$550,000	25,000
Washington	NOVA Chemical	Belpre Twp.	Plastic Pellets		\$8,150,000	

2004 saw Washington County gain four expansion projects totaling nearly \$32 million. Perry County had the largest single investment project recorded in the district for the year, with a \$58 million investment by Perry Ethanol.

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Ohio	1049	1,075	1,090	809	633	599	603
BHHVRDD	10	7	10	13	7	5	6
Athens	2	2	0	2	1	0	0
Hocking	1	1	0	2	1	0	1
Meigs	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Monroe	0	0	3	2	0	1	0
Morgan	0	0	2	0	2	0	0
Noble	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Perry	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
Washington	7	3	3	6	3	2	4

The site selection totals show that this region of Ohio has a disproportionately small number of project sites selected, in comparison to the number selected for the entire state. Of the 7 years listed above, only twice did the region make up for more than 1% of the total for the state.



Area	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Avg.
Ohio	\$4,604,207	\$4,367,913	\$4,507,562	\$4,867,174	\$5,123,873	\$5,243,370	\$6,547,578	\$4,756,768
BHHVRDD	\$14,119	\$16,319	\$19,107	\$14,549	\$32,590	\$26,381	\$33,217	\$22,326
Athens	\$3,927	\$4,981	\$6,839	\$5,666	\$19,829	\$13,633	\$13,544	\$9,774
Hocking	\$898	\$806	\$944	\$782	\$909	\$1,114	\$1,213	\$952
Meigs	\$1,160	\$1,791	\$1,063	\$818	\$1,321	\$1,534	\$4,042	\$1,676
Monroe	\$1,334	\$1,048	\$3,193	\$906	\$959	\$1,389	\$2,482	\$1,616
Morgan	\$849	\$1,477	\$1,193	\$530	\$1,167	\$899	\$1,706	\$1,117
Noble	\$992	\$553	\$982	\$513	\$519	\$583	\$509	\$664
Perry	\$1,249	\$1,336	\$1,230	\$1,326	\$1,185	\$1,254	\$1,291	\$1,267
Washington	\$3,710	\$4,327	\$3,663	\$4,008	\$6,701	\$5,975	\$8,430	\$5,259

Table 3.23 illustrates total government procurement awards from 1997 to 2003. The two most populous counties, Athens and Washington, consistently lead the region in Procurement Awards over this time span; they also have the highest yearly averages of Government Procurement Award dollars. Hocking and Morgan Counties constituted the lowest amounts in the region, with Hocking County having over ten times less the amount of Government Procurement dollars than Athens County.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Ohio 2004
Civilian Labor Force	109,400	111,200	111,400	110,500	110,300	110,300	109,700	110,400	112,800	120,400	5,884,800
Employment	101,100	102,600	103,600	103,300	102,200	102,700	103,600	103,300	104,100	111,300	5,523,000
Unemployment	8,300	8,500	7,700	7,400	8,100	7,400	6,100	7,100	8,700	9,300	361,800
Unemployment Rate	8.2	8.3	7.4	7.2	8.7	8.2	7.1	8.1	9.8	8.6	6.1

Table 3.24 presents us with the historical labor force data for our region. While our unemployment rate has been fairly steady over the past ten years, ranging from a low of 7.1 percent in 2001, to a high of 9.8 in 2003. In comparison, the unadjusted state averages from the same time period were as follows: 1995 – 5.6%, 1996 – 5.4%, 1997 – 4.9%, 1998 – 4.5%, 1999 – 4.2%, and 2004 – 5.5%. (Note: Data from 2000-2003 not available at the time of this report due to complex changes being made to the annual revision process, source Ohio LMI <http://lmi.state.oh.us>). In 1999 the unemployment rate of the region was more than double the state average at that time.

Growth in the civilian labor force had been minimal in the region, with only a 3,000-person increase from 1995-2003, but in 2004 the region saw it's largest civilian labor force in the past 10 years (120,400), growing by 7,600 from 2003 to 2004.

The number of unemployed individuals has risen by 1,000 since 1995. In relation the number of employed individuals has risen by 10,200 since 1995. After several peak levels, the unemployment rate of 8.6 percent in 2004 was only .4 percent higher than the level reported in 1995.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
All Industries	70,812	71,812	73,492	73,690	72,983	72,772
Agriculture	na	na	na	na	na	529
Mining	na	na	na	na	na	922
Construction	3,595	3,436	3,864	3,936	3,908	3,811
Manufacturing	14,147	14,189	14,536	14,614	14,152	13,861
Transportation & Utilities	2,885	2,612	2,612	2,533	2,257	2,249
Wholesale & Retail	16,225	16,533	16,573	16,473	16,648	16,783
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	2,265	2,286	2,353	2,325	2,330	2,377
Service	12,961	13,160	13,434	13,521	13,341	13,902
Government	16,508	16,772	17,184	17,364	17,501	17,142

Table 3.25 shows us the regional employment by industrial sector from 1995 to 2000. (Note: At the time of this report, updated information was not available.) The biggest gains were in the ‘service’ and ‘government’ sectors, while the biggest loss was in the ‘transportation & utilities’ sector between 1995 and 2000.

	2000	2001
All Industries	73,093	72,486
Agriculture	468	476
Mining	914	634
Construction	3,771	3,807
Manufacturing	12,719	12,537
Wholesale Trade	1,613	1,689
Retail Trade	9,297	9,247
Transportation & Warehousing	1,211	1,169
Finance & Insurance	1,924	1,981
Real Estate	551	574
Prof. & Tech. Services	1,519	1,617
Health Care	8,049	8,494
State & Local Gov't.	17,270	17,311
Federal Gov't.	935	838

The 2003 County Profiles released by the Ohio Department of Development did not use the same employment classifications as previous years; instead NAICS Industrial Sector classifications were used. Table 3.25a shows the regional employment numbers for 2000 and 2001 using these new classifications.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
All Industries	\$440.70	\$462.75	\$482.68	\$497.15	\$500.90	\$505.89
Agriculture*	na	na	na	na	na	na
Mining*	na	na	na	na	na	na
Construction	\$496.63	\$508.00	\$486.88	\$517.00	\$532.14	\$532.38
Manufacturing	\$545.90	\$577.28	\$592.76	\$605.09	\$618.24	\$630.34
Transportation & Utilities	\$548.85	\$554.71	\$572.34	\$601.26	\$639.86	\$632.06
Wholesale & Retail	\$253.10	\$256.30	\$263.60	\$276.22	\$278.51	\$281.68
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	\$371.96	\$386.14	\$363.36	\$421.13	\$434.26	\$453.11
Service	\$287.39	\$292.50	\$311.15	\$325.59	\$331.84	\$342.88
Government	\$419.35	\$441.20	\$472.36	\$482.35	\$490.18	\$510.90

Table 3.25 shows the average weekly wages for recorded industries of employment. The ‘government’ sector saw the largest increase in weekly wages, \$91.55, while the ‘wholesale and retail’ sector experienced the smallest increase at \$28.58. None of the sectors listed reported a decrease in weekly earnings from 1995 to 2000. The transportation and utilities sector paid the most (\$632.06), and the service sector paid the least (\$342.88).

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Business Starts	594	595	539	517	559	561	600	493	551	536
Business Terminations	530	452	631	535	na*	550	512	na	na	na
Net Change	64	143	-92	-18	na*	11	88	na	na	na
Total Active Businesses	4,891	4,995	4,836	4,624	4,727	4,843	4,853	4,970	4,982	5,106

Table 3.27 illustrates the business environment in the Buckeye Hills region from 1995-2004. The number of new business starts again failed to meet the 10-year high from 2001, but has rebounded from the 10 year low in 2002. The number of active businesses has varied during this time, but a 10 year high was reached in 2004 with 5,106 active businesses in the Buckeye Hills district.

### Athens County Economics

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Ohio 2004
Civilian Labor Force	26,600	26,500	26,700	27,300	28,300	28,500	29,600	29,600	5,884,800
Employment	25,200	25,300	25,400	26,000	27,200	27,200	28,200	27,800	5,523,000
Unemployment	1,400	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,100	1,300	1,400	1,800	361,000
Unemployment Rate	5.1	4.8	4.9	4.7	3.8	4.6	4.8	6.2	6.1

Table 3.28 examines the civilian labor force in Athens County. The employment levels have been slowly increasing since 1995, with a total increase of 2,600. In 2004 the employment level was lower than the previous year for the first time in eight years (-400). Athens County has seen a 400 person increase in unemployment over this time. Although the unemployment rate has risen 1.4 percent since 2003, Athens County is one

of the only counties in the region that has an unemployment level that continues to be competitive with the state average.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
All Industries	17,498	17,928	18,313	18,455	18,432	18,423	18,781
Agriculture	56	62	67	78	96	128	51
Mining	14	16	14	13	27	24	na
Construction	474	471	572	598	571	607	495
Manufacturing	826	919	972	985	971	1,160	987
Transportation & Utilities	601	607	594	522	369	358	253
Wholesale & Retail	4,647	4,685	4,745	4,720	4,763	4,734	2,886
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	622	609	641	634	645	669	708
Service	3,373	3,544	3,637	3,627	3,667	3,908	469
Government	7,065	7,016	7,072	7,279	7,325	6,835	7,218

The employment picture of Athens County is dominated by the trade and government industries. The large government presence is to be expected with a large public university in the county. Manufacturing continues to make up a large portion of the employment sector, although in January 2005 one of the major manufacturing operations (McBee) in Athens County announced it would be closing its doors in 12-18 months. 360 manufacturing jobs will be lost in Athens County.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
All Industries	\$419.12	\$450.68	\$469.19	\$483.47	\$492.90	\$517.04
Agriculture	\$263.01	\$224.19	\$244.31	\$310.17	\$330.33	\$325.24
Mining	na	\$437.92	\$367.52	\$408.28	\$428.88	\$493.59
Construction	\$403.34	\$435.23	\$459.22	\$418.79	\$438.90	\$421.46
Manufacturing	\$411.82	\$411.70	\$411.75	\$418.02	\$425.42	\$468.53
Transportation & Utilities	\$583.45	\$598.43	\$621.92	\$640.17	\$758.17	\$739.87
Wholesale & Retail	\$230.50	\$230.55	\$247.79	\$259.60	\$261.71	\$269.69
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	\$382.90	\$388.66	\$411.97	\$452.23	\$465.50	\$485.62
Service	\$362.82	\$374.35	\$392.45	\$412.04	\$419.76	\$420.79
Government	\$565.29	\$636.96	\$660.59	\$671.88	\$684.39	\$755.19

Table 3.30 depicts the average weekly wages by industrial sector from 1995 through 2000. The ‘government’ sector in 2000 was paying the highest weekly wage (\$755.19). The lowest wages in the county were found in the ‘wholesale & retail’ sector (\$269.69).

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Business Starts	129	119	125	144	132	157	107	121	119
Business Terminations	93	121	105	na*	139	129	na	na	na
Net Change	36	-2	20	na*	-7	28	na	na	na
Total Active Businesses	1,005	997	985	1,048	1,064	1,069	1,081	1,090	1,139

Over the nine-year period from 1996-2004, Athens County has sustained a high level of business starts, topping out at 157 in 2001, and averaging 128 per year. The number of total active businesses has also continued to climb, reaching a nine-year high of 1,139 in 2004. Information on business terminations and net change was not available.

### Hocking County Economics

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Ohio 2004
Civilian Labor Force	12,500	12,300	12,000	11,800	11,800	12,000	12,200	13,800	5,884,800
Employment	11,700	11,500	11,100	10,800	11,100	11,200	11,200	12,700	5,523,000
Unemployment	800	700	900	1,000	800	800	1,000	1,100	361,000
Unemployment Rate	6	6	7.2	8.7	6.4	6.4	8	7.7	6.1

The unemployment rate in Hocking County over this eight-year period has been varied, reaching a high of 8.7% in 2000. In 2003 the unemployment rate increased by 1.6% to reach eight percent. A slight decrease of .3 percent took place in 2004. The overall civilian labor force is at it's largest in the eight year span. Corresponding highs were reached in overall employment; 12,700 (+1,500 since 2003) and unemployment; 1,100, in 2004.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
All Industries	6,726	7,107	7,170	7,143	7,009	6,691	6,700
Agriculture	na	na	na	na	na	22	21
Mining	na	na	na	na	na	91	na
Construction	306	359	398	365	386	370	366
Manufacturing	2,089	2,194	2,253	2,199	2,059	1,700	1,452
Transportation & Utilities	180	171	183	172	169	191	97
Wholesale & Retail	1,422	1,428	1,319	1,328	1,385	1,457	1,037
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	160	160	175	175	164	174	235
Service	953	1,092	1,154	1,203	1,131	1,070	209
Government	1,539	1,579	1,555	1,557	1,581	1,600	1,669

Table 3.33 shows an increase in the number of overall jobs in Hocking County. Nearly all sectors saw marginal changes in employment levels. The manufacturing sector in Hocking County continues to shrink. At the time of this report, updated employment information by sector was not available.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
All Industries	\$411.83	\$423.56	\$456.96	\$464.68	\$467.33	\$461.60
Agriculture	na	na	na	na	na	\$277.28
Mining	na	na	na	na	na	\$583.09
Construction	\$380.46	\$424.78	\$499.78	\$499.74	\$466.32	\$476.11
Manufacturing	\$541.16	\$569.82	\$600.90	\$603.14	\$612.36	\$579.32
Transportation & Utilities	\$398.42	\$389.92	\$488.91	\$464.67	\$432.44	\$462.24
Wholesale & Retail	\$253.53	\$255.62	\$271.91	\$293.63	\$290.41	\$302.09
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	\$377.83	\$384.30	\$391.12	\$433.66	\$457.19	\$471.17
Service	\$269.21	\$268.68	\$298.51	\$299.86	\$317.47	\$334.69
Government	\$476.34	\$482.26	\$512.88	\$534.99	\$535.62	\$557.47

The above table looks at the average weekly wages in Hocking County from 1995-2000. All industries have increased their weekly wages over the five-year time period. The greatest increases were in the ‘construction’ and ‘finance’ sectors. The ‘manufacturing’ sector experienced the smallest growth, but maintained the highest overall weekly wage.

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Business Starts	90	88	61	79	93	83	60	87	84
Business Terminations	64	88	56	na*	79	78	na	na	na
Net Change	26	0	5	na*	14	5	na	na	na
Total Active Businesses	549	531	443	463	516	504	527	528	562

Hocking County has seen the total number of active businesses increase since 2001, to a nine-year high of 562 in 2004. The number of business starts has also been steady, with only a difference of four between 2003 and 2004. Hocking County has averaged 80 business starts per year during this time period.

### Meigs County Economics

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Ohio 2004
Civilian Labor Force	8,600	8,600	8,500	8,400	8,000	7,400	7,100	9,000	5,884,800
Employment	7,700	7,700	7,500	7,500	7,300	6,600	6,000	8,100	5,523,000
Unemployment	900	900	1,000	900	700	800	1,100	1,000	361,000
Unemployment Rate	10.3	10.5	11.5	10.5	8.7	11.3	15.7	10.8	6.1

Table 3.36 shows the civilian labor force information for Meigs County. The overall civilian labor force has been unstable over this eight-year period. In 1997 the level was 8,600, in 2003 it had dropped to 7,100, but in 2004 it rebounded to an eight-year high of 9,000. The increased number of individuals in the labor force also led to corresponding increases in the number of people employed and unemployed; both reaching highs in 2004. In 2003 the unemployment rate jumped 4.4 percent from the previous year, bringing the total to 15.7 percent. A 4.9 percent decrease in 2004 brought the rate down

to 10.8, which was still one of the highest in the district, and nearly double the annual state average in 2004.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
All Industries	4,750	4,811	4,948	5,000	4,865	4,855	4,766
Agriculture	na	na	na	na	na	na	207
Mining	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Construction	276	288	329	312	294	311	408
Manufacturing	181	199	186	171	142	149	130
Transportation & Utilities	71	66	69	80	76	83	40
Wholesale & Retail	1,075	1,105	1,109	1,122	1,113	1,146	728
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	146	157	160	174	164	169	175
Service	885	838	846	826	835	783	78
Government	1,087	1,107	1,134	1,126	1,144	1,150	1,205

In Meigs County the two leading sectors of employment are ‘wholesale & retail trade’ and ‘government’. Over the five-year period, the Government sector has seen a steady rise in employment. Updated employment information was not available at the time of this report.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
All Industries	\$420.44	\$448.24	\$468.64	\$498.28	\$510.63	\$515.61
Agriculture	na	na	na	na	na	na
Mining	na	na	na	na	na	na
Construction	\$433.47	\$451.64	\$497.78	\$516.55	\$495.52	\$523.54
Manufacturing	\$416.47	\$451.96	\$456.77	\$505.98	\$544.02	\$550.87
Transportation & Utilities	\$583.56	\$579.47	\$580.29	\$539.66	\$581.08	\$554.50
Wholesale & Retail	\$228.49	\$250.01	\$260.86	\$270.63	\$278.81	\$280.75
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	\$375.91	\$383.61	\$393.87	\$403.98	\$426.02	\$440.42
Service	\$300.53	\$306.65	\$285.54	\$296.42	\$301.33	\$300.38
Government	\$357.41	\$365.00	\$370.63	\$392.46	\$387.89	\$389.20

Table 3.38 illustrates the average weekly wages by industrial sector for Meigs County. All sectors have been slowly increasing their weekly wages with the exception of ‘transportation & utilities’ and ‘service’. (‘Service’ loss was marginal at fifteen cents total.)

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Business Starts	54	41	42	61	33	45	37	36	33
Business Terminations	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Net Change	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Total Active Businesses	379	370	356	354	358	363	378	363	354

Meigs County experienced a nine-year low in business starts in 2004 with 33. The number of total active businesses was slightly lower than 2003 (-9), and 25 less than 1996. Meigs County has averaged 42 business starts per year over this nine-year span.

### Monroe County Economics

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Ohio 2004
Civilian Labor Force	6,100	6,000	5,900	5,800	5,300	5,300	5,400	6,100	5,884,000
Employment	5,500	5,500	5,300	5,200	4,900	4,800	4,900	5,500	5,523,000
Unemployment	600	500	600	500	300	400	500	600	361,000
Unemployment Rate	9.8	8.8	9.5	9.4	6.6	8.1	8.8	10.1	6.1

Table 3.40 shows the civilian labor force totals of Monroe County from 1997 to 2004. The labor force has returned to the level it was at in 1997 after several years of decline. 2004 saw a 700 person increase in the overall civilian labor force, which also led to corresponding increases in employment (+600) and unemployment (+100). The unemployment rate in Monroe County has been continually high in comparison to the other counties in the district, reaching an eight-year high of 10.1 percent in 2004. The unemployment situation in the county has the possibility of becoming much worse in the near future, as the largest employer in the county (Ormet Corp. – Aluminum) has been on-strike due to a labor dispute for roughly two years. At the time of this report the two sides did not appear to be approaching a solution to the dispute.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
All Industries	5,027	5,011	5,058	5,159	4,956	4,792
Agriculture	na	na	na	na	na	14
Mining	na	na	na	na	na	71
Construction	173	162	170	173	200	187
Manufacturing	2,459	2,325	2,342	2,450	2,348	2,310
Transportation & Utilities	102	103	109	104	111	134
Wholesale & Retail	646	663	638	701	668	643
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	133	156	156	133	122	121
Service	336	332	350	373	385	437
Government	874	881	892	888	891	875

The employment scene in Monroe County has been fairly stable for the past 6 years. The only significant changes were an increase in service, and a loss in the manufacturing sector. Although the ‘manufacturing’ sector has been decreasing in size, it still had 1,435 more workers than the second most populated sector, ‘government’. The Ormet Corp. Aluminum manufacturing plant in Hannibal, Ohio is home to the largest section of those manufacturing jobs. Updated employment information was not available at the time of this report.



	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
All Industries	\$548.83	\$586.73	\$576.38	\$563.52	\$558.99	\$540.12
Agriculture	na	na	na	na	na	\$284.75
Mining	na	na	na	na	na	\$320.20
Construction	\$394.90	\$399.48	\$471.49	\$437.12	\$461.54	\$529.82
Manufacturing	\$711.74	\$784.78	\$744.01	\$741.26	\$773.33	\$739.12
Transportation & Utilities	\$379.46	\$401.77	\$443.90	\$476.74	\$494.90	\$486.46
Wholesale & Retail	\$231.95	\$233.57	\$254.65	\$236.03	\$254.42	\$266.42
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	\$314.52	\$343.84	\$358.89	\$346.51	\$344.19	\$365.07
Service	\$184.22	\$201.10	\$212.07	\$215.13	\$228.07	\$245.26
Government	\$394.45	\$393.24	\$402.70	\$408.56	\$418.80	\$419.62

The overall average weekly wage in Monroe County has been declining since 1996, reaching it's lowest point in 2000 (\$540.12). The 'manufacturing' sector registered the highest weekly wages for each year during this time span, averaging \$749.04 per week between 1995 and 2000.

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Business Starts	32	27	27	26	28	33	34	30	20
Business Terminations	34	52	30	na*	26	28	na	na	na
Net Change	-2	-25	-3	na*	2	5	na	na	na
Total Active Businesses	417	391	366	368	368	369	380	379	376

In 2004 Monroe County experienced a nine-year low in the number of business starts taking place in the county with 20, down ten from the previous year. The number of total active businesses also continues to slowly fall, after a brief rebound in 2002. Information regarding business terminations and net change was not available at the time of this report.

### Morgan County Economics

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Ohio 2004
Civilian Labor Force	4,900	5,000	4,700	4,500	4,500	4,300	4,300	6,300	5,884,800
Employment	4,300	4,400	4,000	3,900	3,800	3,700	3,600	5,700	5,523,000
Unemployment	600	700	700	600	700	600	700	700	361,000
Unemployment Rate	12.4	13.1	14.3	12.4	14.7	14.3	16.4	10.4	6.1

Table 3.44 provides us with data on Morgan County's civilian labor force. Immediately you will notice the high unemployment rate, which Morgan County is experiencing and has experienced in the past. Morgan County has regularly had the highest unemployment rate in the state in monthly and annual comparisons until recently. Meigs, Monroe, and Noble Counties have seen their unemployment rates rise to a high level, similar to what has historically taken place in Morgan County. Morgan County experienced an eight-year high in the number of individuals in the civilian labor force during 2004. As can be

expected the overall number of individuals employed also increased. The number of unemployed individuals has remained fairly steady, as the unemployment rate in the county has decreased by 6 percent between 2003 and 2004. In 2003 the unemployment rate in Morgan County was nearly triple the state average.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
All Industries	3,798	3,648	3,779	3,765	3,543	3,444
Agriculture	15	17	16	na	na	22
Mining	245	282	288	na	na	221
Construction	217	225	249	311	265	239
Manufacturing	1,007	940	1,002	932	788	734
Transportation & Utilities	449	419	416	398	358	350
Wholesale & Retail	616	619	625	655	659	657
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	83	87	90	90	91	104
Service	428	415	434	427	381	383
Government	660	645	660	644	694	700

Morgan County continues to endure a difficult time retaining and sustaining employment in the county. The table above shows five sectors lost employees from 1995-2000. The biggest loss was in Manufacturing (-273). Updated employment information for Morgan County was unavailable at the time of this report.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
All Industries	\$483.31	\$513.53	\$523.83	\$553.92	\$549.53	\$556.94
Agriculture	\$219.37	\$232.32	\$257.63	na	na	\$343.47
Mining	na	\$891.57	\$968.15	na	na	\$1,151.93
Construction	\$654.37	\$652.38	\$662.82	\$737.89	\$748.60	\$609.12
Manufacturing	\$513.62	\$558.51	\$562.36	\$583.74	\$596.23	\$664.41
Transportation & Utilities	\$834.21	\$928.09	\$924.14	\$976.36	\$1,072.03	\$1,060.51
Wholesale & Retail	\$226.44	\$229.36	\$228.77	\$238.17	\$232.43	\$253.48
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	\$317.63	\$330.80	\$358.33	\$363.73	\$345.94	\$380.00
Service	\$263.77	\$227.07	\$290.58	\$280.37	\$276.65	\$299.11
Government	\$392.64	\$421.08	\$428.18	\$442.61	\$436.79	\$457.67

All sectors except 'construction' in Morgan County increased their average weekly wages between 1995 and 2000. 'Transportation & Utilities' saw the largest increase in weekly wages, up \$226.30. The 'mining' sector had the highest weekly wage in Morgan County during 2000 (\$1,151.93).

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Business Starts	32	27	18	25	35	27	23	46	27
Business Terminations	28	39	27	na*	29	28	na	na	na
Net Change	4	-12	-9	na*	6	-1	na	na	na
Total Active Businesses	282	272	253	257	261	253	260	277	273

The number of new business starts in Morgan County was down from a nine-year high in 2003. The total number of active businesses was fairly stable in 2004, down 4 from the previous year, and down 9 since 1996. Data on business terminations and net change was not available at the time of this report.

### Noble County Economics

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Ohio 2004
Civilian Labor Force	5,400	5,400	5,600	5,600	5,300	5,500	5,800	5,800	5,884,800
Employment	5,000	5,000	5,100	5,200	5,000	5,200	5,300	5,300	5,523,000
Unemployment	400	400	500	400	300	400	500	500	361,000
Unemployment Rate	6.8	7.6	8.2	7.5	5.8	6.9	8.9	8.5	6.1

Table 3.48 shows us civilian labor force information for Noble County. Noble County has had very steady labor force, employment, and unemployment levels from 1997 to 2004. The unemployment rate has risen 1.7 percent since 1997; although in 2004 it was down .4 percent from an eight-year high reached in 2003.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
All Industries	2,526	2,766	3,142	3,180	3,293	3,402
Agriculture	na	na	na	7	na	na
Mining	na	na	na	119	na	na
Construction	65	58	57	64	59	66
Manufacturing	544	551	570	565	594	624
Transportation & Utilities	111	119	140	134	109	116
Wholesale & Retail	562	599	646	606	666	707
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	96	97	97	100	112	87
Service	453	454	488	533	588	603
Government	594	772	1016	1048	1,049	1,115

All sectors of employment in Noble County showed increases over the given time span, with the exception of ‘finance, insurance, and real estate’ (-9 overall). Noble County has seen the number of individuals employed in the government sector nearly double since 1995. Updated employment information for Noble County was not available at the time of this report.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
All Industries	\$389.44	\$408.96	\$441.03	\$461.12	\$470.57	\$472.60
Agriculture	na	na	na	\$232.56	na	na
Mining	na	na	na	\$740.67	na	na
Construction	\$352.64	\$398.08	\$340.76	\$360.99	\$392.50	\$379.94
Manufacturing	\$620.57	\$641.29	\$671.30	\$681.15	\$709.14	\$709.18
Transportation & Utilities	\$424.53	\$416.11	\$462.50	\$505.31	\$512.53	\$514.70
Wholesale & Retail	\$231.16	\$229.96	\$242.00	\$262.31	\$263.50	\$262.37
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	\$410.73	\$429.88	\$150.66	\$479.76	\$529.51	\$538.46
Service	\$253.96	\$262.31	\$258.00	\$259.81	\$269.77	\$274.88
Government	\$371.91	\$418.74	\$505.74	\$533.93	\$555.04	\$559.73

Table 3.50 shows the average weekly earnings by industrial sector for Noble County. Over the period from 1995-2000, every sector increased their average weekly wages, with ‘government’ leading the way with a \$187.82 increase. The highest weekly wage in Noble County during the year 2000 was found in the ‘manufacturing’ sector, which reported weekly earnings of \$709.18.

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Business Starts	17	19	21	24	25	24	11	15	15
Business Terminations	16	19	30	na*	17	24	na	na	na
Net Change	1	0	-9	na*	8	0	na	na	na
Total Active Businesses	218	216	212	207	226	228	216	206	207

The business environment in Noble County has been steady in the past two years, posting identical numbers of business starts, and having one more active business in 2004 as compared to 2003. Noble County has averaged 19 business starts per year during the time period specified.

### Perry County Economics

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Ohio 2004
Civilian Labor Force	14,500	14,200	14,500	14,200	14,400	14,700	15,000	16,700	5,884,800
Employment	13,400	13,200	13,300	13,100	13,400	13,500	13,500	15,200	5,523,000
Unemployment	1,100	1,100	1,200	1,100	1,000	1,200	1,500	1,500	361,000
Unemployment Rate	7.7	7.4	8.2	7.4	7.1	8.1	9.8	8.8	6.1

Table 3.52 illustrates the civilian labor situation in Perry County. In 2004 eight-year highs were reached in the total number of individuals in the civilian labor force, as well as the total number of individuals employed. The number of individuals unemployed was also at an eight-year high in 2004, but remained unchanged from the 2003 figure. The unemployment rate reached a high at 9.8 percent in 2003, but decreased by 1 percent in 2004.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
All Industries	6,693	6,775	6,863	6,818	6,735	6,835
Agriculture	48	50	58	47	50	71
Mining	241	238	260	238	226	253
Construction	285	316	367	388	432	428
Manufacturing	1,703	1,636	1,703	1,838	1,656	1,631
Transportation & Utilities	206	237	230	206	181	162
Wholesale & Retail	1,220	1,189	1,179	1,183	1,290	1,351
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	211	203	194	193	198	210
Service	1,247	1,267	1,209	1,038	1,036	1,004
Government	1,591	1,639	1,663	1,687	1,668	1,725

Perry County maintained a fairly steady employment pattern in the above referenced industries between 1995 and 2000. Five of the nine listed sectors saw gains or losses of less than 100 workers during the given time period. The biggest loss was in the ‘service’ sector, which had 243 less workers in 2000 than it did in 1995. Updated employment information for Perry County was not available at the time of this report.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
All Industries	\$403.82	\$411.47	\$445.42	\$446.60	\$454.23	\$468.57
Agriculture	\$356.42	\$310.17	na	\$346.36	\$370.70	\$373.01
Mining	\$460.49	\$491.44	na	\$520.91	\$558.48	\$680.60
Construction	\$819.45	\$774.53	\$412.66	\$625.64	\$705.10	\$791.22
Manufacturing	\$482.64	\$512.32	\$585.63	\$559.05	\$543.26	\$580.76
Transportation & Utilities	\$621.96	\$600.42	\$508.92	\$656.70	\$694.65	\$653.85
Wholesale & Retail	\$356.95	\$340.95	\$305.21	\$335.92	\$339.69	\$300.85
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	\$368.92	\$388.02	\$392.97	\$406.21	\$414.47	\$429.72
Service	\$268.75	\$281.03	\$301.90	\$354.92	\$376.46	\$383.54
Government	\$354.89	\$359.85	\$433.65	\$388.15	\$404.92	\$423.57

Table 3.54 shows the average weekly wages for industrial sectors in Perry County. Nearly all sectors saw modest gains; with ‘mining’ reporting the largest increase of \$220.11. Only ‘construction’ and ‘wholesale & retail’ experienced decreases in weekly wages over the given time span. Updated wage information for Perry County was not available at the time of this report.

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Business Starts	99	68	94	93	116	94	107	105	112
Business Terminations	85	93	94	na*	92	88	na	na	na
Net Change	14	-25	0	na*	24	6	na	na	na
Total Active Businesses	604	553	535	579	617	620	620	643	692

Table 3.55 illustrates the business environment in Perry County from 1996 to 2004. Perry County experienced a nine-year high in total active businesses in the county in

2004 with 692. The total increase since 1996 has been 88 businesses. The number of business starts in the county has also grown since 1996. A high was reached in 2000 with 116 businesses opening their doors. The number of new business starts in 2004 was 13 more than 1996.

### Washington County Economics

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Ohio 2004
Civilian Labor Force	32,800	32,500	32,400	32,700	32,100	32,700	33,400	33,100	5,884,800
Employment	30,800	30,700	30,500	31,000	30,900	31,100	31,400	31,000	5,523,000
Unemployment	1,900	1,800	1,900	1,600	1,200	1,600	2,000	2,100	361,000
Unemployment Rate	5.9	5.5	5.9	5	3.8	4.8	6	6.3	6.1

Washington County experienced an eight-year high in the number of individuals in the civilian labor force in 2003. This high was followed up by another strong year in 2004, only missing the previous mark by 300 individuals. The number of employed individuals also remained high, also missing an eight-year high set in 2003. The unemployment rate was just higher than the annual state average in 2004 at 6.3 percent (state 6.1 percent). Although it was higher than the state average, Washington County has the second lowest unemployment rate in the district to Athens County.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
All Industries	23,794	23,766	24,219	24,170	24,150	24,330
Agriculture	180	220	231	223	243	272
Mining	240	261	229	218	224	262
Construction	1,799	1,557	1,722	1,725	1,701	1,603
Manufacturing	5,338	5,425	5,508	5,474	5,594	5,553
Transportation & Utilities	1,165	890	871	917	884	855
Wholesale & Retail	6,037	6,245	6,312	6,158	6,104	6,088
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	814	817	840	826	834	843
Service	5,286	5,218	5,316	5,494	5,418	5,714
Government	3,098	3,133	3,192	3,135	3,149	3,142

Table 3.57 indicates that Washington County experienced growth in all but two employment sectors between 1995 and 2000. The ‘service’ sector gained the most ground with 428 new employees; only ‘construction’ and ‘transportation & utilities’ experienced losses during this time. Updated employment information for Washington County was not available at the time of this report.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
All Industries	\$448.81	\$458.82	\$479.99	\$505.60	\$503.05	\$514.65
Agriculture	\$240.81	\$261.40	\$268.56	\$313.82	\$314.19	\$353.27
Mining	\$389.57	\$438.01	\$435.62	\$431.49	\$458.79	\$490.59
Construction	\$534.41	\$527.86	\$550.56	\$539.25	\$548.63	\$527.79
Manufacturing	\$669.21	\$687.85	\$709.35	\$748.39	\$743.12	\$750.49
Transportation & Utilities	\$565.24	\$523.44	\$548.16	\$550.44	\$573.07	\$584.35
Wholesale & Retail	\$265.75	\$280.37	\$297.60	\$313.48	\$307.13	\$317.78
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	\$427.22	\$439.98	\$449.06	\$482.97	\$491.23	\$514.44
Service	\$395.85	\$418.78	\$450.14	\$486.20	\$465.23	\$484.35
Government	\$441.88	\$452.46	\$464.53	\$486.19	\$497.98	\$524.76

The average weekly wages for the above referenced industrial sectors in Washington County have all increased with the exception of ‘construction’. The agricultural sector was the greatest gainer with an increase of \$112.46. The highest weekly wages in Washington County in 2000 were found in the ‘manufacturing’ sector (\$750.49).

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Business Starts	142	150	128	107	97	140	110	111	126
Business Terminations	97	164	144	na*	108	110	na	na	na
Net Change	45	-14	-16	na*	-11	30	na	na	na
Total Active Businesses	1,541	1,506	1,484	1,451	1,433	1,447	1,485	1,483	1,503

Table 3.59 shows us the components of business change in Washington County from 1996 to 2004. The number of new business starts has ranged from a high of 150 in 1997, to a low of 97 in 2000. 126 businesses opened their door in Washington County in 2004, bringing the number of total active businesses in the county to 1,503. This number is 38 less than the high of 1,541 in 1996.

	Gov't Payments to Individuals	Retirement and Disability
BHHVRDD	\$1,222,695,000	\$475,183,000
Athens	\$264,751,000	\$80,695,000
Hocking	\$138,423,000	\$55,744,000
Meigs	\$128,272,000	\$46,925,000
Monroe	\$79,408,000	\$34,922,000
Morgan	\$77,844,000	\$30,790,000
Noble	\$54,984,000	\$24,527,000
Perry	\$165,013,000	\$65,051,000
Washington	\$314,000,000	\$136,529,000

Table 3.60 shows us the amount of direct federal payments made to individuals for fiscal year 2003. As is to be expected Washington and Athens Counties have the highest amounts, due to the fact that they have considerably higher populations than the other

counties in the region. Athens and Washington Counties also received the largest amounts of federal payments for retirement and disability benefits for fiscal year 2003.

**ECONOMIC RESOURCES**

**Educational Attainment**

	High School Only		Some College		Bachelors	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Ohio	2,674,551	36.1	1,471,964	19.9	1,016,256	13.7
BHHVRDD	70,865	46.2	26,451	15.9	12,550	6.8
Athens	10,790	34.2	5,212	16.5	3,970	12.6
Hocking	8,650	46.2	2,917	15.6	1,151	6.1
Meigs	7,266	46.6	2,079	13.3	769	4.9
Monroe	5,277	50	1,577	15	618	5.9
Morgan	5,016	50.5	1,566	15.8	511	5.1
Noble	4,406	47.8	1,518	16.5	537	5.8
Perry	11,055	51.1	3,326	15.4	979	4.5
Washington	18,405	43	8,256	19.3	4,015	9.4

Table 3.61 illustrates educational attainment in individuals age 25 and over for the year 2000. The Buckeye Hills region had a 10 percent higher high school graduate level than the state in 2000. Perry County had the highest percentage, 51.1 percent, of persons over 25 with a high school diploma. The region falls slightly behind in terms of collegiate attainment. The region’s over-25 population with some college education was roughly 15 percent, while the state level was 19.9 percent. This lag behind the state seems to remain constant when looking at the number of individuals over 25 with bachelor’s degrees. (Note: Graduate students attending Ohio University and Marietta College may skew the numbers for Athens and Washington Counties.) Updated educational attainment information was not available at the time of this report.

	Athens	Hocking	Meigs	Monroe	Morgan	Noble	Perry	Washington
Management, Professional, and related occupations	9103	2711	1970	1263	1413	1196	2955	7877
Service Occupations	5496	1919	1565	881	988	789	1981	4403
Sales and Office Occupations	6324	2557	1852	1232	1115	941	3122	7630
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations	106	85	223	63	171	46	103	191
Construction, Extraction, and Maintenance Occupations	2380	1821	1502	854	831	647	2227	2748
Production, Transportation, and Material Moving Occupations	2392	3030	1841	1598	1421	1485	4276	5758



	Grants Awarded
BHHVRDD	\$384,363,000
Athens	\$108,883,000
Hocking	\$30,658,000
Meigs	\$66,336,000
Monroe	\$26,701,000
Morgan	\$24,022,000
Noble	\$14,541,000
Perry	\$42,138,000
Washington	\$71,084,000

Table 3.63 shows the dollar amounts for federal grants awarded in the region during fiscal year 2003. Athens and Washington Counties were the leaders in this category, bringing in over \$179 million in federal grant funds. The district as a whole received over \$384 million in federal grant funding in fiscal year 2003.

	Direct Loans	Guaranteed Loans
BHHVRDD	\$274,927,040	\$32,839,986
Athens	\$261,970,964	\$7,700,754
Hocking	\$530,076	\$7,261,272
Meigs	\$230,756	\$993,448
Monroe	\$16,879	\$1,209,543
Morgan	\$158,946	\$726,751
Noble	\$128,344	\$584,101
Perry	\$954,765	\$5,751,483
Washington	\$10,936,310	\$8,612,634

Table 3.64 illustrates the amount of federal financial assistance, in the forms of direct loans and guaranteed loans, which were disbursed throughout the region during fiscal year 2003. Once again Athens and Washington Counties led the way with over \$289 million in combined assistance between them.

	Ohio Chartered		Ohio Chartered	
	Banks	Assets	S&L/Savings	Assets
BHHVRDD	17	\$1,762,415,000	12	\$472,316,000
Athens	2	\$187,200,000	3	\$124,084,000
Hocking	2	\$172,907,000	0	\$0
Meigs	1	\$96,923,000	0	\$0
Monroe	0	\$0	3	\$83,742,000
Morgan	0	\$0	0	\$0
Noble	1	\$59,326,000	2	\$39,784,000
Perry	4	\$150,661,000	1	\$427,000
Washington	7	\$1,095,398,000	3	\$224,279,000

## **CHAPTER IV**

### **REGIONAL ISSUES**

In July and August of 2005, the staff of Buckeye Hills invited local economic development practitioners, county commissioners, mayors, local experts, and other interested parties to two informal discussions to determine and debate issues of local and regional importance. These meetings considered the state of the regional economy; external trends and forces; partners for economic development; and resources for economic development. The information and discussion below, and in the remainder of this chapter, was taken from these two meetings.

### **State of the economy**

#### **Strengths and weaknesses of the region**

Attendants at the CEDS Committee meetings during the summer of 2005 were eager to talk about the strengths and weaknesses of the Buckeye Hills district; both in terms of economics and in terms of other issues that impact economic development. Many of the factors that the committee and the other attendants discussed have been brought up in previous CEDS meetings and covered in previous years CEDS documents. Despite the repeat appearance of some of these topics, the committee felt it was important to continue their emphasis.

Strengths of the region as identified by the CEDS committee were:

- the continued low cost of living;
- the rural nature of our area provides a good quality of life;
- open and easy access to local leaders and decision makers allows for greater public participation;
- a large workforce with a strong work ethic;
- regional pride;
- high quality post-secondary educational opportunities for young people (colleges and technical schools);
- central location to major markets;
- strong foundation in basic industries, raw materials;
- abundant natural resources,
- unique geographical features,
- abundance of historical attractions,

The main strength of the region during our discussions was the low cost of living in southeast Ohio. Many felt that since these costs were lower than other areas, it was slightly easier to make a living on the wages available in this area than some of the closer, more metropolitan areas.

The weakness discussed by the committee and the other attendants may have been more rapidly identifiable, but this by no means that we feel the district is in a negative or declining state.

Some of the identified weaknesses were:

- regionalism;
- susceptibility to natural disasters (flooding, severe storms, etc.);
- a continued lack of infrastructure;
- rugged topography makes continued development difficult;
- many areas continue to be distressed (both statistically and environmentally);
- environmental issues and regulations due to heavy industry;
- the continued lack of water and sewer in some rural areas;
- lack of initiative on the local level;
- too much economic focus on declining sectors of the economy;
- business losses due to out-of-state and foreign competition;
- most efforts in the region are focused on job creation, not career development

During the scheduled meetings the attendants engaged in serious conversation concerning the weaknesses of or region. Many spoke at length about the issues above; some detail of that discussion on a topic by topic basis will follow below.

Regionalism - This topic seemed to dominate our discussions, as it is something that many have always felt existed, but never truly had a term to describe it. Regionalism is the experience of pitting one municipality or area against another, in a competition to acquire a common object. (i.e. a major manufacturing operation, a large retail expansion, etc.) In reality if one of these objects was to locate anywhere in the local area, the entire area could receive the benefit. Instead the competition becomes so fierce between the localities, that the potential investment is driven away and located in an area outside the region where the benefit is minimal. One committee member succinctly described this occurrence as ‘one county’s success being another county’s failure.’ Another member stated that sometimes local parties are so interested in ‘defending their own castles’ that they inadvertently work against one another. Common good and benefit could be had with greater cooperation between localities in the Buckeye Hills region. In the post 9/11 economic situation, tighter budgets and increased competition for dwindling public funding resources has made this competition even more intense than it was in the recent past.

Economic Focus- Some members spoke about their concern for the economic focus of parties within the region. Many felt that too much emphasis was being put on attracting manufacturing and retail investments. Some especially felt that the losses in manufacturing that the region has experienced in the past several years may never be recovered due to increased intrastate and foreign competition, and rather than waste resources on a sector of the economy that may never be recovered, we should be looking to expand our presence in the newly developing areas of the economy (i.e. new technologies, energy technologies, etc).

Members also felt that not enough focus was being put in to maintaining the jobs and investments we currently have. One quote from a member stated that ‘we spend a lot of effort in job attraction, and not enough in career development.’ There was a prevalent feeling that there was unlikely to be many more ‘big bangs’ of job creation. Medium and small sized businesses and investments seem much more likely to locate

in our area given the current economic situation, and many members felt these small businesses would be the catalyst of the future.

### **Growth sectors of the economy**

Several areas of growth were identified by the CEDS committee during our discussions. One point was the continued growth and deployment of broadband technologies throughout the region. Access to broadband service continues to grow in southeastern Ohio. As was cited in the previous year's CEDS document, the 'Access Appalachia' report released by the Governors Office of Appalachia and the Appalachian Regional Commission in 2004 details the growth in this area ([www.accessappalachia.org](http://www.accessappalachia.org)). Updates for counties in the Buckeye Hills region can be found in the appendix. (Appendix D)

Another area of growth discussed by the committee was the tourism industry. The southeastern area of Ohio is rich in historical and cultural resources, as this area played an important role in the development and settlement of the western portion of the United States. Our local area has attractions pertaining to Native American history, the history of the western movement, and civil war history, not to mention our physical attractions such as the Ohio and Muskingum Rivers, national forests, and other outdoor opportunities. Although these make up a small portion of the overall local economy, several members felt that this was still a viable, growing, and important part of our economic development efforts. One member stated that 'although our local tourism industry may not be as tangible to local leaders and funding sources, it is still important to us locally.'

### **Driving force of economy**

The driving force of the economy in the Buckeye Hills region continues to be based in manufacturing, production, and raw materials. The southeast region of Ohio is rich in coal and natural gas resources, which are used to power the metal, plastic, and wood based manufacturing operations which are prevalent in our district.

The rural nature of our district also plays a role in driving the types of investments and developments which take place in the local area.

A recent report completed by Deloitte in conjunction with the Ohio Department of Development during 2005 outlines the economic drivers of southeast Ohio (note: from this report, the term 'southeast' did not include the Buckeye Hills counties of Hocking and Perry). Fourteen economic drivers were identified for the southeast region, they were: fruit and vegetable preserving; animal food manufacturing; veneer, plywood, and engineered wood product manufacturing; electric lighting equipment manufacturing; sawmills and wood preservation; logging; coal mining; basic chemical manufacturing; clay product and refractory manufacturing; iron, steel mills, and ferroalloy manufacturing; steel product manufacturing from purchased steel; motor vehicle parts manufacturing; and management of companies and enterprises.'

## **External trends and forces**

### **Opportunities and threats**

The attendants at this year's CEDS meetings did spend a fair amount of time discussing external forces which were having an effect here in southeastern Ohio. To take the term 'external force' literally, the Buckeye Hills region was besieged by heavy storms and severe flooding during late 2004 and early 2005. Some of this flooding was the most severe experienced in the last forty years. These disasters may not seem like economic disasters as well, but they are. Many of the small municipalities which were hit by these storms were forced to strain already tight budgets to provide resources for cleanup and recovery. While assistance did come in from many sources, it is hardly ever enough to offset the tremendous costs associated with these types of disasters. We asked some of the local leaders who attended our CEDS meetings if these disasters, and the clean up costs left in their wake, impeded their ability to have funds available to use for matching funds for other programs; and the answer was an overwhelming yes. Some of these local leaders stated that they were unable to participate in some state and federal funding programs because the funds they would usually rely upon as matching funds had been expended to recover from these disasters.

Another external threat that is beginning to become more and more evident in the Buckeye Hills region is that of intrastate and global competition. This competition has had an especially large impact on manufacturing operations in our area. Several large operations have left the area due to the fact that workers elsewhere – either in another state, or another county – are willing to do the same work for lower wages. One example of this is the Middleton Doll Factory, formerly located in Belpre, Ohio was relocated to China in 2003-2004. Although our general manufacturing base is still intact, it has become increasingly harder to attract and maintain investments in these areas in recent years. One member of the CEDS committee brought up the point that one large business in Meigs County was capitalizing on legal migrant labor to operate a very large farming operation. According to this committee member these are very good workers who are willing to tolerate 'more for less' in comparison to the available local labor pool. This seems to be an isolated case, but serves as an example of what global competition can do to a local labor situation. Intrastate competition also continues to be a force that slowly draws investment away from our local area. Many of the economic development professionals that attended the CEDS meeting felt that there were programmatic changes, tax changes, and legal changes that needed to be made in order to make Ohio more competitive with its bordering states. Elimination of the inventory tax was repeatedly mentioned as an example of a programmatic change and one step toward helping Ohio attract new business. Out-of-state incentives such as tax break and increased amounts of grant funds have also made it hard for many places in Ohio to compete with their bordering state neighbors.

Some of the other threats that were discussed were: Prohibitive matching-fund requirements for participation in some federal and state funding programs, and the sometimes overwhelming administrative burden of some program requirements upon small local communities sometimes discourages their participation. A continuing concern expressed by nearly all present, was the fact that funding opportunities are

becoming more limited and more competitive, due to dwindling available resources on all levels. The general feeling was that as the level of competition increased, it would be increasingly harder for the small and rural communities in our district to compete in some programs. This is a sentiment that was also prevalent during last year's CEDS meetings.

### **Regional position in the national and global economies**

The committee felt that the Buckeye Hills area held an important position in the local regional economy. As a major supplier of natural resources, as well as a supplier of basic products such as metal, plastics, and wood products, this area plays a key role in the overall success of the state. In a recently released report completed by Deloitte in conjunction with Ohio Department of Development, it was noted that the 'Appalachian region of Ohio, which encompasses all of the Southeast region, is home to 13 power plants and provides more than 60 percent of the states total (power) generating capacity.'

Members also felt that the regions position in the overall national and global economy was currently changing as well. With the rapid and widespread deployment of newer and faster communication technologies (i.e. broadband technologies, cellular and next generation wireless phone technologies, etc.), it has become slightly easier to access these larger markets with products and services originating in southeast Ohio. With the development of these technologies, it is less imperative for a company or operation to have a large physical footprint in an area of close proximity to major markets. These markets can now be accessed through the use of communication technologies. While it is apparent that the Buckeye Hills region still has strides to take in this area, the improvement which has taken place over the past several years is apparent.

### **Partners for economic development**

#### **The important actors in the region**

There is a long list of important partners for economic development in the Buckeye Hills region. At the federal level there is the Economic Development Administration, the Appalachian Regional Commission, the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Small Business Development Centers, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Division of Mineral Resources. These federal agencies provide funding, technical assistance, and other programs for economic development. The State of Ohio is very active in economic development throughout the region. State and regional partners are: Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District, Ohio State University Extension Offices, the Ohio Department of Development, the Eastern Ohio Development Alliance, the Ohio Department of Transportation, the Ohio Water Development Authority, the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services, and others. These organizations provide local communities with technical assistance, expertise, to help create and fund new projects. At the local level there are local universities, the various Chambers of Commerce, Community Improvement Corporations, County Commissioners, and Mayors. All are active in the creation

economic development opportunities. Outside of government, utility companies and lending institutions are also actively taking a role in marketing the region and promoting economic development.

### **Presenters of important but unfamiliar economic development issues**

Many of the partners listed above also contribute here: the Economic Development Administration, the Appalachian Regional Commission, the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development, Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District, local universities, Chambers of Commerce, and Community Improvement Corporations, all of whom present new ideas for development. In addition, the Information Technology Alliance of Appalachian Ohio (ITAAO), Rural Action, ACEnet, Human Services, tourism agencies, the Red Cross, Emergency Management Agencies, soil & water conservation groups, watershed coordinators, and associated groups present new ideas and issues for economic development in the region.

### **Resources for economic development**

#### **Groups and organizations available to the region**

There are many organizations working for the economic development and advancement of the region, they are: the Economic Development Administration, the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Governor's Office of Appalachia, the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development, the Ohio Department of Development, Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District, Chambers of Commerce, Community Improvement Corporations, the Eastern Ohio Development Alliance, and others.

In addition to the organizations listed above there are the civic organizations, merchant organizations, local farm bureaus, and regional planning commissions.

#### **Support and funding for development activities**

Funding for economic development activities in the region comes from: the Economic Development Administration, the Appalachian Regional Commission, the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development, Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District, the Ohio State University Extension Offices, the Ohio Department of Development, the State Capital Improvement Program, Local Transportation Improvement Program, Community Development Block Grants, the Clean Ohio Fund, various revolving loan funds, the Trickle Up grant program, and others.

Support for economic development activities is provided through the Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District, the Ohio State University Extension Offices, the local universities, as well as local community and technical colleges.

## **CHAPTER V**

### **VISION**

#### **REGIONAL VISION**

Consistent with previous CEDS documents, the Buckeye Hills- Hocking Valley Regional Development District continues to hold the following statements as part of our vision for the district:

- That local communities create diverse economies which provide sustainable employment and a living wage;
- That local economic development officials and industry leaders meet to identify potential problems and create solutions, therefore making economic development in the region more proactive and regional in scope;
- That local economic development projects make the best use of limited local resources, achieve measurable outcomes, and implement sustainable development practices;
- That local communities protect and enhance the natural integrity of the region;
- And that local communities provide sufficient public infrastructure; education; and necessary social services to strengthen the quality of life.

#### **REGIONAL GOALS**

During the process of analyzing regional issues and creating our regional vision, a number of goals were put forward as objectives that Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District and its partners should focus their efforts on. Many of the ideas and concepts below have been described in previous CEDS documents because they are still relevant to the development and well being of the district.

These goals ranged from being those attainable in a short period of time to those requiring extensive effort and dedication to a particular issue.

As a result, a set of priorities was created to rank each goal in accordance with the regional vision. Each goal presents the following questions:

- What is the severity of the problem the goal is addressing?
- What is the scope of the goal?
- What is this goal in relationship toward the other goals?
- Does this goal make the best use of existing resources?



The following goals were generated by this process in no particular order of importance:

- Work to curb ‘regionalism’ (negative competition)
- Improve communication between potential partners for development
- Continue efforts to retain educated young people
- Continue to improve infrastructure of all types
- Continue the deployment and adoption of new broadband technologies
- Combine local political efforts to lobby state agencies for new and/or updated programs that aid local communities
- Increased coordination of planning activities
- Continue to build the growing local tourism industry
- Continue to Buckeye Hills visibility within the region
- Allocate increased resources to aid existing businesses in Ohio
- Focus efforts on attracting ‘new technology’ types of jobs and investments rather than mostly general manufacturing and retail expansions.
- Continue to work to improve the ‘soft issues’ that surround economic development in our district
- Provide assistance to help local communities prepare for and recover from natural disasters
- Create opportunities for local governments to be more proactive in the generation and allotment of resources
- Continue to allow open and easy access to local leaders and decision makers for maximum public participation
- Continue to encourage counties to prioritize infrastructure projects
- Continue fighting Appalachia’s stereotyped perception in the state capitol, and everywhere.

Based upon the priorities, these goals were ranked by order of importance. The most important goals of the region were:

1. Work to curb ‘regionalism’ (Negative Competition)
2. Create opportunities for local governments to be more proactive in the generation and allotment of resources
3. Continue to improve infrastructure of all types
4. Focus efforts on attracting ‘new technology’ types of jobs and investments rather than focusing on general manufacturing and retail expansions.
5. Continue to work to improve the ‘soft issues’ that surround economic development in our district.

**Work to curb ‘regionalism’ (negative competition).**

What is the severity of the problem?

Members of the committee felt that there was not enough cooperation between municipalities, townships, counties, etc, to bring much needed investments to the Buckeye Hills region. Some expressed the sentiment that sometimes parties were seemingly working against each other when trying to secure the same investment (i.e. a new business, expansion, or other development investment), so much that at times both competing areas lost, and therefore any benefit that may have been possible is now lost to the region completely. One attendee summed up the situation saying that the mindset should be ‘if it’s in my township, that’s good, if it’s in my county, that is also good, and if it is in my region, that is good as well.’ We need to end the view that ‘one areas success is another area’s failure.’ This is a problem that severely limits the future development opportunities of the district.

What is the scope?

This is a long term goal, only achievable when a change of local opinion and mindset has been achieved. The severity of the economic and financial burdens facing the local areas may help movement toward this realization.

What is this goal in relationship toward the other goals?

This goal is central to all other economic development issues pending within the district. Part of our vision is the enhancement of the region, through cooperation and advancement of common goals. Realizing that all parties within the region are on the same ‘team’ is the central piece to the regional puzzle.

Does the goal make best use of existing resources?

Yes. The focus of this goal is to maximize the benefit obtained from locally available resources. The only real resource expended in the pursuit of this endeavor is human capital.

**Create opportunities for local governments to be more proactive in the generation and allotment of resources.**

What is the severity of the problem?

Many localities within the region are struggling to provide the matching funds necessary to participate in many of the state and federal programs available to them, not only through Buckeye Hills- Hocking Valley Regional Development District, but other sources as well. This is a critical problem.

What is the scope?

This issue is in the intermediate range in scope. As always help for current funding scenarios is always desired as soon as possible, but the solution to this problem may include many programmatic and regulation based changes to existing programs. Local governments need to find new ways to obtain or create the funds they need to participate in programs that may benefit them.

What is this goal in relationship toward the other goals?

This goal is interrelated to many of the other goals on the extended list above. Without new opportunities for local parties, it may be difficult for them to get the maximum possible benefit from available state and federal funding, with little hope for increased available resources in the future.

Does the goal make best use of existing resources?

This goal will allow for maximum benefit to be obtained from currently existing resources. If Counties, Townships, Villages, etc., are able to either; utilize other types of funds as matching funds; generate additional monies to be used for matching funds; or if regulatory changes are made to alter match requirements, they will be increasingly able to secure the types of assistance that is most needed.

Perry County has created such an organization to help them generate the additional funds needed to allow them to participate in funding programs. This organization is called the Clay Valley Foundation; below is an excerpt from their website:

‘The Clay Valley Foundation was formed in late 2001 as an umbrella group for the various community oriented groups and commissions operating within the Crooksville area. Separately each of these small groups struggled with fund raising and the manpower needed to secure state and federal funding for worthwhile projects. Still in it’s fledgling stages, the Clay Valley Foundation has many plans for improving the community of Crooksville in addition to providing a base of professional services and manpower for each of the small committees under them.’  
(<http://www.crooksville.com/Committees/ClayValley.cfm>)

These kinds of organizations may be the types of needed to allow small local municipalities to pool their resources in order to maximize their outcomes.

### **Continue to improve infrastructure of all types**

What is the severity of the problem the goal is addressing?

This problem continues to be severe in the Buckeye Hills district. Due to the fact that the local topography is rugged, establishing high quality, lasting, and state of the art infrastructure, has been difficult. Despite this fact, much work has been done up to this point to improve local infrastructure of all types by agencies such as Buckeye Hills and the State of Ohio Department of Development. Our region's water and sewer needs are constantly growing and changing, as older systems are repaired, and new systems are planned and built. One new area of growth in infrastructure is that of high speed communications. High speed internet and other communication technologies have become such an integral part of our lives and the way we do business, that attracting investments to an area where these technologies are unavailable is nearly impossible. Having infrastructure in place for these communications technologies has become nearly as important as some of the traditional infrastructural features (water lines, sewer lines, storage, power, waste management, etc).

What is the scope of the goal?

This is a long term goal. Infrastructure like any other structural asset has a finite life cycle. While, for example, there may be many new waterline improvements in place in one area of the district, surely in a different region there are waterlines that are deteriorating and are in need of replacement. The cyclical nature of infrastructure needs seems to make it difficult to reach the desired level of capacity and condition. Roads deteriorate, power lines deteriorate, water systems deteriorate, etc. Although it may seem like a never ending struggle, maintaining quality infrastructure is key to the health and position of the Buckeye Hills district in the region.

What is this goal in relationship toward the other goals?

This goal is interrelated to many of the other goals listed here due to its fundamental nature. Without sound infrastructure in place, the task of effective economic development becomes next to impossible. Infrastructure is the most

basic and needed incentive available to prospective businesses and other parties looking to move in to the region.

Does this goal make the best use of existing resources?

Infrastructure needs are among the most basic of needs considered when examining a region for expansion or growth. Not only does infrastructure help create, attract, and retain business, but it also improves the quality of life for those constituents living in the region. However the improvement of infrastructure of all types is generally very costly, and does not happen quickly. The provision of public water, public sewage, and other basic needs is a sound investment of existing resources in the health of the citizens within the district.

### **Work to attract ‘new technology’ types of jobs and investments to our region**

What is the severity of the problem the goal is addressing?

This problem is becoming more severe as economic trends in our region and our country begin to shift. In the past, the Buckeye Hills region has relied on several sectors of the economy for the bulk of our economic and financial existence. Our area is strong in the areas of manufacturing, construction, raw materials, and retail developments. In recent years intrastate and foreign competition have begun to take a toll on the base of manufacturing that was existing in the region. Many members of the committee felt this was an inevitable part of the cyclical nature of economics, and especially the new economic situation we are living in as part of a global economy. The attendants were also unoptimistic that there would be a ‘big bang’ of employment that would happen to make up for the slow trickle of jobs lost through this competition. Through our discussions it became clear that the popular feeling was that small businesses, especially those which were technology oriented, would be the new wave of economic development in the country and in our region.

What is the scope of the goal?

The scope of the goal is long-term. This goal has at its core, laying the necessary groundwork to attract modern and technical investments to our area. As was discussed in the previous paragraphs, this means ensuring that infrastructure for high speed communications is in place, that our district has the necessary skills to fill out a workforce that can complement these industries, and that funding sources are sought out and utilized to help draw investments. Drawing all these pieces together is a long term goal.

What is this goal in relationship toward the other goals?

As mentioned in the previous paragraph, this goal is interrelated with many of the other goals discussed in this document. In order to draw these kinds of

investments to our area we need quality and state-of-the-art infrastructure in place, a well trained and capable workforce, and available resources to assist these businesses once they are operating.

Does this goal make the best use of existing resources?

This goal challenges us to use our existing resources, to build the capacity for new resources in the future. If we can succeed in expending our current resources in the way we intend to, by building new infrastructure, training our workforce, and working together to gain maximum benefit instead of negative competition, we will have efficiently utilized our current resources while at the same time laying an attractive groundwork for future investments.

### **Continue to improve the ‘soft issues’ that effect economic development**

What is the severity of the problem the goal is addressing?

This is a serious problem, and a difficult one given its broad and abstract nature. By using the term ‘soft issues’ we mean other factors that parties consider when they are contemplating moving or expanding in to a new area. Issues such as the number and quality of local schools, number of local doctors/dentists, locally available day care, retail opportunities, recreational opportunities for employees, etc. Often times these issues are very important to parties looking to move in to a new region or area.

What is the scope of the goal?

The scope of this goal will be unique to all areas within the Buckeye Hills region. Some areas may already have a large number of these assets in place, some areas may not. The areas with more of these assets in place will have most likely have more success attracting new and expanding business to their area, while those that have yet to develop these will face a tougher battle. The rural nature of our area makes it more difficult to attract some of these resources, like doctors, to the region.

What is this goal in relationship toward the other goals?

This goal is heavily interrelated with our overall goal of moving forward in our economic development endeavors for the region. Sometimes these ‘soft issues’ mentioned in the previous paragraph are overlooked when local parties are trying to improve on the conditions for economic development in their area. Some of these issues are outside the realm of what economic development professionals are able to influence, but being aware of these assets, and knowing where your local area stands in terms of these needs is a key step in trying to move them ahead.

Does this goal make the best use of existing resources?

This goal helps local governments and economic development professionals become more aware of the resources that currently exist in their immediate area, and what their availability is to any parties considering the area for business purposes.

### **Additional Discussion:**

## **Promoting a Regional Approach to Community and Economic Development**

### **Regional Approach – Obstacles and Benefits**

Successfully promoting a regional approach to economic and community development has always been a significant challenge. But what do we mean by a regional approach or scope? Typically, a project will be recognized as regional if it tangibly serves more than one political subdivision: an example being, a water system that serves customers in two or more villages or in portions of two or more counties. But for our purposes this is a very narrow and limiting view of regional scope or impact. As an Economic Development District, we look at regional scope in terms of the broadest possible context from which to assess the value of a potential economic activity or project. For example, a business may locate in a particular city. The economic development impact of that business may go well beyond the borders of that city. Jobs may be created for people residing in communities outside the city, and there may be economic benefit for suppliers or other businesses that somehow complement this business.

There are obstacles that militate against communities adopting this broad approach. Local politics is the primary obstacle to the successful promotion of a regional approach to economic and community development. For obvious reasons, the county commissioner or the mayor wants the new business to locate in his county or city. Typically, the county commissioner will not get credit for a business that locates in a neighboring county even if many of the residents of his county are hired by that business, or businesses in his county directly or indirectly benefit.

While competition in many situations can be an economic incentive, competition among political subdivisions throughout a rural area can be very counterproductive. Businesses typically look at regions in deciding where they will locate, rather than particular counties or cities. A rural area is typically characterized by low population density, low concentrations of available structures, and large open or undeveloped areas. The local officials of such a rural area should be working together to best capitalize on the limited resources available to a particular business, rather than competing against one another.

The benefits of a regional approach to economic and community development are fairly obvious. In the case of economic development, the broader the area you are marketing for a prospective business, the more resources you can bring to bear and so increase the likelihood that the business' needs will be met. Business attraction and development tends to be a more proactive and controlled process when several communities' resources are working toward the same goal, rather than each community reacting to the other's efforts to attract business to their little corner of the world. In assessing potential community development projects, a regional scope enables projects to be developed that have broader and more effective impacts, as well as reducing duplications of effort. For example, if three communities apply for a sanitary sewer system, and one of these communities is dumping untreated sewage into a major waterway that adversely affects several communities downstream (whereas the two others have no direct adverse impact on other communities) you would first fund the community along the waterway. Similarly, some duplication of effort may be avoided by installing a system for a community upstream before installing one for a community further downstream. Without this broader perspective, the information would not be available to make such informed decisions. The regional perspective is also valuable in assisting projects to be more competitive in securing funding. Funds are more likely to be awarded to the project that shows the broadest impact and the most effective use of limited dollars.

### **Watershed Areas and Sustainable Development:**

We believe that there is a way to better promote a regional approach to economic and community development. This involves a gradual shift in the geographical and philosophical contexts in which we assess economic and community development plans, projects, and activities as represented in the CEDS. Geographically the shift will be from political subdivisions to watershed areas. Philosophically the shift will be from traditional to sustainable development.

There are several reasons for the shift to watershed areas as a context for assessing community and economic development:

- Watershed boundaries are not arbitrary, as political subdivisions are, but are determined by the topography of the land, and are influenced by such factors as water quality and the interests of stakeholders.
- Watersheds provide a forum and opportunity for local participation and empowerment.
- Watershed groups carry out extensive planning activities and scientific research, and gather and record information that provides an informational context that informs economic/community development activities.
- Watershed groups many times involve a vast network of partners to include local, state and federal government agencies, private businesses, community



support agencies, educational institutions, environmental groups and citizen groups.

-Watershed areas are throughout our eight-county region and most are multi-county in scope. The major ones are: Duck Creek (Washington, Noble, Monroe); Wills Creek (Monroe, Noble); Federal Valley (Athens, Morgan, Washington); Friends of Hocking River (Hocking, Perry, Morgan, Washington, Meigs); Moxahala (Perry, Morgan); Sunday Creek (Perry, Athens, Morgan); Wolf Creek (Morgan, Washington); Friends of Lower Muskingum (Washington, Morgan); Monday Creek (Perry, Hocking Athens); Friends of Clear Creek (Hocking); Hocking River Commission (Athens, Hocking); Raccoon Creek (Athens, Vinton); Leading Creek (Meigs).

Monday Creek is one of the many watershed areas that have developed a detailed comprehensive plan for their watershed. Issues addressed in the plan include flooding, acid mine drainage, improper sewage treatment, need for sustainable jobs and industry, loss of cultural resources, unplanned development, and insufficient recreational opportunities...among others. These issues have a direct and indirect impact on our region's economic viability. Appalachia's legacy is one of industry, which was based on natural resource extraction, that left in its wake ruined land, polluted water, and high unemployment.

The concept of sustainable development acknowledges the interrelationships among economic viability, environmental quality, and social justice. Our region, which depends upon its natural and cultural assets for a portion of its economic viability and loses many jobs and businesses in flood-prone areas, is well acquainted with the connection between the land and the economy. Our region also knows first-hand about the social inequity that has resulted from the destruction of our natural resources. The sustainable development approach takes into account these relationships when mapping out our economic assets, objectives and goals.

Along these same lines, we will also be attempting, in the CEDS, to shift toward sustainability indicators and away from more traditional indicators. Sustainability indicators tend to be more relevant, easier to understand, and more reliable. Of course, the ability to make use of such indicators is dependant upon the information being available. An example of a traditional economic indicator would be 'unemployment rate,' the sustainability indicator that would replace this is 'diversity and vitality of local job base'. The latter would be a measure of the resilience of the job market.

And watershed group activities themselves do have a measurable economic impact. Studies have shown that for every million dollars spent on reclamation construction there are 17 on-site jobs, 14 off-site jobs, and 78 ancillary jobs created in areas where unemployment levels often exceed the national average. Nature tourism has grown at a rate of about 30% annually and has generated up to \$20 billion in economic activity in a single year. There are no fishable streams in Monday Creek watershed, but if they were

restored it is estimated that between \$121,000 and \$300,000 per year could be generated from fishing.

### **Establishing Local Support for the Regional Approach**

Of course, it does little good for the EDD to put into practice a regional approach in planning and assessing economic/community development activities, if the local community folks continue to see things in isolation from within their political boundaries. We do have committees that are regional in scope and are made up of representatives from local communities – the CEDS Committee, the Buckeye Hills Executive Committee, and the Buckeye Hills General Policy Council – to name but a few. We need to continue to emphasize the importance of doing projects and implementing initiatives that have a broader impact, and point out that by having a regional impact and by showing that we are working from a regional scope, such projects have a better chance of securing funding. Also, we need to better communicate the broad, and at times less obvious, benefits of projects. Just because a particular business or piece of infrastructure is not physically located in a member's immediate area, does not mean that that member's constituency does not economically benefit from it.

## CHAPTER VI ACTION PLAN

### **Work to Curb Regionalism (Negative Competition)**

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**Objective:** Increase cooperation between all levels of local government to gain benefits that can be felt throughout the region.

**Strengths and Weakness:**

- The prospects for new funding opportunities or increased funding levels are slim at the current time. Cooperation between levels of local government would allow for maximum benefit to be derived from existing resources.
- Some individual areas may be left behind, or may be constantly riding on the ‘coat tails’ of development in nearby areas. Although nearby developments may not be explicitly beneficial to a given area, the derived benefits of having this investment nearby is more favorable than the alternative of not having it at all. (i.e. having a new manufacturing operation nearby that local residents may commute to and be employed at, a new operation that brings new products to the local markets, etc.)

**Strategies:**

- Put emphasis on local projects that are multi-township or multi-county in nature. Funding sources have started ranking cooperative projects much higher than unrelated and isolated projects.
- Have communities prioritize their needs and seek other municipalities pursuing the same goals, prior to seeking the appropriate funding measures. We truly need to end the mind set of ‘one county’s success is another county’s failure.’

**Implementation:**

Short-term

- Increase communication between localities. Build relationships with other parties with similar interests in your local area. This will help build the ‘regional’ approach to economic development which is important to success today.
- Encourage communities to be more proactive in searching out projects, programs and partners that will provide them the best opportunity to secure the investments they are seeking for the area.

Intermediate-term

- Have local bodies analyze the local economic conditions and determine what the strengths areas are, how they can be improved upon, and what other parties may be able to help strengthen those areas on a local and a regional level.

- Encourage communities to engage the local population to help in determining what the most urgent needs are, and identify resources that can help improve these areas.

Long-term

- Continue working together to improve local conditions, to build on strengths, and to maximize the visibility and attraction of the region based on positive cooperation and project coordination.

**Create Opportunities for Local Governments to be More Proactive in the Generation and Allotment of Resources**

**Objective:** To create new ways for local governments to utilize existing resources and to raise funds to participate in other funding programs (increase the amount of available matching funds).

**Strengths and Weakness:**

- Without new ways of raising matching funds, many local governments are, and will continue to be, unable to participate in some funding programs. Natural disasters, for example, strain already tight local budgets. Monies that may have been intended for use as matching funds may have been expended to recover from a recent disaster. In 2004 our region had two major flooding disasters that brought these types of situations to fruition.
- Local governments must be mindful of obeying all local, state, and federal laws when exploring alternative ways of raising additional matching funds for funding programs.

**Strategies:**

- Examine examples of alternative ways to create matching funds. Seek out other parties and local governments that have created innovative organizations or methods maximize resources.
- Encourage participation by all interested parties in the local areas (individuals, businesses, local leaders, economic development professionals, etc.) to generate ideas and concepts for future activities.

**Implementation:**

Short-term

- Gather and disseminate information on new organizations that have been created to help solidify local efforts and maximize existing resources toward the goal of helping local governments meet matching requirements for funding programs. (i.e. The Clay Valley Foundation in Perry County, Ohio)

Intermediate-term

- Meet regularly with local interested parties to determine the state of funding programs/ sources, match requirements, and determine if and how local governments can move forward in these funding scenarios.

Long-term

- In addition to creating new opportunities on the local level, local governments should look to become more active in helping to shape future funding programs where participation is more viable and open to communities that have more limited access to resources.

## **Continue to improve infrastructure of all types**

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**Objective:** Improve the physical resources available for potential development in the region.

**Strengths and Weakness:**

- The rugged topography of our region makes it difficult to build and maintain high quality infrastructure investments.
- Due to declining or flat population, funding for new and expanded infrastructure has become limited.
- Many areas in our district do not have a major road or other major transportation artery (i.e. railroad, highway/state roads, river access) nearby. Often times this lack of access hampers development efforts.

**Strategies:**

- Where possible emphasize cooperation between local bodies in selecting projects to be funded. Many funding sources today are looking for project 'clustering' in order to maximize the benefits received for their investment.
- Have counties prioritize their infrastructure projects in order to help lessen the impact of politics on funding of projects.
- When improving infrastructure, take into account future development issues and possibilities.
- Develop funding strategies to target counties with underdeveloped highway systems, water systems, sewer systems, etc.
- Continue to search for alternative funds for road improvements and other infrastructure projects.

- Coordinate efforts between transportation planners and economic development practitioners.

**Implementation:**

Short-term

- Have local communities take inventory of their immediate and short term infrastructure needs..
- Anticipate future growth when engineering water, sewer projects, telecommunications, and other projects.

Intermediate-term

- Have counties form taskforces to prioritize all types of infrastructure projects.
- Create county infrastructure plans that show where, why and how new improvements should be made.
- Increase coordination of economic development activities and infrastructure improvement.
- Identify areas of increasing development.

Long-term

- Encourage local communities to participate more actively in planning activities.
- Lobby state officials and agencies for increased funding for infrastructure projects.
- Reauthorize and improve the State Capital Improvement Program/Local Transportation Improvement Program process.

**Focus efforts on attracting ‘new technology’ types of jobs and investments rather than focusing on general manufacturing and retail expansions.**

**Objective:** Attract ‘new technology’ jobs and investments to move the labor force and economy of the region ahead..

**Strengths and Weakness:**

- Attracting these types of investments to an area which has historically been composed of manufacturing and industrial investments is difficult.
- Advances in communications technologies have made physical location of plants and related operations less crucial than in the recent past. (i.e. A product does not

need to be manufactured within or very near a specific market in order to access that market.)

- High quality infrastructure and access to transportation arteries is very important to these types of operations.
- Such investments will require parallel investments in education and workforce training by parties within the region.

**Strategies:**

- Highlight activities being currently undertaken by the state to increase deployment and adoption of broadband communications technologies.
- Continue to offer tax and other incentives to companies looking to bring new technologies to the region.
- Continue to focus on technological training and education offered in the region's high schools, colleges, universities, and technical schools.

**Implementation:**

Short-term

- Identify technological industries that have already started to settle in the region. (ex. industrial and commercial grade polymers)

Intermediate-term

- Once local technology drivers have been identified, consider related industries and operations that could coexist with these existing businesses. (Project clustering) Use the existence of these bodies to promote the attraction of other new investments.
- Continue efforts to retain our young and educated population to increase the overall quality of the local workforce.

Long-term

- Continue the training and education of the local workforce in order to keep pace with developments in new technologies.
- Provide funding resources necessary to keep these newly created investments on the cutting edge.

**Continue to Improve the 'Soft Issues' that Surround Economic Development in our District.**

**Objective:** To improve the region in areas such as, access to healthcare, quality of local education, access to public safety services, improvement of

environmental conditions, and access to social services. Improving on these 'soft' economic development issues improves the areas ability to attract and sustain new economic development opportunities.

**Strengths and Weakness:**

- These are areas that are vital to the success of our district, and to the quality of life for our all our constituents
- These are difficult items to impact in the short term. Our efforts should be to impact the long-term effects of these issues. Regional improvement in these realms would bring wide spread benefits to the district.

**Strategies:**

- Continue to emphasize hi-tech education in regional community colleges and vocational schools.
- Continue to search out and promote environmental clean up work (i.e. brownfields) that is taking place within the district. Environmental concerns are an important 'soft issue' topic in economic development.
- Continue to lobby for funding of fire protection and safety services in our communities. This has been a serious issue in some of our counties (i.e. Meigs County Sheriff situation, City of Marietta Firefighters).

**Implementation:**

Short-term

- Encourage communities to more actively and accurately relate their needs in these areas to local leaders and decision makers.
- Participate in and support existing programs that are aimed at improving social services and public safety services. (i.e. CDBG – Formula)

Intermediate-term

- Draw attention to active non-profit programs active within the region that are helping fight problems such as child hunger and poverty.
- Become an advocate for the regions educational, safety, and service needs among legislators and local leaders
- 
- Become more aware of the current state of these areas within our local communities. (i.e., Needs Assessment Survey)

Long-term

- Increase the technical training of the local labor force.



- Continue the focus on creating and maintaining high quality educational opportunities in the district.

## **IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

All communities work within the constraints of limited time and resources. However, communities need to allocate resources to various programs and projects to achieve the area development strategies. This section deals with the implementation stage of planning, and the identification of activities, projects, and programs that will begin in fiscal year 2005.

### **2005 CEDS Projects**

The BH-HVRDD staff has been maintaining a continuing dialogue with local communities to address local priorities and projects. During the summer of 2005, the planning staff mailed project surveys to the county and local governments, chambers of commerce, community improvement corporations, and economic development professionals.

The CEDS survey requested the local communities to list projects that are expected to be developed and implemented in the next several years. See Table 6.1 for a listing of these projects.

### **Project Prioritization Criteria**

The project list received from the survey ranged from extending water and sewer lines to building new roads. The project prioritization criteria, listed in Appendix C, is designed to: evaluate the major economic development projects from a regional perspective and maximized objectivity.

As Table 6.1 illustrates, all projects are ranked according to: job creation and/or retention; the scope of the project; the project's relationship to the goals of the CEDS; the project's effect upon the environment; and if the project is in a distressed county.

The purpose of this prioritization process is not only to provide EDA with a list of prioritized projects, but also to allow local input in the process of developing programs that will have the greatest economic impact.

Rank	Project Name	County	Jobs Created or Retained	Scope of Project	Goal Relationship	Environmental Impact	Distress Level	Total Score
1	Business Incubator	Monroe	20	20	20	20	0	80
	Ind. Park Infrastructure Upgrade	Monroe	20	20	20	20	0	80
	Enterprise Facilitation Program	Multi-County	20	20	20	10	10	80
	Industrial Park Expansion	Athens	20	20	20	10	10	80
	Industrial Park Connector	Athens	20	20	20	10	10	80
	Fuel Cell Technology Center	Hocking	20	20	20	20	0	80
	Multi Tennant Building	Meigs	20	20	20	10	10	80
	Middleport Trans. Loading Facility	Meigs	20	20	20	10	10	80
	Rural Health Clinic	Meigs	20	20	20	10	10	80
	Sewer Extension	Noble	20	20	20	20	0	80
2	Waterline Replacement	Athens	5	20	20	20	10	75
	Assisted Living Facility	Meigs	20	20	15	10	10	75
3	Stream Bank Protection	Athens	5	15	20	20	10	70
	Water and Sewer Extension	Athens	5	15	20	20	10	70
	Multi Tennant Building	Hocking	20	20	20	10	0	70
	Monroe Theatre Restoration	Monroe	20	20	20	10	0	70
	Industrial Park	Noble	20	20	20	10	0	70
	Community Kitchen Incubator	Washington	20	20	20	10	0	70
4	Business Incubator Development	Washington	20	20	20	10	0	70
	Water and Sewer Extension	Monroe	5	20	20	20	0	65
	Sewer Extension	Monroe	5	20	20	20	0	65
	Broadband Access	Washington	15	20	20	10	0	65
	CR-10 Waterline Extension	Washington	5	20	20	20	0	65
	Little Hock Area Sew. Imp.	Washington	5	20	20	20	0	65
	Bartlett Sewer Project	Washington	5	20	20	20	0	65
5	WSSC- Training Facility	Washington	15	20	15	10	0	60
	Reno Sewer System Improvements	Washington	5	15	20	20	0	60
	Devola Sewer System Upgrade	Washington	5	15	20	20	0	60
6	Innovation Center/ Bus. Incubator	Monroe	15	15	15	10	0	55
	Belpre Water Storage Improvement	Washington	5	20	20	10	0	55
	Duck Creek Flood Mitigation	Washington	0	20	15	20	0	55
7	City Link Express	Hocking	20	5	15	10	0	50
	Water and Sewer Extension	Hocking	5	5	20	20	0	50
	North Muskingum Bridge Proj.	Washington	0	20	20	10	0	50
	State Route 7 (East) Improvement	Washington	5	20	15	10	0	50
	Highland Ridge Waterline Ext.	Washington	5	5	20	20	0	50
	Corridor D Relocation	Washington	0	20	15	10	0	45
	Matamoras Riverfront Park	Washington	0	5	20	20	0	45
	Lowell-Buell Island Water Upgrade	Washington	0	20	15	10	0	45
	Belpre Park Improvements	Washington	0	5	20	20	0	45
	Marietta Riverfront Beautification	Washington	0	5	20	20	0	45
	Beverly Recreation Improvement	Washington	0	5	20	20	0	45

Table 6.1 Ranked Project List 2005 (Cont.)								
Rank	Project Name	County	Jobs Created or Retained	Scope of Project	Goal Relationship	Environmental Impact	Distress Level	Total Score
8	Fire Hydrant Replacement	Perry	0	5	15	20	0	40
	Wingett Run Campground Expan.	Washington	5	5	20	10	0	40
	Marietta Community Recreation	Washington	5	5	20	10	0	40
9	Parking Garage	Hocking	5	5	15	10	0	35
	Wastewater Treatment Building	Perry	5	5	15	10	0	35
	Kinderhook Trail Improvement	Washington	0	5	20	10	0	35
	Frontier Local H.S. Improvements	Washington	5	15	5	10	0	35
10	4-H Camp Facilities Upgrade	Washington	0	5	15	10	0	30
	Vocational School Equipment	Washington	0	5	15	10	0	30
	Salem-Liberty Gymnasium Imp.	Washington	0	5	15	10	0	30

## **PLANNING PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES**

### **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)**

Staff will update the CEDS and improve the CEDS process. The CEDS is a valuable tool in determining the economic health and growth of a region. This tool needs to be continually updated and improved upon to best serve the needs of the community. The staff will document the program experience during the past year. A CEDS advisory committee will be formed from local economic development experts. With the assistance of the CEDS advisory committee, area trends will be evaluated and goals and strategies will be developed. The staff will incorporate the information gathered from the advisory committee into the CEDS Rewrite and subsequent updates.

### **Geographic Information System Services (GIS)/Data Center Services**

Buckeye Hills will continue to act as the Data Center for the eight-county region, providing timely demographic and economic data of all types to public and private entities. Buckeye Hills will also provide GIS/GPS services to the eight-county region. These services include specialized map preparation, spatial data collection and/or manipulation, as well as data analysis. These services can be used to augment aid applications, complete studies, or as a tool in other decision making processes.

### **Regional Promotion**

Buckeye Hills has developed a program to promote the regions resources and characteristics to businesses. One aspect was the creation of the seovirtual.com website. Staff will continue to work with local Economic Development officials to update the information on the website as well as keep them informed about companies interested in expanding into the region.

### **Business Technical Assistance**

As the regional clearinghouse, on-going assistance will be provided to officials and agencies in the district by reviewing and receiving comments on projects being completed throughout the region. The reviews will be completed in accordance with State Clearinghouse regulations.

### **PEW**

Buckeye Hills will continue to assist the Village of Middleport in Meigs County with the LeadershipPlenty Program developed through the Pew Partnership. This program works to develop community leaders, which, in turn, provides communities with more civic capacity. The Village of Middleport is currently working on a downtown revitalization project as part of the PEW program.

### **Countywide Prioritization**

Buckeye Hills staff continues to meet with counties to discuss a strategy for developing a countywide prioritization methodology for water and sewer projects. The intent is to develop a countywide needs list based on actual conditions in the communities rather than a funding list that is driven by program requirements. This process enables county officials to give legislators and funding agency representatives an impression of broad and consistent support for a given project. Noble County has been successful in establishing a local committee that has developed a needs list, and continues to update these priorities and present them to the county commissioners. Buckeye Hills will continue to promote this process as a model for other counties throughout the region.

### **Water/Sewer Project Status Website**

Buckeye Hills is working with OMEGA, OVRDC, OWDA, and GOA to develop a website to record and maintain the status of water and sewer projects throughout Appalachian Ohio. The Local Development Districts will be responsible for updating the status of projects in their respective regions on a regular basis. The purpose of the site is to keep public agencies updated on the current status of projects; display examples of funded projects to inform potential applicants on requirements for securing funding; and to assist in identifying communities that have immediate infrastructure needs, but inadequate resources to pursue funding.

### **Water and Sewer Mapping**

The Buckeye Hills- Hocking Valley Regional Development District continues the process of compiling map information as well as map documents showing the coverage areas of local public water service providers and their lines in the Buckeye Hills region. The regional water and sewer map is updated as new extensions and additions are built throughout the district.

## **COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES**

### **Technical Assistance**

Buckeye Hills serves an eight-county region through promoting the interests of and providing technical assistance to local public entities. Buckeye Hills provides technical assistance to local public entities in acquiring funding for programs and projects to improve the quality of life in communities through improvement of public infrastructure, educational facilities, and public service facilities. This technical assistance includes preparation of applications for funding, providing liaison between funding agencies and local government officials, providing guidance to local communities on administrative tasks, and assuring compliance of state and federal requirements. Buckeye Hills will also provide technical assistance to communities and organizations in their travel and tourism activities.

### **West Malta Water Project**

Buckeye Hills will continue assisting Morgan County in administering CDBG Water and Sewer Program funding for the West Malta Water Project. This project will extend water service to approximately 200 households in Malta and Penn Townships, while allowing for future expansion with the construction of a new storage tank and booster station. The estimated cost of the project is \$3,184,000 with construction anticipated to begin in the fall of 2005.

### **Bishopville Water Project**

Buckeye Hills will continue to assist Morgan County in administering CDBG Water and Sewer Program funding for the Bishopville Water Project. This project will extend water service to unserved areas of Union Township. The project involves the installation of 30,028 linear feet of 6" main water line, 1996 feet of 4" water line and 47,505 linear feet of 3" water line. This project also includes the construction of a booster station and storage tank. The estimated total cost of the project is \$1,065,558 with construction slated to begin in the fall of 2005.

### **Washington County Formula – 2004**

Buckeye Hills will continue to serve as the administrator of the Washington County CDBG Formula Program for FY'2004, assuring that the six projects within Washington County, and one project for the City of Belpre comply with funding requirements, checking for compliance with all applicable state and federal regulations, participating in the bidding process for contracts and attending pre-construction conferences, completing status reports, consulting with an independent auditor at time of final audit, and agreeing to reply to funding agency inquiries to the status of all activities undertaken by the Washington County Commissioners.

### **Washington County Formula -2005**

Buckeye Hills will continue to serve as the administrator of the Washington County CDBG Formula Program for FY'2005, assuring that the five projects within Washington County, and two projects for the City of Belpre comply with funding requirements, checking for compliance with all applicable state and federal regulations, participating in the bidding process for contracts and attending pre-construction conferences, completing status reports, consulting with an independent auditor at time of final audit, and agreeing to reply to funding agency inquiries to the status of all activities undertaken by the Washington County Commissioners.

### **Morgan County Formula – 2004**

Buckeye Hills will continue to serve as the administrator of the Morgan County Formula Program for FY'2004, assuring that all six projects comply with funding requirements, checking for compliance with all applicable state and federal regulations, participating in the bidding process for contracts and attending pre-construction conferences, completing status reports, consulting with an independent auditor at time of final audit, and agreeing to reply to funding agency inquiries to the status of all activities undertaken by the Morgan County Commissioners.

### **Morgan County Formula – 2005**

Buckeye Hills will continue to serve as the administrator of the Morgan County Formula Program for FY'2005, assuring that all six projects comply with funding requirements, checking for compliance with all applicable state and federal regulations, participating in the bidding process for contracts and attending pre-construction conferences, completing status reports, consulting with an independent auditor at time of final audit, and agreeing to reply to funding agency inquiries to the status of all activities undertaken by the Morgan County Commissioners.

### **State Capital Improvement/Local Transportation Improvement Program**

The Community Development staff will continue to serve as the liaison for the Ohio Public Works Commission 18<sup>th</sup> District. The District includes Athens, Belmont, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, and Washington counties. The SCIP/LTIP program provides funding to counties, townships, villages, and water and sewer districts to enable them to repair or replace roads, bridges, culverts, water supply, wastewater, and solid waste/ storm water systems. The staff will provide technical assistance and training to assist in the completion of the SCIP/LTIP application. The staff will coordinate the activities of the various District 18 communities, which include, but are not limited to: setting up meetings, distributing meeting notices, publishing newspaper announcements, collecting applications, rating and ranking applications, and forwarding applications to the Ohio Public Works Commission for funding or consideration for funding under the various SCIP/LTIP programs.

### **Clean Ohio Fund – Conservation Program**

The Community Development Staff will continue to serve as the liaison for the Ohio Public Works Commission 18<sup>th</sup> District. The District includes Athens, Belmont, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, and Washington counties in Southeastern Ohio. The Clean Ohio Conservation Fund is a part of the \$400 million Clean Ohio Fund and provides monies to counties, townships, cities, villages, conservancy districts, soil and water conservation districts, joint recreational districts, park districts, and other non-profit organizations with a primary purpose in conservation and preservation. The purpose of the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund is the purchase of open spaces and the costs of making them accessible to the public and for the protection

of stream corridors, providing wildlife habitat and reducing erosion. The staff will continue to provide technical assistance and training to assist in the completion of the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund Application. The staff will also coordinate the activities of the District 18 Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC), which includes, but is not limited to: setting up meetings, distributing meeting notices, publishing newspaper announcements, collecting applications, rating and ranking applications, and forwarding applications to the Ohio Public Works Commission for funding or consideration for funding under the Clean Ohio Program.

### **Clean Ohio Fund – Revitalization Program**

The Community Development staff will continue to serve as the liaison for the Ohio Public Works Commission 18<sup>th</sup> District. The District includes Athens, Belmont, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, and Washington counties. The Clean Ohio- Revitalization program provides funding to local governments, port authorities, conservancy districts, non-profit organizations, and for-profit entities to acquire and clean up a Brownfield, demolish existing buildings, upgrade infrastructure and redevelop the property. The staff will continue to coordinate the activities of the various District 18 communities, which includes, but is not limited to: setting up meetings, distributing meeting notices, publishing newspaper announcements, collecting applications, rating and ranking applications, and forwarding applications to the Ohio Department of Development for funding.

### **Brownfield Revitalization**

The staff will continue assisting one community in preparing two (2) Phase 2 Environmental Site Assessment grants through the Clean Ohio Revitalization fund.

### **Revolving Loan Fund**

Buckeye Hills will continue to provide loan money to businesses within the region using ARC, EDA, FmHA and CDBG funding. These loans, in conjunction with private funding, allow for start up and expansion of businesses when full conventional financing cannot be obtained. All loan funds are tied to job creation for the region.

Since its creation, the Buckeye Hills Revolving Loan Fund has made 96 loans amounting to \$4,857,464 and creating and retaining 1,497 jobs, with private businesses leveraging \$23,606,067.

### **Trickle Up Program**

Buckeye Hills will continue to work with entrepreneurs to apply for grants through the Trickle Up Program. The Trickle Up Program is available to assist entrepreneurs in the purchase of tools, supplies, and raw materials needed to start their own business or expand their business to the next level. The program is targeted to the most economically disadvantaged sectors of the population in the Appalachian region, and can assist a wide



variety of businesses such as food-processing, clothes-making, crafts and retail enterprises. Since 2001, 70 grants have been awarded to entrepreneurs for a total of \$40,200. The entrepreneurs in the past, have used the grants to purchase items required to make their business sustainable. Buckeye Hills staff will continue to meet with eligible applicants to assist them with the development of a business plan and help complete the application for the grant.

### **Reno Water Project**

Buckeye Hills will continue to assist the Washington County Commissioners in applying for a CDBG Water and Sewer Grant on behalf of residents of the Reno Water and Sewer District. The application for CDBG Water and Sewer is due in August 2005. The project will extend water lines onto County Roads 9, 333, 20, 47 and Township Road 394 in Washington County, creating a safe water supply to the residents. The cost of this project is estimated at \$644,695. The project involves the installation of approximately 7 miles of water line and services approximately 65 homes. The project will promote positive community growth.

### **Noble County Water**

Buckeye Hills will assist the Noble County Commissioners in applying for a CDBG Water and Sewer Grant on behalf of residents of the Noble County Water Authority. The application for CDBG Water and Sewer is due in August 2005. The project will extend water lines to serve approximately 36 residents along Ohio State Route 285 between the villages of Caldwell and Sarahsville creating a safe water supply to the residents. The cost of this project is estimated at \$628,000. The project involves the installation of approximately 4.5 miles of water line and services approximately 36 homes. The project will promote positive community growth.

### **Hocking College Technology Center**

Buckeye Hills will continue to assist the Hocking County Community Improvement Corporation and Hocking College in searching for funding for the Hocking College Technology Center to be located in Logan. The facility would be used to house a technical center for fuel cell and alternative energy laboratory and classrooms. The center will create 7 professional positions and 5 support staff positions.

### **Meigs Rio Grande**

Buckeye Hills will continue to assist the Meigs County Community Improvement Corporation, and Rio Grande Community College to find funding for the construction of a new educational facility in Meigs County. The purpose is to provide advanced educational opportunities to the citizens of Meigs County.

### **Village of Chauncey Infrastructure**

Buckeye Hills will continue to assist the Village of Chauncey in planning for upgrades to the Village's water and wastewater infrastructure. The water treatment plant and wastewater treatment facility were construction in 1942 and have had little or no improvements over the past 53 years.

### **Water and Sewer Board Member Training**

Buckeye Hills will continue working with the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission, the Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association, the Ohio RCAP, and Ohio State University in implementing and continually updating and enhancing training programs for water and sanitary sewer system board members. Board members are being trained in management, fiscal operations, and system operations.

### **Appalachian Community Learning Project**

Buckeye Hills' will continue to participate in the ACLP program. This program, sponsored by ARC, offers communities the opportunity to present a community improvement project to ARC and GOA. ARC and GOA will then decide whether or not to invest \$3,000 in the project as presented. Communities are challenged to make the \$3,000 go as far as possible by identifying multiple resources and empowering people in their community to work together toward a common goal.

### **Home Health Aide Training Program**

The Area Agency on Aging, in partnership with Washington State Community College, will continue to enhance the curriculum for, and implement, the Home Health Aide Training Program. This training program addresses not only the fundamental aspects of Home Health as it is related to the elderly, but also address issues related to serving clients in a rural area. It will include segments on disease process, basic health care (blood pressure, transferring, toileting, bathing, and bed changing), sensitivity to aging, nutrition, respecting choices (living wills, durable medical power of attorney) death and dying, rural isolation, dealing with distant caregivers and issues as they relate to workers in rural areas (no public transportation, miles between clients, work ethics, ethics of relationships with clients and lack of centralized child care). This program allows trainees to obtain college credit for completing the course should they desire to further their education in the health field, such as nursing or one of the therapies. This curriculum will allow trainees to receive credit on a 100 level. The Area Agency will continue to pursue opportunities to use the curriculum to train Home Health Aides throughout the eight county area. The agency plans to continue partnering with home health providers in the district to employ trainees, who graduate from this program. This program has been offered by the Area Agency on Aging since 2001.

### **Housing Program**

The Housing Program staff will continue to apply for the Ohio Housing Trust Fund and use the United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Housing Service and the Senior Community Services Block Grant for match in the combined amount of \$200,000 to assist low-income elderly home owners with home repair. These grant monies will continue to be used for housing needs that are beyond the financial and physical maintenance abilities of the elder homeowner. The program is aimed at improving accessibility and addressing home repair needs to maintain a decent, safe and accessible environment for the homeowner.

## CHAPTER VII EVALUATION

A key function of the CEDS is the evaluation of the past years activities. The goals set by the 2004 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Advisory Council, in order of importance were:

1. Leverage Existing Resources More Effectively
2. Increased Ability to Assist Existing Businesses
3. Continue Addressing Infrastructure Needs
4. Address 'Soft Issues' in the Region
5. Enhance Tourism, Travel, and Retail Development

Of the goals listed above, some are directly actionable by the day to day activities of Buckeye Hills, such as the addressing of infrastructure needs, and the addressing of 'soft issues' within the region. Some of the other goals are more programmatic in nature, requiring a change of policy or program requirements on the state level or above. These more long term goals are goals which Buckeye Hills will work toward with the help of our colleagues in local governments and interested bodies throughout the district.

### **LEVERAGE EXISTING RESOURCES MORE EFFECTIVELY**

#### **Technical Assistance**

Buckeye Hills serves an eight-county region through promoting the interests of and providing technical assistance to local public entities. Buckeye Hills provides technical assistance to local public entities in acquiring funding for programs and projects to improve the quality of life in communities through improvement of public infrastructure, educational facilities, and public service facilities. This technical assistance includes preparation of applications for funding, providing liaison between funding agencies and local government officials, providing guidance to local communities on administrative tasks, and assuring compliance of state and federal requirements. Buckeye Hills will also provide technical assistance to communities and organizations in their travel and tourism activities.

**Result:** Over the past year, Development Department staff secured financing for various projects that have a positive impact on residential and commercial sectors. These projects enhance the quality of life for the people of our region by enabling businesses to create and retain jobs, by providing education and training opportunities, by increasing the quality and availability of water and sanitary sewer services, by repairing and upgrading our roads and bridges, and increasing accessibility and availability of quality health care.

Total costs for projects completed over the past year was approximately \$36 million, with local communities and private businesses leveraging \$6 million (17%) against the \$30 million(83%) provided through state and federal funding sources.

### **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)**

Staff will update the CEDS and improve the overall CEDS process. The CEDS is a valuable tool in determining the economic health and growth of a region. This tool needs to be continually updated and improved upon to best serve the needs of the community. The staff will document the program experience during the past year. A CEDS advisory committee will be formed from local economic development experts. With the assistance of the CEDS advisory committee, area trends will continue to be evaluated, and goals/strategies will be developed. The staff will incorporate any information gathered from the advisory committee into the CEDS document.

**Result:** The 2004 CEDS was completed and submitted to the Economic Development Administration in September 2004. The CEDS was reviewed and accepted by the EDA, as acknowledged in a letter dated February 14, 2005.

### **Geographic Information System Services (GIS)/Data Center Services**

Buckeye Hills will continue to act as the Data Center for the eight-county region, providing timely demographic and economic data to public and private entities. Buckeye Hills will also provide GIS services to the eight-county region. These services include specialized map preparation, spatial data collection and/or manipulation, as well as data analysis. These services can be used to augment aid applications, complete studies, or as a tool in other decision making processes.

**Result:** The Buckeye Hills Data Center filled 116 overall data requests for the year between July 1, 2004 and June 30, 2005, with 51 of those requests being requests for various types of GIS maps or map products.

Buckeye Hills' GIS capabilities have been called upon by many parties throughout the region in the past year, such as; the Monroe County Chamber of Commerce, Meigs County Economic Development Office, Washington County Water and Soil Office, the City of Belpre, Moxahala Watershed Group, Wolf Creek Watershed Group/Morgan County Water and Soil Conservation District, the Monroe County Commissioners, the Morgan County Commissioners, and FEMA among others. Buckeye Hills also continues to offer GPS location / data creation services as an additional feature of our GIS department. Basic Census Maps and GIS maps have also become the most commonly requested piece of data from the Buckeye Hills Data Center.

## **IMPROVE INFRASTRUCTURE**

### **Tri-County Water Project**

Buckeye Hills will assist in the administration of CDBG Water and Sewer Program funds to assist the Washington County Commissioners in financing the water line extension to Adams and Watertown Townships. The project will extend water lines into Adams and Watertown Townships creating a safe water supply to the residents. The cost of this project is estimated at \$631,640. The project involves 12.4 miles of water line and services approximately 47 homes. The service area is made up of County roads 60 and 4. This project will promote a positive community growth, which is needed to attract residents and businesses to the area.

**Result:** The project was completed in December 2004 and services 243 residents of Watertown and Adams townships in Washington County.

### **Old Straitsville Water Project**

Buckeye Hills was approached by Old Straitsville Water and Sewer Association seeking funding for a project to extend water lines onto Crossenville, New Salem, Van Horn, and Marietta roads in Perry County, creating a safe water supply to the residents. The cost of this project was estimated at \$648,000. The project involves the installation of approximately 5 miles of water line and services approximately 85 homes. The project will promote positive community growth. the best funding source for a project of this type is CDBG Water and Sewer program funding, which requires the application be submitted by the County Commissioners.

**Result:** BH-HVRDD staff worked with the Old Straitsville Water and Sewer Association to develop a relationship with Hocking-Athens-Perry Community Action Program (HAPCAP). HAPCAP has an ongoing relationship with the Perry County Commissioners to apply for and administer CDBG Formula and Water and Sewer program funding. Currently, HAPCAP has applied for ARC funding on behalf of the Perry County Commissioners for the water project, and will apply for CDBG Water and Sewer Program funds after plans have been submitted to EPA for approval (September 2005). BH-HVRDD will continue to work with HAPCAP, OSWSA, and the Perry County Commissioners on securing funding for this project.

### **West Malta Water Project**

Buckeye Hills will assist Morgan County in administering CDBG Water and Sewer Program funding that is financing a project to extend water service to approximately 200 households in Malta and Penn Townships. This project will also allow for future expansion with the construction of a new storage tank and booster station. The estimated cost of the project is \$3,184,000 with construction anticipated to begin in the fall of 2005.

**Result:** Buckeye Hills continues to work with the Morgan County Commissioners and the project engineer. The project is expected to begin in the fall of 2005.

### **Bishopville Water Project**

Buckeye Hills will assist Morgan County in administering CDBG Water and Sewer Program funding that is financing a project to extend water service to areas of Union Township. The project involves the installation of 30,028 linear feet of 6" main water line, 1,996 feet of 4" water line and 47,505 linear feet of 3" water line. This project also includes the construction of a booster station and storage tank. The estimated total cost of the project is \$1,065,558 with construction slated to begin in the fall of 2005.

**Result:** Buckeye Hills continues to work with the Morgan County Commissioners and the project engineer. The project is expected to begin in the fall of 2005.

### **Coffee Ridge Water Project**

Buckeye Hills will assist in the administration of CDBG Water and Sewer Program for the Noble County Commissioners. The Coffee Ridge Waterline Project will be a 4" water line from a 10" water main in Sharon. This line will supply the system with a capacity of 350,000 gallons of water per day, which is needed to supply 19 residential taps with an average daily use of 250 gallons each, and 2 commercial taps with an average daily use of 400 gallons each.

**Result:** Construction on this project was completed in August 2005.

### **Washington County Formula – 2003**

Buckeye Hills will serve as the administrator of the Washington County CDBG Formula Program for FY'2003, assisting the grantee by assuring that the six projects within Washington County, and one project for the City of Belpre will comply with grant funding requirements (i.e. – compliance with state and federal regulations, following correct bidding procedures, consulting with contractors during pre-construction conferences to assure compliance with Davis Bacon prevailing wage rate requirements, etc.). Total project costs for this program are \$280,000, with CDBG providing \$213,000 in grant funds.

**Result:** The following projects were completed with Washington County CDBG Formula funds for Program Year 2003:

- Purchase of a Vehicle for the Wesley VFD
- Purchase of Park and Recreation Equipment for the City of Belpre
- General Park Improvement for the residents of Cutler
- Facility Rehabilitation project for Ludlow Township.

### **Washington County Formula – 2004**

Buckeye Hills will serve as the administrator of the Washington County CDBG Formula Program for FY'2004, assisting the grantee by assuring that the six projects within Washington County, and one project for the City of Belpre will comply with grant funding requirements (i.e. – compliance with state and federal regulations, following correct bidding procedures, consulting with contractors during pre-construction conferences to assure compliance with Davis Bacon prevailing wage rate requirements, etc.). Total project costs for this program are \$252,761, with CDBG providing \$212,000 in grant funds.

**Results:** The projects are being completed at this time, with total program completion expected in December 2005.

### **Morgan County Formula – 2003**

Buckeye Hills will serve as the administrator of the Morgan County CDBG Formula Program for FY'2003, assisting the grantee by assuring that the six projects within Morgan County will comply with grant funding requirements (i.e. – compliance with state and federal regulations, following correct bidding procedures, consulting with contractors during pre-construction conferences to assure compliance with Davis Bacon prevailing wage rate requirements, etc.). Total project costs for this program are \$105,887, with CDBG providing \$95,000 in grant funds.

**Results:** The following projects were completed with Morgan County CDBG Formula funds for Program Year 2003:

- Purchase of Equipment for the Chesterhill VFD
- Building Rehabilitation for the Malta-McConnelsville VFD
- Installation of a Heating and Air Conditioning System in the Chesterhill Theater
- Purchase of a Generator for the Village of Stockport Sewage Lift Station
- Purchase of Property for the West Malta Rural Water District Storage Tank

### **Morgan County Formula – 2004**

Buckeye Hills will serve as the administrator of the Morgan County Formula Program for FY'2004, assisting the grantee by assuring that all six projects will comply with grant funding requirements (i.e. – compliance with state and federal regulations, following correct bidding procedures, consulting with contractors during pre-construction conferences to assure compliance with Davis Bacon prevailing wage rate requirements,



etc.). Total project costs for this program are \$115,458, with CDBG providing \$94,000 in grant money.

**Results:** The projects are being completed at this time, with total program completion expected in December 2005.

### **State Capital Improvement/Local Transportation Improvement Program**

The Buckeye Hills Community Development staff is the liaison for the Ohio Public Works Commission 18<sup>th</sup> District. The District includes Athens, Belmont, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, and Washington counties. The SCIP/LTIP program provides funding to counties, townships, villages, and water and sewer districts to enable them to repair or replace roads, bridges, culverts, water supply, wastewater, solid waste and storm water systems.

The staff will provide technical assistance and training to assist in the completion of the SCIP/LTIP application. The staff will coordinate the activities of the various District 18 communities, which includes, but is not limited to: setting up meetings, distributing meeting notices, publishing newspaper announcements, collecting applications, rating and ranking applications, and forwarding applications to the Ohio Public Works Commission for funding or consideration for funding under the various SCIP/LTIP programs.

**Result:** A total of 30 Infrastructure projects were funded under Round 19 of the SCIP/LTIP Program. Total project costs for these projects were \$11,819,157; OPWC provided \$7,602,207 in grant and loan funding for these projects.

In addition 5 projects were funded under the Small Government portion of the program. The total project costs for these 5 Small Government projects was \$6,371,674; with OPWC providing \$1,115,698 in funding towards those activities. Buckeye Hills Staff will continue to work as liaison for District 18.

### **Clean Ohio Fund – Conservation Program**

The Community Development Staff serves as the liaison for the Ohio Public Works Commission 18<sup>th</sup> District. The District includes Athens, Belmont, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, and Washington counties in Southeastern Ohio.

The Clean Ohio Conservation Fund is a part of the \$400 million Clean Ohio Fund and provides monies to counties, townships, cities, villages, conservancy districts, soil and water conservation districts, joint recreational districts, park districts, and other non-profit organizations with a primary purpose in conservation and preservation. The purpose of the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund is the purchase of open spaces and the costs of making them accessible to the public and for the protection of stream corridors, providing wildlife habitat and reducing erosion.

The staff will provide technical assistance and training to assist in the completion of the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund Application. The staff will also coordinate the activities of the District 18 Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC), including, but not limited to: setting up meetings, distributing meeting notices, publishing newspaper announcements, collecting applications, rating and ranking applications, and forwarding applications to the Ohio Public Works Commission for funding or consideration for funding under the Clean Ohio Program.

**Result:** Seven applications were submitted for funding during the latest round. Total costs for these projects were \$1,692,602, with Clean Ohio providing \$1,111,573.

### **Clean Ohio Fund – Revitalization Program**

The Community Development staff is the liaison for the Ohio Public Works Commission 18th District. The District includes Athens, Belmont, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, and Washington counties. The Clean Ohio- Revitalization program provides funding to local governments, port authorities, conservancy districts, non-profit organizations, and for-profit entities to enable them to acquire and clean up a Brownfield, demolish existing building, upgrade infrastructure and redevelop the property. The staff will coordinate the activities of the various District 18 communities, which includes, but is not limited to: setting up meetings, distributing meeting notices, publishing newspaper announcements, collecting applications, rating and ranking applications, and forwarding applications to the Ohio Department of Development for funding.

**Result:** Improve the quality of life by cleaning up and revitalizing local Brownfields, demolishing existing buildings, upgrading infrastructure and redeveloping property.

### **Brownfield Revitalization**

The staff will be awarding three (3) Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment grant (\$5,000 each) to three entities to enable them to perform environmental site assessments on potential industrial/commercial sites to evaluate the properties' environmental conditions and determine if clean up will be necessary.

**Result:** The Perry County Commissioners were awarded two of the Phase 1's and Hocking County received the remaining. These studies will be used to evaluate the properties' environmental conditions and to determine if any mitigation/ clean up activities will be necessary. Staff will also assist one community in preparing a Phase 2 Environmental Site Assessment grant through the Clean Ohio Revitalization fund. At the present time all three Phase 1's have been completed, and it is anticipated that Phase 2 funding will be pursued for these sites as well.

## **ENHANCE TOURISM, TRAVEL, AND RETAIL DEVELOPMENT**

### **Regional Promotion**

Buckeye Hills developed a program to promote the regions resources and characteristics to businesses. One aspect was the creation of the seovirtual.com website. Staff will continue to work with local Economic Development officials to update the information on the website as well as keep them informed about companies interested in expanding into the region.

**Result:** To accomplish our promotional and marketing goals, the staff a Buckeye Hills continues to distribute statistical data through the Data Center, as well as maintaining two websites: [www.buckeyehills.org](http://www.buckeyehills.org) and [www.seovirtual.com](http://www.seovirtual.com). The staff of Buckeye Hills has been maintaining and operating these websites for nearly 5 years. Buckeyehills.org is our agency website which is filled with information about the programs, funding opportunities, and services provided by the staff of Buckeye Hills. From this website you can view or download various documents produced by the staff, as well as applications, forms, and other documentation needed to take part in our many programs. Seovirtual.com is a website which was created to showcase available commercial properties and structures throughout the region. Local economic development officials can log in to this website and add, remove, and edit listings of available properties. In the next year the staff of Buckeye Hills plans to merge these two websites in to one.

### **PEW**

Buckeye Hills will be assisting the Village of Middleport in Meigs County with the LeadershipPlenty Program developed through the Pew Partnership. This program works to develop community leaders, which, in turn, provides communities with more civic capacity.

**Result:** The LeadershipPlenty Program was completed in the Village of Middleport and the participants are now working on a plan to revitalize the downtown area and attract new business.

## **INCREASED ABILITY TO ASSIST EXISTING BUSINESSES**

### **Revolving Loan Fund**

Buckeye Hills will provide loan money to businesses within the region using ARC, EDA, FmHA and CDBG funding. These loans, in conjunction with private funding, allow for start up and expansion of businesses when full conventional financing cannot be obtained. All loan funds are tied to job creation for the region.

Since its creation, the Buckeye Hills Revolving Loan Fund has made 96 loans amounting to \$4,857,464 and creating and retaining 1,497 jobs, with private businesses leveraging \$23,606,067.

**Result:** During the past year, the Business Development Coordinator updated the RLF Operating Plans and increased the maximum loan amount and adjusted the loan-to-job ratio. This change was made to enable the RLF program to get current with rising costs of projects and to allow the program to participate in more projects throughout the service area.

Buckeye Hills made three loans totaling \$195,000, this past year, resulting in 2 business start up and 1 business expansion. 16 jobs have been created/retained in the district due to these loans.

### **Trickle Up Program**

Buckeye Hills will work with entrepreneurs to apply for grants through the Trickle Up Program. The Trickle Up Program is available to assist entrepreneurs in the purchase of tools, supplies, and raw materials needed to start their own business or expand their business to the next level. The program is targeted to the most economically disadvantaged sectors of the population in the Appalachian region, and can assist a wide variety of businesses such as food-processing, clothes-making, crafts and retail enterprises. Since 2001, 70 grants have been awarded to entrepreneurs for a total of \$40,200. The entrepreneurs have used the grants to purchase items required to make their business sustainable. The Buckeye Hills staff will meet with eligible applicants to assist them with the development of a business plan and help complete the application for the grant.

**Result:** During the reporting period Buckeye Hills awarded 32 grants in the amount of \$500 for a total of \$16,000 and 17 grants in the amount of \$200 for a total of \$3,400. Buckeye Hills provided grants to a large variety of home-based businesses (ex. pet styling salon, cake shop, cleaning services, gardening service, soaps, childcare, pet sitting service, candles).

### **Business Technical Assistance**

As the regional clearinghouse, on-going assistance will be provided to officials and agencies in the district by reviewing and receiving comments on projects being completed throughout the region. The review will be completed in accordance with State Clearinghouse regulations.

**Result:** Buckeye Hills continued its role as Regional Clearinghouse Reviewing 29 projects from the region during FY '04.

## ADDRESS 'SOFT ISSUES' IN THE REGION

### Home Health Aide Training Program

The Area Agency on Aging, in partnership with Washington State Community College, has been offering and implementing the Home Health Aide Training Program at sites throughout our region. This training program addresses not only the fundamental aspects of Home Health as related to the elderly, but also address issues related to serving clients in a rural area. It will include segments on Disease Process, Basic Health Care (blood pressure, transferring, toileting, bathing, and bed changing), sensitivity to aging, nutrition, Respecting Choices (living wills, durable medical power of attorney) death and dying, rural isolation, dealing with distant caregivers and issues as they relate to workers in rural areas (no public transportation, miles between clients, work ethics, ethics of relationships with clients and lack of centralized child care). This program allows trainees to obtain college credit for completing the course should they desire to further their education in the health field, such as nursing or one of the therapies. This curriculum will allow trainees to receive credit on a 100 level. This program has been offered by the Area Agency on Aging since 2001.

**Result:** In 2004, five classes were held, 34 students graduated the program, of which 29 are now employed. Out of these students, five also went on to enter higher education following their completion of the home health aid training program. Since its inception this program has completed 19 classes, graduating roughly 82 total students, many of which have utilized this training to become employed or to pursue higher education.

### Housing Program

The Buckeye Hills Housing Program continued to administer the Ohio Housing Trust Fund, using the United States Department of Agriculture - Rural Housing Service, and the Senior Community Services Block Grant, for match in the combined amount of \$200,000. The purpose of this program is to assist low-income elderly homeowners with home repair. These grant monies are used for housing needs that are beyond the financial and physical maintenance abilities of the elder homeowner. The program addresses several issues such as accessibility and home repairs needed to maintain a decent, safe and accessible environment for the homeowner.

**Result:** Last fiscal year (2004) 60 jobs were completed, benefiting 72 homeowners in the district. The total amount expended on all work done during FY 2004 was \$244,056. So far in fiscal year 2005, 8 jobs have been completed, benefiting 9 homeowners in the district. The total amount expended on repairs thus far in FY 2005 is \$43,716.

## APPENDIX A

### ADMINISTRATIVE

**C. Boyer Simcox**

Executive Director

**Frederick Hindman**

Assistant Executive Director

**Douglas Dye**

Director of Fiscal Operations

**Misty Casto**

Assistant Executive Director

**Dee Starkey**

Secretary/Receptionist

**Jen McMahon**

Program Assistant

### DEVELOPMENT

**Misty Casto**

Development Director

**Tina Meunier**

Business Development Coordinator

**Melissa Zoller**

Development Specialist

**Bret Allphin**

Development Specialist

**Michelle Hyer**

Development Specialist

**Brent Smith**

Development Specialist

### AREA AGENCY ON AGING

**Joetta Lane**

Area Agency on Aging Director

**Linda Myers**

Nutrition Coordinator

**Patricia Palmer**

Home Care Director

**Jessica White**

Long Term Care Ombudsman Director

**Tim Stutler**

Fiscal Manager

**Marie Hunsaker**

Clinical Supervisor

**Sue Foreman**

Quality Improvement Coordinator

**Myra DeVoll**

Clinical Staff

**Jane Skeen**

Clinical Operations

**Stacy Strahler**

AAA Secretary/Receptionist

**Joanne Heinzman**

Clinical Staff

**Suzanne McCollum**

Clinical Staff

**Veronica Norman**

Clinical Staff

**Jamie Stropkai**

Clinical Staff

**Opal Grueser**

Clinical Staff

**James Lewis**

MIS Manager

**Misty Anderson**

Clinical Assistant

**Tina Phelps**

Clinical Staff

**Cathy Ash**

Trainer

**Charlotte Riggs**

Clinical Assistant

**Denise Keyes**

Clinical Assistant

**Kellie Cunningham**

MIS Operator

**Mechelle Adams**

Program Development Coordinator

**Alta Coffman**

Clinical Staff

**Sarah Swisher**

Clinical Staff

**Marcia Fisher**

Clinical Staff

**Christina Horn**

Clinical Staff

**Deborah Brown**

Planner/AAA

**Joe Gage**

Housing Coordinator

**Kay Brammer**

Clinical Staff

**Karen Keirns**

Clinical Staff

**Florence Bragg**

Clinical Staff

**Patti Henninger**

Clinical Staff

**Nancy Morris**

Quality Improvement Manager

**Glenda Collins**

Clinical Staff

**Kara Paulus**

Clinical Staff

**Kimberly Steed**

Clinical Staff

## **APPENDIX B**

### **Issues Covered**

#### **State of the economy**

1. What are the strengths and weaknesses of the county?
2. What are the growth sectors of the economy?
3. What is driving the economy and where is it heading?

#### **External trends and forces**

1. What are the opportunities and threats?
2. How is the region positioned in the national and global economies?

#### **Partners for economic development**

1. Who are the important actors in the region (may include organizations, businesses, individuals and government)?
2. Who represents issues important but unfamiliar to the economic development organization (such as workforce development, social service delivery, and natural resources)?

#### **Resources for economic development**

1. What groups, organizations or individuals does the area have to work with:
2. Who can provide support and funding for the development activities.

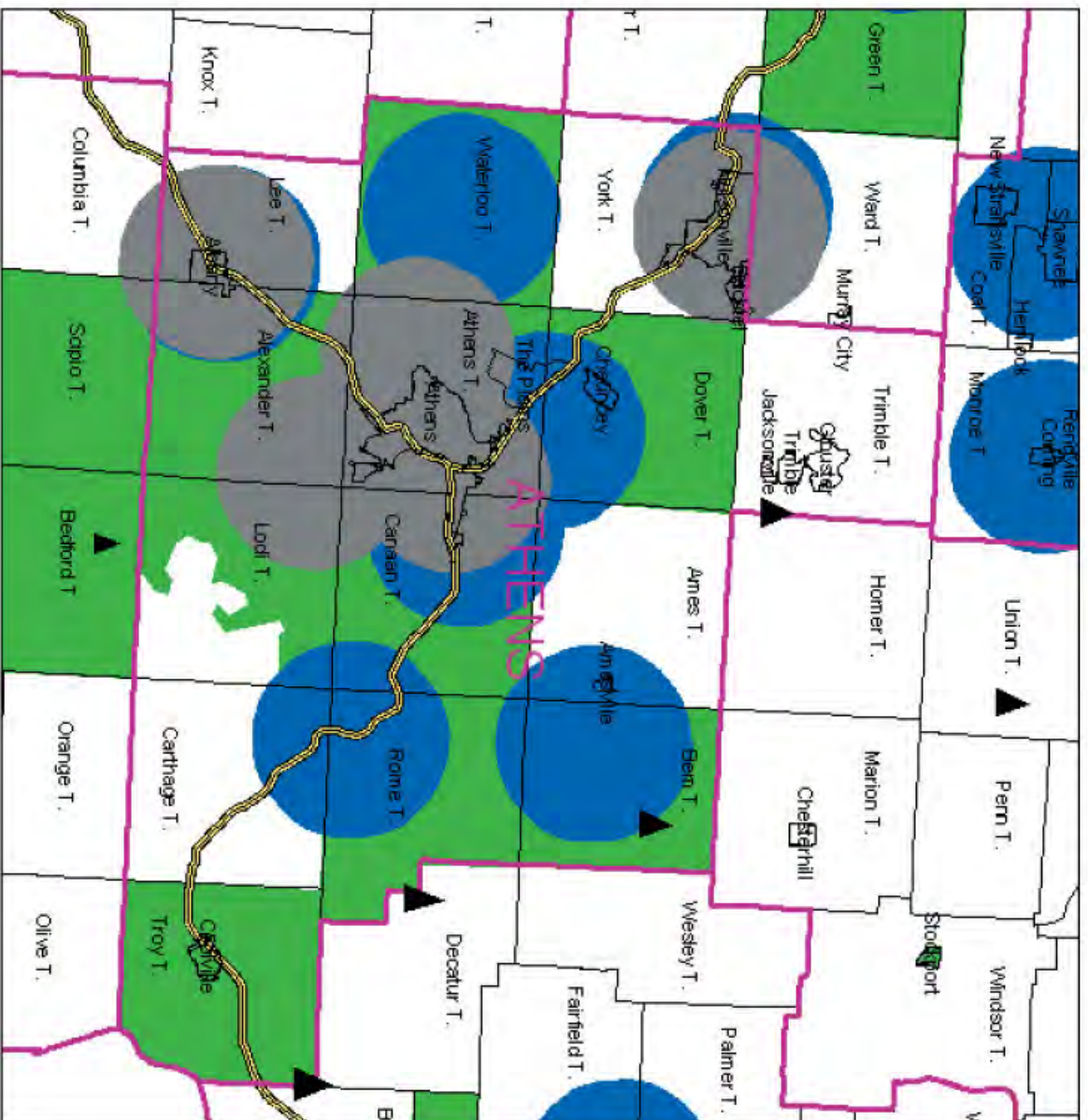
## APPENDIX C

### 2005 CEDS Project Prioritization Criteria

	Points
1. Job Creation and/or Retention	
Creating new jobs	20
Expanding existing job opportunities	15
Existing jobs enhanced	5
Not Applicable	0
2. Scope of Project	
Long-term project	20
Intermediate-term project	15
Short-term project	5
3. Goal Relationship	
Directly tied to goals of CEDS	20
Somewhat tied to goals	15
Not related to goals	5
4. Environmental Impact	
Beneficial impact on environment	20
No significant impact	10
Negative impact	
5. Distress level	
Distressed	10
Not distressed	



# Broadband Deployment Status: Athens County June, 2004



## Legend

### Broadband Service Area

- Wireless Internet Coverage
- DSL Coverage
- Cable Modern Coverage

### Marcs Towers



- Cities and Townships
- County Border
- Freeway System

### Broadband Providers

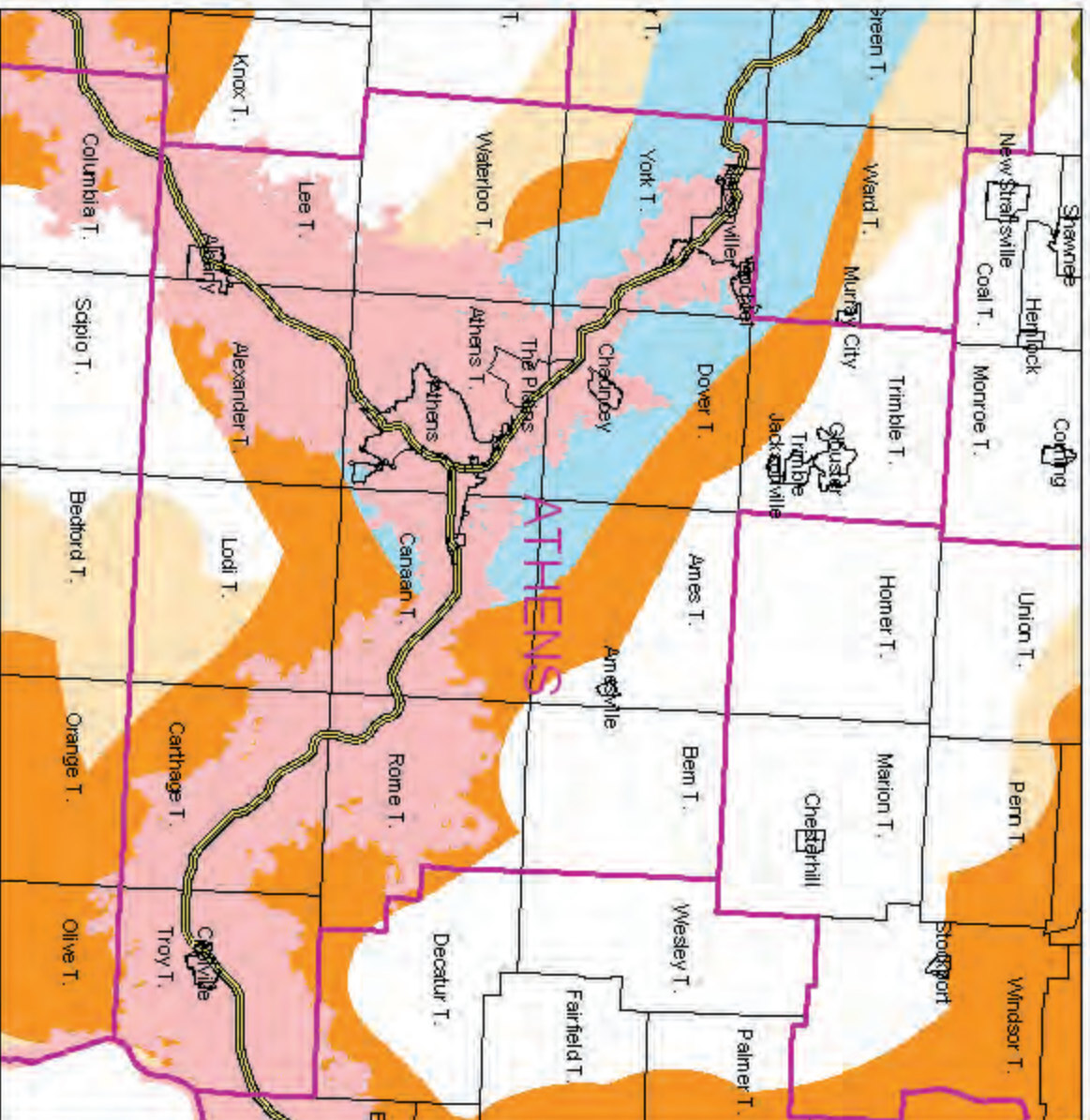
- DSL: SBC, Verizon
- Cable: Time Warner
- Wireless Internet: FrogNet, Intellwave
- Cellular: See Wireless Telecommunications Map

Projection: State Plane 1983 (Ohio South)



Note: Coverage reflects those providers' information who responded to our survey.

# Wireless/Cellular Telephone Status: Athens County June, 2004



## Legend

### Wireless Telecommunications Providers

- Sprint/Horizon Coverage
- T-Mobile Coverage
- Alltel Coverage
- Cingular Coverage

\* AT&T Wireless provides service in this county but not throughout the county

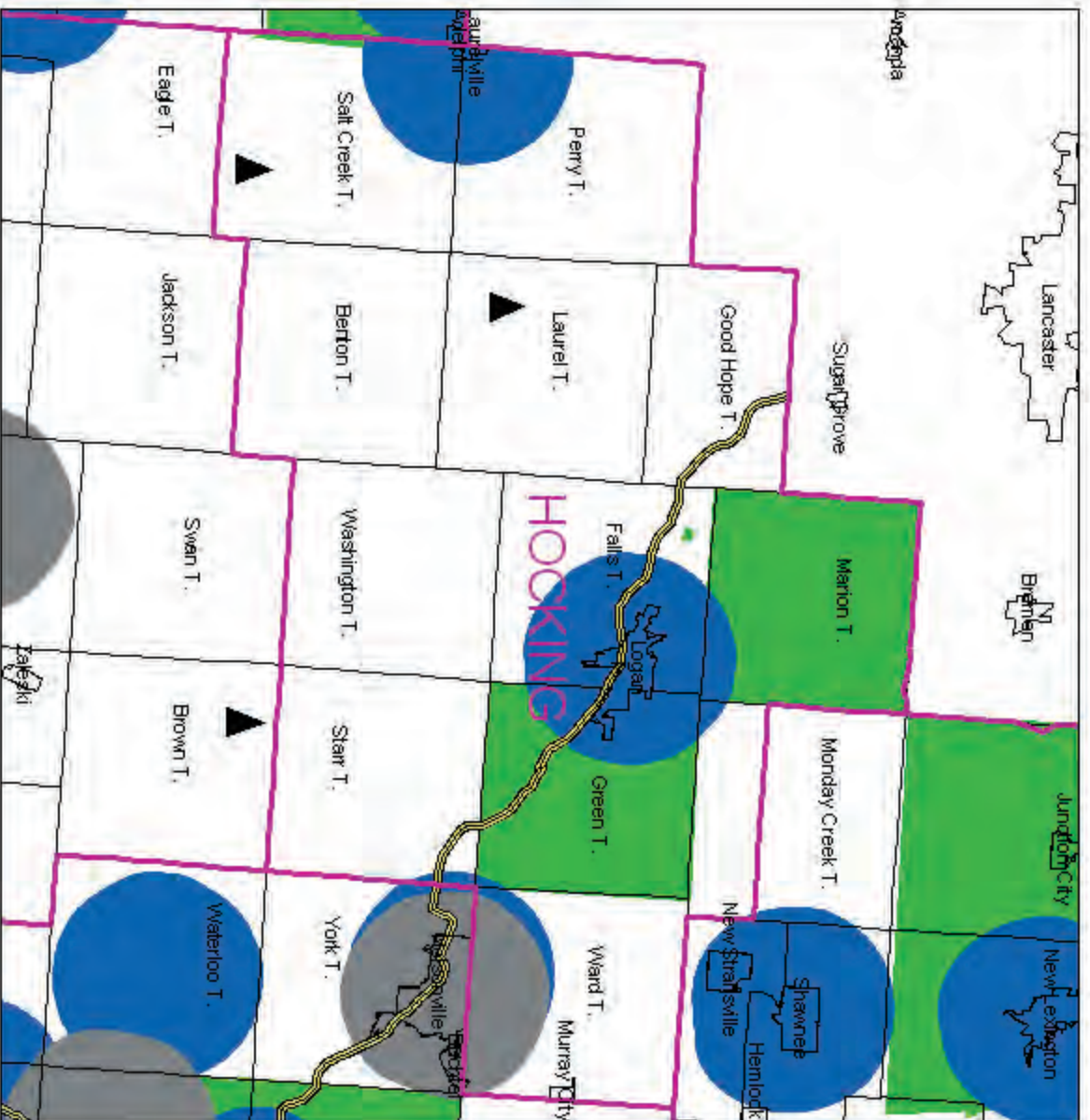
- Cities and Townships
- County Border
- Freeway System

Projection: State Plane 1983 (Ohio South)



Map:  
Coverage/Service Area  
provided by providers who remain  
anonymous

# Broadband Deployment Status: Hocking County June, 2004



## Legend

### Broadband Service Area

- Wireless Internet Coverage
- Cable Modem Coverage
- DSL Coverage

### Marcs Towers



- Cities and Townships
- County Border
- Freeway System

### Broadband Providers

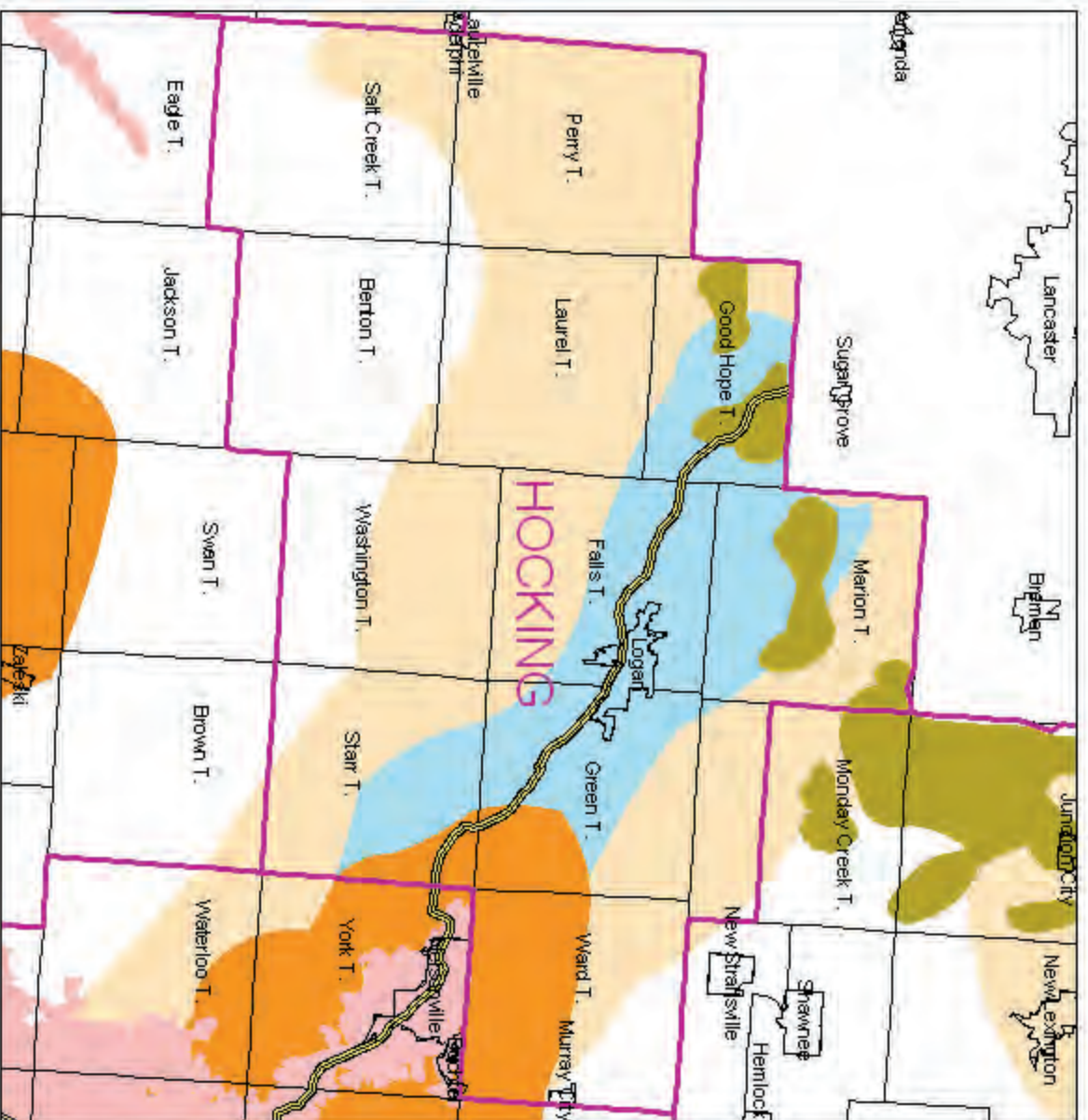
- DSL: SBC, Verizon
- Cable: Adelphia
- Wireless Internet: Intellwave
- Cellular: See Wireless Telecommunications Map

Projection: State Plane 1983 (Ohio South)



Map: Orange redacted base  
 Provider information who is not  
 in our survey

# Wireless/Cellular Telephone Status: Hocking County June, 2004



## Legend

### Wireless Telecommunications Providers

- Verizon Wireless Coverage
- Alltel Coverage
- Tmobile Coverage
- Cingular Coverage

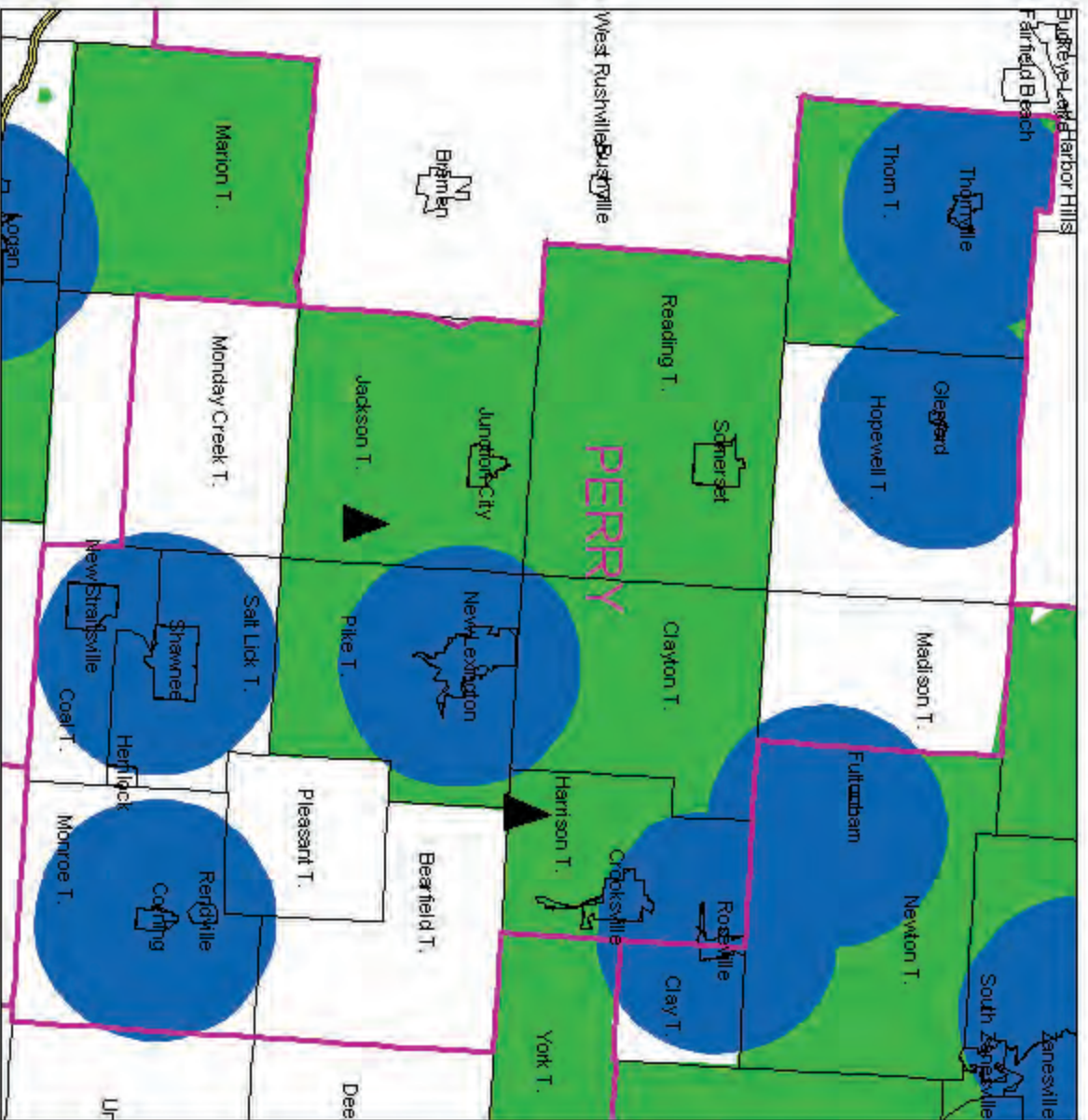
- Cities and Townships
- County Border
- Freeway System

Projection: State Plane 1983 (Ohio South)



Map: Coverage of each hour  
provided by each provider who responded  
to our survey

# Broadband Deployment Status: Perry County June, 2004



## Legend

### Broadband Service Area

- Wireless Internet Coverage
- DSL Coverage
- Cable Modem Coverage

### Marcs Towers



- Cities and Townships
- County Border
- Freeway System

### Broadband Providers

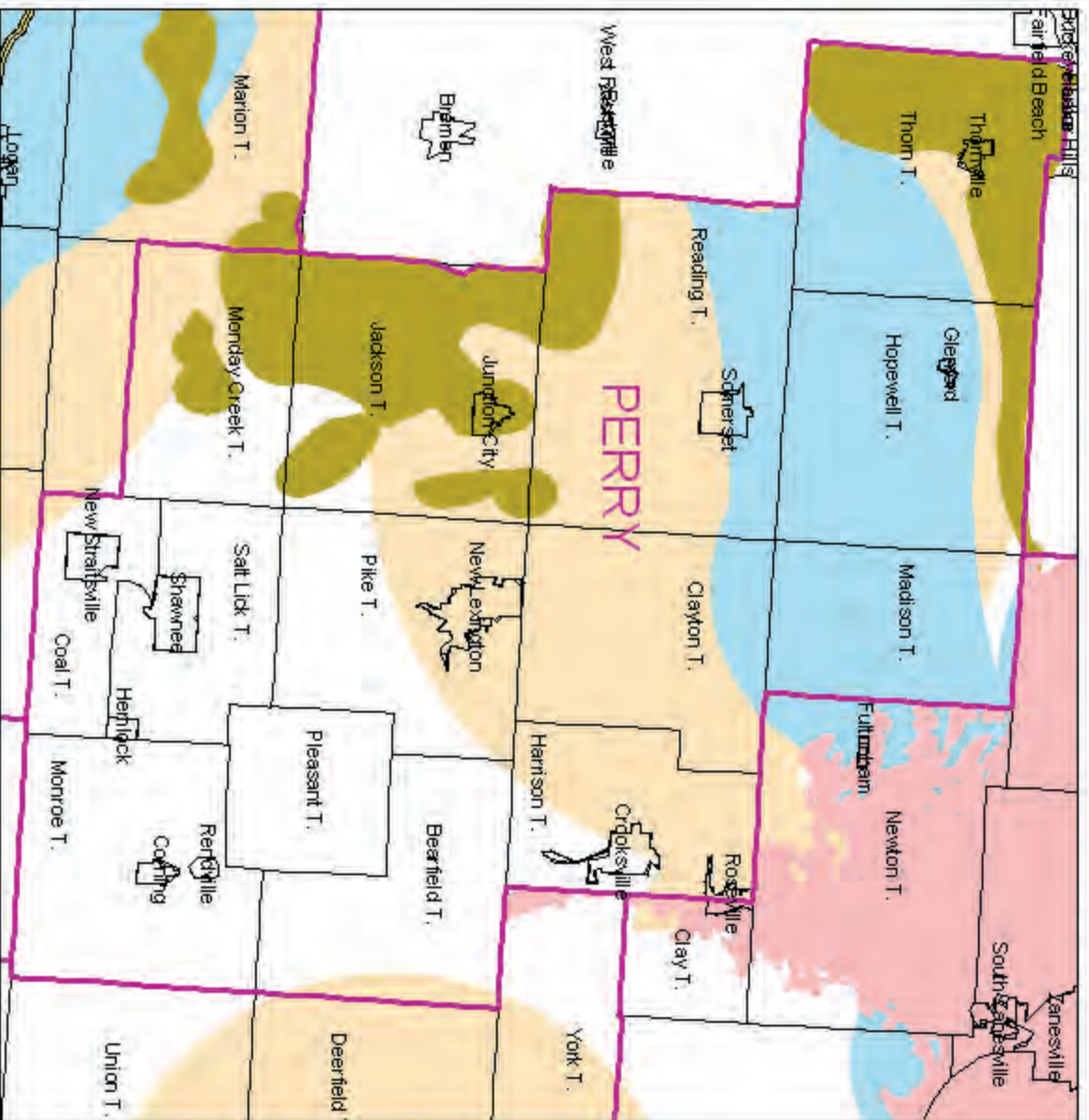
- DSL: SBC
- Cable: Time Warner
- Wireless Internet: N/A
- Cellular: See Wireless Telecommunications Map

Projection: State Plane 1983 (Ohio South)



Note: Coverage reflects those providers' information who responded to our survey

# Wireless/Cellular Telephone Status: Perry County June, 2004



## Legend

### Wireless Telecommunications Providers

- Verizon Wireless Coverage
- T-Mobile Coverage
- Cingular Coverage

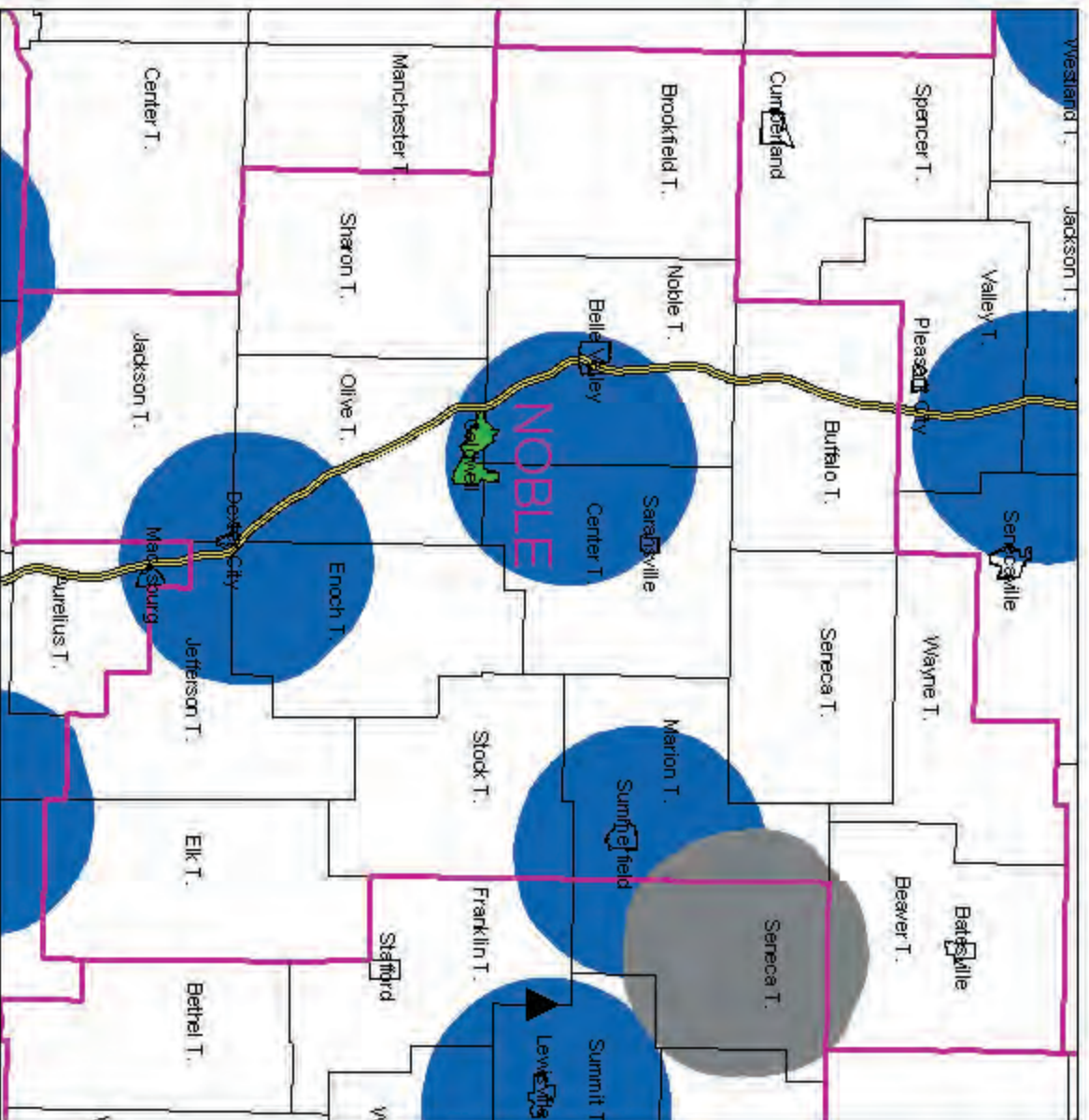
- Cities and Townships
- County Border
- Freeway System

Projection: State Plane 1983 (Ohio South)



Map: Copyright © 2004  
 All rights reserved. No part of this map may be reproduced without the written permission of the publisher.

# Broadband Deployment Status: Noble County June, 2004



## Legend

### Broadband Service Area

- Cable Modem Coverage
- Wireless Internet Coverage
- DSL Coverage

### Marcs Towers



- Cities and Townships
- County Border
- Freeway System

### Broadband Providers

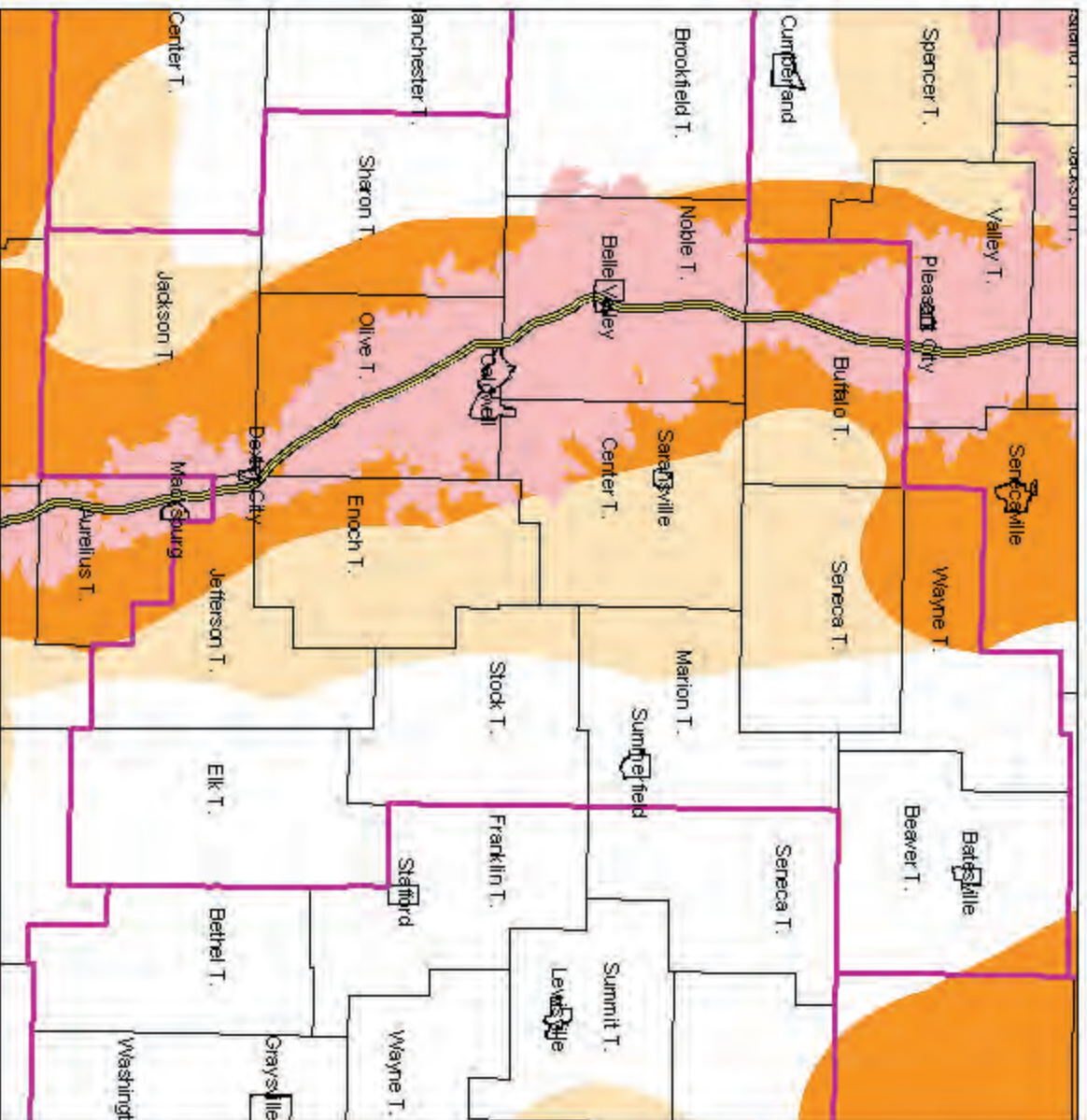
- DSL: Verizon
- Cable: Adelphia
- Wireless Internet: Local Net Plus
- Cellular: See Wireless Telecommunications Map

Projection: State Plane 1983 (Ohio South)



Miles  
Map: [courtesyoftech.com](http://www.courtesyoftech.com)  
[prairie-tek.com](http://www.prairie-tek.com)  
[whoire.com](http://www.whoire.com)  
[mps.com](http://www.mpsk.com)

# Wireless/Cellular Telephone Status: Noble County June, 2004



## Legend

### Wireless Telecommunications Providers

- Sprint/Verizon Coverage
- Alltel Coverage
- Cingular Coverage

- Cities and Townships
- County Border
- Freeway System

Projection: State Plane 1983 (Ohio South)

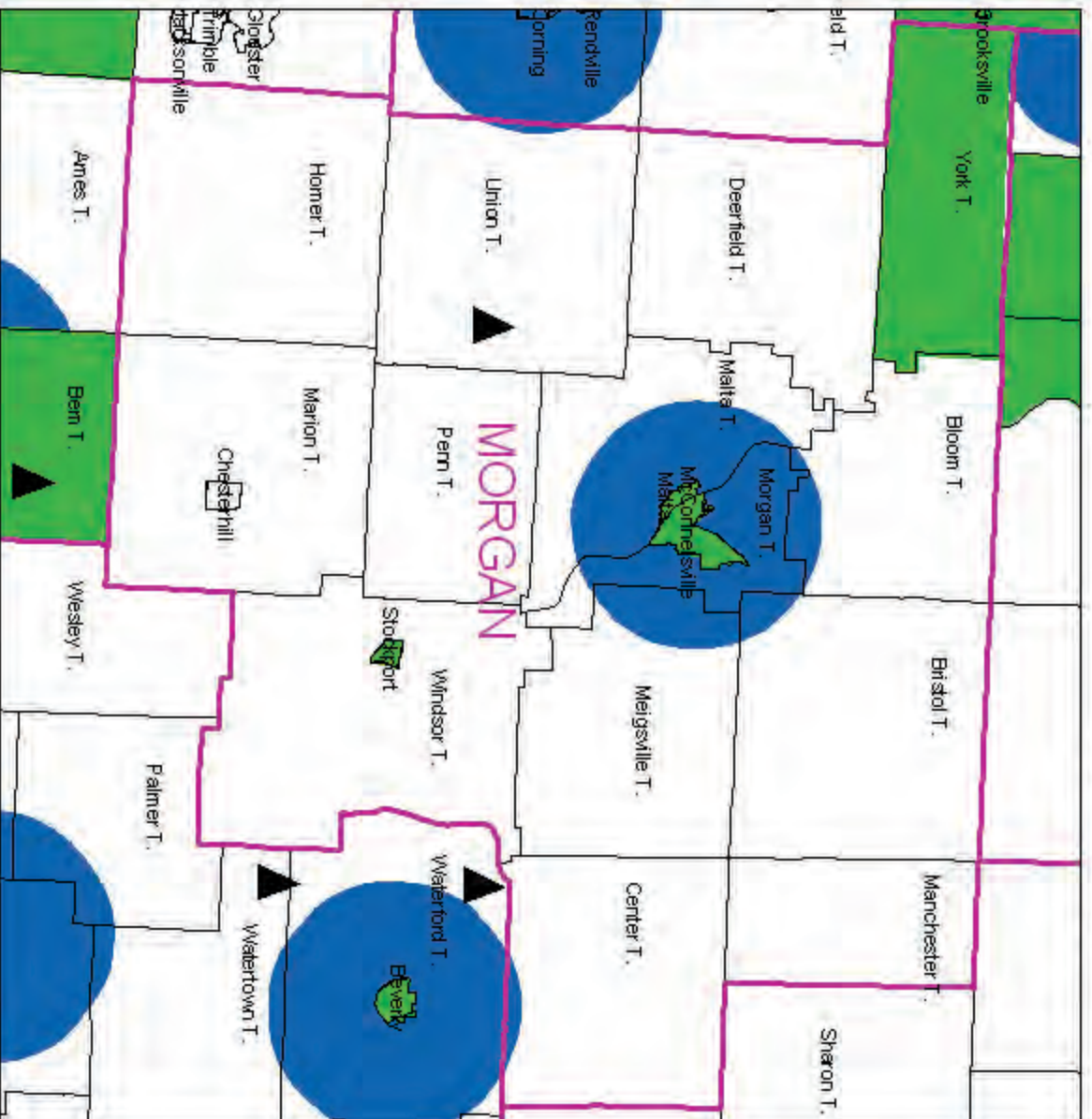


Map: [courtesytech.com](http://www.courtesytech.com)  
 Project: [informationwho.com](http://www.informationwho.com)  
 Drawn by: [who.com](http://www.who.com)



# Broadband Deployment Status: Morgan County

## June, 2004



### Legend

#### Broadband Service Area

- Cable Modem Coverage
- Wireless Internet Coverage
- DSL Coverage

#### Marcs Towers



- Cities and Townships
- County Border
- Freeway System

#### Broadband Providers

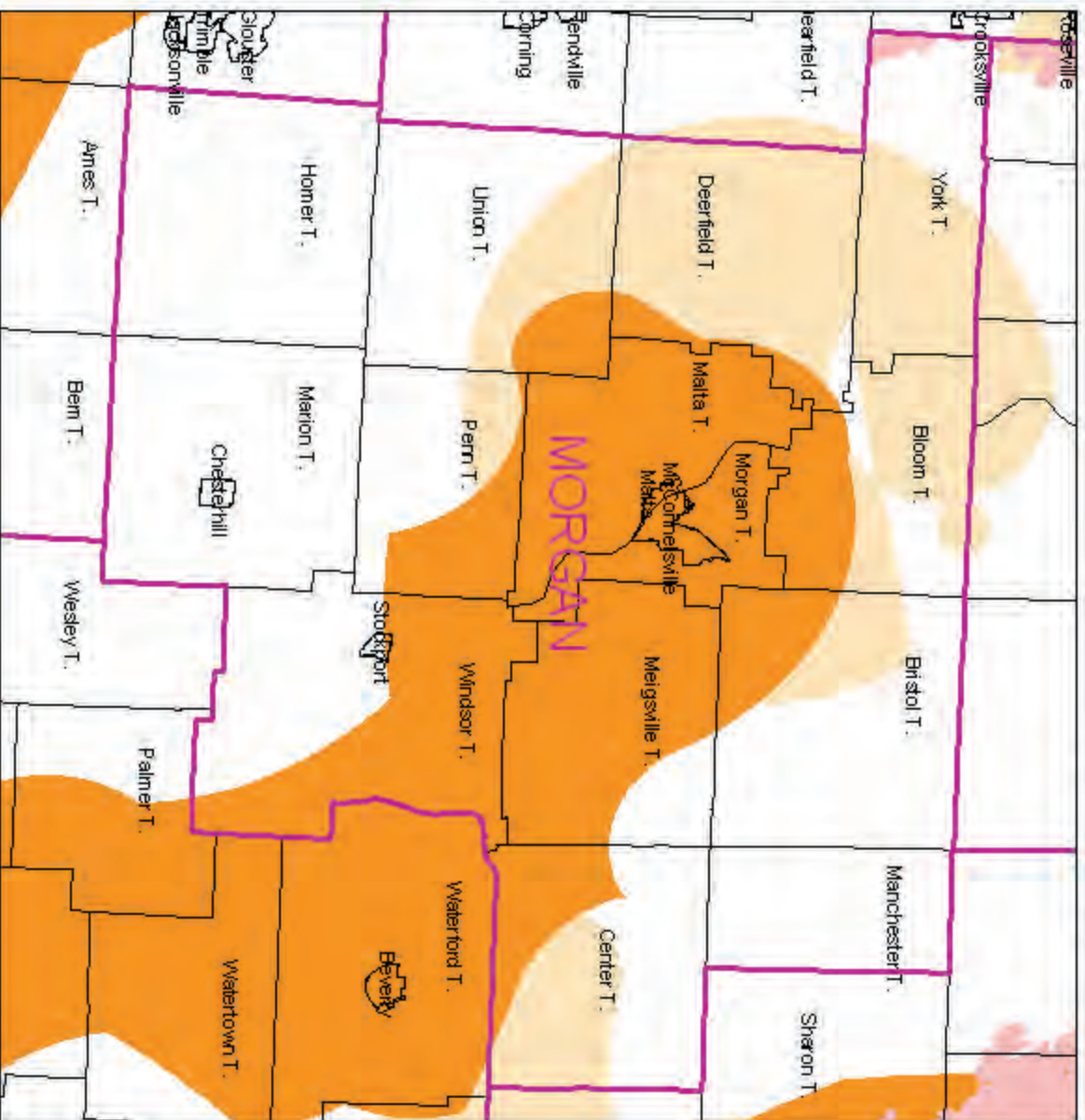
- DSL: Sprint
- Cable: Adelphia, Time Warner
- Wireless Internet: N/A
- Cellular: See Wireless Telecommunications Map

Projection: State Plane 1983 (Ohio South)



Miles  
Map: Copyright © 2004  
 All rights reserved. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

# Wireless/Cellular Telephone Status: Morgan County June, 2004



## Legend

### Wireless Telecommunications Providers

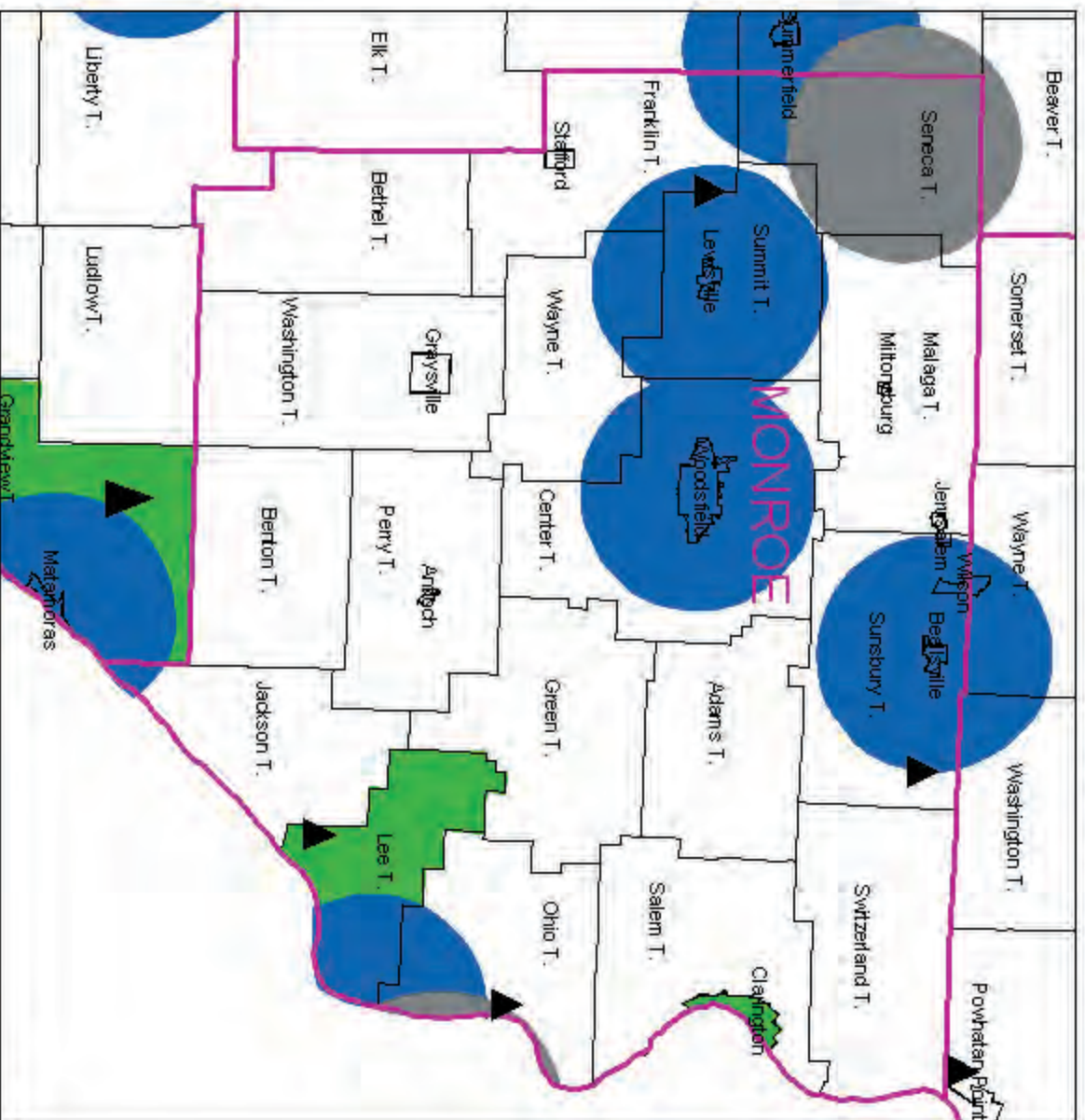
- Alltel Coverage
  - Cingular Coverage
- \* AT&T Wireless provides service in this county but not throughout the county.

- Cities and Townships
- County Border
- Freeway System

Projection: State Plane 1983 (Ohio South)



# Broadband Deployment Status: Monroe County June, 2004



## Legend

### Broadband Service Area

- Wireless Internet Coverage
- DSL Coverage
- Cable Modern Coverage

### Marcs Towers



- Cities and Townships
- County Border
- Freeway System

### Broadband Providers

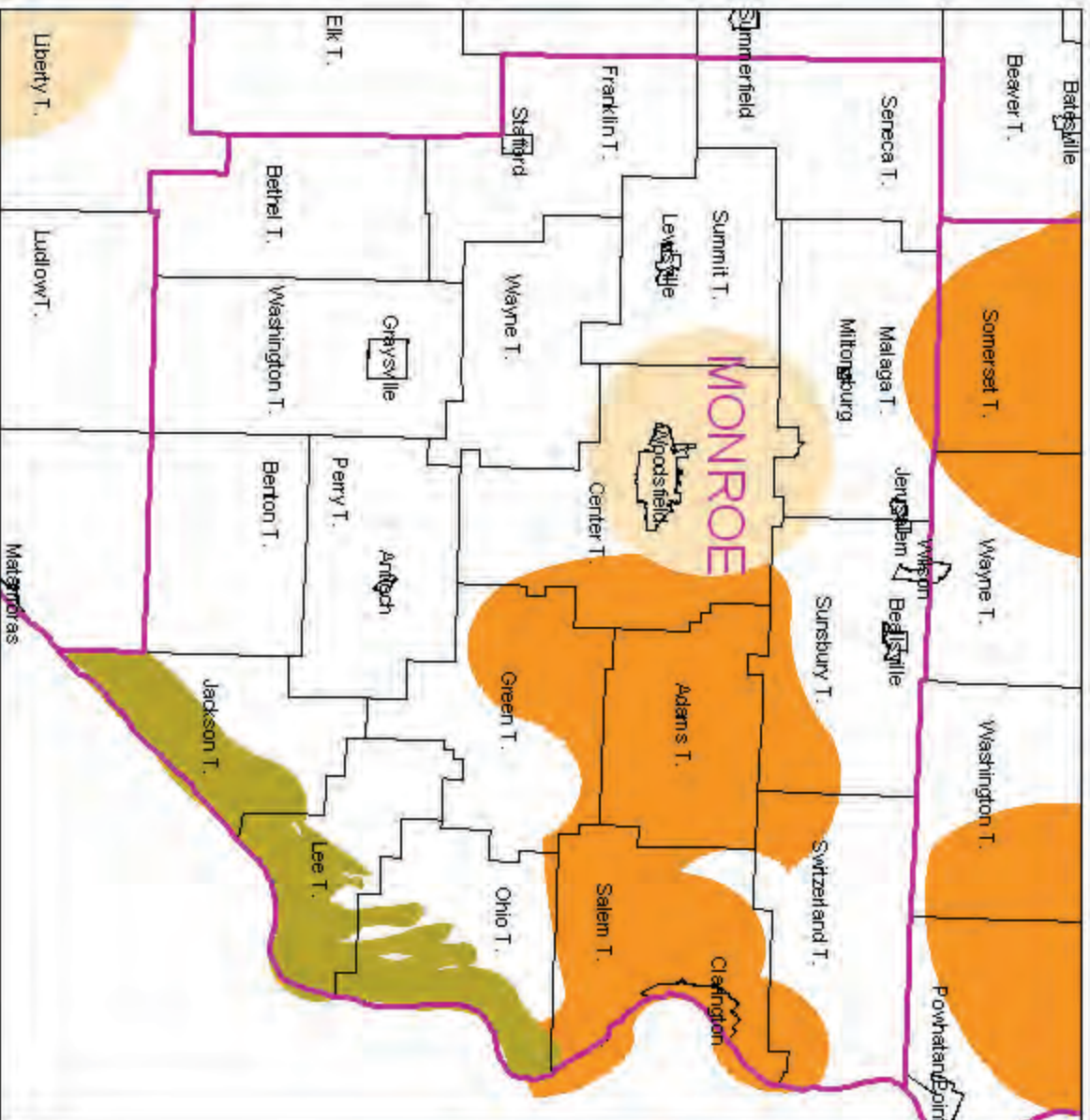
- DSL: SBC, Verizon
- Cable: Adelphia
- Wireless Internet: StatusWave Communications, Local Net Plus
- Cellular: See Wireless Telecommunications Map

Projection: State Plane 1983 (Ohio South)



Map:  
Covered: rector, Boke  
Kroder: Inimakan, who re, p, n, k, d,  
Bout: r, u, e, y

# Wireless/Cellular Telephone Status: Monroe County June, 2004



## Legend

### Wireless Telecommunications Providers

- Verizon Wireless Coverage
- Cingular Coverage
- Alltel Coverage

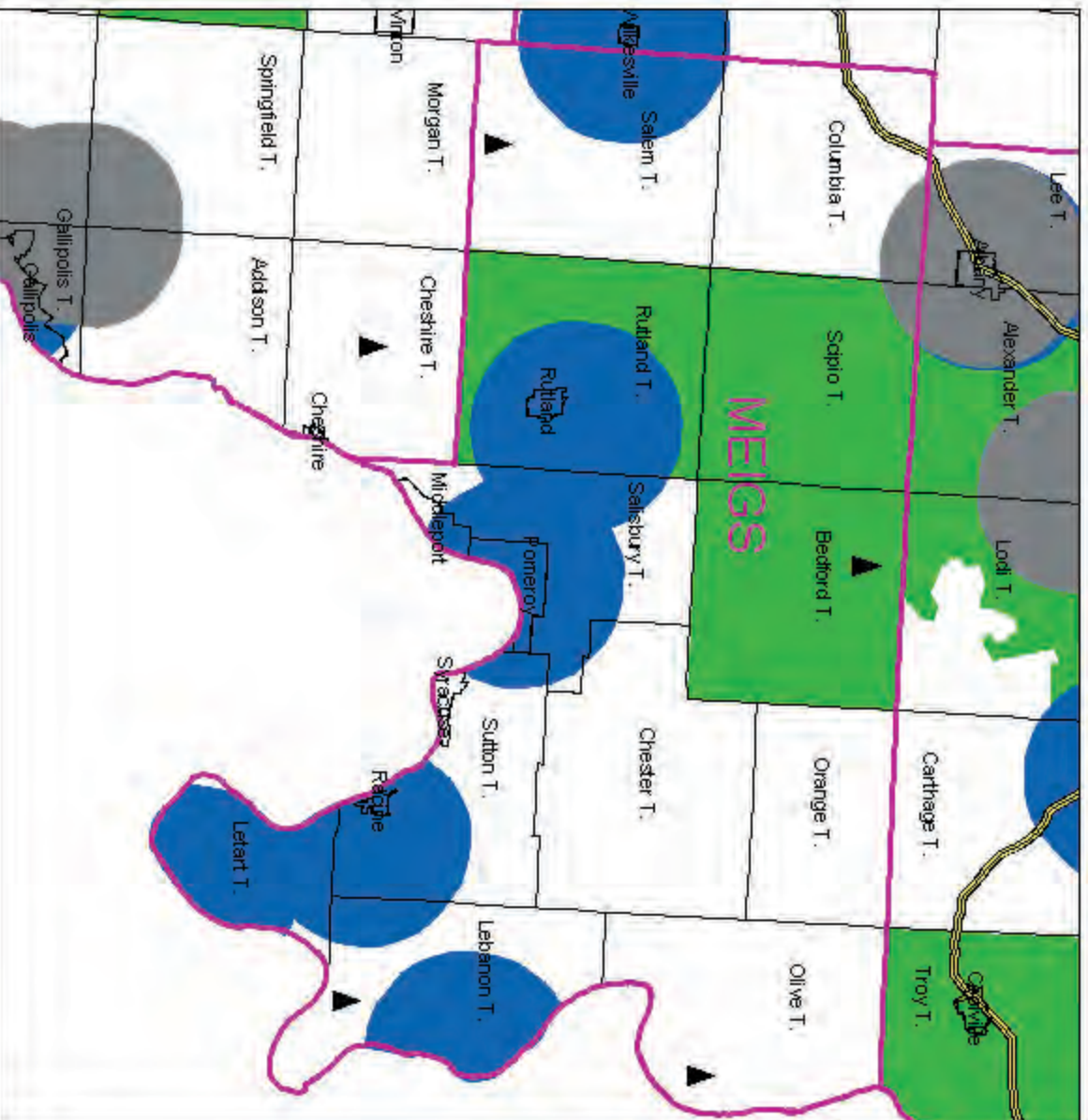
- Cities and Townships
- County Border
- Freeway System

Projection: State Plane 1983 (Ohio South)



Note:  
Coverage not shown for  
cellular providers whose  
coverage is not shown.

# Broadband Deployment Status: Meigs County June, 2004



## Legend

### Broadband Service Area

- Wireless Internet Coverage
- DSL Coverage
- Cable Modem Coverage

### Marcs Towers



- Cities and Townships
- County Border
- Freeway System

### Broadband Providers

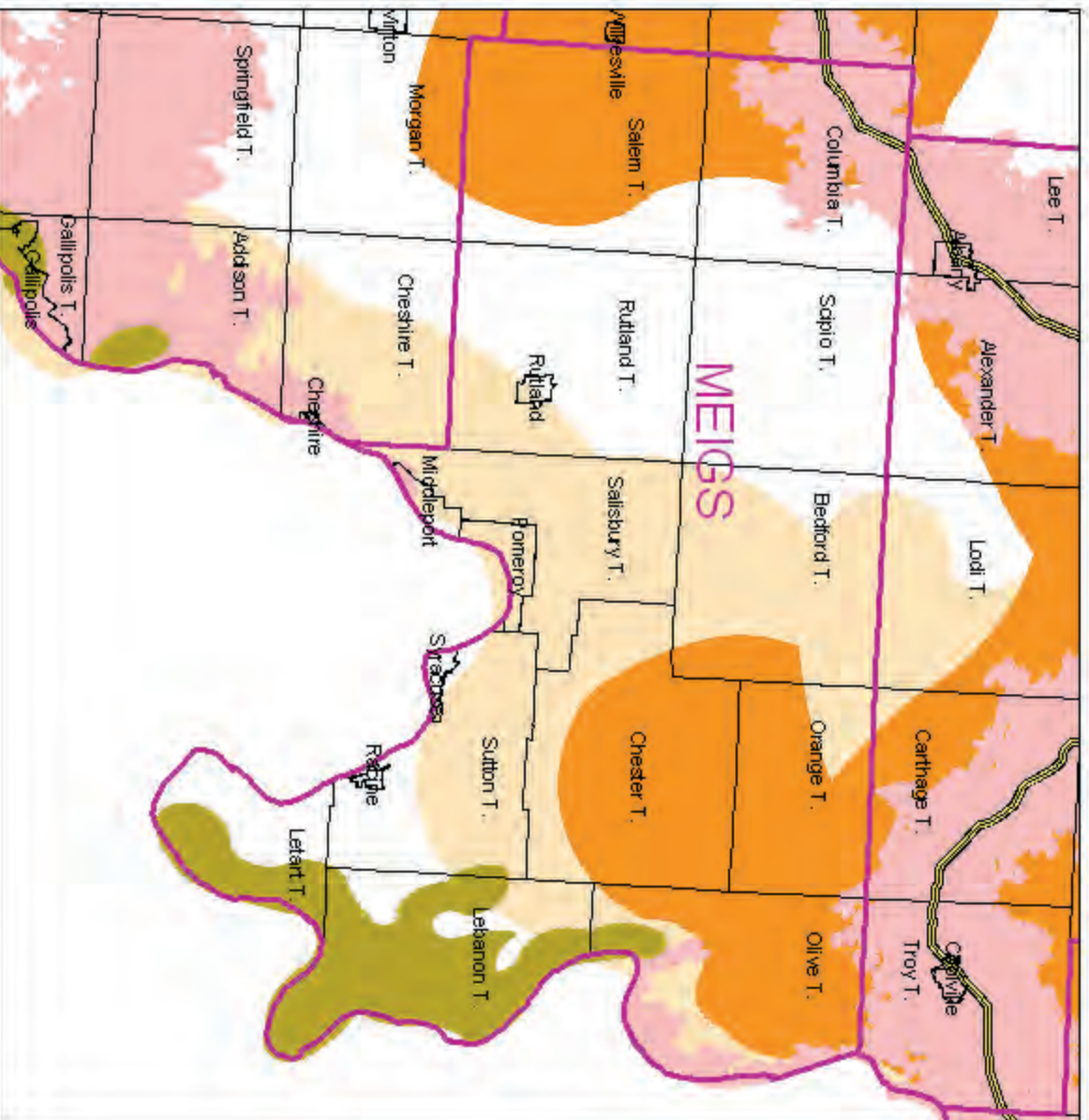
- DSL: Verizon
- Cable: Adelphia
- Wireless Internet: Intelliwave
- Cellular: See Wireless Telecommunications Map

Projection: State Plane 1983 (Ohio South)



Map:  
Orange reflect base  
road/rail/terminations info is provided  
by our users

# Wireless/Cellular Telephone Status: Meigs County June, 2004



## Legend

### Wireless Telecommunications Providers

- Verizon Wireless Coverage
  - Sprint/Verizon Coverage
  - Alltel Coverage
  - Cingular Coverage
- \* AT&T Wireless provides service in this county but not throughout the county

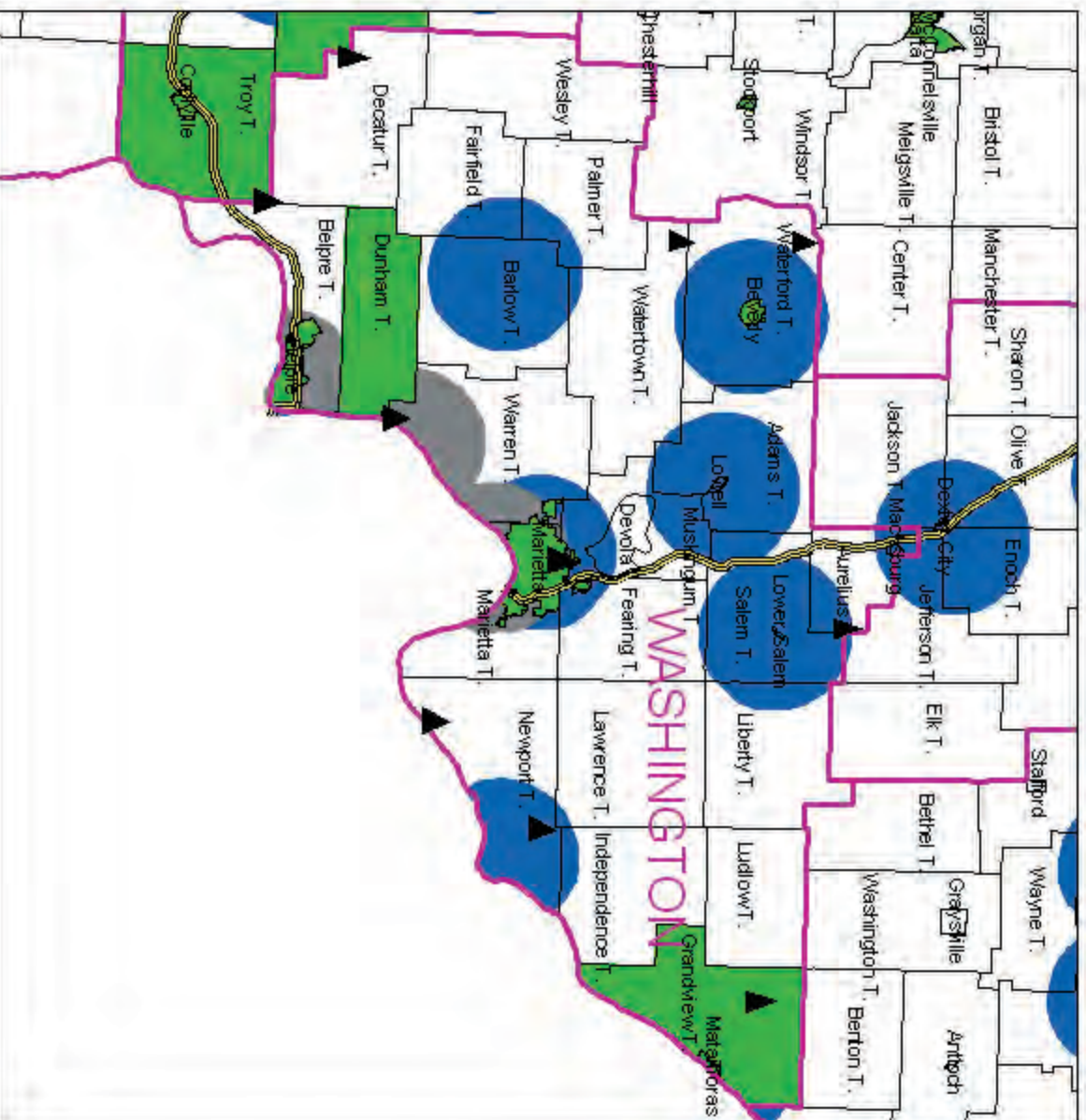
- Cities and Townships
- County Border
- Freeway System

Projection: State Plane 1983 (Ohio South)



Map: Coverage details have  
probably been updated who removed  
data source

# Broadband Deployment Status: Washington County June, 2004



## Legend

### Broadband Service Area

- Cable Modem Coverage
- Wireless Internet Coverage
- DSL Coverage

### Marcs Towers



Cities and Townships

County Border

Freeway System

### Broadband Providers

- DSL: SBC, Verizon, Tusco Net
- Cable: Adelphia, Time Warner
- Wireless Internet: Sequelle, Wireless Cellular: See Wireless Telecommunications Map.

Projection: State Plane 1983 (Ohio South)



2 1 0 2 4 6  
Miles

Map:  
Created: refer to  
provider information who is  
in our state





## CEDS 2005

### Table Appendix/ Source List

- Table 3.01- Population Change, 1980-2000. U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 SF-1, 1990 Census Lookup <http://venus.census.gov/cdrom/lookup> , ‘Ohio County Indicators 2002’, Office of Strategic Research, Ohio Department of Development, July 2002.
- Table 3.02- Population Projections to 2030 by County. ‘Ohio County Indicators 2005’, Office of Strategic Research, Ohio Department of Development, June 2005.
- Table 3.03- Population by Age Group (2003). ‘Ohio County Indicators 2005’, Office of Strategic Research, Ohio Department of Development, June 2005.
- Table 3.04- Population Percentage by Race (2003). ‘Ohio County Indicators 2005’, Office of Strategic Research, Ohio Department of Development, June 2005.
- Table 3.05- Vital Statistics 2002. ‘Ohio County Profiles 2003’, Department of Strategic Research, Ohio Department of Development.
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