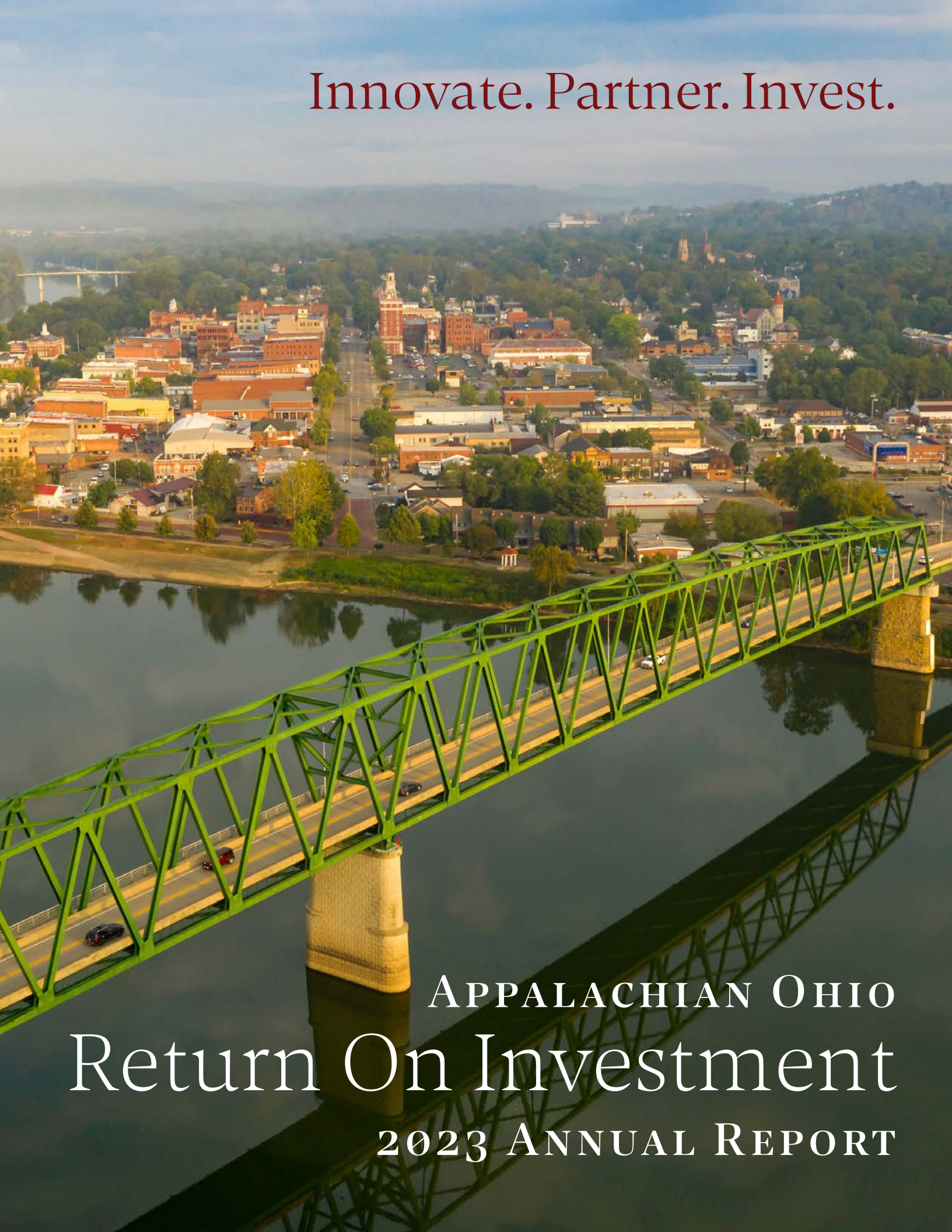
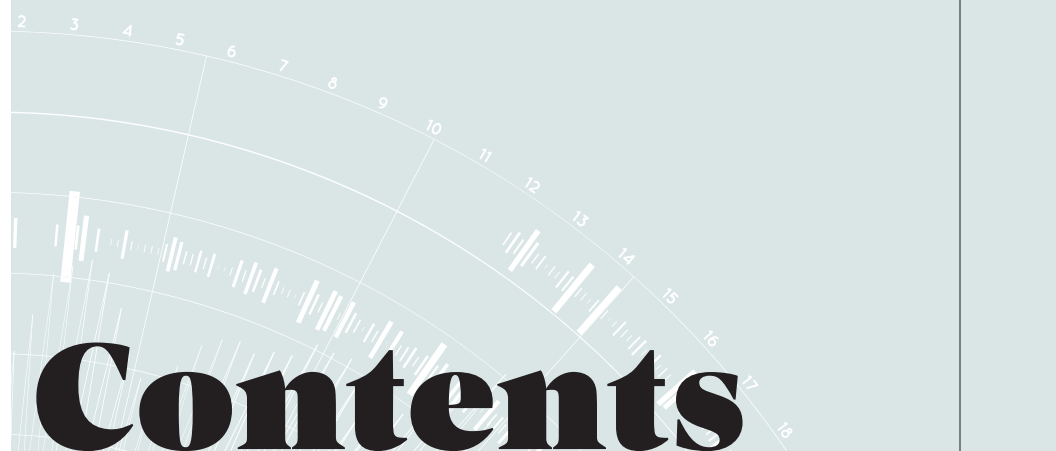
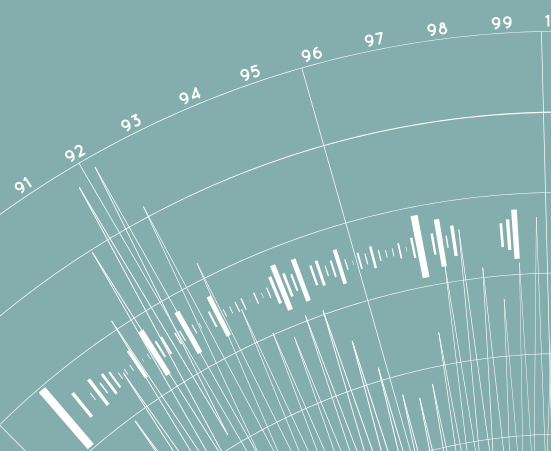


Innovate. Partner. Invest.



APPALACHIAN OHIO
Return On Investment
2023 ANNUAL REPORT





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Strengthening Ohio's Appalachian Region

This annual report is produced by the four Appalachian
Local Development Districts of Ohio

Buckeye Hills Regional Council

1400 Pike Street, Marietta, OH 45750

buckeyehills.org | 1.800.331.2644 | 740.373.6400

Serving: Athens, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry and Washington counties

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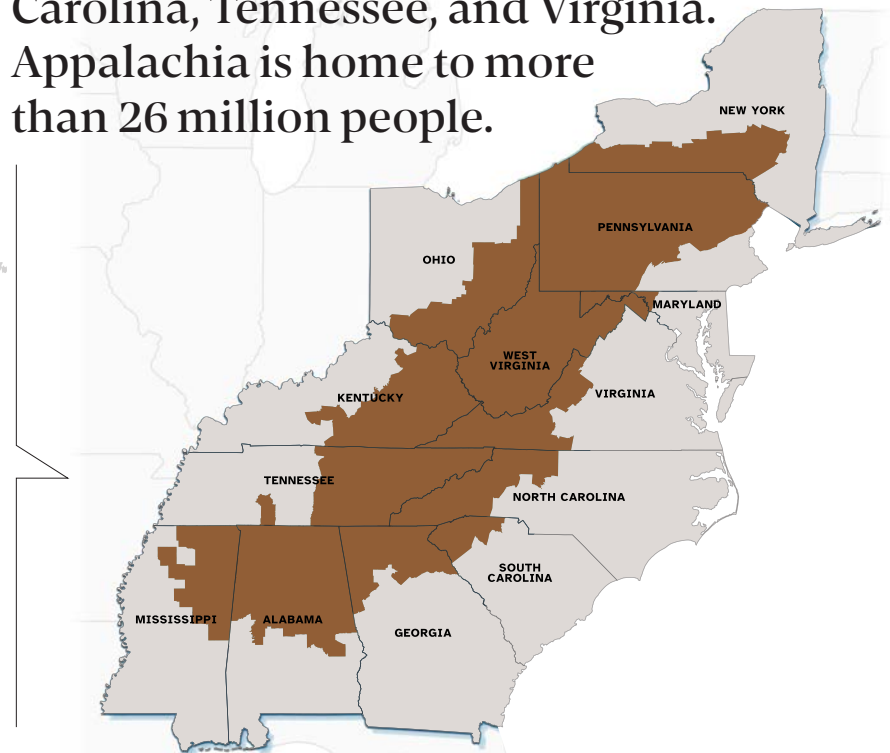
Serving: Adams, Brown, Clermont, Fayette, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Lawrence, Pike, Ross,
Scioto and Vinton Counties

Investing IN APPALACHIA

With 423 counties, the Appalachian region includes all of West Virginia and parts of 12 other states including: Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. Appalachia is home to more than 26 million people.



The 13-state Appalachian region is defined as a 206,000 square mile area that follows the spine of the Appalachian Mountains from the southern tier of New York to northern Mississippi.

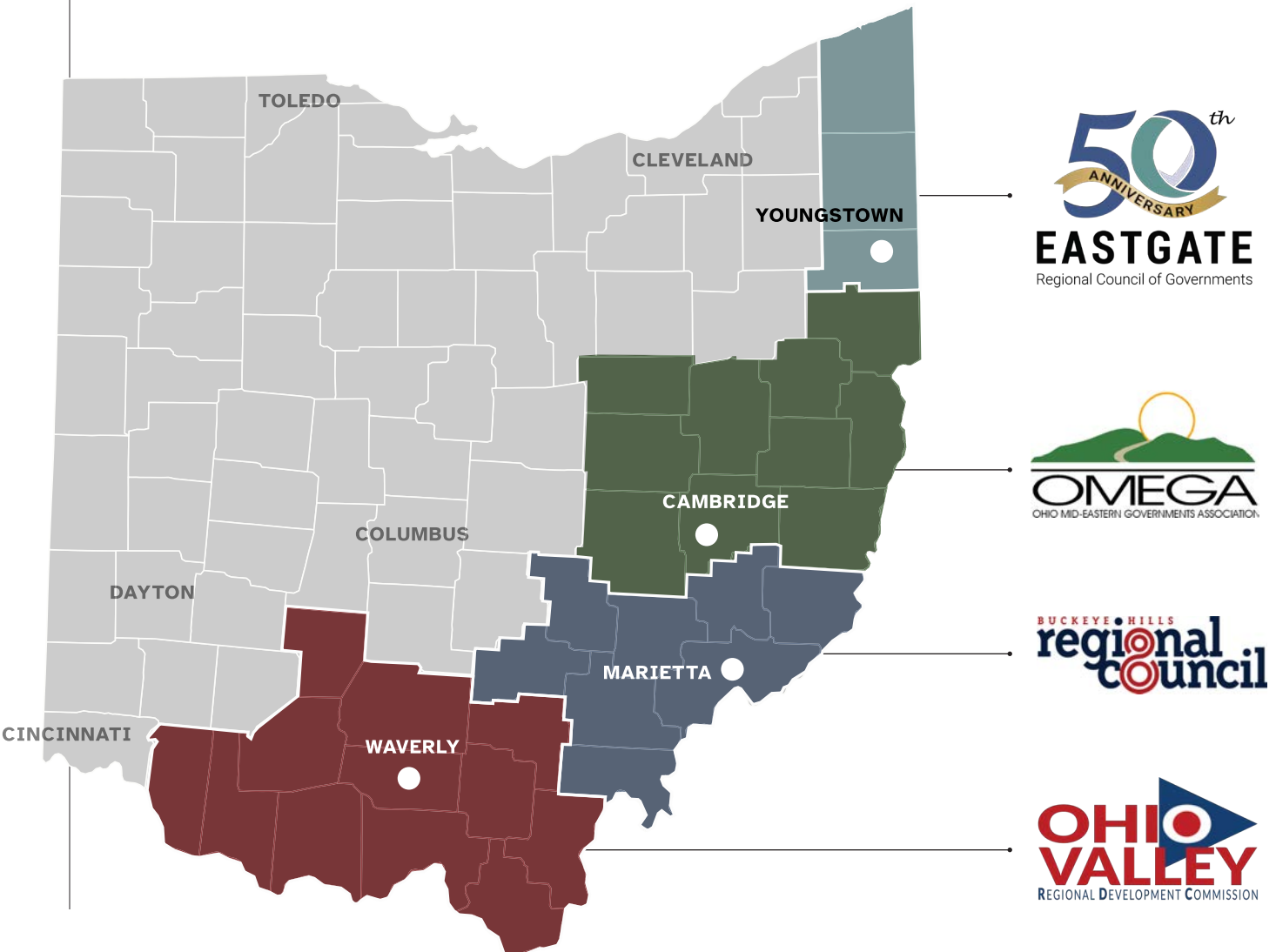


With the goal of bringing the region to socioeconomic parity with the rest of the nation, the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) has focused investments into fundamental community and economic development needs, including building Appalachia's businesses, workforce ecosystem, infrastructure, regional culture and tourism, and community leaders and capacity.

Ohio is home to 32 Appalachian counties and bolsters federal ARC funding with a matching state investment. Within this region, four Appalachian Ohio Local Development Districts (LDDs), organize community-driven projects and target funds for distribution from federal and state partners to ensure positive movement toward the mission of the ARC: to bring the region to socioeconomic parity.

The LDDs' most important role is to identify the priority needs of their local communities. To ensure that funds are used effectively and efficiently, and to strengthen local participation, Ohio's project selection process includes a grassroots approach through which local governments prioritize both the state and federal investments across the region for the greatest regional impact.

OHIO'S FOUR LOCAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS





Strengthening APPALACHIAN OHIO

In 2023 Appalachian Ohio's Local Development Districts (LDDs), working in partnership with the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Governor's Office of Appalachia, and local communities, administered 50 projects representing \$77.3 million in federal, state, and local investments. These projects created 328 new jobs, helped employers retain 121 positions, and improved the quality of life in the region.

Ohio's LDDs and Appalachian communities maximized the use of state and federal dollars in 2023. For each dollar invested by the Appalachian Regional Commission, LDDs and local communities leveraged an additional \$4.89 in local, state, and other federal sources. For each dollar invested by the Governor's Office of Appalachia, LDDs and local communities leveraged an additional \$2.47.

The combined administrative costs of \$1.9 million represented just 2.5% of the region's \$77.3 million in total project costs. Ohio's LDDs use this administrative support to identify, prioritize, and package projects for state and federal support. The LDDs work to ensure the most impactful projects that leverage significant resources can move forward expeditiously, with transparency and accountability.

With over 50 years of experience providing administrative, policy, and programmatic support to local governments, Appalachian Ohio's LDDs possess:

- 1. Expertise on economic and social challenges facing the region.*
- 2. Organizational transparency, accountability, and capacity managing major projects to address many types of regional infrastructure needs—and with a great return on investment (ROI).*
- 3. Deep knowledge of the region's challenges and opportunities for infrastructure, entrepreneurship, and workforce development.*
- 4. Solid, trusted relationships with local communities and key stakeholders in the public, private and nonprofit sectors.*

Ohio's Local Development Districts work with communities to support projects that align with the Appalachian Regional Commission's strategic goals of Building Appalachia's Businesses, Workforce Ecosystem, Community Infrastructure, Regional Culture and Tourism, and Community Leaders and Capacity.

Investment Overview

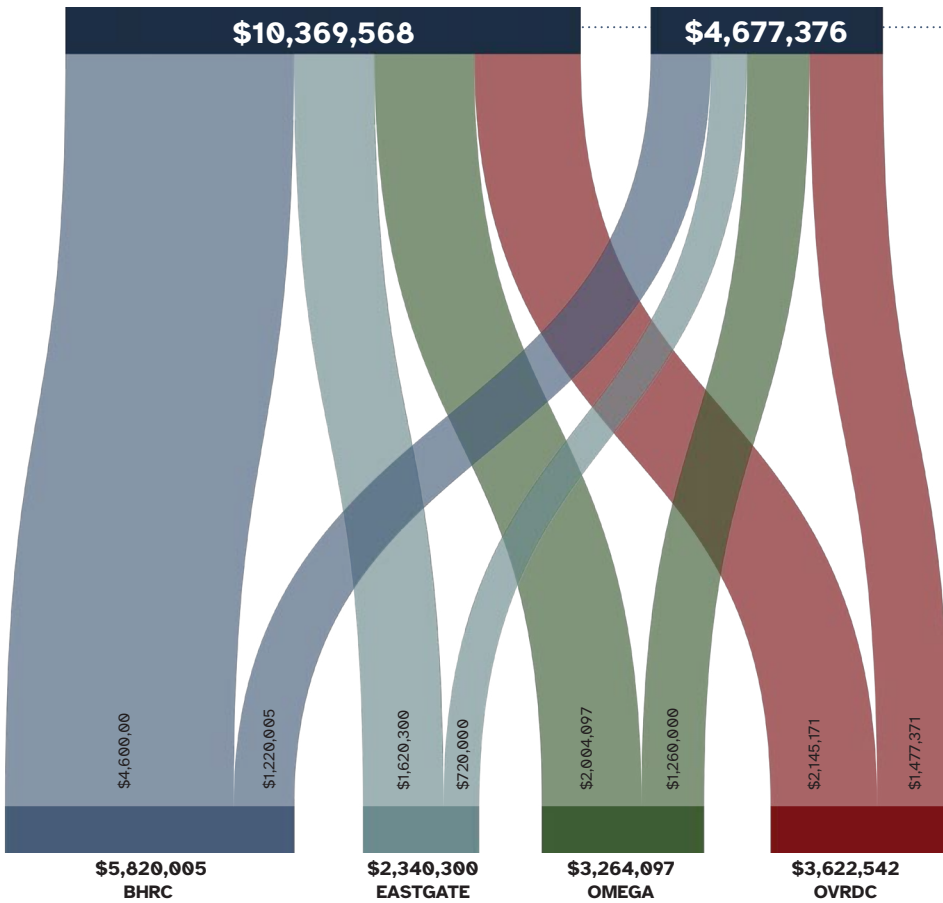
Federal and State Investment

Federal ARC Investment

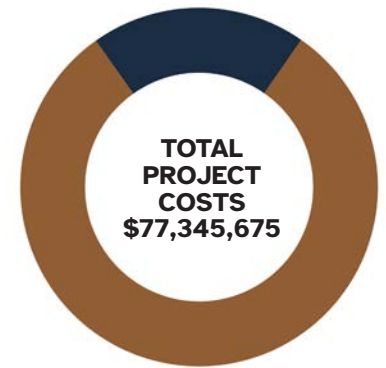
For every \$1 invested by ARC, Ohio LDDs leveraged \$4.89 in additional investments.

Ohio GOA Investment

For every \$1 invested by GOA, Ohio LDDs leveraged \$2.47 in additional investments.



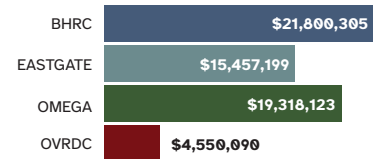
\$15,046,944
Federal and State Investment



\$62,298,731
Total Leveraged Investments

Federal ARC Grant Programs

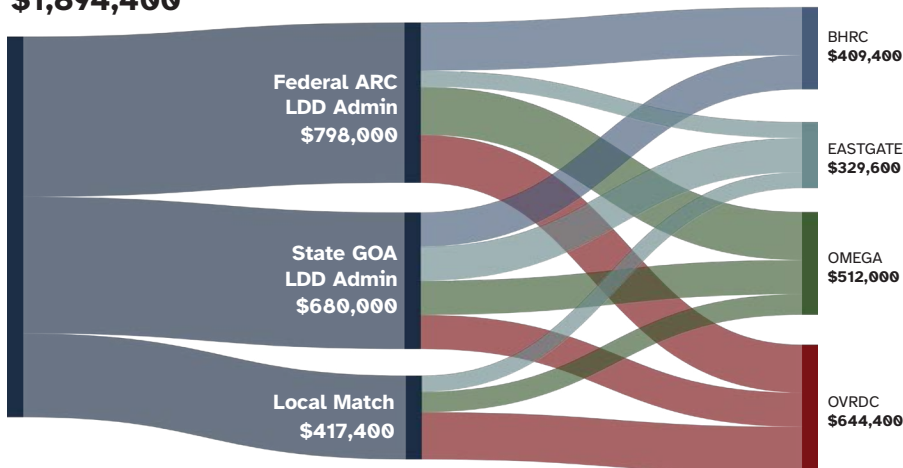
2023 TOTAL PROJECT COSTS



Total Admin Cost

Admin costs represented 2.5% of total project costs in 2023

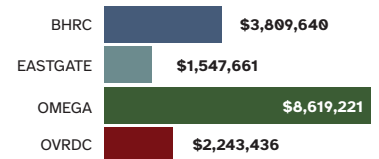
\$1,894,400



PROJECTS ADMINISTERED: **29**
JOBS CREATED: **119**
JOBS RETAINED: **21**

State Appalachian Assistance Grant Programs

2023 TOTAL PROJECT COSTS



PROJECTS ADMINISTERED: **21**
JOBS CREATED: **209**
JOBS RETAINED: **100**

INVESTMENT Impacts

**TOTAL PROJECTS
IN THE REGION**



50



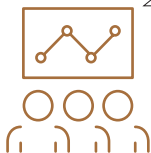
**TOTAL JOBS
RETAINED**



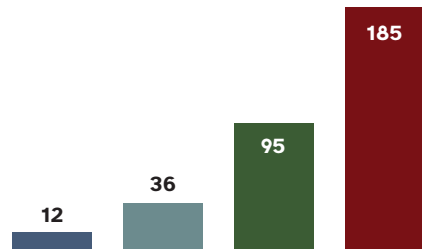
121



**TOTAL JOBS
CREATED**



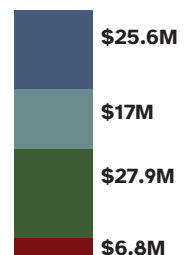
328

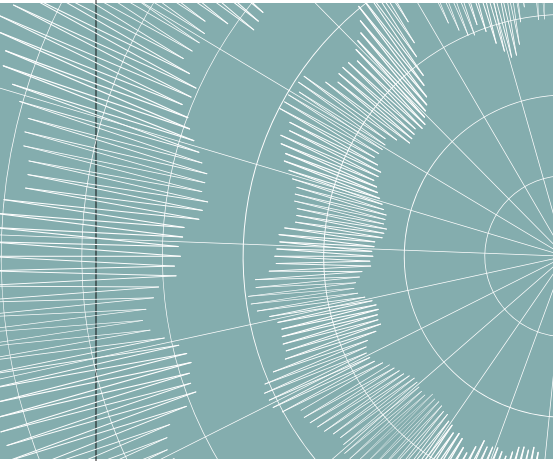


**TOTAL PROJECT
INVESTMENT**



\$777.3m





Community Investment Highlights

Community Infrastructure



Eastgate

ARC Area Development Funds:

\$250,000

Total Project Costs:

\$708,442

Partners:

Cortland City Council, Mayor of Cortland, State Senator Sandra O'Brien, Youngstown Warren Regional Chamber

West Main Waterline Improvement Project

TRUMBULL COUNTY

This project will enhance public infrastructure and support economic development with the construction of 2,050 linear feet of waterline improvements to replace lines that have exceeded their useful life resulting in excessive watermain breaks in the downtown district of the City of Cortland. This project will serve 28 businesses, 15 households, and one downtown central business district.



Northern Perry County Water Improvements

PERRY COUNTY

Northern Perry County Water is beginning a Phase 5 waterline extension project to extend potable water service to areas not currently served. Many of the residents who live in the project area currently utilize wells, cisterns, and springs for their water supply. Microbiological testing of private water supplies in the project area shows positive results for total coliform and E. coli. These contaminants pose a threat to the health and safety of the residents in the area. The Phase 5 project will include the construction of new waterlines, valves, hydrants, and services to address the limited quantity and quality of water in the area. The project will improve water service to 37 households.



BHRC

ARC Area Development Funds

\$500,000

Total Project Costs:

\$1,060,600

Partners:

**Perry County Commissioners,
Township Trustees, Ohio
Environmental Protection
Agency**

Macedonia Hill Water Main Extension and Booster Station Improvements

LAWRENCE COUNTY

The residents of Macedonia Hill have not had access to clean water for years, relying on wells contaminated with E. Coli and other toxic substances. The Macedonia Hill Water Main Extension and Booster Station Improvements project supports ARC's goals of investing and building affordable basic infrastructure to meet the needs of Appalachian residents and businesses, so they can successfully live and work in the region. The project will install components to provide adequate drinking water to 51 customers who were previously unserved. The project will extend the existing water main to serve the Macedonia Hill area and install approximately 40,000 linear feet of 4-, 6-, 8- and 10-inch water main, a booster station, and a permanent generator.



OVRDC

GOA Appalachian Assistance Funds:

\$250,000

Total Project Costs:

\$6,215,000

Partners:

**Ohio EPA H2Ohio, US EPA
State and Tribal Assistance
Program, Ohio Department
of Development, Appalachian
Regional Commission**



ARC Area Development Funds
\$350,000

Total Project Costs:
\$1,969,252

Partners:
**Morgan County Commissioners,
 Village of Malta, Morgan
 Meigsville Rural Water District,
 U.S. Economic Development
 Administration**

State Route 60 North Water Extension

MORGAN COUNTY

The State Route 60 North Water Extension Project will provide potable water service to households and businesses located along the Muskingum River on State Route 60 north of the Village of McConnelsville. The project is located within the service area of Morgan Meigsville Rural Water District. A connection will be made to the Village of Malta water treatment plant on the west side of the Muskingum River, and water will be purchased from Malta. A water main will be extended approximately 37,770 ft to the west side of the river crossing. The river crossing will involve 700 feet of directional drilling, then finally 6,810 feet of water line on the east side of the Muskingum River. Fifteen households and 15 businesses will be served by the project.



GOA Appalachian Assistance Funds:
\$250,000

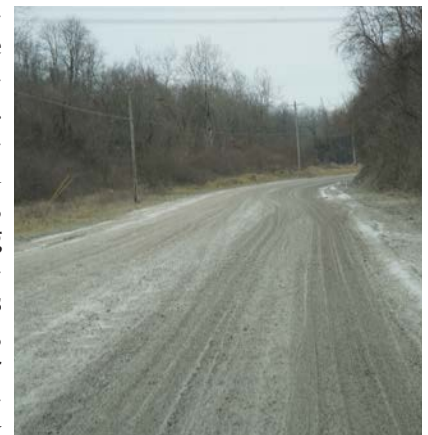
Total Project Costs:
\$1,332,750

Partners:
**Harrison County Engineer,
 Apex Landfill**

Harrison County CR 51 Road Improvements

HARRISON COUNTY

The Harrison County Road 51 Improvement project is intended to improve the safety of the roadway for residents, employees, vendors, customers, and visitors. This project will invest in critical infrastructure as County Road 51 is the main access road to Apex Environmental, LLC, a solid waste landfill and expanding employer located in the village of Amsterdam in Harrison County. The road is currently unpaved and deemed unsafe, as large potholes also make it difficult for truck traffic to utilize the road. The project will support the creation of 25 new jobs and help retain 131 jobs.



Chauncey Sewer Replacement - Phase 1

ATHENS COUNTY

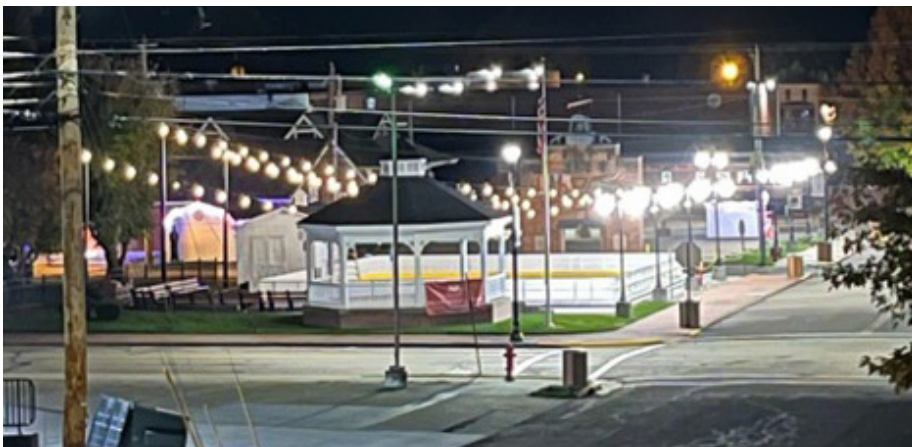
Phase 1 consists of the replacement of sanitary collection system components that serve approximately half of the Village of Chauncey. The project includes 11,341 feet of 8-inch to 12-inch gravity sewer, 38 manholes, 5,410 feet of service line, and 172 wye connections, along with all required restoration work. The project will improve sewer service for 372 households and 8 businesses in the village.



Village of Dennison Grant Street Downtown Streetscape Project

TUSCARAWAS COUNTY

The Village of Dennison's Grant Street Downtown Streetscape Project will update and correct storm sewers while also updating lighting and making sidewalk enhancements with brick inlays to make downtown Dennison more inviting for current and future businesses and customers alike. Through the improvement of the downtown area, increased foot traffic is anticipated, also leading to a strengthened tourism base. The project will further have a tremendous impact on local businesses by improving the area and making it more inviting to potential patrons. This project will improve 25 businesses in the downtown area.



BHRC

ARC Area Development Funds

\$500,000

Total Project Costs:

\$5,425,000

Partners:

**Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP),
US Army Corps of Engineers,
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency**



OMEGA

GOA Appalachian Assistance Funds:

\$171,406

Total Project Costs:

\$927,010

Partners:

**Village of Dennison, Reeves Foundation,
Local Businesses**



OVRDC

ARC Area Development Funds:

\$126,364

Total Project Costs:

\$180,520

Partners:

**Adena Health Systems,
Appalachian Regional
Commission**

Workforce Ecosystems

Adena Greenfield Medical Office Expansion Project

ROSS COUNTY

The Adena Greenfield Medical Center serves a rural population that relies on local health services and the expansion of existing services. The expansion project provides patients with medical care close to home and addresses the urgent need for local specialty services otherwise found only in neighboring facilities. It more convenient and adds less travel for sick patients who sometimes have transportation barriers. The upgrade provides additional waiting areas, exam rooms, and parking to supply the increased need. Funding through the ARC was used to purchase equipment, furniture, and IT resources to complete the project build. Outcomes include an increase in patient visits from 6000 currently to 17,000 by 2025, the addition of 11 new specialty services and four new full-time employees.



OVRDC

GOA Appalachian Assistance Funds:

\$175,000

Total Project Costs:

\$311,950

Partners:

**Gallia County Commissioners,
Appalachian Regional
Commission**

Career Exploration and Job Center Renovation

GALLIA COUNTY

The Career Center Exploration and Job Center Renovation project will renovate unoccupied buildings in Gallia County and utilize the space to provide career exploration, training, and job opportunities for individuals to advance in current employment; partner with employers to provide employees with the training and skill set to work in specialized settings and create a job center with career exploration opportunities. This project meets the ARC state goal to increase the education, knowledge, skills, and health of residents to work and succeed in Appalachia, as well as federal goals of building a workforce ecosystem to allow workers to earn, learn, and advance along a career pathway. The project will serve 100 workers and improve 100 workers.



YBI Xjet Workforce Education & Training

MAHONING COUNTY

This project will enhance career-specific education for the Youngstown Business Incubator (YBI) with the purchase of equipment to support workforce development programs and strategies of additive post-processing to assist businesses, workers, and students in learning how to cost-effectively integrate additive manufacturing into their operations. This project will serve 30 businesses, five organizations, 600 participants, 30 students, and 300 workers per year.



Utica Shale Academy Equity Through Individualized Workforce Training

COLUMBIANA COUNTY

The Equity Through Individualized Workforce Training project serves as a beacon of hope for Appalachian students finding themselves at a crossroads in their lives. The workforce development programs offered by Utica Shale Academy play an integral role in reducing regional unemployment, increasing regional income, shrinking regional poverty, and improving the regional standard of living. Students earn certification in heavy equipment operation and maintenance while participating in the YSU Skills Accelerator and connecting with future employers through the Equity in Workforce Development project. Phase One involves the construction of a house as instruction and training are simultaneously delivered to students earning their credentials.



Workforce Recovery to Work-Earn/Learn/Live Program

ASHTABULA COUNTY

This project will develop and support career-specific recovery-to-work education, workforce training, and housing to assist individuals in sustaining a successful career pathway. The project will provide a Chemical Dependency Counselor Assistant certification for 16 participants annually, receiving 40 hours of education to address the shortage of mental health care professionals and recovery fields serving two communities and four businesses. The project will also include sanitary upgrades to accommodate 16 onsite housing facilities.



Eastgate

ARC Area Development Funds:

\$120,300

Total Project Costs:

\$248,300

Partners:

Youngstown State University, America Makes, State Senator Michael Rulli, City of Warren Mayor, City of Youngstown Mayor, Juggerbot 3D, Humtown Additive Products, Mahoning County Commissioners



OMEGA

GOA Appalachian Assistance Funds:

\$149,097

Total Project Costs:

\$298,194

Partners:

Utica Shale Academy, Youngstown State University, Ascend Resources



Eastgate

GOA Appalachian Assistance Funds:

\$123,000

Total Project Costs:

\$176,200

Partners:

Ashtabula County Mental Health & Recovery Services Board, Flying HIGH Inc, Community Counseling Center, Ashtabula County Medical Center, Ashtabula County Commissioners

EASTGATE

Appalachian Community Grant Program

In 2023, the Eastgate team devoted efforts to work with our communities, Procured Planners, and private sector partners during Round 1 of the planning phase of the Appalachian Community Grant Program (ACGP) to identify and bring forth projects that will provide sustainable, regional, transformative change for future economic and community development within our region. Response to the program was overwhelming with many good projects being identified and resulted in strengthening collaboration in public-private partnerships within our communities. The outcome resulted in one vision in which Eastgate is the lead applicant seeking \$156 Million for 41 projects encompassing four counties, three ports, and two Local Development Districts for a single mega ACGP development application. These projects focus on all three investment areas of HB-377 noted as redevelopment, workforce, and healthcare that span both rural and urban areas. With Eastgate's proven track record of delivering state/federal projects, we have the capacity to administer the projects by the completion date of October 2026 and are hopeful the application will be awarded.

ACGP DEVELOPMENT GRANT: LAKE TO RIVER REVITALIZATION

EASTGATE
Regional Transformation

REGIONAL TRANSFORMATION

- 4 COUNTIES
- 3 PORTS
- 2 LDDs
- 1 VISION

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- ASHTABULA COUNTY
Commercial Development
& River District
- HEALTHCARE
- COLUMBIANA COUNTY
River Town Center
Addiction Recovery
- MAHONING COUNTY
Workforce Development
Center
- COMBINED DEVELOPMENT
- TRUMBULL COUNTY
Warren Peninsula
Redevelopment

READY TO IMPLEMENT: THE EASTGATE ADVANTAGE

- Eastgate is lead applicant for a single regional mega-project spanning from Lake Erie to Ohio River
- Encompasses Ohio's expanded's largest metro area
- Carefully coordinated effort of multiple ACGP Members
- Motivated & highly engaged public-private partnership
- Proven track record of delivering state/federal projects & capacity to complete construction by October 2026

Since the passage of H.B. 377, Eastgate has heeded the advice of ODOE/ODA to champion a cohesive regional vision for transformation across Eastern Ohio Appalachia.

- Our \$156 Million ACGP funding request leverages \$281 Million in local public-private investment.

For more info please contact: **Alio Kinosh, PE**
Executive Director
614.770.3000
a.kinosh@eastgateinc.com

EDA Program

In 2023, Eastgate saw another banner year in the management and oversight of the region's Economic Development Administration (EDA) program. Working collaboratively with local governments, educational institutions, non-profit organizations, and other regional stakeholders, Eastgate was able to provide technical assistance and expertise in the delivery of numerous applications for funding to the EDA's Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance (PWEAA) and Planning and Local Technical Assistance (PLTA) programs. This collaboration has resulted in more than ten EDA grant applications being funded between 2021 and 2023. Funding was used to complete a variety of feasibility studies, corridor improvement plans, industrial zone revitalization construction projects, and a regional tourism master plan to name a few.

A great example of cohesive regional partnerships is the Mahoning Avenue Industrial Corridor Upgrade. This project was the first to be funded under the EDA's FY2023 PWEAA program at an investment of \$2.5 million (Total Project Cost of \$5,536,618). For Eastgate, numerous staff committed their time to assisting the engineer's office with the grant application, providing expertise in a variety of ways while participating in application development calls and discussions for the better part of three months.

BHRC

Appalachian Community Grant Program

In 2023 Buckeye Hills was awarded a \$1.6 million Appalachian Community Grant Program Technical Assistance grant to support Southeast Ohio communities in developing competitive applications for Round 2 of the program. Utilizing American Rescue Plan Act dollars, the ACGP encouraged applicants to envision large-scale transformational projects that cross jurisdictional lines with a focus on community infrastructure, healthcare, and workforce development. Buckeye Hills Regional Council convened stakeholder meetings with more than 400 community leaders. Leveraging the ACGP technical assistance funding, Buckeye Hills was able to:



• Provide 1,489 hours of project management, legal, and grantwriting technical assistance to local governments and organizations

- Provide 31 building assessments and technical reports
- Identify 71 projects with a collective project cost of \$381 million for potential funding through the ACGP and other state and federal programs.

Arts & Economic Prosperity Study

In 2022 and 2023, Buckeye Hills Regional Council worked with 45 arts and culture organizations across Southeast Ohio to gather audience surveys and economic data for the sixth edition of the Arts & Economic Prosperity national study conducted by Americans for the Arts. The Buckeye Hills region's participation in the study was made possible with support from the Ohio Arts Council and the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

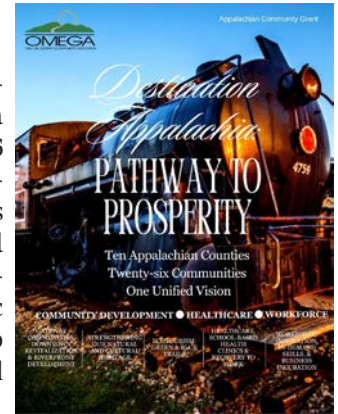
The study found that Southeast Ohio's nonprofit arts and culture industry generated \$24,677,808 in economic activity in 2022. This activity—\$12,209,889 in spending by nonprofit cultural organizations and \$12,467,919 in event-related spending by their audiences—supported 452 jobs and generated \$3,417,338 in local, state, and federal government revenue. This spending by arts and culture audiences generates valuable commerce for local merchants. Southeast Ohio communities have made considerable investments in recent years to renovate historic theatres and sustain local museums and cultural institutions. The Arts & Economic Prosperity Study shows that these investments provide a substantial annual return and contribute to the rich cultural fabric of Ohio's Appalachian region. The detailed Southeast Ohio Arts & Economic Prosperity study is available at buckeyehills.org/arts.

INDO HILLS ARTS

OMEGA

Destination Appalachia: Pathway to Prosperity

OMEGA submitted the application, Destination Appalachia: Pathway to Prosperity, a \$158,029,208 request impacting 10 counties, 26 communities, and 41 projects, to Ohio's Appalachian Community Grant Program. OMEGA's region has never seen this scale of tax, job, and consumer spending impacts from a 2-year construction window as detailed in an economic impact study performed by The Montrose Group LLC highlighting the unprecedented regional impact of our application.



Highlights of the regional impact study include:

- A total economic impact of nearly \$174 million, a more than 100% return on the ACG total investment from the construction years alone
- Nearly \$3 million in new local tax revenue to be yielded during construction.
- A 5-year region-wide operations impacts (2027-2031) of \$900 million and 6,098 new jobs to be added.
- A 7-year total region-wide impact (construction plus five years of operations) of over \$1 Billion, 7,349 new jobs, and \$18,518,187 in new local taxes to be realized.

“This marked a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the Appalachian region, and I am most proud of the spirit of collaboration that was demonstrated throughout the process among our partnering constituents,” explained Dr. Vicki King-Maple, Executive Director. “We carefully vetted over 90 projects, and the 41 that went into our regional application have not only demonstrated the ability to deliver transformational, sustainable projects, but they have done so through quantifiable, actionable, and achievable outcomes and research.”

ARC POWER

In 2023, three new ARC POWER grants were awarded by the Appalachian Regional Commission for projects in the OMEGA Region. Projects included: (1) the Mid-East Career and Technology Centers’ project to construct a CDL Training and Testing Center near Zanesville in Muskingum County; (2) a Broadband Expansion project led by Tuscarawas County Economic Development Corporation; and (3) the Grand Theater Renovations in Steubenville in Jefferson County. OMEGA has agreed to administer all three grants, including environmental reviews, procurement, federal compliance, and reporting.

OVRDC

OVRDC saw a robust year of growth and service in 2023. The \$500 million Appalachian Community Grant Program (ACGP) accepted Round 2 applications encouraging transformative change in three project focus areas: infrastructure, workforce, and healthcare. The Local Development Districts of Ohio were tasked with local coordination, and OVRDC facilitated online meetings and assisted four lead applicants with submissions. OVRDC allocated portions of a \$250,000 EDA grant received through the Ohio Department of Development to hire a full-time ACGP consultant and to support broadband expansion efforts in the region to continue broadband research and education, including a broadband gap analysis mapping project.

OVRDC is a Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO), and we continue to see growth in transportation programs. In 2023, state legislators passed HB23 of the 135th General Assembly, nearly doubling the RTPO's previous capital budget for projects. With a yearly budget of \$1.2 million, OVRDC's transportation committee increased the maximum award amount for Surface Transportation Block Grants (STBG) to \$500,000 and set aside \$200,000 from each year's allocation specifically for engineering projects.

OVRDC was awarded a Safe Streets and Roads for All Action Plan federal grant from the Department of Transportation to develop a comprehensive safety action plan for the region and hired a Regional Transit Coordination Specialist to develop a regional transit plan.



This year, the OVRDC region is ramping up to welcome international visitors to the UNESCO World Heritage The Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks sites. The Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks is a group of eight archeological sites in southern Ohio, including the Mound City Group, Hopewell Mound Group, High Bank Earthworks and the Seip Earthworks in Ross County, pictured above. The designation will likely result in a 100% increase in visitors to the sites and contribute an annual economic impact of \$ 12.5 million to the three counties where the sites are located, according to a study from the Ohio University Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Service.

1000 Highlights

THIS REPORT WAS PRODUCED
IN GRATITUDE FOR OUR FUNDERS,
PARTNERS, AND SUPPORTERS
OF THE FEATURED INITIATIVES.



Appalachian
Regional
Commission



Department of
Development

