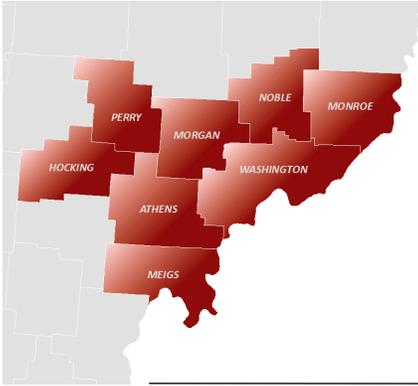


2016-17 Federal & State Legislative Priorities:



Buckeye Hills - Hocking Valley Regional Development District

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The Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District (BH-HVRDD) fosters cooperative efforts in regional planning, public infrastructure financing, and related technical assistance activities. Our organization is designated as an Appalachian Local Development District, a Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO), the Ohio Public Works District 18 Liaison, an Economic Development District, and as the Area Agency on Aging 8/Southeast Ohio Aging and Disability Resource Network (ADRN).

The members of Buckeye Hills support policies and funding resources that encourage regional strategies, partnerships and solutions. Continued funding support is needed to maximize existing community and economic activities and to assist communities as they upgrade and extend public infrastructure to capitalize on development opportunities. With demographic changes looming as Ohio's baby boomers age, investment in home and community-based programs for seniors will also become increasingly critical.

2015 Development Projects:

Local communities and private businesses leveraged **\$36.2 million** (68%) against **\$16.8 million** (32%) in state and federal investments to promote economic growth and opportunity, protect and enhance greenspaces, and maintain or enhance infrastructure (roads, bridges, culverts, water, wastewater, solid waste, and storm water facilities) throughout the region. Total costs for development projects completed was approximately **\$53 million**. These projects were selected in response to locally identified needs and priorities. Funding programs include:

- ▶ U.S. Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)
- ▶ Ohio Development Services Agency (Governor's Office of Appalachia)
- ▶ U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA)
- ▶ Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC)
- ▶ Clean Ohio Conservation Fund
- ▶ Ohio Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

2015 Aging Programs & Services: Buckeye Hills leveraged **\$14.4 million** for home and community based aging services in the Area Agency on Aging 8 region from:

- ▶ U.S. Department of Medicaid (*Assisted Living Waiver and PASSPORT in-home Waiver*)
- ▶ U.S. Department of Agriculture (*Nutrition Services Incentive & Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Programs*)
- ▶ Ohio Department of Aging (*Senior Community Services Block Grant, Senior Service Corps & Alzheimer's Respite*)
- ▶ Ohio Development Services Agency (*Housing Assistance Grant Program: home repairs and modifications*)
- ▶ U.S. Older Americans Act* (*Title III Home and Community-based Services*)

*Title III services: personal care, homemaker, home medical equipment, adult day service, legal services, disease prevention, home-delivered and congregate meals and transportation services.

For 2017, the members of Buckeye Hills place a priority on:

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:



State:

Continue Robust funding for:

► **Development Services Agency (Governor's Office of Appalachia):** Maintain and increase funding for the DSA Local Development District project and administrative budgets assisting communities with

economic and community development. Annually, Ohio invests \$4 million in Appalachia working to reach socio-economic parity with other communities across the state and nation. The Local Development District administrative budget of \$170,000 secured \$65 in direct project dollars for every \$1 spent on administration in 2015.



REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

► **Ohio Department of Transportation— Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO):**

The Buckeye Hills RTPO works to identify regional needs across all modes of transportation, while focusing strongly on safety and system maintenance. There is a need for a capital program to support locally derived transportation projects, to enhance and validate the planning investments made by ODOT and RTPO partners.

Federal:

► **U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA):** Maintain vital job creation and development district administration funding; support at least level funding for EDA in the (FY) 2017 Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations measure.

► **U.S. Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC):** Maintain funding for the ARC regional economic development agency and development district administration representing 13 states (including Ohio). In 2015, ARC invested \$101.9 million in 466 non-highway projects. The grants attracted \$204.9 million in other project funding, a ratio of 2 to 1. These strategic investments will create or retain an estimated 23,032 jobs and train an estimated 23,123 individuals in new job skills.

Learn more about Buckeye Hills at: www.buckeyehills.org



HOME & COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES FOR THE AGING & DISABLED:

The age wave will intensify the need for long-term care! **Invest in home-and community-based infrastructure (Area Agencies on Aging) that is proven to unlock Medicaid savings.** Ensuring that the Aging Network is fully funded will help avoid unnecessary and more expensive institutional care.

In order to curb escalating health care costs, the Medicaid savings derived from delayed entry into nursing homes must be invested in home-and community-based care.

► **Ensure funding for the critical home health workforce.** Enable PASSPORT home care agencies to attract and retain workers by increasing PASSPORT provider rates and ensure funding for home health workforce training.

► **Supporting Alternatives to Medicaid:** Capture savings by delaying Medicaid enrollment.

Federal: Enhance funding for Older Americans Act to help seniors remain in their homes and communities.

In order to live at home, individuals require a range of supportive services (home health and respite care, homemaker, transportation, home-delivered meals, home modifications and other aging-in-place services).

State: Restore the Senior Community Block Grant funding to its 2001 level to enable AAAs to serve more Ohioans at home and in the community — these funds complement Older Americans Act and local levies.

► **Increase investment in the Long-Term Care Ombudsman and Adult Protective Services systems** that advocate to reduce physical and financial harm to seniors and those with disabilities who receive care in their home, or who reside in nursing and assisted living facilities.



Rick Hindman: Acting Director

Learn more about
AAA8 at:
www.areaagency8.org

