



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

October 3, 2025

Buckeye Hills Regional Council

AGENDA

- I. **Call to Order** | Ron Moore, Vice President
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance** | Ron Moore, Vice President
- III. **Roll Call** | Chasity Schmelzenbach, Secretary
- IV. **Consent Agenda** | Ron Moore, Vice President **TAB #1**
- V. **Management Committee Update** | Ron Moore, Chair **TAB #2**
 - a. Management Committee Report
 - b. Salary Scale to Meet Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)
 - c. Staff Evals & Recommendation of Salary Increases for Jan. 2026
- VI. **Appalachian Develop. Corp. Trustee Appointments** | Ron Moore, Vice President **TAB #3**
 - a. John Curtis – Term 2025-2028 (Reappointment)
 - b. Vacancy – Term 2024-2027
 - c. Vacancy – Term 2023-2026
- VII. **Member Round Table**
- VIII. **Legislator and Partner Agency Updates**
- IX. **Executive Director Report** | Chasity Schmelzenbach **TAB #4**
 - a. New Location Update
- X. **Citizen Participation**
- XI. **Other Business**
- XII. **Adjournment**

THE NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 7, 2025.

**Minutes of the August 1, 2025
Buckeye Hills Regional Council Executive Committee Meeting**

The Buckeye Hills Regional Council (BHRC) Executive Committee meeting was held August 1, 2025. The meeting was held at Buckeye Hills, Marietta, Ohio.

In attendance were:

OFFICERS:	James Booth, President	Washington County
	Ron Moore, Vice President	Morgan County
	Allen Fraley, Treasurer	Noble County
	Chasity Schmelzenbach, Secretary	BHRC
	(non-voting member per Bylaws)	

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:	Lenny Eliason	Athens County
	Steve Patterson	City of Athens
	Jason D'Onofrio	Hocking County
	Jeff Dickerson	Hocking County (Private Sector)
	Brian Howard	Meigs County (Private Sector)
	Mick Schumacher	Monroe County
	Ken Stewart	Monroe County (Private Sector)
	Heidi Maxwell	Morgan County
	Ben Carpenter	Perry County
	Josh Schlicher	City of Marietta

GENERAL POLICY COUNCIL:	Diane Burkhart	Monroe County
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GUESTS:	Dana Hermann	Appalachian Ohio Manufacturers' Coalition
	Tyce Patt	Office of U.S. Senator Moreno
	Neil Polk	Ohio Dept. of Job and Family Services
	Nick Ulan	Office of U.S. Senator Husted

STAFF:	Kate Dunn	Senior Planner
	Jen Huck	Fiscal Assistant
	Michelle Hyer	Program Manager
	Denise Keyes	Fiscal Director
	Angie Lawrence	HR Director
	Misty McConnell	Assistant Fiscal Director
	Sam Miller	Development Director
	Christa Myers	Transportation Planning Manager
	Kimy Porter	Fiscal Assistant
	Jenny Simmons	Program Manager
	Drew Tanner	Communications Director
	Emma Yeager	Development Specialist
	Melissa Zoller	Planner Director

CALL TO ORDER

James Booth, President, called the meeting to order.

ROLE CALL

Chasity Schmelzenbach conducted roll call.

CONSENT AGENDA

Steve Patterson moved to approve the consent agenda which included the minutes from the June 6, 2025, meeting; Statement of Activities; Quarterly Budget Adjustment, Administrative Expense YTD; Aging and Disability Programs Services and Funding Report for period July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, and Division and Director's Reports. Jason D'Onofrio seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

DEVELOPMENT DIVISION UPDATE

Lenny Eliason moved to approve the Resolution of Support for Appalachian Regional Commission 2025-2026 Project presented by Sam Miller, Development Director. Jason D'Onofrio seconded the motion. Mayor Steve Patterson expressed concerns about one specific project's approval at state and federal levels due to its nature. Commissioner Allen Fraley praised the staff for compiling the project list. There was no further discussion. All yeas. Motion carried.

BROWNFIELD REMEDIATION PROGRAM

Kate Dunn, Senior Planner, delivered a presentation and update on the Brownfield Remediation Program to the committee.

MEMBER ROUND TABLE

Members shared updates from their respective counties, discussing current initiatives, challenges, and successes in an open-floor format.

LEGISLATIVE & PARTNER AGENCY UPDATES

Neil Polk from the Ohio Dept. of Jobs and Family Services introduced himself as the Business Outreach contact for OhioMeansJobs.

Tyce Patt from the Office of U.S. Senator Moreno provided updates to the committee.

Nick Ulan from the Office of U.S. Senator Husted, provided updates to the committee.

Dana Hermann from the Appalachian Ohio Manufacturers' Coalition introduced herself as the Executive Director and expressed her enthusiasm for attending.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Chasity Schmelzenbach, Executive Director, presented the following updates:

Congratulations in the Region:

- Athens County Port Authority awarded \$225,183 from ODOD Brownfield Grant.
- Glouster and Rutland celebrate AMLER project groundbreaking.
- Logan's Riley Shoe Co. Building awarded \$1.8M Historic Preservation Tax Credit.
- Meigs County celebrates grand opening of Transportation Hub.
- Meigs County & Village of Amesville named ARC READY Local Govs grantees.
- Caldwell breaks ground on ACGP Downtown Revitalization Project.
- City of Marietta & Village of Albany receive TAP grants.
- BHRC and Ohio Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Service were recognized with 2025 Aliceann Wohlbruck Impact Awards from NADO.

State Updates:

- Gov. DeWine signs FY26-27 operating budget; House votes to override provision veto (certain types of levies)
- ODNR AMLER Program accepting Letters of Intent through August 15
- ODOD Director Mihalik visits Caldwell and Marietta
- U.S. 33 Expansion Project begins
- Village Fiscal Officer Training in October.
- Medicaid Dept examining state and federal budget impacts

Federal Updates

- President signs One Big Beautiful Bill Act
- Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2025 introduced
- New ARC report sheds light on worker displacement
- USDA announces Expedited Congressionally Mandated Disaster Assistance for farmers
- USDOT seeks comments on National Freight Strategic Plan by August 14

Mark Your Calendars

- August 21: Ohio Chamber Southeast Regional Impact Ohio Event | The Ohio Chamber of Commerce Regional Impact Ohio Conference presents the opportunity for our members to hear directly from local political leaders and strategists on the issues facing their communities. The Southeast Ohio regional session will take place August 21, 9:00 a.m.-1:45 p.m. at the Ohio University Inn & Conference Center. Registration is \$59 (ohiochamber.com/events/)
- August 13: Small Communities, Big Impact (registration closed)
- September 5: OPWC Round 40 applications are due to BHRC by 4 p.m. (buckeyehills.org/opwc)
- September 30: Clean Ohio Round 20 electronic applications are due in the OPWC WorksWise Portal, and 12 hard copies are due to BHRC by 5 p.m.
- November 13: Aging in Appalachia (buckeyehills.org/events)

Chasity Schmelzenbach informed the committee about a potential relocation for the main office due to nearby construction activities. The Appalachian Development Corporation is currently negotiating a new property, though details cannot yet be shared.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

No citizens present wished to address the committee.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business, Jason D'Onofrio moved to adjourn the meeting. Allen Fraley seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

Approved By: _____
Chasity Schmelzenbach, Secretary

Date: _____



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

July 1, 2025, through August 31, 2025

Year to Date Administrative Expense Detail

Administrative Expenses for Fiscal Year 2026 totaled \$1,683,539.78 on August 31. This total represents 21.35% of the Council's administrative budget utilized. Total spending for this time period is budgeted to be 17%. 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 2026 is 44%.

Aging and Disability Programs Services & Funding Report

The Aging and Disability Division worked with various service providers and helped administer a multitude of direct service programs to eligible residents of our eight-county region. Between July 1 and August 31, more than \$3 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, 2025 - August 31, 2025

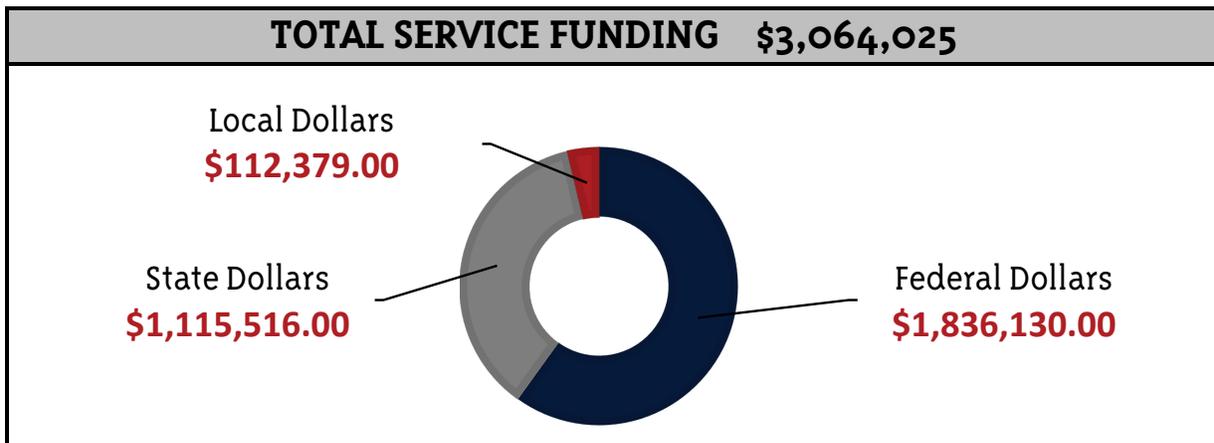
	2025 YTD Actual	2026 YTD Actual	2026 Budget	% of Budget
Salary	\$ 590,297.21	\$ 653,309.82	\$ 3,786,807.71	17.25%
Fringe Benefits	\$ 337,943.67	\$ 306,680.71	\$ 2,116,005.26	14.49%
Advertising	\$ 16,575.90	\$ 22,142.79	\$ 99,203.00	22.32%
Audit Costs			\$ 30,500.00	0.00%
Building Maintenance	\$ 2,640.00	\$ 4,218.24	\$ 30,000.00	14.06%
Communications	\$ 15,224.46	\$ 25,870.37	\$ 84,850.00	30.49%
Conference Registration Fee	\$ 10,798.00	\$ 3,084.00	\$ 38,500.00	8.01%
Contract Services	\$ 4,424.75	\$ 534,863.54	\$ 792,500.00	67.49%
Employee/Governing Board	\$ 576.25	\$ 606.40	\$ 15,000.00	4.04%
Equipment Purchase/Maintenance	\$ 8,339.90	\$ 2,458.25	\$ 12,000.00	20.49%
Insurance			\$ 45,000.00	0.00%
Legal Costs	\$ 2,075.00		\$ 100,000.00	0.00%
Organizational Dues	\$ 1,499.42	\$ 1,003.00	\$ 39,550.00	2.54%
Other Costs		\$ 2,464.49	\$ 13,600.00	18.12%
Postage	\$ 4,871.72		\$ 8,000.00	0.00%
Printing Costs	\$ 872.00		\$ 8,000.00	0.00%
Software & Licenses	\$ 23,474.22	\$ 8,097.81	\$ 77,000.00	10.52%
Space	\$ 42,556.78	\$ 42,556.78	\$ 255,340.00	16.67%
Staff Training Fees	\$ 1,595.05	\$ 5,396.86	\$ 13,000.00	41.51%
Subscriptions	\$ 4,513.19	\$ 5,378.24	\$ 10,200.00	52.73%
Supplies	\$ 22,983.38	\$ 14,255.68	\$ 49,000.00	29.09%
Travel - Mileage Reimbursement	\$ 29,675.05	\$ 33,391.49	\$ 160,000.00	20.87%
Travel - Out of Town Expense	\$ 18,722.13	\$ 17,761.31	\$ 100,000.00	17.76%
TOTAL EXPENSES FOR THE PERIOD	\$ 1,139,658.08	\$ 1,683,539.78	\$ 7,884,055.97	21.35%
INDIRECT COST RATE FOR THE PERIOD	48%	44%		

Buckeye Hills Regional Council

Aging and Health Programs Services & Funding Report

July 1, 2025 - August 31, 2025

SERVICES PROVIDED		
Direct Service Hours Provided	Transportation Trips	Adult Day Service Days Attended
69,367	2,839	273
Adult Day Service Miles Traveled	Meals Provided	Home Medical Equipment & Emergency Response Units
1,736	46,346	662
Legal Services Contacts	Home Accessibility Modification And Pest Control Jobs	Senior Farmers Market Coupons Redeemed
120	10	13,368
Grocery Shopping and Delivery	Assisted Living Days	Evidence Based Classes
77	2,926	205
	Alzheimers Education Contacts	
	48	



REGIONAL STATS		
Total Consumers Served	Total Population	Total Population Eligible for Services by Age (60+)
5,381	249,172	65,746

PROGRAM UPDATES

MyCare Next Gen Program | The Ohio Department of Medicaid is actively working to transition to MyCare Next Gen by implementing the MyCare program across all 88 counties in Ohio. The leadership team at Buckeye Hills Regional Council (BHRC) has engaged with each of the four plans designated to collaborate with the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) network for a successful MyCare launch. These four plans are Anthem, CareSource, Molina, and Buckeye Health Plan. Current efforts include developing a scope of work, conducting rate negotiations, contract development, transition planning, and staff training. BHRC is scheduled to begin participating in MyCare Next Gen in August 2026.

Transition Plans | Buckeye Hills Regional Council (BHRC) has successfully submitted the required transition plans to the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM). These transition plans represent a critical step in progressing towards MyCare Next Gen, showcasing BHRC's preparedness and partnerships with the managed care plans. ODM will review each transition plan and provide feedback to BHRC.

Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging Conference | BHRC leadership and staff will attend the annual Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging (O4A) Conference at the Easton Hilton in Columbus. This event focuses on home and community-based services (HCBS) and the aging and disability network. Nearly 600 professionals, advocates, providers, and volunteers gather annually for two days of learning, collaboration, and inspiration. Attendees gain access to expert-led sessions on the latest policies, programs, and best practices, as well as opportunities to explore innovative resources and solutions that strengthen care and support for older adults and people with disabilities.

Title III/Older Americans Act Request for Proposals RFP Closing Soon | The Title III/Older Americans Act Request for Proposals (RFP) has been released and will remain open until October 3rd. The budget for the 2026 Older Americans Act is under review, and the funding amounts in the RFP are currently estimates. Accurate budgets will be provided to providers once BHRC receives notification from the Ohio Department of Aging (ODA) regarding the final amounts.

PASSPORT Budget | The Ohio Department of Aging is also finalizing the PASSPORT budgets for the 2026 and 2027 fiscal years.

Older Americans Act Budget | The Older Americans Act (OAA) budget is being re-evaluated due to the reassessment of the Interstate Funding Formula (IFF). Preliminary figures indicate a potential reduction in funding, including the Senior Community Services (SCS) line item. Any potential reduction in SCS funding will impact BHRC's ability to match OAA, housing funds and other financial resources.

PASSPORT AND ASSISTED LIVING CASELOAD REGIONWIDE

PASSPORT: **799 individuals**

Assisted Living Waiver: **63 individuals**

CONTACT INFO: Jenn Westfall, Aging and Health Director | jwestfall@buckeyehills.org | 740-376-1038
Dawn Weber, Home Care Director | dweber@buckeyehills.org | 740-376-1041

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PROGRAM UPDATES

HEAP Outreach | HEAP Summer Crisis Program wrapped up on September 30. We received the new press release for the 2025-2026 program year, which has been distributed to our local newspapers as well as added to our website. We are still awaiting funding for the new grant period before we can purchase more advertising, however quotes have been obtained for billboards beginning in December/January.

Agging Outreach | Outreach continues across our region, where handouts and pamphlets are made available to attendees. Most recently, we attended:

- August 24 – GoPacks Community Resource Fair – Washington County
- August 27 – Matter of Balance Class – Washington County
- August 29 – Noble County Senior Day – Noble County
- September 11 – CarFit Event- Monroe County
- September 17 – Carfit Event – Washington County
- September 19- Athens County Senior Expo- Athens County
- September 22- Athens Walk to End Alzheimers- Athens County (sponsored)
- September 27- MOV Walk to End Alzheimers- Wood County, WV (sponsored)

Upcoming outreach events include:

- October 8- Scenic Hills Health Fair- Hocking County
- October 29- Matter of Balance Class- Washington County
- October 29- Perry County Veterans Extravaganza- 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.

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. We are working in conjunction with SMP in providing materials at events we attend in the region. Funds were used to purchase 2026 Fraud Prevention Pocket Calendars that are expected to arrive mid-late October. These will feature Buckeye Hills Aging & Health services and be distributed at events and through our care workers.

ACGP Groundbreaking Celebrations | Communications has been working with the Development team and communities to help plan, execute, and document groundbreaking celebrations for Appalachian Community Grant Program projects. Since the August Executive Committee meeting, staff have attended groundbreaking celebrations in Noble County on August 4 for the school-based health center, in Monroe County on August 8 for the Ecotone Complex, and in McConnelsville on August 26 for their downtown square and the AMLER project that is supporting work on the Twin City Opera House. Upcoming groundbreaking celebrations include the Village of Chauncey's downtown revitalization on October 2 and the Village of Beverly's multi-use path on October 9.

Aging Summit | Registration is now open for Aging in Appalachia on Thursday, November 13, in the Buckeye Hills conference center. Complimentary registration codes were emailed to members of the Executive Committee and the Regional Advisory Council. You can register online at buckeyehills.org/events.

Development Summit | Buckeye Hills hosted its annual Small Communities, Big Impact Development Summit on August 13. The event was sold out and received overwhelmingly positive feedback on the participant evaluations, especially on the quality of the sessions. One surprise we encountered was the number of those who registered but failed to attend—roughly 20% of registrants. Because registration filled up so early, it's possible that many had conflicts arise or forgot to put the event on their calendars. For future summits, we plan to bolster our reminder messages to those who registered.

Ohio University Documentary Project | Communications continues to work in partnership with the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission and students from Ohio University's Media Production for the Community class to document some of the projects supported by the Appalachian Community Grant Program in the region. Students have completed the first round of short documentaries, which have been posted to the Buckeye Hills YouTube page at www.youtube.com/@BuckeyeHills. The shorts are being featured on buckeyehills.org and BHRC's social media channels to highlight the work being done throughout the region with support from the ACGP. This fall, students are documenting progress on ACGP projects in Marietta, Chauncey, Racine, and at the Monroe Theatre in Woodsfield.

Website Updates | The Communications Department is working on a couple of updates at buckeyehills.org. The first is a reorganization of pages relating to planning and transportation as our Planning Division continues to grow and evolve. The second is a round of updates to our online Provider Directory for those seeking home- and community-based services. This update will help us follow-up with listed providers on a regular basis to invite them to review their information and ensure that it is up-to-date. This section, containing nearly 700 local and regional providers, has quickly become the most-visited section of buckeyehills.org, with an average of 3,500 visitors per month. Maintaining accurate listings will help ensure that the Provider Directory continues to be a valuable resource for those in the region seeking care and support for themselves or older relatives and friends.

RECENT MEDIA

- **August 11, 2025 – The Marietta Times:** \$4.4M amphitheater and walking trail coming to Monroe County
- **August 15, 2025 – The Athens Independent:** Coolville culvert repairs near completion; state route to reopen soon
- **August 16, 2025 – Logan Daily News:** Commissioners hear Murray City School updates
- **August 16, 2025 – AllAboardOhio.org:** Building Resilient Transportation Everywhere Is Possible: The Buckeye State Deserves Better Part II
- **August 18, 2025 – The Marietta Times:** GoPacks to host annual Resource Fair on Sunday
- **August 19, 2025 – Logan Daily News:** New regional development roadmap approved
- **August 20, 2025 – The Herald (Morgan County):** August 26 ceremony at Square kicks off beautification project
- **August 20, 2025 – River Cities Tribune (Meigs County):** Buckeye Hills Regional Council releases expansive economic plan
- **August 20, 2025 – The Perry County Tribune:** New regional development roadmap approved
- **August 21, 2025 – The Marietta Times:** Buckeye Hills Regional Council releases Buckeye Hills Forward: A Regional Economic Plan
- **August 26, 2025 – The Marietta Times:** Memory Disco brings music, joy, and connection to dementia care
- **September 3, 2025 – The Herald (Morgan County):** Ohio Governor DeWine speaks at kickoff event

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- **September 16, 2025 – Logan Daily News:** Second annual Athens County Senior Expo and Health Fair to be held on Friday
-

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

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CURRENT INITIATIVES

Ohio Public Works Commission District 18 Updates | OPWC SCIP/LTIP applications were due September 1st. Buckeye Hills received and scored 47 applications. Those application scores were given to the applicants on September 26th and they will have until October 17th to make any changes (outside of scope changes) to correct or enhance their score. County Sub-Committees will be required to meet between November 3rd and November 7th to award their county sub-committee points to priority projects. On December 17th, the Executive Committee will meet to approve the slate of projects to be sent to the state.

Buckeye Hills, OU Honored with 2025 Impact Awards | Buckeye Hills Regional Council and Ohio University's Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Service have been recognized with [2025 Aliceann Wohlbruck Impact Awards](#) from the National Association of Development Organizations. Presented annually, the NADO Impact Awards honor regional development organizations and their partners for strengthening communities, building regional resilience, and enhancing local economies through innovative approaches to economic and community development. Buckeye Hills was recognized for its community engagement efforts for Buckeye Hills Forward: A Regional Economic Plan and its collaboration as part of the Monroe & Noble County Introduction to Tablets, Internet, and Email. Ohio University was recognized for the Appalachian Ohio Regional GIS Collaborative, a partnership between the Voinovich School, Ohio's four Local Development Districts, and the Mayors' Partnership for Progress.

NEWS

Program & Service Updates

ARC POWER Grant Applications Due September 12 | The Appalachian Regional Commission issued a [notice of solicitation of applications \(NOSA\)](#) on August 12 for its Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization (POWER) Initiative. POWER offers federal grant funding for projects that help Appalachian coal communities expand local and regional economies by creating high-quality, in-demand jobs, attracting new sources of private investment, and providing comprehensive workforce services and skills training.

Successful POWER projects will demonstrate the ability to produce varied economic development outcomes, including broadening local and regional economic bases, creating stable employment opportunities, expanding workforce service and skills training, and attracting new sources of public and private investment. POWER projects can also entail plans to integrate activities with existing economic development strategies or to help implement these strategies on a local, regional or federal level. Grant applications are due by October 22, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. with award announcements happening in May 2026.

ODOD Advanced Energy Fund Applications Due October 31 | Ohio Department of Development is accepting applications through October 31 for the latest round of the [Advanced Energy Fund](#) for projects to support energy efficiency. The program allocates a total of \$8.5 million to help businesses, nonprofits, municipalities, and educational institutions complete projects designed to reduce energy usage and associated costs. Eligible projects include insulation, LED lighting, energy efficiency lighting technologies, energy management control systems, HVAC upgrades, weather sealing, door and window replacements, combined heat and power systems, and cogeneration systems.

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Ohio Revised Code Amendments Regarding Village Dissolution Take Effect September 30 | A set of provisions contained in House Bill 96 from April 2024 will take effect on September 30:

- **703.331: Village dissolution for lack of services or candidates** ([Section 703.331 - Ohio Revised Code | Ohio Laws](#))
 - **Notable Changes:**
 - The list of services adds electric service to the list of possible services to be included. The procedure in this section is in addition to the procedure under section 703.33 of the Revised Code for the dissolution of a village.
- **703.34: Dissolution of village** ([Section 703.34 - Ohio Revised Code | Ohio Laws](#))
 - **Notable Changes:**
 - Population threshold raised from 150 to 500, expanding the scope of villages potentially subject to involuntary dissolution.
 - Territorial size requirement removed, simplifying and broadening the applicability.
 - Added specificity on timelines (10 business days for auditor; 20 days for AG) and recording duties (explicit recipients).

SBA Launches First-Ever Loan Program Dedicated to American Manufacturers | The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) launched its first-ever loan program dedicated to supporting America's small manufacturers, which make up 98% of all U.S. manufacturers. The [7\(a\) Manufacturer's Access to Revolving Credit \(MARC\) Loan Program](#) will offer working capital for small businesses engaged in manufacturing ([NAICS 31-33](#)), specifically designed to provide maximum flexibility and minimal red tape.

BroadbandOhio BEAD Final Proposal | In August, the Ohio Department of Development released [BroadbandOhio's Final Proposal for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment \(BEAD\) program](#), outlining plans to connect 72,375 locations using \$277 million of the state's \$793 million allocation, with a focus on fiber, LEO satellite, and fixed wireless technologies. This proposal followed a public comment period from August 28 to September 3. The proposal now goes to the NTIA for review and approval.

Upcoming Events

October 8: The Rural "Brain Drain" Dilemma | Curious why young people leave Appalachia? Join OSU Extension for a [Virtual Lunch & Learn](#) on October 8, 12:00-1:00 p.m. to learn more about:

- "Brain Drain"
- Rural Population Retention
- Key Findings from the study "Emerging Adulthood in Appalachian Ohio: The Rural Brain Drain Dilemma"

Presented by Maddie Allman, MS, Ohio State University Extension 4-H & Youth Development Educator (Jackson County). For more information, visit noble.osu.edu.

RSVP by October 3 at 740-305-3177 or_stewart.1818@osu.edu.

October 23: Ohio Land Bank Association Fall Summit | The [Ohio Land Bank Association's second annual Fall Summit](#) is happening Thursday, October 23 at the Historic Lafayette Hotel in Marietta, Ohio. This one-day event is designed for land bank staff, board members, local officials, and community partners from across the state. With a focus on practical content, the Fall Summit offers an approachable entry point into key land banking topics like brownfield redevelopment, property acquisition and disposition, governance, and funding strategies. Whether your community is considering a land bank, has recently formed a land bank, or you have a seasoned land bank and are looking to reconnect with the fundamentals, the Summit delivers relevant content, peer networking, and real-world takeaways. In addition to the sessions available, the Summit will have three mobile tour options. In the morning, there will be a walking tour highlighting community revitalization efforts in Southeast Ohio, including a walking tour of transformative local projects supported by the Appalachian Community Grant Program and two afternoon trolley tours exploring the history of Marietta.

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STAFF UPDATES

- **Michelle Hyer** is continuing to work closely with staff on the, now 17, Appalachian Community Grant Program (ACGP) projects that they are administering. Most of these projects will be under construction within the next couple of months. Michelle has also been working with Specialists on OPWC, NRAC, and OneOhio. OPWC and NRAC applications were both due in September. OneOhio Round 2 applications will be due at the beginning of 2026 and staff have been meeting monthly with the committee to prepare for those inquiries.
- **Kylee Nichols** has been working on administering the Appalachian Community Grant Program projects assigned to her and finalizing environmental reviews.
- **Jada Riley** has been reviewing and scoring the applications received for this round of OPWC.
- **Emma Yeager** worked on the ARC Area Development Project Kick-Off training materials. She will begin opening those applications with an expected deadline of November 21, 2025.

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

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District 18 - Fiscal Year 2027 - Round 40 - Before County Points

County	Jurisdiction/Project	Grant	Loan	Total Cost
Athens	Village of Albany Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Priority #1	\$ 400,000.00	\$ -	\$ 573,400.00
Athens	Village of Chauncey Stormwater Project - Priority #1	\$ 400,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,112,898.00
Athens	Village of Jacksonville: 2025 Street Improvements Project	\$ 224,999.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 249,999.00
Athens	2026 Athens County Paving	\$ 400,000.00	\$ 134,000.00	\$ 724,000.00
Athens	Village of Coolville Water System Improvements	\$ 400,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,386,876.00
Belmont	City of St. Clairsville Water Distribution System Improvements -Phase 2	\$ 399,999.00	\$ 400,001.00	\$ 7,168,190.00
Belmont	Village of Barnesville 2026 Street Improvement Program	\$ 323,054.00	\$ 107,685.00	\$ 582,080.00
Belmont	City of St. Clairsville EFAW Lift Station Improvements (#2)	\$ -	\$ 327,419.00	\$ 567,800.00
Belmont	City of Martin's Ferry Jefferson Street Utility Replacement	\$ 372,890.00	\$ 388,112.00	\$ 963,295.00
Belmont	Mead Township Lockwood Run Road Paving Project	\$ 114,685.00	\$ 255,000.00	\$ 499,685.00
Belmont	Belmont County BEL-10-3.75/4.95 & 7.03/8.58 Lafferty & Crabapple Road Paving Project Priority #2	\$ 400,000.00	\$ -	\$ 593,135.00
Belmont	Belmont County BEL-10-0.00/3.75 Black Oak Road Paving Project #1	\$ 400,000.00	\$ 214,265.00	\$ 830,088.00
Belmont	Village of Bellaire Street & Catch Basin Improvement	\$ 384,023.00	\$ 400,000.00	\$ 1,126,319.00
Belmont	Pultney Township Bellview Drive Slip	\$ 400,000.00	\$ 94,533.00	\$ 668,289.00
Hocking	Hocking County Resurfacing Project #1 (Co-Op)	\$ 400,000.00	\$ -	\$ 804,598.00
Hocking	Hocking County Resurfacing Project #2	\$ 400,000.00	\$ 134,000.00	\$ 753,506.00
Hocking	Green Twp Paving of Maysville-Greendale, Etc.	\$ 384,683.81	\$ -	\$ 432,229.00
Hocking	Village of Laurelville Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Phase 1	\$ 400,000.00	\$ 99,900.00	\$ 499,900.00
Meigs	Meigs County Paving Project FY27 CR40, CR29, CR51B, etc.	\$ 400,000.00	\$ 135,816.00	\$ 724,077.00
Meigs	Meigs County Cooperative Paving FY27 RD40 CR33, Pomeroy Various Streets	\$ 400,000.00	\$ -	\$ 542,048.00
Monroe	MOE/Antioch CR9 Road Improvements (Priority #1) Co-Op	\$ 400,000.00	\$ 298,000.00	\$ 1,292,250.00
Monroe	MOE CR48/CR17 Road Improvements (Priority #2)	\$ 400,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,250,355.00
Monroe	Woodsfield & Lewisville Street Improvement	\$ 400,000.00	\$ -	\$ 650,000.00
Monroe	Ohio Lee Township Rural Water Association Sardis Phase 3 Wastewater Collection & Treatment System Priority 1	\$ 392,000.00	\$ 408,000.00	\$ 5,655,333.00
Morgan	Morgan County Paving Project (CR11, CR14 & CR52)	\$ 400,000.00	\$ 247,562.00	\$ 952,296.00
Morgan	Morgan County Combo Project (Village & Township Resurfacing) Co-Op	\$ 400,000.00	\$ -	\$ 550,946.00
Morgan	Village of Malta Front Street Reconstruction Project	\$ 305,000.00	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 860,000.00
Morgan	Village of Stockport 2026 Roadway Improvements	\$ 249,999.00	\$ -	\$ 662,399.00
Muskingum	Muskingum County - County Road Paving (Priority #1)	\$ 392,000.00	\$ 400,000.00	\$ 1,188,040.00
Muskingum	Muskingum County - Village Resurfacing (Priority #2)	\$ 400,000.00	\$ 135,000.00	\$ 769,213.00
Muskingum	Falls Township - Richey Road Resurfacing (Priority #1)	\$ -	\$ 146,695.00	\$ 198,236.00
Muskingum	City of Zanesville 2026 Citywide Paving	\$ 400,000.00	\$ 135,000.00	\$ 723,000.00
Muskingum	Village of Frazeyburg Paving of West Carlisle, Clay, Nora, First	\$ 134,433.00	\$ -	\$ 135,285.00

County	Number of Projects:	Total Ask:
Athens	5	\$ 1,983,999.00
Belmont	9	\$ 4,981,666.00
Hocking	4	\$ 1,818,583.81
Meigs	2	\$ 935,816.00
Monroe	4	\$ 2,298,000.00
Morgan	4	\$ 1,657,561.00
Muskingum	9	\$ 3,721,990.00
Noble	2	\$ 1,136,247.00
Perry	4	\$ 1,973,410.00
Washington	4	\$ 4,720,686.00

Muskingum	Jacksonville Twp Old Riley Road Full Depth Improvements - Priority #1	\$ 361,362.00	\$ 121,098.00	\$ 542,699.00
Muskingum	Village of Philo Market Street Waterline Replacement - Priority #1	\$ 243,903.00	\$ 43,042.00	\$ 332,316.00
Muskingum	Village of New Concord North Clarifier Rehabilitation	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 209,457.00	\$ 553,320.00
Muskingum	Village of Fultonham Storm Swere & Paving Project, Priority #1	\$ 400,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,631,330.00
Noble	Noble County Combined Highway Improvement 2026	\$ 400,000.00	\$ 191,813.00	\$ 799,747.00
Noble	Round 40 Noble County CR16 Highway Improvement	\$ 400,000.00	\$ 144,434.00	\$ 1,100,000.00
Perry	Perry County/Township Co-Op #1 Paving Project	\$ 400,000.00	\$ -	\$ 983,320.00
Perry	Perry County Paving	\$ 400,000.00	\$ 420,000.00	\$ 1,193,600.00
Perry	Village of Shawnee Street Improvements	\$ 354,177.00	\$ 39,353.00	\$ 393,530.00
Perry	Village of Somerset North Drive Force Main Extension	\$ 359,880.00	\$ -	\$ 404,360.00
Washington	Washington County WAS-C-42	\$ 384,246.00	\$ 399,930.00	\$ 1,950,987.00
Washington	Village of Beverly Water Storage Tank Replacement	\$ 499,999.00	\$ 1,997,801.00	\$ 2,497,800.00
Washington	Muskingum Township Resurfacing Project	\$ 382,155.00	\$ 397,755.00	\$ 1,090,784.00
Washington	City of Marietta 2026 Citywide Resurfacing, Curb, & Sidewalk	\$ 400,000.00	\$ 258,800.00	\$ 658,800.00
	Total Grant	\$ 16,463,487.81		
	Total Loan		\$ 8,764,471.00	
	Total Combined	\$ 25,227,958.81		
	Total Project Costs			\$ 50,822,358.00

STAFF UPDATES

Melissa Zoller (Planning Director)

Engagement & Community Outreach:

- Attended multiple fairs and festivals around the region promoting the Active Transportation Plan and gathering thoughts from community members

Transportation Planning, Mobility & Innovation:

- Shenandoah Business Advisory Council- September 19th
- WWW Policy Board-September 17th
- RTPPO/ODOT Quarterly Touch Base September 16th

Professional Development & Conferences:

- 2025 Ohio Transportation Engineering Conference (OTEC) October 14-15th
- 2025 Ohio Rural Land Bank Summit October 23rd

Upcoming Events:

- ODOT ATAC Meeting October 21st

Eric Wade (Senior Planner)

Engagement & Community Outreach:

- Attended multiple public events to help promote the regional active transportation plan.
- Attended the Access Ohio 2050 stakeholder meeting on behalf of BHRC.
- Completed the RTPPO quarterly meeting on September 17th.
- Attended the Ohio GIS Conference in September.

Transportation Planning, Mobility & Innovation:

- RTPPO/ODOT Quarterly Touch Base September 16th
- ODOT & BHRC Capital Program Management Meeting
- Long-Range Transportation Plan Project Kick-Off
- Applied for the Rural and Tribal Assistance Planning Grant on behalf of Belpre and Belle Valley

Professional Development & Conferences:

- 2025 Ohio Transportation Engineering Conference (OTEC) - October 14-15th
- Panelist for the Reimagine Appalachia Virtual Summit on Manufacturing – October 16th

Upcoming Events:

- ODOT ATAC Meeting - October 21st
- OARC Transportation Committee – October 24th

Kelly Isaly and Julia Hinzman (Mobility Managers: Monroe, Noble and Washington Counties)

Engagement & Community Outreach:

- CarFit events were held in Washington and Monroe County. 24 seniors served overall at both events

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

- Attended community meetings throughout Monroe, Noble, and Washington to address transportation awareness.
- Monroe Senior Meals at various locations.
- Noble Senior Fair Luncheon – Sept 18, 2025

Transportation Planning, Mobility & Innovation:

- Buckeye Hills Regional ATP – Steering committee in person planning meeting at Perry County Job & Family Services.
- Surveys about Transportation for Monroe, Noble and Washington Counties are set to begin.
- Business Feedback Survey for Monroe, Noble and Washington Counties is set to begin.
- Meeting held with Buckeye Southeast Transit for Noble, Monroe & Morgan to engage in more partnership opportunities

Professional Development & Conferences:

- Both Kelly and Julia were trained on GovAI through BHRC
- Juia attended Ohio SBDC at Ohio University virtual Google Workspace training
- Julia attended Gohio Mobility Training update enhancements, sponsored by MORPC.

Upcoming Events:

- Mobility Management application opens on Oct 1 and closes November 14, 2025
- Presentation on CarFit at Fort Frye High School to 10th grade class. - Oct 8, 2025
- Community Safety Day at Beverly Elementary School – Oct 10, 2025
- Morgan County CarFit event – Oct 25, 2025
- Mobility Management Conference and OPTA Nov 19-21, 2025
- Monroe County Community Foundation Grant Recipient Dinner – Oct 16, 2025

CONTACT: Melissa Zoller, Planning Director | mzoller@buckeyehills.org | 740-376-1027

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buckeyehills.org



MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT
May 3, 2025 through October 3, 2025

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS/LAYOFFS

Robert Tackett	Assessor	5/28/25
Jensen Swartz	Clinical Assistant	8/1/25
Christa Myers	Transportation Planning Manager	8/29/25
Jessica Rife	Care Management Coordinator	10/1/25

RETIREMENTS

None

NEW HIRES

Karen Vore	Assessor	8/4/25
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PROMOTIONS

None

TRANSFERS

None

Effective _____
 Approved _____



STAFF POSITIONS AND SALARY RANGES

UPDATED TO INCREASE MIDPOINT BY COLA

The latest general cost of living data available shows a 2.9% increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) for the 12 months ending August 2025.

EFFECTIVE _____

TITLE		SALARY RANGE		
		MINIMUM	MID POINT	MAXIMUM
AGING & DISABILITY DIRECTOR	Exempt	\$ 65,856	\$ 82,320.00	\$ 98,784
ASSESSOR		\$ 38,267	\$ 47,834.09	\$ 57,401
CARE ACCESS MANAGER	Exempt	\$ 60,357	\$ 75,446.28	\$ 90,536
CARE MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR		\$ 38,267	\$ 47,834.09	\$ 57,401
CAREGIVER ADVOCATE		\$ 33,276	\$ 41,595.27	\$ 49,914
CLINICAL ASSISTANT		\$ 28,139	\$ 35,174.31	\$ 42,209
CLINICAL TEAM LEADER		\$ 42,121	\$ 52,650.84	\$ 63,181
CLINICAL PROGRAM MANAGER	Exempt	\$ 60,357	\$ 75,446.28	\$ 90,536
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR	Exempt	\$ 65,856	\$ 82,320.00	\$ 98,784
COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST		\$ 34,458	\$ 43,072.91	\$ 51,687
COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER		\$ 32,287	\$ 40,358.41	\$ 48,430
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR	Exempt	\$ 65,856	\$ 82,320.00	\$ 98,784
DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST 1		\$ 36,205	\$ 45,256.45	\$ 54,308
DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST 2		\$ 39,208	\$ 49,010.24	\$ 58,812
DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST 3		\$ 42,434	\$ 53,042.89	\$ 63,651
FISCAL DIRECTOR	Exempt	\$ 65,856	\$ 82,320.00	\$ 98,784
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT		\$ 39,826	\$ 49,781.99	\$ 59,738
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Exempt	\$ 89,618	\$ 112,022.09	\$ 134,427
FISCAL ASSISTANT 2		\$ 30,425	\$ 38,031.84	\$ 45,638
ASSISTANT FISCAL DIRECTOR	Exempt	\$ 63,628	\$ 79,535.53	\$ 95,443
GIS COORDINATOR		\$ 41,995	\$ 52,493.41	\$ 62,992
GIS SPECIALIST		\$ 39,208	\$ 49,010.24	\$ 58,812
HOME CARE DIRECTOR	Exempt	\$ 65,856	\$ 82,320.00	\$ 98,784
HOUSING COORDINATOR		\$ 41,995	\$ 52,493.41	\$ 62,992
HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR	Exempt	\$ 65,856	\$ 82,320.00	\$ 98,784
INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE SPECIALIST		\$ 30,470	\$ 38,087.41	\$ 45,705
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR	Exempt	\$ 65,856	\$ 82,320.00	\$ 98,784
MOBILITY MANAGER		\$ 39,655	\$ 49,568.99	\$ 59,483
OFFICE COORDINATOR		\$ 30,751	\$ 38,438.30	\$ 46,126
PAR SCREENER		\$ 38,267	\$ 47,834.09	\$ 57,401
PLANNING DIRECTOR	Exempt	\$ 65,856	\$ 82,320.00	\$ 98,784
PROGRAM ASSISTANT		\$ 31,098	\$ 38,872.53	\$ 46,647
PROGRAM MANAGER	Exempt	\$ 60,357	\$ 75,446.28	\$ 90,536
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR		\$ 33,069	\$ 41,335.96	\$ 49,603
PROVIDER RELATIONS MANAGER	Exempt	\$ 60,357	\$ 75,446.28	\$ 90,536
PROVIDER RELATIONS SPECIALIST		\$ 40,417	\$ 50,521.84	\$ 60,626
PROVIDER RELATIONS ASSISTANT		\$ 28,139	\$ 35,174.31	\$ 42,209

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT		\$ 24,601	\$ 30,750.64	\$ 36,901
PLANNER		\$ 42,434	\$ 53,042.89	\$ 63,651
SENIOR PLANNER		\$ 48,047	\$ 60,058.61	\$ 72,070

The Executive Director is authorized to advertise for openings in positions (both active and dormant) previously established by the Executive Committee. The Executive Director is authorized to promote existing employees into open positions as they occur. The Executive Director is also authorized to negotiate a starting salary with existing and prospective employees between the Minimum and Mid Point. Any offer greater than the Mid Point shall be approved by the Executive Committee before being extended. These salary ranges will be used in conjunction with the merit increase process for future increases starting January 2026. It is the policy of BHRC to review and adjust the salary scale every three years after January 2020 by increasing the midpoint of the Staff Positions And Salary Ranges by the cost of living percentage for the most recent calendar year, adjusting the minimum to 20% below the adjusted midpoint, and adjusting the maximum to 20% above the adjusted midpoint.

The latest general cost of living data available shows a 2.9% increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) for the 12 months ending August 2025.

Approved by the BHRC Executive Committee at a regular meeting _____

Buckeye Hills Regional Council
Employee Evaluation Scores
7/1/24-6/30/25

		Score
Employee	1	1.82
Employee	2	2.15
Employee	3	2.15
Employee	4	2.2
Employee	5	2.29
Employee	6	2.36
Employee	7	2.4
Employee	8	2.46
Employee	9	2.46
Employee	10	2.46
Employee	11	2.5
Employee	12	2.5
Employee	13	2.5
Employee	14	2.53
Employee	15	2.54
Employee	16	2.54
Employee	17	2.55
Employee	18	2.56
Employee	19	2.58
Employee	20	2.6
Employee	21	2.62
Employee	22	2.63
Employee	23	2.63
Employee	24	2.63
Employee	25	2.63
Employee	26	2.65
Employee	27	2.67
Employee	28	2.67
Employee	29	2.67
Employee	30	2.68
Employee	31	2.68
Employee	32	2.7
Employee	33	2.7
Employee	34	2.71
Employee	35	2.72
Employee	36	2.75
Employee	37	2.75
Employee	38	2.75
Employee	39	2.75
Employee	40	2.75
Employee	41	2.76
Employee	42	2.77
Employee	43	2.78

Buckeye Hills Regional Council
Employee Evaluation Scores
7/1/24-6/30/25

Employee	44	2.81
Employee	45	2.8
Employee	46	2.82
Employee	47	2.83
Employee	48	2.83
Employee	49	2.85
Employee	50	2.85
Employee	51	2.85
Employee	52	2.86
Employee	53	2.9
Employee	54	2.9
Employee	55	2.92
Employee	56	2.93
Employee	57	3

The Management Committee is requesting the approval of salary increases for staff based on June 30, 2025 performance evaluations for a January 1, 2026 effective date.

The total budget for increases is \$186,926.19. The amount budgeted was calculated in the FY 2026 Annual Budget which was passed in April 2025 and has been updated with the most current staffing, program and revenue information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

October 23: Ohio Land Bank Association Fall Summit Coming to Marietta | The Ohio Land Bank Association's second annual Fall Summit is happening Thursday, October 23 at the Historic Lafayette Hotel in Marietta, Ohio. This one-day event is designed for land bank staff, board members, local officials, and community partners from across the state. With a focus on practical content, the Fall Summit offers an approachable entry point into key land banking topics like brownfield redevelopment, property acquisition and disposition, governance, and funding strategies. Whether your community is considering a land bank, has recently formed a land bank, or you have a seasoned land bank and are looking to reconnect with the fundamentals, the Summit delivers relevant content, peer networking, and real-world takeaways. In addition to the sessions available, the Summit will have three mobile tour options. In the morning, there will be a walking tour highlighting community revitalization efforts in Southeast Ohio, including a walking tour of transformative local projects supported by the Appalachian Community Grant Program and two afternoon trolley tours exploring the history of Marietta. Visit ohiolandbanks.org/2025summit.html for details and registration.

October 28: ODOT Access Ohio 2050 Regional Stakeholder Meeting | Join ODOT in Marietta on October 28 for a workshop or open house to give feedback on proposed strategies for Access Ohio 2050, the state's long-range transportation plan. Find out how the transportation system in your area performs in terms of safety, congestion, and road and bridge conditions. Two sessions will take place at Marietta College, The Gathering Place, 127 N. 7th St., Marietta, OH 45740:
1:00 - 3:00 PM - Stakeholder Workshop (Registration required)
4:00 - 5:30 PM - Public Open House (No registration required)
Registration details and a survey link, in case you can't attend, are available at transportation.ohio.gov/accessohio.

November 13: Registration Open for Aging in Appalachia | Registration is now open for Buckeye Hills Regional Council's annual Aging in Appalachia summit on Thursday, November 13, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. This one-day event will bring together community leaders, home- and community-based service providers, caregivers and practitioners for in-depth discussions and presentations. Session topics include A Holistic Approach to Aging in Our Communities; Aging in Place, Across Borders; How Mobility Managers Fuel Aging in Place; and Protecting Your Family's Financial Security. Registration is \$25 and includes lunch. Members of the BHRC General Policy Council and Regional Advisory Council will receive complimentary registration code by email out of gratitude for their service to our organization. Register online at buckeyehills.org/events.

CURRENT INITIATIVES

ACGP Groundbreaking Celebrations | Buckeye Hills staff have been helping communities plan, execute, and document groundbreaking celebrations for Appalachian Community Grant Program projects this summer and fall. Since the August Executive Committee meeting, staff have attended groundbreaking celebrations in Noble County on August 4 for the school-based health center, in Monroe County on August 8 for the Ecotone Complex, and in McConnelsville on August 26 for their downtown square and the AMLER project that is supporting work on the Twin City Opera House, which was attended by Governor DeWine. October groundbreaking celebrations include the Village of

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Chauncey's downtown revitalization on October 2 and the Village of Beverly's multi-use path on October 9.

Relocation of Operations | Buckeye Hills Regional Council has been located at 1400 Pike Street for the last 20 years. BHRC leases this building from the Appalachian Development Corporation (ADC). For the last several weeks the ADC has been engaged with a local businessman who had a building for sale at 2585 Glendale Road. The ADC with the blessing of the BHRC Officers and Executive Director, gave directions to the Executive Director to negotiate a deal for our relocation. That is ongoing but does appear to be progressing and may be complete within the next 30 days. This would precipitate a relocation over the remainder of 2025 and the first few weeks into 2026.

STATE UPDATES

Ohio Revised Code Amendments Regarding Village Dissolution Take Effect | A set of provisions contained in House Bill 96 from April 2024 took effect on September 30:

- 703.331: Village dissolution for lack of services or candidates ([Section 703.331 - Ohio Revised Code | Ohio Laws](#))
 - Notable Changes:
 - § The list of services adds electric service to the list of possible services to be included. The procedure in this section is in addition to the procedure under section 703.33 of the Revised Code for the dissolution of a village.
- 703.34: Dissolution of village ([Section 703.34 - Ohio Revised Code | Ohio Laws](#))
 - Notable Changes:
 - § Population threshold raised from 150 to 500, expanding the scope of villages potentially subject to involuntary dissolution.
 - § Territorial size requirement removed, simplifying and broadening the applicability.
 - § Added specificity on timelines (10 business days for auditor; 20 days for AG) and recording duties (explicit recipients).

October 9: Ohio EPA Virtual Grant Writing Workshop Series (Fall 2025) | Designed for any grant program – with a special focus on the Ohio Environmental Education Fund (OEEF). Each live, virtual, and interactive session will be held via Teams. Each session runs from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and includes downloadable Learner's Guides and hands-on activities. This series is designed to support proposals for a wide range of grants with a focus on the Ohio Environmental Education Fund (OEEF) requirements. Sessions build on each other – full participation is strongly encouraged. The first session is October 9. View the schedule and register at <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/OHEPA/bulletins/3f2ddc1>.

October 31: ODOD Advanced Energy Fund Applications Due | Ohio Department of Development is accepting applications through October 31 for the latest round of the Advanced Energy Fund for projects to support energy efficiency. The program allocates a total of \$8.5 million to help businesses, nonprofits, municipalities, and educational institutions complete projects designed to reduce energy usage and associated costs. Eligible projects include insulation, LED lighting, energy efficiency lighting technologies, energy management control systems, HVAC upgrades, weather sealing, door and window replacements, combined heat and power systems, and cogeneration systems. Learn more at <https://development.ohio.gov/community/redevelopment/advanced-energy-fund-grant>.

BroadbandOhio BEAD Final Proposal to NTIA | In August, the Ohio Department of Development released BroadbandOhio's Final Proposal for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program, outlining plans to connect 72,375 locations using \$277 million of the state's \$793 million allocation, with a focus on fiber, LEO satellite, and fixed wireless technologies. This proposal followed a brief public comment period from August 28 to September 3. The proposal now goes to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) for review and approval.

Governor DeWine Announces Launch of Child Care Cred Program to Support Families and Employers

| Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Ohio Department of Children and Youth (DCY) Director Kara Wentz announced the launch of the Child Care Cred Program, a \$10 million program making child care more affordable for working families while helping Ohio businesses strengthen their workforce. The program was created through Ohio's SFY26–SFY27 biennial budget and is designed to tackle one of the state's biggest workforce challenges: access to affordable childcare. Details are available at childrenandyouth.ohio.gov.

Governor DeWine Announces Director Corcoran to Depart ODM | Ohio Governor Mike DeWine announced that Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) Director Maureen Corcoran informed him that she will leave her position, effective October 31, 2025. Director Corcoran has served as ODM Director since January 2019. Prior to this position, Director Corcoran was the President and founder of Vorys Health Care Advisors where she worked on a variety of health care policy issues. Further announcement about ODM director succession will be forthcoming.

FEDERAL UPDATES

ARC Seeking Applicants for Projects to Transform Economies Across Multiple Appalachian States | The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) has issued a notice of solicitation of applications (NOSA) for its Appalachian Regional Initiative for Stronger Economies (ARISE). ARISE is ARC's multi-state funding opportunity that aims to drive large-scale, regional economic transformation through collaborative projects. Successful ARISE projects must involve at least two Appalachian states and support regional business and industry, as well as develop new opportunities across multiple economic sectors.

Key dates for the fiscal year (FY) 2025 ARISE application process include:

- September 25, 2025 (11:00 a.m.) – Application process webinar
- October 28, 2025 (11:00 a.m.) – Multi-state project development webinar
- December 5, 2025 (5:00 p.m.) – Pre-applications due
- May 15, 2026 (5:00 p.m.) – If invited, full grant applications due
- Summer 2026 – Awards announced

UPCOMING CONFERENCES & EVENTS:

- **October 23** | Ohio Land Bank Summit – Lafayette Hotel, Marietta
- **October 28** | ODOT Access Ohio 2050 Regional Stakeholder Meeting – Marietta College
- **November 13** | Aging in Appalachia – Buckeye Hills Regional Council – buckeyehills.org/events

CONTACT INFO: Chasity Schmelzenbach, Executive Director

cschmelzenbach@buckeyehills.org | 740-376-1034

FREE LAPTOPS AVAILABLE

WHILE THEY LAST!

Does your agency need a laptop? Buckeye Hills Regional Council has a limited number of surplus used laptops available for donation. These computers are available to local agencies in the Buckeye Hills region on a first-come, first-served basis.

To reserve one or more for your agency, please get in touch with Jamie Lewis, IT Director, at 740-376-1024 or jlewis@buckeyehills.org.



DELL LATTITUDE 7439

- 12TH GEN INTEL CORE I5-1245U PROCESSOR,
- INTEL IRIS XE GRAPHICS
- 16 GB RAM
- 512 GB SSD
- 14" DISPLAY
- MICROSOFT OFFICE
- ADOBE ACROBAT



AGING IN APPALACHIA

GPC and RAC
Members
use promo code
GPCRAC for
FREE registration!

A Summit for Practitioners and Caregivers

This one-day event will bring together leaders, elected officials, practitioners and more to explore the topics of aging in Appalachia.

**REGISTRATION IS ONLY \$25.
LUNCH IS INCLUDED!**

buckeyehills.org/events



JOIN US

November 13

9:30 am - 3:30 pm

Buckeye Hills
Regional Council
1400 Pike Street
Marietta, OH 45750



How will you Access Ohio in 2050?



Join us at one of the following workshops or open houses to give feedback on proposed strategies for Access Ohio 2050, the state's long-range transportation plan.

Find out how the transportation system in your area performs in terms of safety, congestion, and road and bridge conditions.

1:00 - 3:00 PM - Stakeholder Workshop (Click on the meeting to register)

4:00 - 5:30 PM - Public Open House (No registration required)

Sept 29 **Mid-Ohio Education Service Center**
890 W. 4th St., Mansfield, OH 44903

Sept 30 **Zanesville Welcome Center**
205 N. 5th St., Zanesville, OH 43701

Oct 1 **Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC)**
111 Liberty St., Suite 100, Columbus, OH 43215

Oct 6 **Toledo Public Library**
325 Michigan St., Toledo, OH 43604

Oct 7 **Lima Public Library**
650 W. Market St., Lima, OH 45801

Oct 8 **Dayton REALTORS**
1515 S. Main St., Dayton, OH 45409

Oct 20 **Youngstown Main Library**
305 Wick Ave., Youngstown, OH 44503

Oct 21 **Akron-Summit County Public Library**
60 S. High St., Akron, OH 44326

Oct 22 **Tri C, Jerry Sue Thornton Center**
2500 E. 22nd St., Cleveland, OH 44115

Oct 28 **Marietta College, The Gathering Place**
127 N. 7th St., Marietta, OH 45740

Oct 29 **Ohio University, Southern Campus**
1804 Liberty Ave., Ironton, OH 45638

Oct 30 **Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI)**
720 E. Pete Rose Way, Suite 420, Cincinnati, OH 45202

Details and a survey link, in case you can't attend, are at transportation.ohio.gov/accessohio



**Department of
Transportation**

Access Ohio 2050