



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

NOVEMBER 1, 2024

Buckeye Hills Regional Council

### AGENDA

- I. **Call to Order** | Lenny Eliason, President
- II. **Roll Call** | Chasity Schmelzenbach, Secretary
- III. **Consent Agenda** | Lenny Eliason, President **TAB #1**
- IV. **Management Committee Update** | Ron Moore, Chair **TAB #2**
  - a. Recommendation to Approve Cost Allocation Plan FY'2026 | Denise Keyes, Fiscal Director
  - b. Management Committee Report | Angie Lawrence, HR Director
  - c. Recommendation to Update Organization Chart | Angie Lawrence, HR Director
  - d. Recommendation to Approve Salary Scale Increase to Meet the FLSA Rule 2025 | Angie Lawrence, HR Director
  - e. Staff Evals & Recommendations of Salary Increases for Jan. 1, 2025 | Angie Lawrence, HR Director
- V. **Aging & Health Division Update** | Jennifer Westfall, Aging & Health Director **TAB #3**
  - a. Resolution of the Buckeye Hills Regional Council to Approve the PY 2025 Area Plan Update
- VI. **Development Department Update** | Sam Miller, Director **TAB #4**
  - a. Resolution Granting Permission to Enter into a Contract with Project Management and Operations Consultants
- VII. **Planning Division Update** | Melissa Zoller, Director **TAB #5**
  - a. Memorandum of Understanding Between BHRC and WWW Interstate Planning Commission
  - b. Permission to work with Officers to Complete and Sign Resolutions for Mobility Applications
- VIII. **Executive Director Report** | Chasity Schmelzenbach **TAB #6**
- IX. **Member Round Table**
- X. **Legislator and Partner Agency Updates**

XI. **Citizen Participation**

- a. Bret Adams

XII. **Other Business**

- a. December Meeting – Same time as CCAO Winter Conference

XIII. **Adjournment**

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**THE NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 6, 2024.**

**Minutes of the October 4, 2024  
Buckeye Hills Regional Council Executive Committee Meeting**

The Buckeye Hills Regional Council (BHRC) Executive Committee meeting was held October 4, 2024. The meeting was held at Buckeye Hills, Marietta, Ohio.

In attendance were:

<b>OFFICERS:</b>	Lenny Eliason, President James Booth, Treasurer Chasity Schmelzenbach, Secretary (non-voting member per Bylaws)	Athens County Washington County BHRC
<b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:</b>	Steve Patterson Jason D’Onofrio Adam Shriver Allen Fraley Ben Carpenter	City of Athens Hocking County Morgan County Noble County Perry County
<b>GENERAL POLICY COUNCIL:</b>	Kevin Ritter	Washington County
<b>GUESTS:</b>	John Carey Kaleb Knowlton Caleb Shriver Amber Kohler Juli Stephens Joy Evangelista Matt Wyscarver	Governor’s Office of Appalachia Office of U.S. Senator Brown Office of U.S. Senator Vance Office of U.S. Representative Rulli Office of U.S. Representative Wenstrup Hocking County CIC Wolf Creek
<b>STAFF:</b>	Angie Lawrence Denise Keyes Drew Tanner Emma Yeager Eric Wade Jen Huck Jenny Simmons Kate Dunn Michelle Hyer Melissa Zoller Sam Miller Sarah Swisher Sheena Childress	HR & Payroll Manager Fiscal Director Communications Director Development Specialist Senior Planner Fiscal Assistant Executive Assistant Senior Planner Program Manager Planner Director Development Director Clinical Program Manager Clinical Program Manager

**CALL TO ORDER**

Lenny Eliason, President, called the meeting to order.

**ROLE CALL**

Chasity Schmelzenbach, Secretary, conducted roll call.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Steve Patterson moved to approve the consent agenda which included the minutes from the August 2, 2024, meeting; Statement of Activities; Administrative Expense YTD; Aging and Disability Programs Services and Funding Report for period July 1, 2023, through August 31,

2024, and Division and Director's Reports. Adam Shriver seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

### **REAPPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES TO APPALACHIAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Allen Fraley moved to reappoint the following slate of trustees to another term (2024 – 2027) on the Appalachian Development Corporation: Lenny Eliason (Athens County); Adam Shriver (Morgan County); Ron Moore (Morgan County); Ben Carpenter (Perry County); Jeff Minosky (Noble County). Jason D'Onofrio seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

### **GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF APPALACHIA**

John Carey, Director, provided updates from the Governor's Office of Appalachia to the committee.

### **LEGISLATIVE & PARTNER AGENCY UPDATES**

Amber Kohler, Office of U.S. Representative Rulli, provided updates to the committee.  
Juli Stephens, Office of U.S. Representative Brad Wenstrup, provided updates to the committee.  
Caleb Shriver, Office of U.S. Senator Vance, provided updates to the committee.  
Kaleb Knowlton, Office of U.S. Senator Brown, provided updates to the committee.

### **FISCAL DIRECTOR UPDATE**

James Booth moved to increase the dollar amount the Executive Director is authorized to spend on expenditures without Executive Committee approval from \$10,000 to \$15,000 presented by Denise Keyes, Fiscal Director. Ben Carpenter seconded the motion. During discussion Steve Patterson encouraged the threshold be moved to \$20,000 due to significant inflation since the last increase. Both James Booth and Ben Carpenter agreed to revise their motion reflecting the increase from \$10,000 to \$20,000 permissive spending threshold by the Executive Direction. All yeas. Motion carried.

Steve Patterson moved to increase the fixed asset depreciation threshold from \$5,000 to \$10,000 presented by Denise Keyes, Fiscal Director. Ben Carpenter seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

### **DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT UPDATE**

Steve Patterson moved to approve the Resolution of Support for Appalachian Regional Commission 2024-2025 Projects presented by Sam Miller, Development Director. Jason D'Onofrio seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

Director Schmelzenbach provided the following updates to the committee:  
Congratulations!

- ARC INSPIRE Grant Awards awarded nearly \$11.5M to 39 recovery-to-work projects. ACENET was awarded \$499,945 and Washington County Commissioners received \$50,000.
- Communities received local safety improvements and sign upgrade grants. The City of Athens received \$1,500,000 for a roundabout and resurfacing project. Columbia, Seneca, Elk Jackson and Liberty Townships received sign program projects.
- Counties received Neighborhood Revitalization Grants. Athens County will receive \$750,000 to assist the village of Jacksonville. Monroe County will also receive \$750,000 to assist the village of Beallsville.
- Athens County Port Authority received two Ohio Brownfield Remediation Grants totaling \$299,297.
- Governor DeWine announced H2Ohio grants for road salts managements. The City of Athens received \$24,294; Marion Township received \$67,540; Waterford Township received \$75,000.
- Meigs County Farmer's Market was voted the number one market in Ohio.

- The Ohio Historical Underground Railroad Trail expansion includes sites in Morgan and Washington counties.
- Local foundations selected for ARC READY Community Foundations: Hocking County Community Fund; Marietta Community Foundation; Monroe County Community: Noble County Community Foundation

#### BHRC Division Stats:

- Aging:
  - 62 AL Enrollees
  - 796 PASSPORT Enrollees (17 utilize Choices Home Care)
  - Provider Relations – 180% increase in the number of reviews for the first three quarters of last year. Down to 7% of PASSPORT individuals with unmet needs.
- Development:
  - Administering \$95M across 17 ACGP projects from design through construction.
  - Received 3 Clean Ohio applications for a total of \$1.7M.
  - Received 41 OPWC applications for a total of \$20M, but only have \$8M to allocate.
- Planning:
  - \$8.3M in Health Care Facility Construction
  - Approx. \$3M in Brownfield/Demo admin.

#### Current Initiatives

- Appalachian Community Grant Program Updates: The last two kickoff meetings with communities will be held on October 7, 2024, in New Philadelphia and Zanesville with ILCAO. All others are completed, and the communities are moving forward on their designs with planners.
- Unfunded Catalog: Staff worked to put together a catalog of all projects that can be released into the region to help everyone find funding for these projects. We hope to put the finishing touches on the project and have it ready to show at the next meeting.
- Climate Change Grant Application: There will be \$40 million in total proposed to include resilience hubs in at least 4 counties, and an advanced manufacturing ecosystem created with workforce training partners, and industry willing to employ those trained by locating portions of their existing businesses to the region over a period of the next 5-10 years.

#### State Updates

- Greater Ohio Policy Council Releases “How to Build Safe, Vibrant Streets in Ohio: A Guide for Non-Engineers”: Written for local government staff, elected officials, local Active Transportation advocates, and community members. Download the guide from [greaterohio.org](http://greaterohio.org).
  - Ohio EPA Grant Deadlines: Ohio EPA’s Recycling and Litter Prevention Program applications open Monday, October 7, 2024, and closes Friday, December 6, 2024.
  - ODNR Land and Water Conservation Fund Applications are due November 15, 2024.
  - Ohio Scholars in Aging Program Applications are due November 8, 2024.
- Governor DeWine launched Ohio Recovery Friendly Workplace Program: New program designed to create job opportunities for people in recovery from a substance use disorder or mental health condition, combat stigma surrounding addiction and mental illness in the workplace and provide a boost to Ohio businesses.

#### Federal Updates

- EPA Assistance Available to Promote Outdoor Recreation Economies: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is accepting applications through October 16, 2024, for the Recreation Economy for Rural Communities program. This program provides planning assistance to communities to identify strategies to grow the outdoor recreation economy and revitalize local main streets.
- American Rescue Plan Act Fiscal Recovery Funds Obligation Deadline Approaching: The obligation deadline for State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds is fast approaching. All funds, including those used under the revenue loss category, must be obligated by December 31, 2024.

Upcoming Conferences & Events:

- October 11 – Mental Health First Aid Training – Scenic Hills Senior Center
- October 23 – MORPC Rural Forum: Zoning Intro the Future - Perry County Opportunity Center
- October 24 – Mental Health First Aid Training – OSU Extension Noble County
- October 30 – BHRC Aging & Health Regional Advisory Council – Buckeye Hills Regional Council
- October 30 – Mental Health First Aid Training – The Blakeslee Center
- November 7 – BHRC Ohio Aging Summit – Buckeye Hills Regional Council
- November 15 – Strong Towns: Escaping the Housing Trap

**MEMBER ROUND TABLE**

Each member had the opportunity to share updates from their county. This open-floor format allowed members to discuss their current initiatives, challenges and successes.

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

No citizens present wished to address the committee.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no other business, James Booth moved to adjourn the meeting. Adam Shriver seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

Approved By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chasity Schmelzenbach, Secretary

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## **STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**

July 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024

### **Year to Date Administrative Expense Detail**

Administrative Expenses for Fiscal Year 2025 totaled \$1,647,866.78 at September 30. This total represents 23.21% of the Council's administrative budget utilized. Total spending for this time period is budgeted to be 25%. Individual line-item budgets and expenses are monitored monthly to ensure funds are utilized appropriately and budget revisions are requested from funding agencies as needed. The cumulative Indirect Cost rate for this period is 46%. The Projected Indirect Rate for Fiscal Year 2025 is 46%. A Quarterly Budget Adjustment is attached for review. The additional funds added to the first quarter represent new programs.

### **Aging and Disability Programs Services & Funding Report**

The Aging and Disability Division worked with various service providers and helped administer a multitude of direct service programs to eligible residents of our eight-county region. Between July 1 and September 30, more than \$4.4 million in direct service dollars were utilized to provide the units of service listed in the report. BHRC continues to support our provider network to evaluate the needs of the communities and serve area seniors in the best way possible.



## Administrative Expense Detail

For the Period July 1, 2024 - September 30, 2024

	2024 YTD Actual	2025 YTD Actual	2025 Budget	% of Budget
Salary	\$ 783,301.07	\$ 889,563.20	\$ 3,674,155.18	24.21%
Fringe Benefits	\$ 405,774.31	\$ 463,693.25	\$ 2,047,753.49	22.64%
Advertising	\$ 53,985.49	\$ 19,268.52	\$ 128,785.00	14.96%
Audit Costs	\$ 5,500.00		\$ 32,000.00	0.00%
Building Maintenance	\$ 1,064.00	\$ 5,296.53	\$ 13,000.00	40.74%
Communications	\$ 21,559.37	\$ 22,796.48	\$ 101,875.00	22.38%
Conference Registration Fee	\$ 9,602.80	\$ 11,136.52	\$ 44,200.00	25.20%
Contract Services	\$ 9,255.56	\$ 7,850.45	\$ 194,752.76	4.03%
Employee/Governing Board	\$ 3,728.22	\$ 1,435.40	\$ 15,000.00	9.57%
Equipment Purchase/Maintenance	\$ 6,179.19	\$ 4,028.89	\$ 22,800.00	17.67%
Insurance	\$ 21,994.74		\$ 41,000.00	0.00%
Legal Costs	\$ 785.00	\$ 2,075.00	\$ 4,500.00	46.11%
Organizational Dues	\$ 5,761.70	\$ 2,023.42	\$ 20,180.00	10.03%
Other Costs	\$ 4,772.34	\$ 3,743.65	\$ 13,600.00	27.53%
Postage	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 4,871.72	\$ 13,000.00	37.47%
Printing Costs	\$ 164.00	\$ 1,267.00	\$ 16,000.00	7.92%
Software & Licenses	\$ 27,319.45	\$ 36,149.00	\$ 110,815.00	32.62%
Space	\$ 63,835.23	\$ 63,835.17	\$ 255,340.00	25.00%
Staff Training Fees	\$ 2,143.17	\$ 1,976.24	\$ 9,000.00	21.96%
Subscriptions	\$ 6,146.93	\$ 5,184.17	\$ 8,500.00	60.99%
Supplies	\$ 16,712.06	\$ 27,276.11	\$ 95,966.00	28.42%
Travel - Mileage Reimbursement	\$ 37,163.00	\$ 45,213.29	\$ 137,628.81	32.85%
Travel - Out of Town Expense	\$ 20,192.52	\$ 29,182.77	\$ 100,000.00	29.18%
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES FOR THE PERIOD</b>	<b>\$ 1,509,940.15</b>	<b>\$ 1,647,866.78</b>	<b>\$ 7,099,851.24</b>	<b>23.21%</b>
<b>INDIRECT COST RATE FOR THE PERIOD</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>46%</b>		





**Quarterly Budget Adjustment**  
**For the Period July 1, 2024 -June 30, 2025**

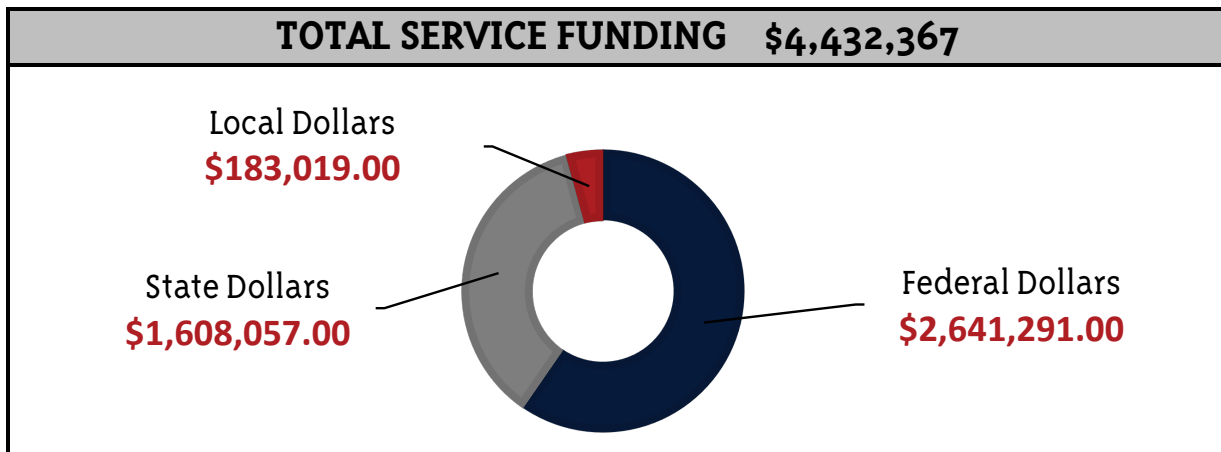
	Original Budget	07/24 - 09/24 Change	10/24 - 12/24 Change	01/25 - 03/25 Change	04/25 - 06/25 Change	Final Budget
Salary	\$ 3,483,759.06	\$ 190,396.12				\$ 3,674,155.18
Fringe Benefits	\$ 2,009,341.12	\$ 38,412.37				\$ 2,047,753.49
Advertising	\$ 128,785.00					\$ 128,785.00
Audit Costs	\$ 32,000.00					\$ 32,000.00
Building Maintenance	\$ 13,000.00					\$ 13,000.00
Communications	\$ 101,875.00					\$ 101,875.00
Conference Registration Fee	\$ 44,200.00					\$ 44,200.00
Contract Services	\$ 87,700.00	\$ 107,052.76				\$ 194,752.76
Employee/Governing Board	\$ 15,000.00					\$ 15,000.00
Equipment Purchase/Maintenance	\$ 22,800.00					\$ 22,800.00
Insurance	\$ 41,000.00					\$ 41,000.00
Legal Costs	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,500.00				\$ 4,500.00
Organizational Dues	\$ 20,180.00					\$ 20,180.00
Other Costs	\$ 13,600.00					\$ 13,600.00
Postage	\$ 13,000.00					\$ 13,000.00
Printing Costs	\$ 16,000.00					\$ 16,000.00
Software & Licenses	\$ 110,815.00					\$ 110,815.00
Space	\$ 255,340.00					\$ 255,340.00
Staff Training Fees	\$ 9,000.00					\$ 9,000.00
Subscriptions	\$ 8,500.00					\$ 8,500.00
Supplies	\$ 68,375.00	\$ 27,591.00				\$ 95,966.00
Travel - Mileage Reimbursement	\$ 137,628.81					\$ 137,628.81
Travel - Out of Town Expense	\$ 100,000.00					\$ 100,000.00
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ 6,733,898.99</b>	<b>\$ 365,952.25</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 7,099,851.24</b>

# Buckeye Hills Regional Council

## Aging and Health Programs Services & Funding Report

July 1, 2024 - September 30, 2024

SERVICES PROVIDED		
Direct Service Hours Provided	Transportation Trips	Adult Day Service Days Attended
<b>95,564</b>	<b>3,074</b>	<b>837</b>
Adult Day Service Miles Traveled	Meals Provided	Home Medical Equipment & Emergency Response Units
<b>8,827</b>	<b>67,580</b>	<b>856</b>
Legal Services Contacts	Home Accessibility Modification And Pest Control Jobs	Senior Farmers Market Coupons Redeemed
<b>207</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>15,756</b>
Grocery Shopping and Delivery	Assisted Living Days	Evidence Based Classes
<b>67</b>	<b>4,612</b>	<b>143</b>
	Alzheimers Education Contacts	
	<b>115</b>	



REGIONAL STATS		
Total Consumers Served	Total Population	Total Population Eligible for Services by Age (60+)
<b>5,431</b>	<b>249,172</b>	<b>65,746</b>

## PROGRAM UPDATES

**New Older American Act Regulations** | The senior management team is busy working to understand and implement the new Older American Act Regulations that were released earlier in the year. These new regulations could have a large impact on BHRC Aging programming. A regulation being watched closely by senior leadership;

*Contract Oversight: this regulation states that the Ohio Department of Aging will have to provide approval for ALL contracts entered into by BHRC.*

BHRC has concern about this regulation establishing state unit overreach and limiting BHRC's ability to implement contracts in a timely fashion. Senior leadership continues to work with O4A, ODA and other state and national organizations in response to this regulation. (Comments attached)

**Older American Act (OAA) Rule Updates and Implementation** | OAA rule updates and implementation are occurring at the Ohio Department of Aging (ODA). A rule that is being followed closely involved a requirement to provide case management services to any individual who receives a meal, service or support from an Older American Act funded source. ODA is directing the AAAs to develop a case management program to support these individuals and to utilize OAA funding to support the implementation. This is a concern for the aging network due to any funding utilized by the AAAs to implement the case management service will result in lowered funding amounts for our focal point services providers (senior centers/community actions). BHRC will provide follow-up as new information develops. (Rule and comments attached)

**Technology Education Programs** | Technology Education Programs were selected to receive the Partnership Award from the Ohio Association of Area Agencies (O4A). The award is voted on by other AAAs and given to entities that have joined forces with a local AAA to implement an impactful program. Both the Noble County and Monroe County Boards of Commissioners worked with BHRC, through the Healthy Aging Grants, to implement internet literacy programs in their respective counties. The award was presented in Columbus at the O4A Annual Conference at Easton on October 23, 2024.

**NCQA Accreditation** | The NCQA Accreditation process has begun with the beginning meeting with our consultant teams underway. It is estimated that the process will be completed within 18 months. The goal of the accreditation is to standardize and streamline BHRC's case management services for future work within MyCare. If you have any questions, please reach out to Jenn Westfall at [jwestfall@buckeyehills.org](mailto:jwestfall@buckeyehills.org) or Dawn Weber at [dweber@buckeyehills.org](mailto:dweber@buckeyehills.org).

**Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) for the 2024** | SFMNP wrapped up October 31<sup>st</sup>. This year we were able to advocate to keep a paper and local process for our SFM. It does appear that for 2026, BHRC will be required to participate in an electronic version of SFMNP. This means that individuals will apply online, receive a redemption card and farmers will be required to accept electronic payment. This system is highly dependent on internet/cell service availability. BHRC will continue to advocate for a paper system or a hybrid system that still allows our rural residents and farmers to participate in Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program.

### The 2024 Program served: 3,418 individuals

Athens	593	Hocking	335	Meigs	331
Monroe	141	Morgan	331	Noble	194

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

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

## PASSPORT AND ASSISTED LIVING CASELOAD REGIONWIDE

PASSPORT: **801 individuals**

Assisted Living Waiver **62 individuals**

### STAFF UPDATES

**Annual o4A Conference at Easton** | Twelve staff attended the Annual O4A Conference at Easton on October 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> at the Hilton Easton. Sandy Markwood, the CEO of USAging joined the conference to share federal updates and initiatives with the group. O4A also presented the USAging Disaster Relief Fund with a \$10,000 check in support of Helene and Milton relief efforts. The funds will be distributed to impacted Area Agencies on Aging to assist AAA staff who are overcoming the challenges facing the area. Funds can be used to assist staff and clients alike.

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**CONTACT:** Jenn Westfall, Aging and Health Director | [jwestfall@buckeyehills.org](mailto:jwestfall@buckeyehills.org) | 740-376-1038  
Dawn Weber, Home Care Director | [dweber@buckeyehills.org](mailto:dweber@buckeyehills.org) | 740-376-1041

# DRAFT

## Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging Comments: OAA Case Management Rules

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the changes to the Older Americans Act: Case Management rules.

The Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging has concerns about a change that will result in significant cost and program implications that are not supported by current funding through the Older Americans Act.

The proposed new rule would require case management services to be provided for the following services that are funded in whole or part with OAA funds: adult day service, chores, homemaker service, personal care, home-delivered meals.

ODA indicates that there is a federal requirement to require providers, AAAs, and ODA to report data to ACL on how consumers qualify for these services. From this requirement, ODA concludes that the OAA and ACL require states to require the provision of OAA case management services. There is nothing in the Act or federal regulations requiring states to require the provision of case management services.

Currently, AAAs and their contracted providers are required to assess and record NAPIS data including the ADLs/IADLs and demographics for each person who receives OAA services in WellSky. Dependent on the consumer's route to receive services, either the AAA or the providers collect this information on intake. AAAs monitor providers reporting to ensure initial and annual assessments are performed and completed as required.

We urge you to consider how to implement the data collection requirement in a way that minimizes administrative burden and prevents reduction of services to older Ohioans that addresses their basic needs.

We appreciate ODA changing the proposed rule to not require ongoing case management for a consumer who does not continue to receive the specified services, and that the qualifications to be a case manager are not stringent or burdensome.

However, we have several concerns about the proposed rule.

Most AAAs, and/or their providers, already provide case management services, but this new rule would require upheaval of the current process and result in redirection of limited OAA funds to case management from OAA supportive services (Title III b), which is already a limited funding stream that AAAs stretch to meet the needs of their communities.

Some AAAs provide case management through other funding to maximize the Older Americans Act funding to allow the provision of more services to older Ohioans. We suggest that ODA allow existing CM programs that are non-OAA funded to continue to provide the service, rather than duplicate services, but require reporting of the necessary data.

We also suggest that ODA determine the least burdensome way for agencies to gather and report the data needed to allow minimal disruption of existing services and maximum use of OAA dollars. Requiring separate CM services for every home delivered meal client would alter the existing system causing an administrative burden and would ultimately lower the number of individuals receiving meals.

Some of the AAA's contract with providers of home delivered meals or other services to also provide case management for those individuals receiving services. ODA asserts in response to rule comments by the AAAs that it would be a conflict of interest to allow providers who provide the specified services to also provide case management services.

The Older Americans Act does not recognize providers who serve multiple roles as having a conflict of interest because of having those roles. AAAs are required to review "service utilization and financial incentives to ensure agency employees, governing board and advisory council members, grantees, contractors and other awardees **who serve multiple roles, such as assessment and service delivery**, are appropriately stewarding Federal resources while fostering services to enhance access to community living." 45 [CFR](#) Sec. 1321.67. It does not state that these entities are prohibited from serving multiple roles. One way that such arrangements can be structured to minimize concerns is to create firewalls within the organization if there is a concern about misdirection of resources or inappropriate referrals.

Additionally, in many counties, there are a limited number of service providers, and in many, there is only one. As a result, it is reasonable to allow that service provider to also provide case management.

Ultimately, we would ask ODA to consider how to meet state data collection requirements in the most flexible way. We urge ODA to draft a rule to allow flexibility in provision of services to allow the AAAs to meet the needs of their communities through leveraging multiple funding streams and providers.

Requiring case management for every individual receiving one of the identified services will result in significantly increased staff time and costs for AAAs who do not provide case management now. It will require redirecting of OAA funding from for direct vital services that are already in high demand. This may create waiting lists for existing services in some areas of the state while extending the current waiting list for services in other areas. This requirement will also take the freedom of choice from older Ohioans that may not want case management

service but want a nutritious meal or a safe place at an Adult Day center while a caregiver works or needs respite.

Rather than require case management for each OAA service, ODA could allow the AAA/or provider to continue to complete the NAPIS assessment for all members who need services, but the individual's assessed needs could then determine whether the assignment of a case manager is necessary based on a system such as acuity score sheets to determine the highest need for services and case management.

Should this rule move forward as written, AAAs should be provided with enough time to implement the rule. As it is written, the AAAs will have to restructure contracts, hire staff, shift funding and update their area plans. This will take significant time.

In conclusion, based on the information above, we suggest the following:

- Determine the least burdensome way for agencies to gather and report the data needed to allow minimal disruption of existing services and maximum use of OAA dollars.
- Allow existing CM programs that are non-OAA funded to continue to provide the service, rather than duplicate services, and require reporting of the necessary data.
- Allow the AAA/or provider to continue to complete the NAPIS assessment for all members who need services, but the individual's assessed needs could then determine whether the assignment of a case manager is necessary based on a system such as acuity score sheets to determine the highest need for services and case management.
- AAAs should be provided with enough time to implement the rule.

## **Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging Comments on OAA Regulations: Contracting Provisions**

Submitted 10/18/2024    Contact Beth Kowalczyk: [kowalczyk@ohioaging.org](mailto:kowalczyk@ohioaging.org)

42 CFR 1321.9(c)(2)(XIV)

It is our understanding that ACL will be providing subregulatory guidance to states on this issue in October. As a result, we suggest that ODA wait until that guidance is released before proposing changes to the Ohio Administrative Code to implement this section.

ACL has indicated in its comments in 89 Fed. Reg. 11586 et seq. that it encourages the states to implement a review and approval process that is not onerous, is transparent, streamlined, not overly burdensome, can be implemented easily and does not cause undue delay. ACL believes that developing policies and procedures under this section, in consultation with AAAs, will expedite establishment of important partnerships. ACL strongly encourages state agencies to seek input from Area Agencies on Aging to help achieve a balanced and feasible approach to minimize risks while enabling expansion of services.

In developing the processes, SUAs are required to establish processes for Area Agencies on Aging to receive prior approval to establish contacts and commercial relationships, and the processes are expected to be flexible and streamlined. ACL does not believe that it should usually be necessary to review contract documents to approve establishment of a contract or commercial relationship. The oversight policies and procedures should be commensurate to the degree of risk associated with a specific contract or commercial relationship. It should also be related to use or defined services in the OAA, with contracts developed with funding not tied to the OAA and services not covered by the act requiring a lower level of review due to a lower level of risk to OAA funds.

Ohio Area Agencies on Aging have many different contractual relationships that enable them to broaden their reach in serving older adults and people with disabilities. They have agreements with state agencies and county governments, health plans and health systems, and other entities and organizations. They also have a large number of contracts with providers.

We have some initial recommendations we ask ODA to consider, and because of the significance and breadth of the issue, we recommend that the AAAs be fully involved with the opportunity to have meaningful engagement with ODA in the development of the actual language being proposed to implement the regulations.

The Ohio Department of Aging can:

1. Decide as a matter of policy that all contracts and commercial relationships to expand reach of services be approved unless certain concerning conditions exist that would indicate higher risk or concern.
2. Establish a process for preapproval for AAAs to establish general categories of contracts and commercial relationships with certain types of organizations, e.g. OAA service providers, and MyCare managed care plans since they are required by law.
3. Request information about a contractual or commercial relationship without having to share contract documents for review.



## **PROGRAM UPDATES**

**HEAP Outreach** | Regular HEAP promotion began in October and will continue through the winter and spring heating season. Using our annual HEAP grant, outreach is being conducted through outdoor advertising (billboards) throughout the region, bi-weekly social media content, and press releases. The first press release was distributed to local media on October 3. Additionally, brochures about the program are distributed at in-person outreach events and included in the Long-Term Care Consultation guides that are provided when our Assessors are visiting individuals in their homes. Ohio Department of Aging has become more prescriptive in its social media outreach guidance, so our social media content will look a little different than it has in the past to comply with their requests.

### **Aging Outreach** |

Outreach has been underway at events across our region. Most recently, we attended:

- Veterans Appreciation Event – October 7 – Meigs County
- HAPCAP Congregate Meal Presentation - October 7 – Athens County
- Scenic Hills Senior Center Fall Health Fair – October 9 – Hocking County
- Delta Kappa Gamma Presentation – October 28 – Perry County
- Perry County Veterans Extravaganza – October 30 – Perry County

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

**Medicare Outreach** | General Medicare posts and information on Extra Help, Medicare Savings Programs, and Preventative Services are running on a weekly basis across our social media channels. A press release announcing Open Enrollment was distributed to local media on October 18. As part of our MIPPA grant, ads about the Medicare Extra Help Program will be placed on pharmacy prescription bags throughout the region through the Medibag advertising program. We are continuing our partnership with Senior Medicare Patrol and educating seniors about Medicare Fraud and Safety measures.

**Aging Summit** | As of October 24, 30 individuals were registered for Aging in Southeast Ohio, a Summit for Practitioners and Caregivers. Sessions include a budget and policy update from Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging Executive Director Beth Kowalczyk, Medicaid Estate Recovery with Pro Seniors Managing Attorney Miriam Sheline, Senior Housing with St. Mary's Development Corporation President Tim Bete, and How AI is Shaping Aging with Ohio University Assistant Clinical Professor Rick Hodges. A press release about the summit was distributed to local media on October 9. Registration is now open at [buckeyehills.org/event/aging-in-southeast-ohio](https://buckeyehills.org/event/aging-in-southeast-ohio). Executive Committee and Regional Advisory Committee members may receive complimentary registration with the code GPCRAC when registering online.

**Mental Health First-Aid Training Outreach** | The Communications team provided support to Aging to promote registration for the Mental Health First-Aid certification training offered in Caldwell on October 24 and Middleport on October 30. This has included press releases, emails to our subscriber list, advertising in the local newspapers and on social media, inclusion in our October newsletter, and outreach to targeted groups.

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**CarFit Outreach** | The Communications team is supporting the Monroe and Noble County Mobility Managers to promote their CarFit clinics on October 31 in Woodsfield and November 14 near Caldwell. This has included press releases, inclusion in our October newsletter, and social media.

## RECENT MEDIA

**October 4, 2024 – River Cities News & Tribune:** Heating Assistance Available in Meigs County

**October 7, 2024 – Journal-Leader:** Heating Assistance Available

**October 9, 2024 – Morgan County Herald:** Heating Assistance Available

**October 10 – Marietta Times:** Registration open for Aging in Southeast Ohio

**October 10 – Marietta Times:** Heating Assistance Available for Ohioans

**October 10 – Logan Daily News:** Registration open for Aging in Southeast Ohio: A Summit for Practitioners and Caregivers

**October 14 – Journal-Leader:** Heating Assistance Available

**October 16 – AVC News (yourradioplac.com):** Noble County to Host Mental Health First Aid Training for Caregivers

**October 17 – Wetzel Chronicle:** Former Riverside Golf Course To Be Transformed Into Maritime Complex (Monroe County)

**October 14 & 21 – Journal-Leader:** Mental Health First Aid Training Come to Noble County October 24

**October 19 – Logan Daily News:** Medicare open enrollment is here

**October 22 – Various:** Medicare Open Enrollment is Here

**October 22 – Athens Independent:** Aging in Southeast Ohio Summit

**October 24 – Morgan County Herald:** Registration now open for Aging in Southeast Ohio: A Summit for Practitioners and Caregivers

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**CONTACT INFO:** Drew Tanner, Communications Director | [dtanner@buckeyehills.org](mailto:dtanner@buckeyehills.org) | 740-376-1030

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## CURRENT INITIATIVES

**Resolution to Execute a Contract for Project Management and Operations Consultant** | Buckeye Hills Regional Council received, reviewed, and evaluated qualifications from experienced consultants to provide project management and operations consulting services. From those, we selected Julia Robinson, who will work closely with the Development Division to ensure the successful planning, execution, and management of our regional projects. The contract will be for two years and not to exceed \$150,000.

## NEWS

### Program & Service Updates

**Memorial Health System Breaks Ground on Women's & Children's Hospital** | Community leaders from Southeast Ohio gathered on October 8 for a groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate the beginning of construction on a new women's and children's hospital at Memorial Health System's Belpre Medical Campus. The facility will be Southeast Ohio's only women's and children's hospital. The state provided \$30 million in support of the project through the FY2024-2025 State Operating Budget, which was passed by the Ohio General Assembly and signed by Governor DeWine last year. The funding was provided to Memorial Health System through the Ohio Department of Health (ODH). The 66,000-square-foot, \$125 million women and children's hospital will provide residents of southeast Ohio access to a wide range of specialized prenatal services, a NICU, and more. Once fully operational, the hospital system hopes to have 1,600 births at the new facility each year – doubling the annual number of births done by their obstetrics unit in recent years. The hospital will also offer expanded mental health services to support mothers who experience postpartum depression.

**Ohio's First River Maritime Academy to Open in 2026** | During the Sons & Daughters of Pioneer Rivermen's 85th annual meeting in Marietta, the group announced the creation of the Inland Waterways Maritime Academy, Ohio's first river maritime academy. The academy is set to open in 2026 in Sardis on the former Riverside Golf Course site, through a planned lease agreement with the Monroe County Board of Commissioners. The project is a partnership between the Sons & Daughters of Pioneer Rivermen and Mountwest College of Huntington, West Virginia. The complex will feature a state-of-the-art pilothouse simulator, a cutting-edge classroom space for the maritime academy, and educational exhibits showcasing the Sons & Daughters' extensive collection of river artifacts, including boat models and fine art. A public simulator will also allow visitors to experience interactive, hands-on learning about the river.

**Perry County Manufacturer Announces Expansion** | Schmelzer Industries announced it will invest more than \$850,000 in its Perry County facility, creating four new jobs. Founded in 1986, Schmelzer Industries is a manufacturer of fiberglass surface veil, which is a thin fabric-like material used in laminated composite materials. As part of its strategy to grow the business, Schmelzer will soon be implementing a new production process that will allow it to provide a new, stronger type of veil that has different applications. The company currently has 22 full-time equivalent employees and will add four additional jobs through this investment.

**ED Now Returns on November 15** | If you want to learn more about how to support economic development in your community, this is training for you. Register for the OhioSE ED Now virtual conference on November 15 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm for an opportunity to talk with leaders and practitioners about building a regional economic ecosystem. Economic development expert Chad Chancellor of Next Move Group will share his proven strategies for what board members, elected officials, and local development professionals can do to create economic growth in small communities, companies, and nonprofit organizations.

**General Assembly Plans Ballot Measure on OPWC State Capital Improvement Program** | On October 9, members of the Ohio House held a press conference to announce its intention to introduce a bipartisan resolution reauthorizing constitutional borrowing authority for the Ohio Public Works Commission's State Capital Improvement Program (SCIP). The soon-to-be-introduced legislation, sponsored by Representatives Scott Oelslager (R-North Canton) and Dan Troy (D-Willowick), will permit the state to issue \$2.5 billion (\$250 million per year for 10 years) if approved by voters on May 6, 2025. Oelslager has said that the focus of the program is to repair and replace rather than to develop new infrastructure. John Fortney, spokesman for Senate Republicans, confirmed in an email that there will be companion legislation from Sen. Brian Chavez (R-Marietta).

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**ARC Announces POWER Awards** | The Appalachian Regional Commission's Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization (POWER) Initiative targets federal resources to help communities and regions that have been affected by job losses in coal mining, coal power plant operations, and coal-related supply chain industries due to the changing economics of America's energy production. In October 2024, ARC awarded its latest round of investments – \$68.2 million to 65 projects – that will strengthen a variety of industries. Grantees in the Buckeye Hills Region include:

- Ohio Valley Educational Service Center Project: Appalachian Educator EmPOWERment Consortium Implementation  
Grant Amount: \$1,750,000
- Tablertown People of Color Museum Project: Connecting Black Heritage, From Enslavement to Settlement in Southern Ohio Planning Grant Amount: \$40,427

## STAFF UPDATES

- **Michelle Hyer** has been working closely with staff on the Appalachian Community Grant Program (ACGP). Buckeye Hills is now administering sixteen projects that have received ACGP funding. She is also in the process of working with funding agencies/programs for those who were unsuccessful in ACGP.
- **Kylee Nichols** has been working on environmental reviews for several projects in the region.
- **Jada Riley** has been working closely with staff on the Appalachian Community Grant Program (ACGP).
- **Emma Yeager** is finalizing the Connectivity Plans for Washington and Meigs through the Appalachian Accelerator project and working with her communities to administer their ACGP projects.

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**CONTACT:** Sam Miller, Development Director | [smiller@buckeyehills.org](mailto:smiller@buckeyehills.org) | 740-376-1028

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## PROGRAM & SERVICE UPDATES

**November CarFit Event** | A CarFit event is scheduled for November 14, 2024, from 4 pm to 6 pm at Noble County Health Department, 44069 Marietta Road Caldwell. To register for a CarFit appointment, contact Rebecca Mobley at 740-732-4958 or [rebecca.mobley@noblecohd.org](mailto:rebecca.mobley@noblecohd.org).

**Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) & Guidance** | On-line Application for Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Opens closes November 30<sup>th</sup>. TAP funds can be used for **design**. Limited to a maximum cost of \$200,000 as an 80% TAP 20% local split. **Letter of Interest** not required. The application can be found at <https://www.transportation.ohio.gov/working/publications/transportation-alternatives-program>.

**Ohio Department of Transportation Office of Transit Annual Project Solicitation** | Applications open on November 1, 2024, and close on December 31, 2024.

**Active Transportation and Safe Routes to School** | Planning assistance requests can be submitted by December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024.

[Active Transportation Planning Assistance](#)

[Safe Routes to School \(SRTS\) School Travel Planning Assistance](#)

**Safe Routes to School Project Application** | Applications will open in early January, with project applications due March 7th, 2025.

Check out the [Application Guidance](#) to prepare and submit an application early next year!

**USEPA Brownfields Assessment Grant Program Update** | To date, the USEPA Brownfields Assessment grant awarded to Buckeye Hills has provided services to 10 projects in 6 of the 8 BHRC counties. Projects have been completed in Athens, Hocking, Morgan, Noble, Perry, and Washington Counties and have included 7 Phase I ESAs, 2 Phase II ESAs, 1 Document Reviews, 4 Remedial Action Plans, 3 HAZMAT reports, 2 Asbestos Reports, and 1 Site Sampling and Analysis Plans. 4 of the 10 projects were included in applications to the Ohio Department of Development Brownfield Remediation and Building Demolition and Site Revitalization programs. Additional projects are being provided services and quarterly reporting is up to date.

## STAFF UPDATES

- **Melissa Zoller** attended and moderated sessions at the Ohio GIS Conference alongside Eric Wade. She participated in Transportation Awareness events in both Noble and Monroe counties alongside the mobility staff. She collaborated with staff to finalize the Noble Healthcare Complex quarterly report. She contributed to a CarFit presentation for the Driver Education class at Washington County Career Center. She attended a meeting with Switzerland Water, which led to a collaboration with RCAP to address infrastructure needs in Monroe County. Additionally, she participated in a meeting with ODOT District 5 and 10 offices concerning local STIP activities. Melissa is involved in discussions about grant opportunities related to aging and development. She is also working with Kylee to transfer the Village of Caldwell infrastructure grant from the planning stage to development, focusing on implementing improvements to the village's infrastructure.
- **Christa Myers** attended OPTA's virtual board meeting, Morgan County TAC meeting, Hocking Valley Scenic Trail (bike path) meeting in Logan, OSU's Aging in Place virtual meeting to review their Mobility Manager

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survey (Meigs County), Meigs County Transit Development Plan meeting, AARP Livable Communities Workshop: Designing for People of All Ages, OARC Transportation meeting, and ARC's webinar, Measuring Transportation Accessibility in Appalachia. She led the quarterly regional Steering Committee meeting at BHRC leading the development of the regional coordinated transportation plan. She also attended the Area Agency on Aging RAC meeting at BHRC and assisted with the CarFit event in Monroe County.

She scheduled and attended meetings with Washington County Public Transit and SEAT (Noble County Transportation Provider in 2023) to introduce Eric Wade, Senior Planner/GIS Coordinator, to prepare to gather data for mapping. She is working on gathering articles, quotes, and photos for the next edition of the Mobility/Transportation newsletter (winter/spring). For ODOT, she participated in the regional mobility coordinators' virtual call and reviewed the draft plan guidance booklet. She participated in a call with the new chair of the Mobility Training Committee and other Mobility Managers to share her thoughts on state-level committees. She attended the Mobility Manager DBE Training, required by ODOT. She listened to the ODOT Virtual Grant Application Meeting and prepared her new regional coordinator quarterly report.

- **Kate Dunn** has continued to administer the US EDA grant awarded to the Athens County Port Authority for the construction of their Speculative Building at the Bill Theisen Industrial Park in the Plains. She has also continued to administer the USEPA Brownfields Assessment grant awarded to Buckeye Hills. Additionally, Buckeye Hills staff are currently awaiting the next round of both the Ohio Department of Development Building Demolition and Site Revitalization program and Ohio Department of Development Brownfield Remediation program funds to begin for both Noble and Hocking Counties. Planning Division staff have also been participating in ArcGIS training. From October 21<sup>st</sup> to October 25<sup>th</sup>, Kate will attend the NADO Annual Training Conference.
- **Eric Wade** attended the Ohio GIS conference and moderated panel discussions. He presented the STIP rural consultation meeting for ODOT on October 16th. He is also working on multiple internal GIS products with the mobility team and development (CEDS StoryMap and Regional Transportation Plan). He accepted a role to serve on the Ohio Active Transportation Statewide Conference Committee and participated in the kickoff meeting. The Hocking County ATP Master Plan kickoff meeting was completed on October 29th. The planning team also completed a traffic study for Amy Zwick in Monroe County. From October 21st to October 25th, Eric attended the NADO Annual Training Conference. The planning team participated in a site walk for the Washington County Port study. Eric also participated in multiple stakeholder meetings with county transit providers to obtain spatial data for GIS maps. He is working with the planning team on multiple infrastructure projects as well – Switzerland Water, ODOD Demo and Site Revitalizations for Hocking and Noble Counties, and the Noble County Healthcare Complex.
- **Kelly Isaly and Julia Hinzman**  
**Washington County:** This month, the transit study in partnership with Nelson/Nygaard was completed. Based on their recommendations, Washington Morgan Community Action has formed a Transportation Advisory Group (TAG) to implement these changes we will be part of the advisory group.

Julia is engaged in community outreach, giving presentations at local organizations and public meetings, and visiting senior housing complexes with informational materials to educate residents about the new Demand Service available in Marietta. Additionally, she conducted a CarFit training session at the Washington County Career Center for a group of Driver's Ed students, incorporating two volunteer technicians trained here in Washington County to assist with the presentation.

**Noble County:** Mobility managers continue to engage in community meetings, including the Cares Team, Business Advisory Committee, and LEPC. At the most recent Business Advisory Meeting, we presented the idea of CarFit to local high schools, aiming to recruit student volunteers as CarFit technicians and organize future events at the schools.

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Additionally, they participated in the Noble Senior Picnic, where we shared valuable information with seniors about aging, mobility management, and available resources. We also presented to a group of retired OPERS members (PERI group) to discuss transportation services and promote the upcoming CarFit event. A CarFit event in partnership with the Noble County Health Department will be held on November 14, 2024. Work has begun on the application for Mobility Management and the upcoming rewrite of the Coordinated Transportation Plan.

**Monroe County:** Kelly has been actively increasing her involvement in community outreach, focusing on educating individuals about available local resources. She recently became a member of the Hope Alliance Coalition and efforts are underway to establish connections with the Kiwanis Club in Monroe, where she has initiated conversations about potential membership and collaboration. Recently organized and held a Transportation Awareness Day, with support from BHRC staff and local organizations. Highlighting transportation resources and other local resources available to the community. Attended the quarterly Regional Steering Committee held at BHRC and attended virtually the required Mobility Management DBE Training held by ODOT. Held the first CarFit event in Monroe on October 31, 2024.

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**CONTACT:** Melissa Zoller, Planning Director | [mzoller@buckeyehills.org](mailto:mzoller@buckeyehills.org) | 740-376-1027

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# **COST ALLOCATION PLAN**

**For Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2025 and Ending June 30, 2026**

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**Buckeye Hills Regional Council (EIN: 31-0843760)**

**1400 Pike Street**

**Marietta, Ohio 45750**

**Tel. (740) 374-9436, Fax (740) 373-1594**

**Contact Person(s):**

Chasity Schmelzenbach, Executive Director Email: [cschmelzenbach@buckeyehills.org](mailto:cschmelzenbach@buckeyehills.org)

Denise Keyes, Fiscal Director Email: [dkeyes@buckeyehills.org](mailto:dkeyes@buckeyehills.org)

**A. INTRODUCTION**

Buckeye Hills Regional Council was created as an agency established by agreement among its members pursuant to Section 167.01-08 of the Ohio Revised Code. The Council is organized as a voluntary organization of local government political subdivisions in Athens, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry and Washington Counties to foster a cooperative effort in regional planning, programming, and implementing regional plans and programs. The Council is also organized as a forum for the discussion and study of common problems of a regional nature and for the development of policy and action recommendations relating thereto.

**B. COST ALLOCATION METHODOLOGY**

This proposal is for a Cost Allocation Plan (Plan) to cover the period beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026. This proposal is based on the Council's actual costs reconcilable to the audited financial statements for its fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. The status of our cost allocation plan is (please select one):

- (a) This is our initial request for the approval of our cost allocation plan. None of the federal agencies have ever officially approved of our cost allocation plan.
- (b) We have received an official written acknowledgement of our cost allocation plan from Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration Attached you will find our three (3) most recent acknowledgement letters.
- (c) We have received an official written approval of our cost allocation plan from Interior Business Center, U.S. Department of the Interior.

This proposal addresses all elements of costs incurred by the Council and identifies shared costs that require allocation. The Council direct charges costs to programs when appropriate. Joint costs are prorated individually as direct costs to each category and to each award using a base most appropriate to the particular cost being prorated.

Buckeye Hills maintains adequate internal controls to ensure that no cost is charged both directly and indirectly to Federal contracts or grants.

### C. DIRECT COSTS

Direct costs are costs that can be identified specifically with a project or activity and therefore are charged to that project or activity. The accounting system records these costs as they are incurred within the series of accounts assigned for that purpose. Further distribution is not required.

### D. INDIRECT COSTS

Indirect costs are costs incurred for common or joint objectives and therefore cannot be readily and specifically identified with a particular project or activity. Indirect costs are (please select one)

- (a) direct charged to all programs and grants, or
- (b) grouped into common pool(s) and then distributed to benefiting activities by a cost allocation process.
- (c) none of the above. Indirect costs are (fill in the blank) \_\_\_\_\_.

### E. COST POOL AND BASE FOR DISTRIBUTION

The Council has created an Administrative Services (Indirect) Pool consisting of salaries, fringe benefits, and other costs. The Administrative Services (Indirect) Pool is charged with all the indirect costs as defined above. The pool is distributed to the various program activities on the basis of direct salaries, including vacation, holiday, and sick pay but excluding other fringe benefits expended on those activities. Distribution of actual Administrative Services (Indirect) costs is performed on a monthly basis. Each category of non-salary expenditures has been analyzed based on the facts. The **Elements of Cost (Schedule A)** explains the allocation between Direct and Administrative Services (Indirect) Costs.

### F. SUPPORTING FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, SUMMARY SCHEDULE AND UNALLOWABLE COSTS

NOTE: Organization must include a complete copy of the audited financial statements with their proposal submission. Audited financial statements for Fiscal Year 2023 are included as **Attachment 1**.

The **Schedule of Total Expenditures (Schedule B)** contained in this proposal is based on audited financial statements and expenditures for fiscal year 2023 and unaudited expenditures for fiscal year 2024.

Unallowable and Excludable Costs – Unallowable costs are not included in this plan and are paid with unrestricted funds that do not include direct salary.

### G. DESCRIPTION OF ACCOUNTING SYSTEM

Buckeye Hills Regional Council uses a modified accrual basis of accounting. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when susceptible to accrual (i.e. when they become both measurable and available). “Measurable” means the amount of the transaction can be determined, and “available” means collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to be used to pay liabilities of the current period. Expenditures are recorded when the related liability is incurred.

We have not made any significant changes during the proposal fiscal year (1) to our accounting system, or (2) to the definition or to the accounting treatment of any expense category (e.g. a change in building/equipment costing methodology, capitalization level, or a change in charging an expense from direct to indirect or visa versa).

#### H. INDIRECT SALARIES

Listed below are the positions, functions, and annual salaries for the people who comprise the Administrative Services Pool. These positions are charged the applicable percentage to Administrative Services.

<b>Position and % Indirect</b>	<b>Function</b>	<b>Salary</b>
Executive Director (100%)	General Management	\$105,829
Administrative Assistant (100%)	Clerical	\$27,553
Fiscal Assistant (100%)	Accounting and Related Activities	\$38,478
Fiscal Director (100%)	Accounting and Related Activities	\$89,995
Assistant Fiscal Director (100%)	Accounting and Related Activities	\$76,486
HR Director (100%)	Human Resources	\$72,221
IT Director (100%)	Information Technology	\$76,596
Office Coordinator (100%)	Clerical	\$35,875
Communications Specialist (30%)	Communications	\$14,254
Program Manager (100%)	Clerical Support to Executive Director	\$61,843
Communications Director (100%)	Communications	\$74,800
Fiscal Assistant (50%)	Accounting and Related Activities	\$21,673
	<b>Total Administrative Services Pool Salaries:</b>	<b>\$ 695,604</b>

Buckeye Hills’ time and attendance tracking system requires employees to select programs/funds to which to charge work time. Employees’ time is tracked daily and totaled by fund to support compliance with the standards of 2 CFR 225 Appendix B Subsection 8.h.(4). A recently completed time sheet is included as **Attachment 2.**

**I. INDIRECT FRINGE BENEFITS**

Fringe benefits associated with the positions within the Administrative Services (Indirect) Pool are as follows:

FICA		\$10,109
State Unemployment		\$1,156
State Workers Compensation		\$3,970
Health, Dental, Vision and Life Insurance		\$300,625
Retirement Plan		\$97,600
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$414,557</b>

All employees of Buckeye Hills are provided the benefits listed above with the exception of Health, Dental, Vision and Life Insurance. Only full-time employees are offered the Health, Dental, Vision and Life Insurance package.

**J. SCHEDULE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE : See Schedule C**

**K. ORGANIZATION CHART : See Schedule D**

**L. COST ALLOCATION PLAN CERTIFICATION : See Attachment 3**

**I certified that the above cost allocation plan is correct and accurate to the best of my knowledge.**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: Denise Keyes

Title: Fiscal Director

Date: 11/01/2024

**SCHEDULE A – Elements of Cost****Methodology of Allocation**

Advertising	Direct Program Cost and Indirect Cost
Audit	Indirect Cost
Building Maintenance	Indirect Cost
Communications	Direct Program Cost and Indirect Cost
Contract Services	Direct Program Cost and Indirect Cost
Equipment Lease/Purchase	Direct Program Cost and Indirect Cost
Equipment Maintenance	Direct Program Cost and Indirect Cost
Governing Board Expense	Indirect Cost
Insurance	Direct Program Cost and Indirect Cost
Legal	Direct Program Cost and Indirect Cost
Office Supplies	Direct Program Cost and Indirect Cost
Organizational Dues	Direct Program Cost and Indirect Cost
Other Costs	Direct Program Cost and Indirect Cost
Postage	Direct Program Cost and Indirect Cost
Printing	Direct Program Cost and Indirect Cost
Registration Fee	Direct Program Cost and Indirect Cost
Software and License	Direct Program Cost and Indirect Cost
Space	Direct Program Cost and Indirect Cost
Subscriptions	Direct Program Cost and Indirect Cost
Training Expense	Direct Program Cost and Indirect Cost
Travel	Direct Program Cost and Indirect Cost

FY 2026 Schedule B -Direct Programs and Activities

BUDGET CATEGORY	ECONOMIC	APPALACHIAN	COMMUNITY	REGIONAL	AGING	PASSPORT &	HOUSING	CARE	Public Health	INDIRECT	TOTAL
	DEVELOPMENT	REGIONAL		TRANSPORTATION		ASSISTED LIVING		COORDINATION			
	ADMIN.	COMMISSION	DEVELOPMENT	PLANNING	ADMINISTRATION	PROGRAMS					
Salaries and Wages	42,661.02	123,206.74	170,096.41	283,743.55	155,846.10	2,274,424.86	28,290.00	20,701.10	35,875.00	697,142.30	3,831,987.08
Fringe Benefits	23,999.08	48,904.60	74,568.19	138,212.41	79,023.80	1,229,853.81	32,462.66	11,168.28	7,910.93	414,557.32	2,060,661.08
Advertising	0.00	11,499.67	7,000.00	25,000.00	44,285.00	12,283.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	100,567.94
Audit	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	32,000.00	32,000.00
Building Maintenance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13,000.00	13,000.00
Communications	1,400.00	2,500.00	5,000.00	4,675.00	2,500.00	54,000.00	1,200.00	500.00	1,200.00	26,000.00	98,975.00
Contract Services	0.00	5,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	4,000.00	16,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	28,000.00
Equipment Lease/Purchase	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,500.00	7,500.00
Equipment Maintenance	0.00	2,000.00	800.00	500.00	0.00	5,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,000.00	15,300.00
Governing Board Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Insurance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	41,000.00	41,000.00
Legal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Office Supplies	500.00	9,000.00	1,500.00	3,500.00	1,000.00	30,500.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	5,000.00	15,000.00	68,000.00
Organizational Dues	530.00	0.00	1,500.00	3,000.00	0.00	3,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15,000.00	23,530.00
Other Costs	100.00	100.00	2,000.00	0.00	1,500.00	3,800.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	200.00	7,900.00
Postage	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	11,200.00
Printing	3,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	4,000.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	12,000.00
Registration Fee	5,000.00	10,000.00	8,000.00	3,000.00	3,500.00	7,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	15,000.00	52,500.00
Software and Licenses	5,400.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	3,800.00	10,000.00	16,000.00	0.00	0.00	800.00	75,000.00	113,000.00
Space	3,437.00	16,500.00	16,301.00	26,179.00	20,806.00	100,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	71,618.00	255,341.00
Subscriptions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,000.00	8,500.00
Training Expense	0.00	6,537.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	15,537.00
Travel	17,000.00	23,000.00	12,045.58	25,500.59	7,500.00	125,000.00	5,200.00	3,581.85	3,000.00	30,500.00	252,328.02
<b>Subtotal Other</b>	<b>36,367.00</b>	<b>89,136.67</b>	<b>57,146.58</b>	<b>95,154.59</b>	<b>97,091.00</b>	<b>396,283.27</b>	<b>8,900.00</b>	<b>5,081.85</b>	<b>10,200.00</b>	<b>362,818.00</b>	<b>1,158,178.96</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>103,027.10</b>	<b>261,248.01</b>	<b>301,811.18</b>	<b>517,110.55</b>	<b>331,960.90</b>	<b>3,900,561.94</b>	<b>69,652.66</b>	<b>36,951.23</b>	<b>53,985.93</b>	<b>1,474,517.62</b>	<b>7,050,827.12</b>

**Buckeye Hills Regional Council**

Report: Auditor Daily Time Details with Approval

**Status codes**

**N** = Entered **F** = Finalized **A** = Approved  
**R** = Rejected **X** = Exported

Details for **Porter, Kimberly**

inSITE #: **1280** Employee #: **1277**

Payroll status: **Non-exempt**

inSITE user group: **Basic User**

For the period **07/14/2024** to **07/27/2024**

Status	Date	Amount	Work code	Prog Elem Code	Comments	Entered
Exported	7/15/24	3.75	Regular	31900 3581 : PASSPORT General Admin		Porter, K 7/15/24 8:58 AM
Exported	7/15/24	3.75	Regular	39900 9990 : INDIRECT COST POOL		Porter, K 7/15/24 8:58 AM
Exported	7/16/24	4.00	Regular	39900 9990 : INDIRECT COST POOL		Porter, K 7/16/24 8:20 AM
Exported	7/16/24	4.00	Regular	31900 3581 : PASSPORT General Admin		Porter, K 7/16/24 8:20 AM
Exported	7/17/24	4.25	Regular	31900 3581 : PASSPORT General Admin		Porter, K 7/17/24 4:26 PM
Exported	7/17/24	4.25	Regular	39900 9990 : INDIRECT COST POOL		Porter, K 7/17/24 4:26 PM
Exported	7/18/24	3.25	Regular	39900 9990 : INDIRECT COST POOL		Porter, K 7/18/24 2:59 PM
Exported	7/18/24	3.25	Regular	31900 3581 : PASSPORT General Admin		Porter, K 7/18/24 2:59 PM
Exported	7/19/24	3.75	Regular	31900 3581 : PASSPORT General Admin		Porter, K 7/19/24 8:46 AM
Entered	7/19/24	4.00	Regular	39900 9990 : INDIRECT COST POOL		Porter, K 7/29/24 8:46 AM
Exported	7/22/24	4.00	Regular	39900 9990 : INDIRECT COST POOL		Porter, K 7/22/24 8:57 AM
Exported	7/22/24	3.75	Regular	31900 3581 : PASSPORT General Admin		Porter, K 7/22/24 8:57 AM
Exported	7/23/24	3.75	Regular	39900 9990 : INDIRECT COST POOL		Porter, K 7/25/24 9:20 AM
Exported	7/23/24	3.75	Regular	31900 3581 : PASSPORT General Admin		Porter, K 7/25/24 9:20 AM
Exported	7/24/24	7.00	Annual	AL Annual Leave	AL 7.0	McConnell, M 7/25/24 10:18 AM
Exported	7/25/24	4.00	Regular	31900 3581 : PASSPORT General Admin		Porter, K 7/25/24 12:17 PM
Exported	7/25/24	3.75	Regular	39900 9990 : INDIRECT COST POOL		Porter, K 7/25/24 12:17 PM

Exported 7/26/24	4.00	Regular	39900 9990 : INDIRECT COST POOL
Exported 7/26/24	4.00	Regular	31900 3581 : PASSPORT General Admin

Porter, K
7/26/24
3:50 PM
Porter, K
7/26/24
3:50 PM

**Totals Hours 76.25**

19 entries

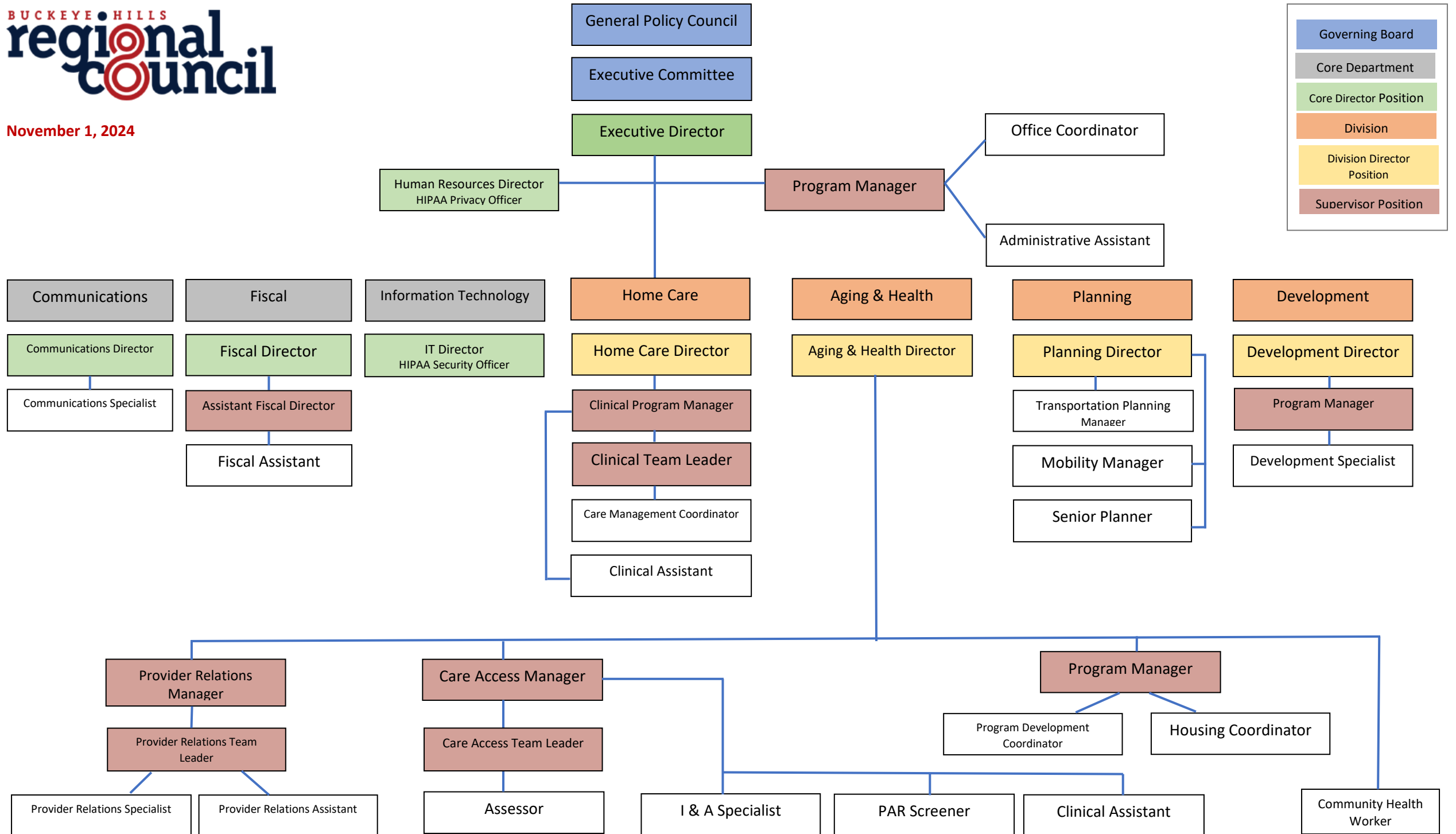
Run Date: 10/25/24 10:42 am	Buckeye Hills Regional Council	Created for: Misty McConnell
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**FY 2026 Schedule C**

Department of Commerce			
Economic Development - Support for Planning Organizations		70,000.00	70,000.00
Appalachian Regional Commission			
ppalachian Research, Technical Assistance and Demonstration Projects		239,400.00	
GOA Housing		40,261.25	
		0.00	279,661.25
Ohio Development Services Agency			
Appalachian Local Development District		210,000.00	
ODSA Housing Grant		12,500.00	
ODSA Demo Grants		101,654.75	324,154.75
Ohio Public Works Commission			
Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program		15,000.00	
Infrastructure Administration		65,000.00	80,000.00
Ohio Department of Transportation			
Federal Highway Administration		175,233.00	
State Transportation Planning		402,288.50	577,521.50
Ohio Department of Aging			
Federal Medicaid		2,982,221.49	
State Medicaid Waiver		1,988,147.66	
Title III of the Older Americans Act		288,996.28	
Low Income Home Energy Assistance		24,104.00	
Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act		20,181.00	
Senior Community Services Block Grant		114,917.00	
Alzheimer's Respite		4,987.00	5,423,554.43
Fee for Service Contract Revenue			144,961.43
Local Cash Match			150,974.49
<b><u>Total</u></b>			<b><u>7,050,827.85</u></b>
Federal			3,840,397.02
State			2,914,494.91
Fee for Service			144,961.43
Local Cash			150,974.49
			7,050,827.85

November 1, 2024



Governing Board
Core Department
Core Director Position
Division
Division Director Position
Supervisor Position

Attachment 3

**Cost Allocation Plan Certification**

This is to certify that I have reviewed the indirect cost rate proposal prepared and maintained herewith and to the best of my knowledge and belief:

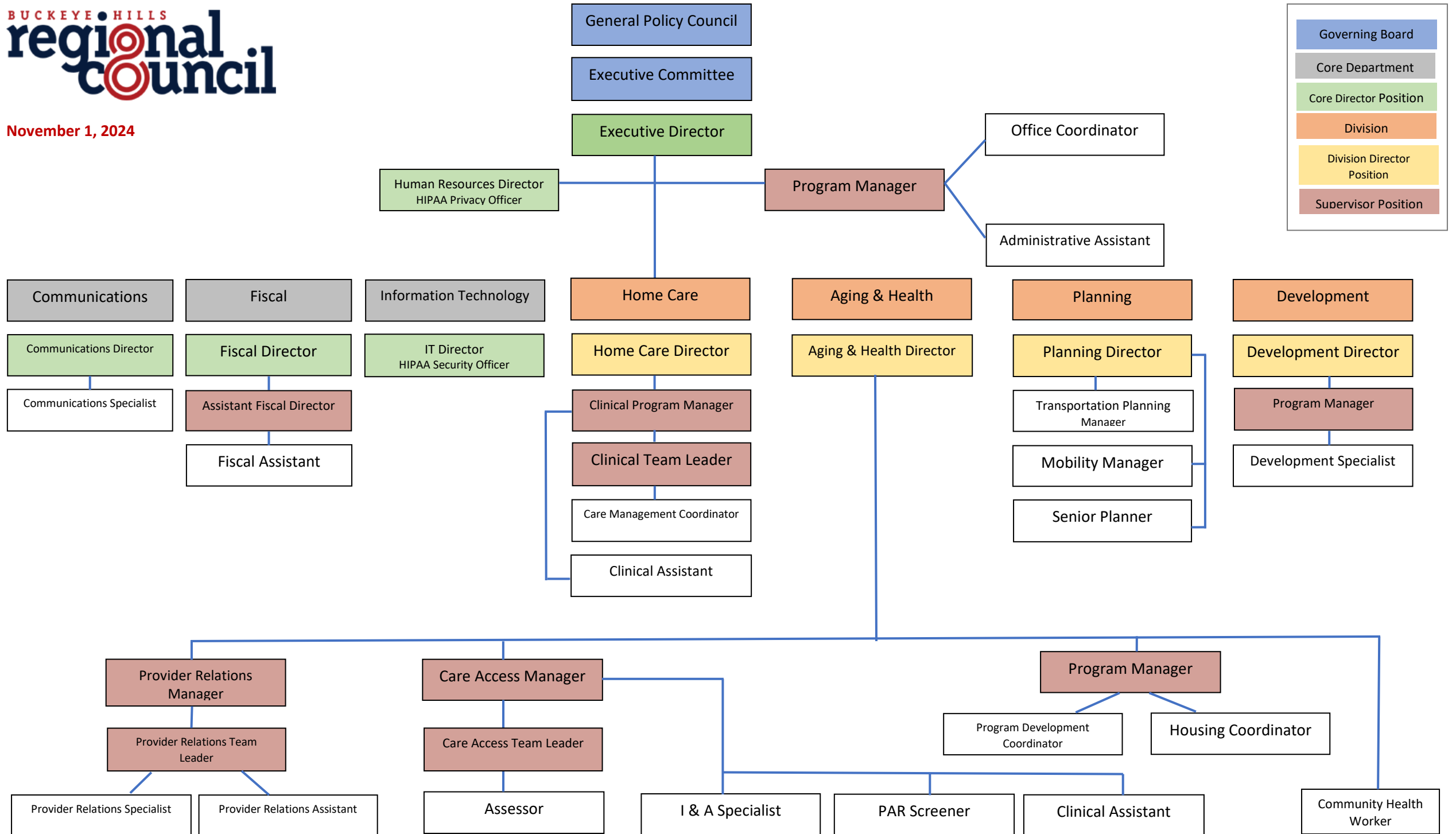
- (1) All costs included in the proposal dated November 1, 2024 to establish indirect costs rate for July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 are allowable in accordance with the requirements of the Federal awards to which they apply and OMB Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (codified at 2 C.F.R. Part 200). Unallowable costs have been adjusted for in allocating costs as indicated in the cost allocation plan.
- (2) All costs included in this proposal are properly allocable to Federal awards on the basis of a beneficial or casual relationship between the expenses incurred and the agreements to which they are allocated in accordance with the applicable requirements. Further, the same costs that have been treated as indirect costs have not been claimed as direct costs. Similar types of costs have been accounted for consistently and the Federal Government will be notified of any accounting changes that would affect the predetermined rate.
- (3) The provisional indirect cost rate calculated with the proposal is 47.0364%, which was calculated using a direct cost base type of Salary. The calculations were based on actual costs from fiscal year 2023 to obtain a federal indirect cost billing rate for fiscal year 2026.
- (4) All documentation supporting the indirect cost rate identified above must be retained by the Recipient. This rate should be reviewed and validated as part of the Recipient’s annual financial audit.

Subject to the provisions of the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act of 1986, (31 USC 3801 et seq.), the False Claims Act (18 USC 287 and 31 USC 3729); and the False Statement Act (18 USC 1001), I declare to the best of my knowledge that the foregoing is true and correct.

Organization Name: Buckeye Hills Regional Council

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Authorized Official: Chasity Schmelzenbach  
Title: Executive Director  
Email Address and Phone: [cschmelzenbach@buckeyehills.org](mailto:cschmelzenbach@buckeyehills.org) 740.376.1034  
Date of Execution: 11/01/2024

November 1, 2024



Blue Box	Governing Board
Grey Box	Core Department
Green Box	Core Director Position
Orange Box	Division
Yellow Box	Division Director Position
Brown Box	Supervisor Position



## RESOLUTION OF THE BUCKEYE HILLS REGIONAL COUNCIL TO APPROVE THE PY 2025 AREA PLAN UPDATE

Resolution #2024/11-01

**WHEREAS**, Buckeye Hills Regional Council is designated as the Area Agency on Aging for the eight counties making up the Buckeye Hills Region (Athens, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry, and Washington counties) by the Older Americans Act (OAA), acting through the Ohio Department of Aging (ODA), and in cooperation with identified local focal points as required by the OAA; and

**WHEREAS**, Buckeye Hills has the authority and responsibility for the direction, coordination, and administration of the Area Plan planning process in accordance with state and federal laws; and

**WHEREAS**, the Area Plan establishes objectives, methodologies and budget to implement the region's OAA planning process and program activities for the designated Area Plan Program years;

**WHEREAS**, Buckeye Hills has reviewed the Program Year 2025 Area Plan Update and budget and finds the prescribed elements to be consistent with the required items identified by ODA as part of the development and maintenance of the Area Plan and related activities for the Buckeye Hills region;

**NOW THEREFORE**, be it resolved by the Executive Board of the Buckeye Hills Regional Council hereby approves the PY 2025 OAA Area Plan Update, representing the time and activities for the period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, and authorizes the submission of the Area Plan Update to the ODA.

**Passed on this first day of November 2024.**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lenny Eliason", written over a horizontal line.

Lenny Eliason, President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ron Moore", written over a horizontal line.

Ron Moore, Vice President



## A RESOLUTION GRANTING PERMISSION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS CONSULTANT

Resolution #2024/11-02

**WHEREAS**, The Buckeye Hills Regional Council region has seen substantial investment in communities of upwards of \$200 million since 2023. These investments have spurred an uptick of project ideas that need support to pursue additional funding; and

**WHEREAS**, Buckeye Hills staff released a Request for Qualifications entitled "Development Division Project Management and Operations Consultant" on September 6, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, The Request for Qualifications was open for 30 days and received, reviewed, and evaluated the two responses; and

**WHEREAS**, Julia Robinson scored the highest and is recommended.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**: Chasity Schmelzenbach, Executive Director, is authorized to enter into a contract with Julia Robinson for 2 years and not to exceed \$150,000.

**Passed this first day of November, 2024**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lenny Eliason".

Lenny Eliason, President

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ron Moore".

Ron Moore, Vice President



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
BUCKEYE HILLS REGIONAL COUNCIL AND  
WWW INTERSTATE PLANNING COMMISSION**

Regarding the cooperation and coordination of the planning functions of both agencies.

WHEREAS, Buckeye Hills Regional Council (BHRC) is a regional planning and development organization serving eight counties in Southeast Ohio: Athens, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry, and Washington. Established in 1968, Buckeye Hills is a council of governments, a Local Development District designated by the Appalachian Regional Commission, an Economic Development District designated by the Economic Development Administration, an Area Agency on Aging designated by the Ohio Department of Aging, and a Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) designated by the Ohio Department of Transportation.

WHEREAS, BHRC performs transportation planning, as outlined in the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), for the RTPO Study Area of Athens, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, and Perry Counties in Ohio; and Adams, Aurelius, Barlow, Decatur, Fairfield, Grandview, Independence, Lawrence, Liberty, Ludlow, Palmer, Salem, Waterford, Watertown, and Wesley Townships in Washington County, Ohio.; and

WHEREAS, the WWW Interstate Planning Commission (WWW) is designated as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) by the Governors of the States of West Virginia and Ohio acting through the West Virginia Department of Highways (WHDOH) and Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and in cooperation with locally elected officials for Wood (Parkersburg, Williamstown, Vienna, and North Hills), and Washington (Marietta and Belpre) Counties; and

WHEREAS, WWW performs transportation planning, as outlined in the UPWP, for the MPO Study Area of Wood County, West Virginia and Belpre, Dunham, Fearing, Marietta, Muskingum Newport, and Warren townships in Washington County, Ohio; now

THEREFORE, LET IT BE MUTUALLY UNDERSTOOD, that to avoid the duplication of efforts, BHRC and WWW agree to the following:

1. WWW and BHRC will conduct transportation planning in their respective study areas described above.
2. BHRC will conduct all other regional development planning activities in the study area described above, and will include all of Washington County, Ohio.
3. BHRC will notify WWW when a transportation-related request is made to BHRC that falls within the WWW study area described above.
4. WWW will notify BHRC when a transportation-related request is made to WWW that falls within the BHRC study area described above.

**WWW Interstate Planning Commission**  
709 Market Street, Parkersburg, WV 26101  
Mailing: P.O. Box 247, Parkersburg, WV 26101  
304.422.4993





5. WWW maintains a travel demand model that includes Wood County, West Virginia, and all of Washington County, Ohio. This model will be the model of record for transportation planning purposes In Wood County, West Virginia, and Washington County, Ohio for WWW. Information from the travel demand model may be shared with BHRC upon request.
6. When appropriate and practicable, at the request of WWW or BHRC, the respective agencies may provide technical assistance and/or supporting data to the other agency.
7. It is also clearly understood by BHRC and WWW that all possible conflicts may not be solved by this Memorandum of Understanding; however, it is the intent of this Memorandum of Understanding to establish a framework whereby cooperation and coordination will be assumed in comprehensive transportation planning activities.

ADOPTED, by the Policy Board of the WWW Interstate Planning Commission on this

\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson, WWW Interstate Planning Commission

ADOPTED, by the Board of Directors of Buckeye Hills Regional Council on this \_\_\_\_\_ day

of \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Executive Director, Buckeye Hills Regional Council



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ARC Announces POWER Awards** | In October, the Appalachian Regional Commission awarded its latest round of POWER investments – \$68.2 million to 65 projects – to strengthen a variety of industries. Grantees in the Buckeye Hills Region include:

- Ohio Valley Educational Service Center Project: Appalachian Educator EmPOWERment Consortium
  - Implementation Grant Amount: \$1,750,000
- Tablertown People of Color Museum Project: Connecting Black Heritage, From Enslavement to Settlement in Southern Ohio
  - Planning Grant Amount: \$40,427

**Athens County Port Authority Receives Brownfield Remediation Grant** | The Athens County Port Authority recently secured \$407,555 from the Ohio Department of Development's Brownfield Remediation program to clean up and remediate the former Hollister School site. The building is in severe disrepair and contains asbestos, which will be abated before demolition. These funds make a significant difference throughout Ohio, enabling communities to prepare sites for future growth opportunities. Since the launch of the Ohio Brownfield Remediation Program, the Department of Development has awarded more than \$490 million to support 462 projects in 84 counties.

**Registration is Open for the Appalachian Ohio Regional GIS Symposium, November 18** | Join us at the Ohio University Baker Center on November 18, 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., to learn about the Appalachian Ohio Regional GIS Collaborative, an initiative between the Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Service, Ohio's four Local Development Districts, and the Mayors' Partnership for Progress to address the need for a centralized and collaborative data-sharing model for the region. Learn about this model's benefits, including providing reliable data to facilitate decision-making, problem-solving, grant-seeking, and reporting for our partners and all regional interests. The Appalachia Ohio Regional GIS Hub will be showcased at this event. This hub offers centralized access to regional data, from small village profiles to comprehensive Appalachia Ohio overviews. Presenters will share data, maps, and research on key factors impacting the region, benefiting a variety of users, retaining valuable regional knowledge, and fostering a better understanding of the challenges faced in our region. Learn more and register at [gis.ohio.edu/gis-symposium/](https://gis.ohio.edu/gis-symposium/).

**Registration is Open for The Ohio Grants Summit, November 19-20** | This two-day virtual event from the Ohio Office of Budget and Management provides free access to essential information from grants experts to help Ohio grantees increase their capacity to receive and manage grant funds. This year's sessions include writing a successful grant proposal, water infrastructure funding, incorporating a grants function within your organization, and updates on federal changes, including obligation and close-out of American Rescue Plan Act State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. Register online at [grants.ohio.gov/about/ohio-grants-summit](https://grants.ohio.gov/about/ohio-grants-summit).

**ODOT 2026-2029 Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan Rural Consultation** | The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) is developing the 2026-2029 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The STIP is Ohio's four-year transportation planning program. Meeting with local officials is a vital first step in developing the STIP. These meetings are known as Rural Consultation. Consultation with non-metropolitan area *Serving Athens, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry and Washington Counties in Southeast Ohio.*

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

local officials ensures that ODOT's transportation planning and project decisions reflect the needs of Ohio's rural areas and contribute to the economic growth and quality of life. On October 16, 2024, Buckeye Hills and ODOT hosted a virtual STIP Rural Consultation session for public officials to learn about upcoming transportation projects in their communities and to provide an opportunity to share their feedback. The materials from this session, including county project maps, are available on our website at [buckeyehills.org/community-development/transportation-improvement/](https://buckeyehills.org/community-development/transportation-improvement/).

**ED Now Returns on November 15** | The OhioSE ED Now virtual conference is scheduled for November 15 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. The event provides an opportunity to talk with leaders and practitioners about building a regional economic ecosystem. Economic development expert Chad Chancellor of Next Move Group will share his proven strategies for what board members, elected officials, and local development professionals can do to create economic growth in small communities, companies, and nonprofit organizations. Information and registration is available at [ohiose.com/news/](https://ohiose.com/news/).

## CURRENT INITIATIVES

**Appalachian Community Grant Program Updates** | The team continues working with communities on behalf of the lead applicants. All ILCAO projects are now in the final stages of finalizing design contracts with the design professionals and the construction contractors will be onboard by the end of November. The six communities in the Ross County project all have design contracts in place and the RFPs/RFQs are currently being drafted to solicit contractors. In an effort to ensure local contractors know about these projects, we are working alongside Ross County to host a virtual contractor session in early December. Please watch our Member and Partner Update for additional information and share it with contractors you may know with interest in bidding.

**U.S. EPA Community Change Grant Application** | The two applications totaling \$40 million are nearly complete. The draft has been submitted for technical review and we hope to receive comments back next week for a submission early the following week. The program supports community-based projects that reduce pollution, increase climate resilience, or build capacity to address environmental and climate challenges. Applications are being accepted on a rolling basis through November 21. More information is available at [www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/inflation-reduction-act-community-change-grants-program](https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/inflation-reduction-act-community-change-grants-program).

**HUD Older American Home Modification Grant** | The Aging and Population Health Division is working with the Development Division and Fiscal Department to complete a grant for approximately \$1 million in funding to do small home modifications to keep senior in their homes more safely. This grant will provide improved outdoor lighting for safety, house numbering, railings, and other small modifications over a three-year period. The Department of Housing and Urban Development's Older Adult Home Modification Program will assist experienced nonprofit organizations, state and local governments, and public housing authorities in undertaking comprehensive programs that make safety and functional home modification repairs and renovations to meet the needs of low-income seniors. The deadline to apply is November 19, 2024. Learn more at [www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/356487](https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/356487).

## STATE UPDATES

**Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Applications Due November 30** | The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) provides funding for projects defined as transportation alternatives, including on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility, community improvement activities, and environmental mitigation; recreational trail program projects; and safe routes to school projects. Applications are due November 30, 2024. Learn more at [www.transportation.ohio.gov/programs/local-funding-opportunities/resources/transportation-alternatives-program](https://www.transportation.ohio.gov/programs/local-funding-opportunities/resources/transportation-alternatives-program).

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[buckeyehills.org](https://buckeyehills.org)

**ODOT Special Solicitation for Pedestrian & Bicycle Projects** | ODOT is hosting a special solicitation for projects that make walking and biking a safe, convenient, and accessible transportation option for all Ohioans. A variety of pedestrian and bicycle-related projects are eligible for this opportunity, with an emphasis on projects that can be completed before July 2026. This opportunity offers federal funding for 100% reimbursement of eligible costs. Electronic applications can be submitted at any time and will be reviewed and awarded quarterly based on funding availability. Reviews are expected to occur on or around the 1st of January, April, July, and October. Learn more and apply online at [www.transportation.ohio.gov/traveling/bicycling-and-pedestrians/Resources/pedbikefunding](http://www.transportation.ohio.gov/traveling/bicycling-and-pedestrians/Resources/pedbikefunding).

**Rail Commission Invites Public Participation in State Rail Plan Survey** | The Ohio Rail Development Commission invites stakeholders to participate in an update to the State of Ohio Rail Plan. The Ohio Rail Plan is required to be updated every four years to remain competitive for federal grant opportunities. An online survey is available for the public to provide their thoughts on the current state of the rail network in Ohio, the importance of the rail network to them, and any concerns they may have, as well as priorities they would like to see the State of Ohio pursue. The survey can be found under the News section at [rail.ohio.gov](http://rail.ohio.gov).

**Model Emergency Action Plan for the Use of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)** | The Ohio Department of Health released its Model Emergency Action Plan for the Use of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs), a plan to be used by Ohio schools and municipal sports and recreation locations to ensure staff are trained and ready to respond in the event of a cardiac emergency. The plan satisfies one of the requirements of House Bill 47 -- sponsored by Rep. Adam Bird (R-New Richmond) and Rep. Richard Brown (D-Canal Winchester) -- which was signed into law in July and requires AEDs to be placed in city sports and recreation locations. The action plan can be viewed at [odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/sudden-cardiac-arrest/model-action-plan](http://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/sudden-cardiac-arrest/model-action-plan)

**General Assembly Plans Ballot Measure on OPWC State Capital Improvement Program** | On October 9, members of the Ohio House held a press conference to announce its intention to introduce a bipartisan resolution reauthorizing constitutional borrowing authority for the Ohio Public Works Commission's State Capital Improvement Program (SCIP). The soon-to-be-introduced legislation, sponsored by Representatives Scott Oelslager (R-North Canton) and Dan Troy (D-Willowick), will permit the state to issue \$2.5 billion (\$250 million per year for 10 years) if approved by voters on May 6, 2025. Oelslager has said that the focus of the program is to repair and replace rather than to develop new infrastructure. John Fortney, spokesman for Senate Republicans, confirmed in an email that there will be companion legislation from Sen. Brian Chavez (R-Marietta).

**IMAGE Export Grants Available for Small Businesses** | The International Market Access Grant for Exporters (IMAGE) reimburses small businesses up to \$10,000 in eligible expenses to help businesses expand their reach into international markets.

Eligible expenses include:

- Exhibiting at International Trade Shows
- EXIM Bank Credit Insurance Premiums
- Participation in U.S. Commercial Service Programs
- Supported Individual Market Visits
- Approved Trade Missions
- Translation Expenses
- Compliance Testing
- Exhibiting at Domestic Trade Shows

Learn more by visiting the Ohio Department of Development's website at [development.ohio.gov/business/export-assistance/](http://development.ohio.gov/business/export-assistance/) or by emailing the Development team at [IMAGE@development.ohio.gov](mailto:IMAGE@development.ohio.gov).

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**America 250-Ohio Announces Signature Event for July 2026, “Ohio’s Homecoming & Picnic”** | America 250-Ohio, the official state commission responsible for spearheading Ohio’s celebrations around America’s semi quincentennial in 2026, announced a new signature event aimed at bringing together both current and former Ohioans to celebrate America’s 250th anniversary at community picnics across the state in July 2026. Called Ohio’s Homecoming & Picnic, the event will encompass numerous gatherings, both large and small, in all 88 counties across the state. Megan Wood, Executive Director and CEO of Ohio History Connection and the America 250-Ohio Commissioner leading Ohio’s Homecoming & Picnic project introduced a prototype Homecoming Kit that America 250-Ohio will be providing at no cost to community groups who want to organize a picnic in July 2026. The kits will include décor items, game supplies, and other accessories that will be helpful in planning a celebratory picnic event. Groups interested in planning and organizing an Ohio’s Homecoming & Picnic event in July 2026 are invited to visit [America250Ohio.org](http://America250Ohio.org) for more information.

**State Ends 'All-Or-Nothing' Approach to SNAP** | Ohioans receiving food aid will continue to see some benefits after their income surpasses a prior upper limit under an agency rule that took effect in October. Previously, state residents could not receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits after their household income exceeded 130% of the federal poverty level. Under a revised rules package put forward by the Department of Job & Family Services' Division of Food Stamps, which earned Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review Track approval in June, Ohioans can continue to receive reduced levels of support until their income surpasses 200% of the FPL.

## FEDERAL UPDATES

**ARC Accepting Applications for Summer Study Programs in Entrepreneurship and STEM for Region’s Middle and High School Students** | The Appalachian Regional Commission has opened applications for two summer study opportunities: the Appalachian Entrepreneurship Academy (AEA) and the Appalachian STEM Academy at Oak Ridge. Both programs, planned for summer 2025, are free intensive learning experiences specifically for the Appalachian Region’s high school and/or middle school students and teachers. Applications are due December 6.

**Information and Application Details for the Appalachian Entrepreneurship Academy:**

[www.arc.gov/academies-and-institutes/aea/](http://www.arc.gov/academies-and-institutes/aea/)

**Information and Application Details for the Appalachian STEM Academy:**

<https://www.arc.gov/academies-and-institutes/stem/>

**Final Rule Issued on Lead Pipes in Drinking Water Systems** | On October 8, the U.S. EPA issued a final rule requiring drinking water systems across the country to identify and replace lead pipes within 10 years and opened up the WIIN Grant for applications. This will release \$35 million to assist disadvantaged communities and schools with removing sources of lead in drinking water. Information is available at [www.epa.gov/dwcapacity/wiin-grant-reducing-lead-drinking-water](http://www.epa.gov/dwcapacity/wiin-grant-reducing-lead-drinking-water).

Additionally, EPA’s water technical assistance (WaterTA), including the Get the Lead Out (GLO) Initiative, helps disadvantaged communities identify lead service lines, develop replacement plans, and apply for funding to get the lead out. Communities seeking to access GLO Initiative resources can request assistance by completing the WaterTA request form on EPA’s WaterTA website at [www.epa.gov/water-infrastructure/get-lead-out-initiative](http://www.epa.gov/water-infrastructure/get-lead-out-initiative).

**USDA Seeks Applications for Funding to Help Preserve and Improve Affordable Rental Housing in Rural Communities** | U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development is accepting applications for loans, grants, and debt deferrals to preserve or improve safe, affordable rental housing for low-income residents and farmworkers in rural communities. The funding is being made available through the Multifamily Housing Preservation and Revitalization Demonstration Program and the Rural Rental Housing Program. Under the Multifamily Housing Preservation and Revitalization Demonstration Program, USDA is providing grants, debt deferrals, and zero- and low-interest loans to owners of USDA-financed rental and farmworker housing properties *Serving Athens, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry and Washington Counties in Southeast Ohio.*

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in rural areas. To learn more, read the full Stakeholder Announcement at [www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/usda-rd-sa-fy24-nofa-mfh-reservation-and-revitalization-09272024.pdf](http://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/usda-rd-sa-fy24-nofa-mfh-reservation-and-revitalization-09272024.pdf)

**Social Security Administration Announces 2025 Cost-of-Living Adjustment** | On October 10, the Social Security Administration **announced** that its cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for 2025 will be 2.5%. Starting in January 2025, the maximum federal benefit rate for the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program will be \$967 for an individual and \$1,450 for a couple. The average Social Security retirement benefit is expected to increase by approximately \$50, from \$1,927 to \$1,976.

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES & EVENTS:

- **November 7, 9:30 a.m. – BHRC Aging Summit: Aging in Southeast Ohio** | Buckeye Hills Regional Council, Marietta
  - Register: [buckeyehills.org/event/aging-in-southeast-ohio/](http://buckeyehills.org/event/aging-in-southeast-ohio/)
- **November 8, 10:00 a.m. – OneOhio Region 12 Committee** | Buckeye Hills Regional Council, Marietta
- **November 12, 10:00 a.m. – Washington County Way2Go Transportation Advisory Committee** | Buckeye Hills Regional Council, Marietta
- **November 13, 10:00 a.m. – Monroe County Transportation Advisory Committee** | The Coffee House on Main, Woodsfield
- **November 14, 10:00 a.m. – Noble County Transportation Advisory Committee** | Allwell Behavior Health Services, Caldwell
- **November 14, 4:00-6:00 p.m. – Noble County CarFit** | Noble County Health Department, Caldwell
- **November 15 – Strong Towns: Escaping the Housing Trap** | Online
  - Register: [osu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_caS6ZSjDTD6B9jy1KjiKkQ#/registration](https://osu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_caS6ZSjDTD6B9jy1KjiKkQ#/registration)
- **November 15 – ED Now** | Online
  - Register: [ohiose.com/news/](http://ohiose.com/news/)
- **November 18 – Appalachian Ohio Regional GIS Symposium** | Ohio University
  - Register: [gis.ohio.edu/gis-symposium/](http://gis.ohio.edu/gis-symposium/)
- **November 19-20 – Ohio Grants Summit** | Online
  - Register: [grants.ohio.gov/about/ohio-grants-summit](http://grants.ohio.gov/about/ohio-grants-summit)

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**CONTACT INFO:** Chasity Schmelzenbach, Executive Director  
[cschmelzenbach@buckeyehills.org](mailto:cschmelzenbach@buckeyehills.org) | 740-376-1034

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