

OHIO APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION FY 2020-2023 PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT PLAN



**Development
Services Agency**

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December 19, 2019

As we look to the future, we know that for Ohio to grow, we must invest in our workforce, infrastructure, communities, and families. Focusing on these investments will continue to make Ohio a great place to live and work.

Ohio's Appalachian region highlights the diversity of our great state. Thirty-two counties, starting in the north in Ashtabula County, along Lake Erie, and moving south along the Ohio River to just east of Cincinnati in Clermont County, are home to Ohioans who are proud of where they're from and who see new opportunities for future generations. The region is full of potential and vast natural wonders and cultural sites.

This plan outlines Ohio's initiatives for the Appalachian region and details how these initiatives support the goals of the Appalachian Regional Commission. We are committed to reducing substance use disorder in the region and providing mental health resources. We continue to support entrepreneurship and small-business development, creating new opportunities for Ohioans in the region. And, for Ohioans who are looking to upgrade their job skills, we are investing in workforce training. We are also promoting Ohio's natural wonders and tourist destinations, of which the Ohio Appalachian region has many.

As the only state in the 13-state Appalachian region with dedicated state funding, we will work with our local partners to identify projects, whether related to infrastructure, workforce training, or business development, that will have the most impact on communities.

My wife, Fran, and I love to visit Appalachian Ohio and experience all it has to offer. I have made Ohio Appalachian counties a priority and I believe this plan will strengthen the region.

Very respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike DeWine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mike DeWine
Governor

Introduction

The state of Ohio submits this development plan in compliance with Chapter 5 of the Appalachian Regional Development Commission (ARC) Code.

Ohio's Appalachian Regional Commission Fiscal Years (FY) 2020-2023 Development Plan describes the Governor's goals, objectives, and priorities for Ohio's 32 Appalachian counties and serves as a guidance document for the Governor's Office of Appalachia (GOA) and Ohio's four Local Development Districts (LDDs). The goals, objectives, and priorities presented are designed to address Appalachian Ohio's unique needs and to improve the region's community, education, and economic prosperity.

Overview and Assessment of Ohio's Appalachian Region

Ohio's Appalachian Region

Ohio's Appalachian region covers more than 39 percent of the state, following the eastern and southern borders. The 32 contiguous Appalachian counties are: Adams, Ashtabula, Athens, Belmont, Brown, Carroll, Clermont, Columbiana, Coshocton, Gallia, Guernsey, Harrison, Highland, Hocking, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Lawrence, Mahoning, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, Pike, Ross, Scioto, Trumbull, Tuscarawas, Vinton, and Washington. *A map of the region can be found in Appendix A.*

The region is sparsely populated with about 125 persons per square mile compared with 388 in the rest of the state (2017 American Community Survey). The Ohio Appalachian counties include medium- and large-sized cities, small villages, unincorporated communities, farmland, and rural and industrial areas.

Historically characterized as economically depressed and geographically isolated, the Appalachian region has been home to a self-reliant and independent people with strong ties to the land and their families. The Office of Research of the Ohio Development Services Agency produced an **Appalachian Regional Profile**, which includes data and projections to better define and understand the region's geography, economic conditions, health and demographics.

Population

Population, Land Area, and Density	Population July 1, 2017	Change Since July 1, 2010		Land Area in Square Miles	Population per Square Mile of Land Area, July 1, 2017
		Number	Percent		
Ohio	11,658,609	+ 119,327	+ 1.0	40,861	285.3
Appalachian Ohio	1,999,505	- 42,530	- 2.1	15,978	125.1
Non-Appalachian Ohio	9,659,104	+ 161,857	+ 1.7	24,882	388.2

Economic Status

The Appalachian region historically has experienced higher unemployment rates than the rest of the country. The counties with the highest unemployment rates continue to be Appalachian counties. Additionally, these counties have lower incomes and higher rates of poverty.

- In 2018, the unemployment rate was 5.4 percent in the Ohio's Appalachian region while Ohio's overall rate was 4.6 percent.
- In 2018, the median household income in Ohio's Appalachian region was \$46,023 compared with \$52,407 statewide.
- Appalachian counties have the state's highest poverty rates with Ohio's 11 most impoverished counties all being in the region. *A map of the poverty rates can be found in Appendix B.*
- In Appalachian counties, 15.7 percent of workers travel 45 minutes or more to work compared with 11.3 percent statewide.

Education

The Ohio Appalachian region is home to many higher education institutions, as well as several career and technical centers as indicated on the map in Appendix C. There are three public universities (Ohio University, Shawnee State University, and Youngstown State University), 10 university regional campuses, 12 private colleges/technical colleges, seven public technical and community colleges, and 17 career and technical centers within the region.

- In Ohio’s 32 Appalachian counties, about 17.6 percent of adults 25 years and older have earned a bachelor’s degree or higher, which is lower than 27.2 percent statewide.
- In Appalachian Ohio, 87 percent of persons 25 years and older have graduated from high school compared with 89.8 percent for the state.



Health Care

Having access to quality health care continues to be a challenge in the region. The Appalachian Regional Commission’s (ARC’s) “Creating a Culture of Health in Appalachia” report from 2017 highlights areas of concern:

- Heart disease hospitalization rates in Appalachian Ohio are 40 percent higher than the national average and 20 percent higher than the average in non-Appalachian Ohio;
- Appalachian Ohio hospitalization rates for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) are 42 percent higher than the national average and 21 percent higher than the non-Appalachian Ohio average;
- The access to primary care physicians per 100,000 people in Appalachian Ohio is 25 percent lower than the national average and 30 percent lower than the average in non-Appalachian Ohio;
- The access to specialty physicians per 100,000 people in Appalachian Ohio is 60 percent lower than the national average and 65 percent lower than non-Appalachian Ohio.

Ohio Appalachian Partnerships and ARC Process

The FY 2020 – 2023 Development Plan includes input from the director of the Governor’s Office of Appalachia and staff, the four Local Development Districts (LDDs), the Governor’s office, the Ohio Development Services Agency (Development), and stakeholders from Appalachian Ohio.

The Governor’s Office of Appalachia (GOA) is responsible for preparing the area development projects through coordinated efforts with the LDDs and their members, nonprofit organizations, local communities, and JobsOhio and their regional partner organizations. GOA ensures the 32-county Appalachian region has access to all available state programs and administers ARC funds. Ohio is the only state in the 13-state federal Appalachian region to match ARC funding with state funding.

Local Development Districts (LDDs)

The role of LDDs is to coordinate project development at the local and county levels, then advance the projects to the state GOA office. Ohio’s four LDDs are Buckeye Hills Regional Council (Buckeye Hills), Eastgate Regional Council of Governments (Eastgate), Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association (OMEGA), and Ohio Valley Regional Development Council (OVRDC). *A map in Appendix D outlines the LDD regions.*

The LDDs prioritize their local communities’ concerns and work with board members and other local citizens to develop economic development plans. They focus on their most pressing needs and build community unity and leadership. Using a “bottom-up” approach, local communities and the LDDs prioritize projects through a scoring process. The scoring criteria includes provisions to focus additional support, funding, and resources for counties designated as “distressed” by ARC.

The LDDs take the lead role in identifying the unique strengths, barriers, opportunities, and threats to their member counties. The LDDs work with their governing boards, members, and citizen advisory groups to evaluate and prioritize the economic needs in their respective regions and identify solutions organized around ARC’s five goals.

JobsOhio

JobsOhio, a private, nonprofit corporation, drives job creation and new capital investment through business attraction, retention, and expansion efforts for Ohio. Through a network of six regional economic development organizations, JobsOhio provides a statewide platform for attracting major job-creating businesses. Ohio's 32 Appalachian counties are served by three JobsOhio regional partners. The largest is Appalachian Partnership for Economic Growth (APEG), which works with Buckeye Hills, OMEGA, and OVRDC and serves 25 counties. In northeast Ohio, Team NEO works with Eastgate and OMEGA to serve Ashtabula, Trumbull, Mahoning, Columbiana and Tuscarawas counties. And in southwest Ohio, OVRDC works with REDI Cincinnati to serve Brown and Clermont counties. *A map in Appendix E outlines the JobsOhio regions.*

JobsOhio, GOA, and Development work collectively to deliver an economic growth strategy that encourages job creation and provides competitive wages, workforce development, and corporate capital investment. Development supports JobsOhio and its regional partners' economic development efforts. Among its responsibilities, Development administers state incentives to companies, including loans, grants, and tax credits.

Appalachian Partnership for Economic Growth

The Governor's Office of Appalachia works in coordination with APEG to strengthen the region's economy. This partnership supports business growth and prosperity by elevating the voice of business, expanding the talent pool, strengthening competitive assets, and boosting economic development programs.

In the spring of 2019, APEG and their parent organization, Appalachia Partnership Inc. (API), kicked off a regional economic development strategic planning process that engaged business leaders throughout southern and eastern Ohio. The planning process highlighted a shortage of sites and buildings ready for development and identified that many small-and medium-sized businesses face financing gaps that hinder expansion. The final plan set a regional economic development vision, goals, and strategies. The LDDs played a vital part in the planning process and continue to serve in implementation roles. GOA will partner with APEG and the LDDs to identify projects that address these challenges.

Ohio's Investment Priorities

Promoting Mental Wellness and Recovery

Recovery to Work

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine has been leading the fight against the drug epidemic and continues to address related issues through recovery-to-work solutions. One of his first initiatives as governor was establishing RecoveryOhio, an initiative dedicated to improving how the state addresses mental health and substance use disorders.

GOA works closely with the RecoveryOhio initiative to address the unique needs of the region. Governor DeWine's RecoveryOhio Advisory Council identified 75 important issues to address, including:

- Pass legislation to give the Governor the ability to declare a public health emergency.
- Double the substance use treatment capacity in Ohio.
- Expand workforce of critical specialists.
- Empower employers to help employees with a substance use disorder.
- Help business owners to hire employees in recovery by offering employers incentives and reducing risks.
- Expand early intervention programs that target Ohio families and children in foster care.

The GOA is working closely with RecoveryOhio to identify ways to address this public health crisis and the impact on families in the region. In April, ARC and GOA held a listening session in Portsmouth to learn, firsthand, how substance abuse has impacted the workforce. Participants in the session included employers, individuals in recovery, community leaders, educators, and treatment professionals.



They provided valuable feedback on how best to focus resources. Since the session, GOA continues to work with RecoveryOhio and other state agencies to tackle the obstacles created by substance abuse.

GOA is working to develop a current measurement of the resources available to workers and employers in the most affected counties. In partnership with Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services (MHAS) and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), a follow-up meeting in Portsmouth and five additional regional meetings were scheduled to share currently known data and available resources and ask communities how best to use the information. As a result of these meetings, GOA will develop tools to coordinate information and the use of community resources.

Mental Health

Suicide rates continue to climb within the state and the 32 Appalachian counties at an alarming pace. The suicide rate in Appalachian Ohio is 19 percent higher than the national rate and 26 percent higher than the non-Appalachian Ohio rate according to ARC's "Creating a Culture of Health in Appalachia." Additionally, access to mental health providers per 100,000 people in Appalachian Ohio is 51 percent lower than the national average and 41 percent lower than the non-Appalachian Ohio average.

Children are especially affected by this crisis. Many Appalachian children experience trauma in their home lives, making school their safe haven. Governor DeWine's administration will ensure every Ohio school has access to a mental health professional, to provide children with the help they need and prevent the crisis from continuing through the next generation.

Broadband

Technology is changing the way we live and work. Governor DeWine created the InnovateOhio initiative, led by Lt. Governor Jon Husted, to promote an aggressive, innovative path to building a better Ohio. A primary focus of InnovateOhio is to expand broadband infrastructure and make Ohio a leader in mobile technologies. The DeWine-Husted administration is working closely with the private sector to expand broadband infrastructure.

INNOVATE hio



Lack of access to high-speed internet can stand in the way of our ability to do business, to obtain an education, or even to access emergency services. My administration is serious about improving broadband connectivity to corners of Ohio that have been left behind.

– Governor Mike DeWine

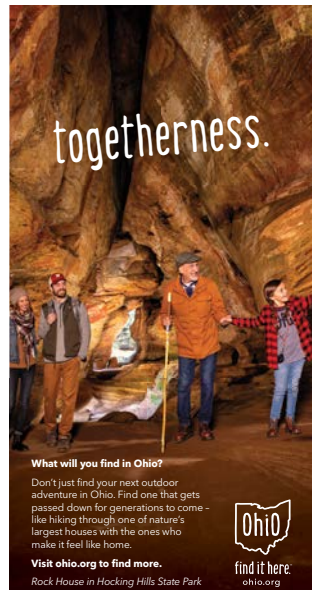
InnovateOhio and partnering agencies have implemented the following broadband-related activities:

- The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and InnovateOhio submitted a request for information to explore efforts to improve state broadband access and consider the possibility of opening the rights of way along state highways to broadband providers in exchange for private investment. The state of Ohio has published a report and is diligently working on a broadband plan.
- Development commissioned Connect Ohio to provide a variety of vital data and local and state planning services to increase broadband. Connect Ohio will deliver broadband data collection, validation, mapping, and analysis to prioritize precise areas where broadband is most needed. It will also conduct business and residential surveys, engage community stakeholders, and support local technology planning.
- Supported by ODOT, DriveOhio, the state's hub for autonomous vehicle and smart mobility initiatives, received a U.S. Department of Transportation grant to support medical and nutrition access through automated transportation technology. The grant focus is on freight and personal mobility in southeast Ohio.
- GOA is partnering with electric co-operatives to provide regional broadband using ARC, U.S. Department of Agriculture Reconnect, and utility funding. GOA is also working with the LDDs to prioritize funding. It is the expectation that all projects consider, when appropriate, including a conduit for broadband expansion.

Tourism

The tourism industry in Ohio generated more than \$40 billion in 2018, and it plays an integral role in Appalachian economic development and quality of life. GOA is broadening an already successful TourismOhio approach to develop a more coherent strategy aimed to increase in- and out-of-state traffic throughout the region. Tourism in the Ohio Appalachian region is anchored by Hocking Hills in Hocking County, Amish Country in Holmes County, and Lake Erie in Ashtabula County. GOA is looking to expand this focus by doing the following:

- Promoting the region's best assets by establishing a positive regional image featuring the people living in Appalachia and encouraging potential visitors to see the region's generous hospitality and appeal.
- Working with the LDDs to identify potential places of interest to highlight.
- Providing the economic impact report generated by Ohio's Appalachian Country with funding assistance. This organization uses data to drive policy discussion and investments in Appalachian tourism. The report assists counties in marketing tourism as an economic development focus.



Ad featured in Ohio Travel Guide

Infrastructure

Water

Governor Mike DeWine created the H2Ohio Fund to invest in targeted solutions to ensure safe and clean water. Lack of access to clean tap water is still an issue for many in Ohio's Appalachian counties. GOA has partnered with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other state agencies to identify the population of each Appalachian county without access to clean tap water. In the past, this problem was handled on a case-by-case or county-by-county basis. Ohio EPA and GOA have asked Ohio University's Voinovich School to develop a tool to quantify the problem. With data, GOA will be able to adopt a regional strategy to better address and raise awareness of the problem.



Appalachian Ohio Clean Watershed Initiative Project

In addition to these efforts, the Voinovich School and the nonprofit group, Rural Action have launched the Rain to River project as part of the Appalachian Ohio Clean Watershed Initiative. The project, funded through an Ohio EPA Environmental Education Fund Grant, focuses on improving water quality and restoring watersheds in the Appalachian region through education, training, partnership building, resource sharing, and project implementation.

Economic Development

Historically, Ohio's Appalachian region has been a major contributor to the nation's need for timber, charcoal, and coal. The decline in coal and coal-related industry has been a hard-felt loss to the region. GOA and APEG are working together to focus on other industries to offset this loss.

Cluster Industries

Shale and Petrochemical – Advancements made from extracting natural gas from native shale deposits have created an opportunity to remake Ohio's regional economy. See map in Appendix F. Ohio's shale development is heavily concentrated in the Appalachian counties. Shale wells have been permitted or are currently being drilled as far west as Holmes, Coshocton, and Muskingum counties, but nearly 70 percent of all activity has occurred in four Ohio Appalachian counties: Monroe, Belmont, Harrison, and Carroll.



Shale Project

Ohio's proximity to end-use markets allows for low-cost transportation. Sixty percent of North American manufacturing capacity and 50 percent of the U.S. population is within 600 miles of natural gas production in eastern Ohio. Additionally, the petrochemical ethane is 32 percent cheaper in Appalachia than in the Gulf of Mexico. The byproducts of energy production in the region provide additional opportunities for investment.

Timber – With forests covering nearly 56 percent of the Ohio Appalachian region, timber remains an important part of the economy. Hardwood species such as oak, hickory, maple, beech, and birch comprise the majority of the region's forests and are highly valued for furniture, as well as many other uses. As reported in APEG's **2017 Forest to Furniture: Ohio Wood Products Fact Sheet**, "the largest remaining hardwood furniture manufacturing sector in the United States is in the Appalachian Partnership region, roughly 85 percent of commercial logging is in the state's Appalachian counties."

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE TIMBER INDUSTRY IN OHIO'S APPALACHIAN REGION



The forest and wood industries contribute **\$5.23 BILLION** and employ more than **26,000 PEOPLE**.



The wood industries of Holmes, Ross, Vinton, Coshocton and Pike counties had the highest per capita contribution to Ohio's economy.



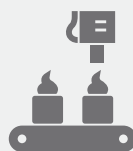
Commercial logging generated **\$371 MILLION DOLLARS** in Appalachia.

Food Service – The food service industry plays an important role in Ohio's Appalachian counties, especially in the southeast region. Grain and vegetable farms provide necessary ingredients to fuel the industry. Livestock production is also a regional strength, making southeastern Ohio well-suited for food production.

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF FOOD PRODUCTION IN OHIO'S APPALACHIAN REGION



MORE THAN 120 food processing companies have operations in the region.



ROUGHLY 10% of the region's manufacturing is in food services.



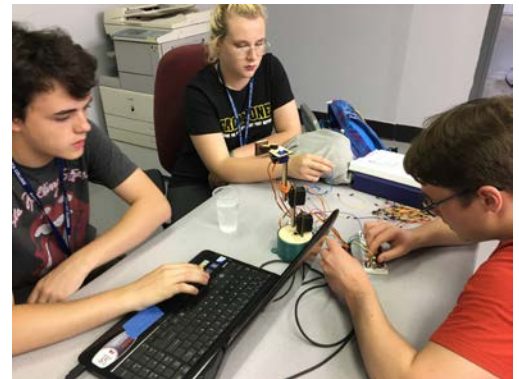
Food processing alone employs more than **6,800 WORKERS** in Ohio's Appalachian counties.



Fostering Entrepreneurship and Strengthening the Workforce

Creating an environment in which young leaders feel that they have an opportunity for success is crucial to long-term economic growth. Tomorrow's entrepreneurs need access to resources and job training skills in Appalachia. Too many leave the region to gain an education and never return due to perceived lack of opportunity. GOA is looking for new and creative ways to educate and train a new generation of Appalachian workers. Some of the steps GOA and the LDDs have taken to strengthen and nurture include:

- In July 2019, GOA piloted a STEM Camp in partnership with Buckeye Hills and Building Bridges to Careers at Marietta College. The weeklong camp offered students from across the region the opportunity to explore CAD/CAM software, electronic/programming, 3D printing, CNC laser cutting, and using industrial manufacturing equipment.
- The LDDs received funding in state fiscal years 2018 and 2019 for workforce development and job training. This was the first time the LDDs received funding specifically for regional job training needs. The LDDs established new and strengthened existing partnerships with the local Workforce Investment Boards, ODJFS offices, training centers and schools in order to administer the funding. These partnerships continue to generate job training projects that will be submitted to ARC and GOA for funding.
- The LIGHTS Regional Innovation Network, founded by Ohio University, is designed to strengthen the economies of coal impacted communities in Appalachia. LIGHTS helps spark innovation and supports entrepreneurship. The program's goals include the creation of high-wage jobs and the attraction of greater private investment in the region. LIGHTS received ARC funding to provide direct assistance to startups and assist communities in developing business incubators.



STEM Camp

Opportunity Zones



The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 allowed states to identify up to 25 percent of low-income, high-poverty census tracts to the U.S. Treasury, which made the final determination of "Opportunity Zones." These areas are eligible for "Opportunity Funds" to invest in economic development to receive a 10-year federal tax break. Ohio is committed to connecting potential investors with the opportunities presented by communities and development organizations in the zones.

Working with the U.S. Treasury, Ohio established 320 Opportunity Zones throughout the state. The selected areas typically showed potential for job creation and contained opportunities for investment and development.

Nearly 20 percent (63 census tracts) of all statewide designated Opportunity Zones are located within 30 Ohio Appalachian counties. More information on how the census tracts were designated along with program eligibility can be found at OpportunityZones.Ohio.Gov. A map of Ohio's Opportunity Zones can be found in Appendix G. Mahoning County has the largest proportion of Opportunity Zones with 15 designated tracts.

In the recent state budget, which invests heavily in local communities, the legislature included a 10% state tax credit to mirror the federal program for opportunity zones. Governor DeWine also has asked for an allocation of \$50 million in tax credits toward the program in the next biennium.

Transportation and Appalachian Development Highway System

In the past, Ohio exercised the ARC Code option to direct \$1 million of its annual Appalachian Development Highway System (ADHS) funds to the Local Access Road (LAR) program. This links the region's businesses, communities, and residents to the ADHS and to other key parts of the transportation network.

Although dedicated ADHS funding for the LAR program is no longer available, states can use Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP) funds to construct local access roads. As an incentive for states to continue the LAR program, project activities are eligible for up to 100 percent federal funding. ODOT has provided \$1 million in STBGP funds annually since 2012 for local access roads in Ohio's Appalachian region and plans to continue funding.

LAR projects are identified at the local level and developed with assistance from the LDDs. Interested parties submit applications to their LDD for approval, and the approved, funded projects become part of the State Investment Package. ODOT administers the Local Access Road projects and approves Ohio's LAR projects along with GOA, ARC, and the Federal Highway Administration.

Rural Transportation Planning

In conjunction with the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) and its research foundation, Ohio's LDDs advocated for establishing formal Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs) in federal highway legislation. Ohio's RTPO Pilot Program initiated three LDDs in July 2014. In the following years the RTPO developed and adopted the first ever Transportation Plans for the regions, established transportation conditions and operational databases, and focused on identifying transportation project funding opportunities for local government project sponsors.

In 2016, Buckeye Hills, OMEGA, and OVRDC were designated as RTPOs. According to NADO, Ohio was the first state in the nation to make such a designation. With their experience in regional planning, project prioritization and management, and administration of state and federally funded projects, the LDDs are well-positioned to assist the state in identifying and prioritizing regional transportation needs.



Portsmouth Bypass

Providing reliable transportation services for employment, education, recovery programs, nonemergency medical services, and daily living activities is a growing need in the nonurbanized areas of Appalachia Ohio. This is especially true for older adults and disabled persons. As the population of the region ages, quality reliable transportation services will become even more critical to allow older adults to age in place and remain engaged in their community.

Ohio's Appalachian Development Highway System

In December 2018, the Southern Ohio Veterans Memorial Highway (ADHS Corridor B) opened to traffic near Portsmouth. The project is expected to create economic opportunities in southeast Ohio by greatly improving freight traffic flow and reducing passenger vehicle travel time to key destinations.

ODOT is currently explaining plans for the only remaining unfinished sections of the ADHS in Ohio – portions of Corridor C (U.S. 23) near Waverly and South Bloomfield. ARC will be facilitating development of an ADHS Completion Plan in 2020, offering ODOT the opportunity to identify completion strategies for Corridor C, including the possibility of moving the unused miles to a different route in the state, if appropriate.

Though most of the ADHS is complete in Ohio, ODOT and GOA continue to work closely with state and local partners to reduce isolation and improve access to opportunities and services throughout the region investing in other transportation authorities, including local access road program, rural public transportation and critical highway connections.

More information regarding the ADHS and other ARC transportation activities can be found here: https://www.arc.gov/program_areas/AppalachianDevelopmentHighwaySystem.asp

ARC Goals and Alignment with Ohio Strategies

Ohio’s Appalachian Development Plan and Annual Strategy Statements align with the ARC’s five strategic goals:

- Invest in entrepreneurial and business development strategies that strengthen Appalachia’s economy.
- Increase the education, knowledge, skills, and health of residents to work and succeed in Appalachia.
- Invest in critical infrastructure—especially broadband; transportation, including the Appalachian Development Highway System; and water/wastewater systems.
- Strengthen Appalachia’s community and economic development potential by leveraging the region’s natural and cultural heritage assets.
- Build the capacity and skills of current and next-generation leaders and organizations to innovate, collaborate, and advance community and economic development.

In partnership with the LDDs, the Governor’s Office of Appalachia has identified strategies to focus regional investment. The Ohio strategies that align with the ARC Goals include the following:

ARC Goal 1	Invest in entrepreneurial and business development strategies that strengthen Appalachia’s economy.	
Ohio Strategies	1.1	Support projects that improve the competitiveness of Ohio’s Appalachian economy.
	1.2	Develop opportunities related to cluster industries in the region, such as shale and petrochemical, timber, and food services production.
	1.3	Foster entrepreneurship through partnerships with other programs, such as business incubators and community economic development organizations.
	1.4	Use the resources provided by the Appalachian Partnership for Economic Growth, REDI Cincinnati, Team NEO, and our Local Development Districts to help spur growth in Ohio’s Appalachian counties.
	1.5	Support community efforts to complete planning activities intended to position local areas to capitalize on existing state and federal development programming including Opportunity Zones.

ARC Goal 2	Increase the education, knowledge, skills, and health of residents to work and succeed in Appalachia.	
Ohio Strategies	2.1	Improve health care for Ohio’s workforce through wellness and prevention programs and expand access.
	2.2	Increase the availability of mental health counseling services in rural areas and schools.
	2.3	Continue to fight the addiction epidemic and emphasize recovery-to-work programs.
	2.4	Outline and support all mental health, substance abuse, and social service programming available throughout the region.
	2.5	Strengthen the workforce through job training initiatives and partnerships with educational institutions aimed at preparing Ohio’s workforce for the future.
	2.6	Increase the number of students acquiring a college degree or professional certificate.
	2.7	Support rural Appalachian Ohio communities as they prepare to serve an increasingly aging population

ARC Goal 3	Invest in critical infrastructure—especially broadband; transportation, including the Appalachian Development Highway System; and water/wastewater systems.	
Ohio Strategies	3.1	Support and assist communities in rural Appalachian Ohio as they work to establish, maintain, and extend critical infrastructure systems to serve Ohio businesses and residents.
	3.2	Expand access to broadband for underserved Ohioans in partnership with InnovateOhio and Connect Ohio.
	3.3	Work with electric co-operatives and prioritize projects that allow for future potential broadband expansion.
	3.4	Explore opportunities with ODOT’s DriveOhio initiative and other smart mobility programs.
	3.5	Support local access road projects to improve the route to industrial and commercial sites.
	3.6	Capitalize on the economic potential of the Appalachian Development Highway System.
	3.7	Support and strengthen ongoing partnerships between LDDs and resource partners, including state regulatory agencies and public research institutions, to provide critical research and information concerning utility deployments and capacities in rural Appalachian Ohio.

ARC Goal 4	Strengthen Appalachia’s community and economic development potential by leveraging the region’s natural and cultural heritage assets.	
Ohio Strategies	4.1	Strengthen Ohio’s Appalachian natural and cultural heritage assets.
	4.2	Work with TourismOhio to establish a positive brand image for Appalachia.
	4.3	Assist Ohio’s Appalachian Country and its effort to publish reports with valuable data concerning tourism in the region.
	4.4	Expand and promote scenic trails and routes throughout Appalachia in cooperation with ODOT, Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), and other organizations working on similar efforts.

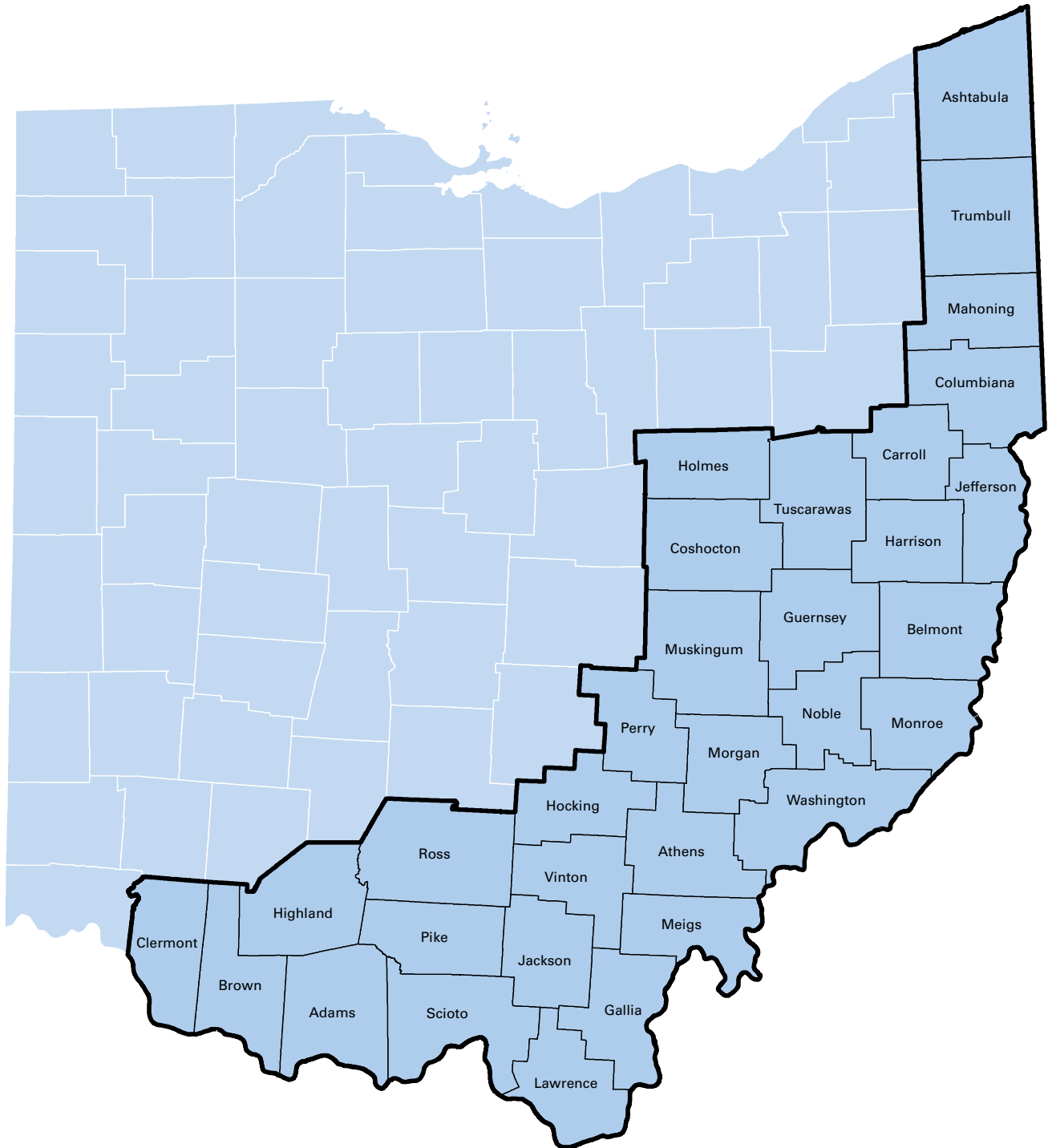
ARC Goal 5	Build the capacity and skills of current and next-generation leaders and organizations to innovate, collaborate, and advance community and economic development.	
Ohio Strategies	5.1	Support an annual STEM camp that provides educational and recreational opportunities for underserved, area youth.
	5.2	Encourage cooperation and collaboration among counties and local organizations to help the region advance together by having a relationship with these organizations and being involved in their projects.
	5.3	Promote opportunities available through organizations, such as iBelieve, and highlight university initiatives that help develop young leaders.
	5.4	Increase civic engagement through the Local Development Districts and other partnerships.

Resources

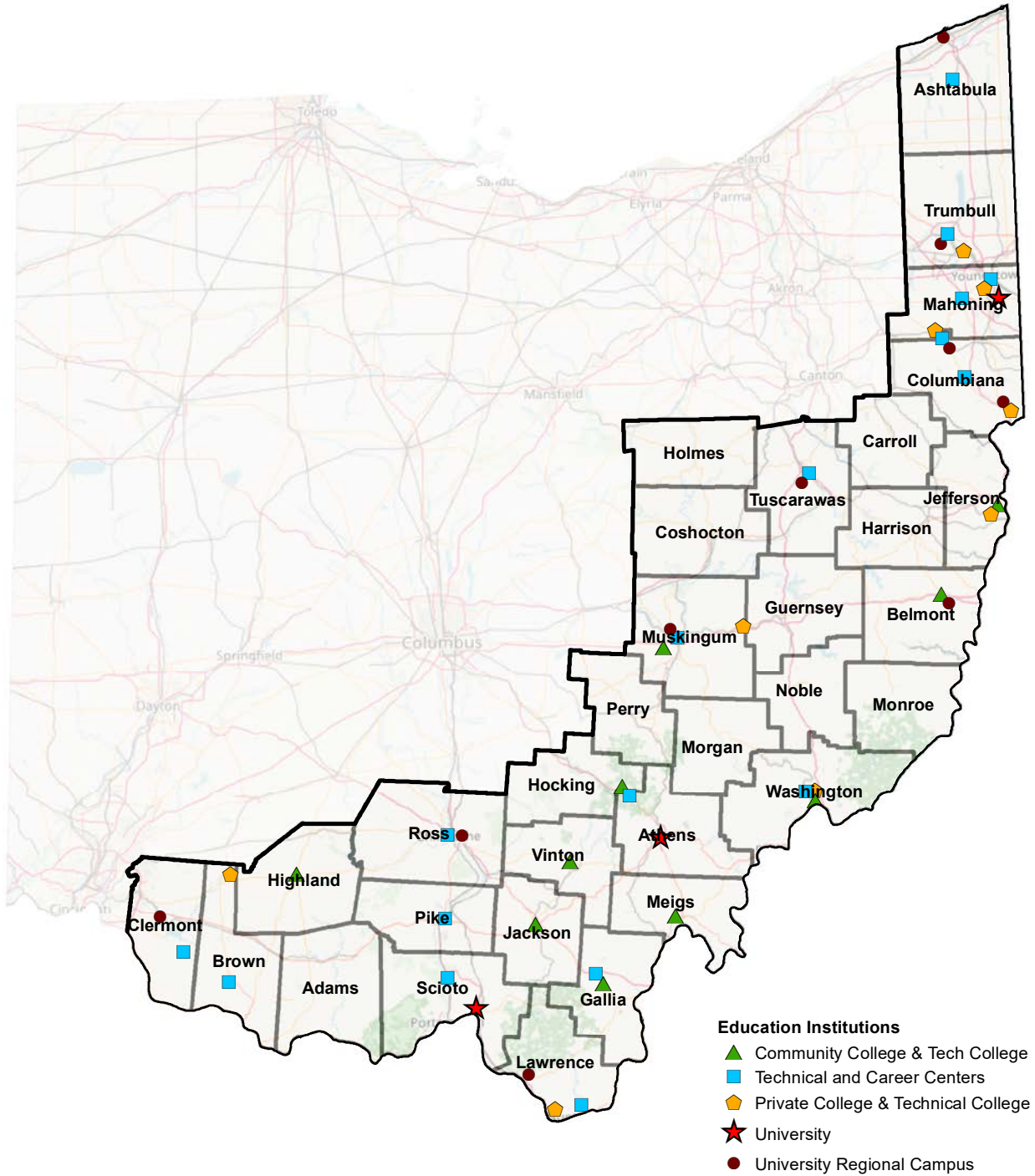
The State of Ohio Four-Year Appalachian Development Plan, FY 2020-2023 will be made available on the Ohio Development Services Agency’s website at http://development.ohio.gov/cs/cs_goa.htm. Additional information about Appalachian Ohio such as program specifics, policies, and contact information is also available on the website.

Appendices

Appendix A: Ohio's Appalachian Region

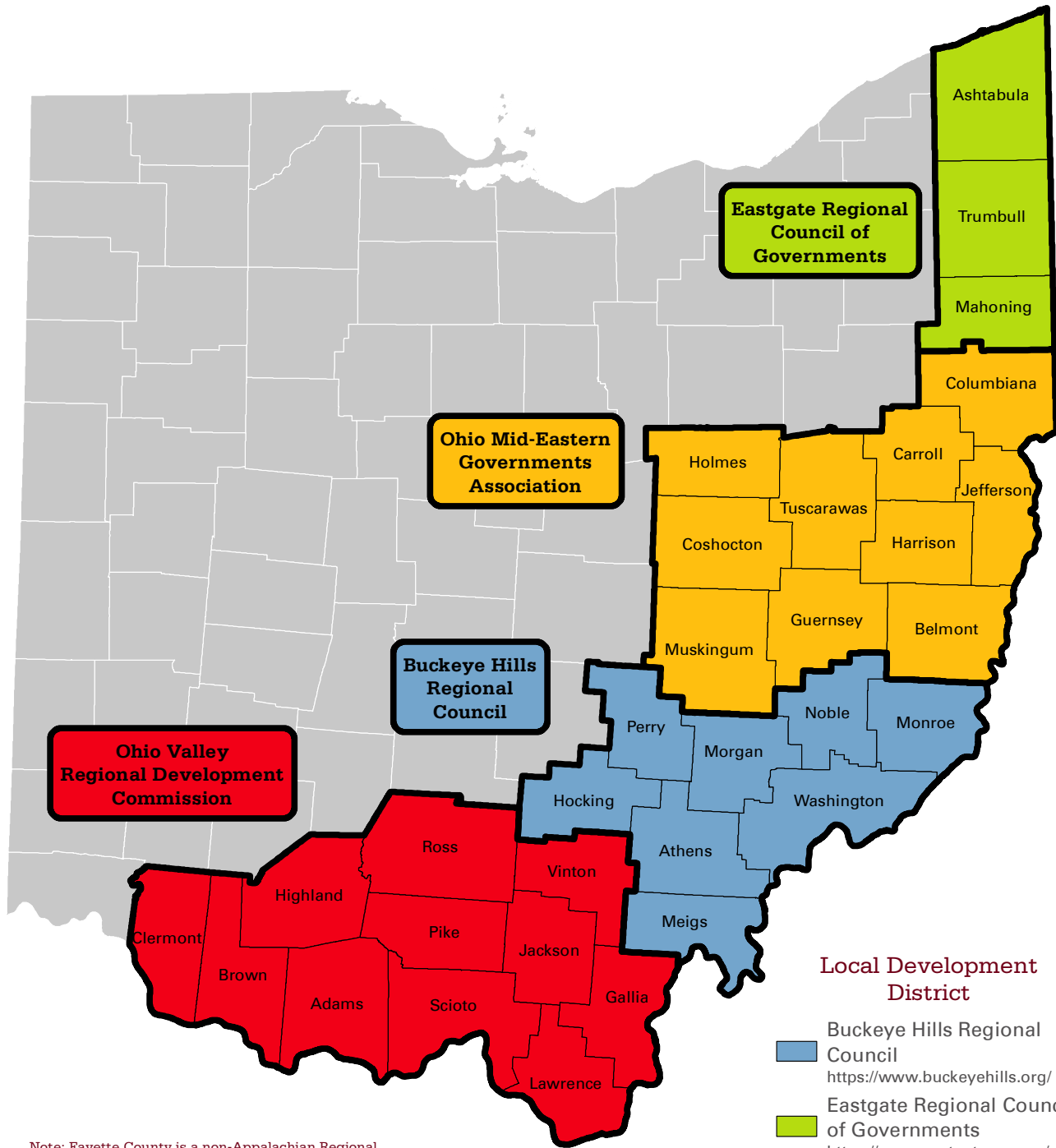


Appendix C: Institutions of Higher Education



Prepared by the Office of Community Development,
 Community Services Division,
 Ohio Development Services Agency (August 2019)

Appendix D: Local Development District



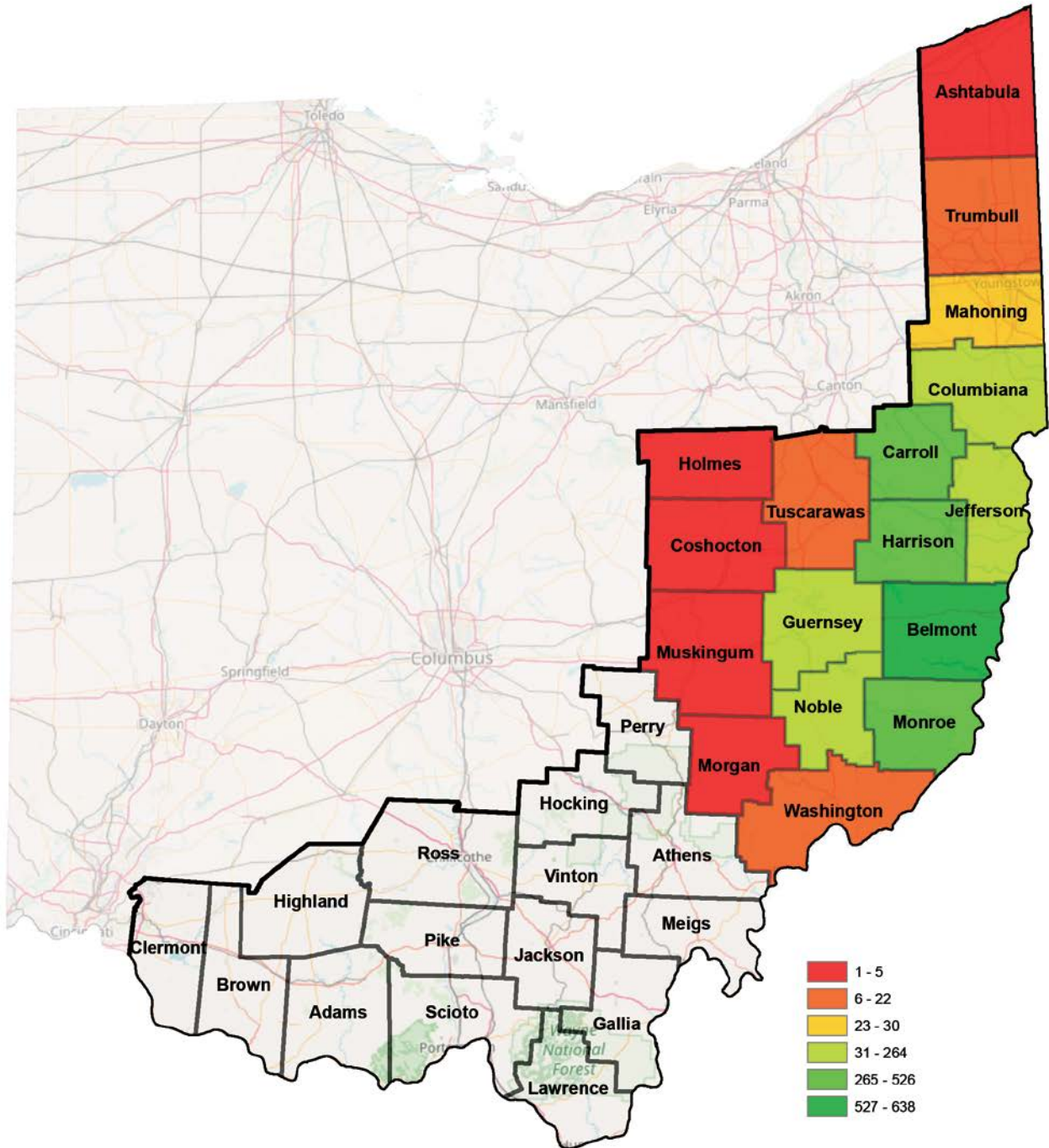
Note: Fayette County is a non-Appalachian Regional Commission County within the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission region for other planning and funding purposes.

- Local Development District**
- Buckeye Hills Regional Council
<https://www.buckeyehills.org/>
 - Eastgate Regional Council of Governments
<https://www.eastgatecog.org/>
 - Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association
<http://omegadistrict.us/>
 - Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission
<https://www.ovrdc.org/>

Prepared by: Ohio Development Services Agency (Research January 2019)

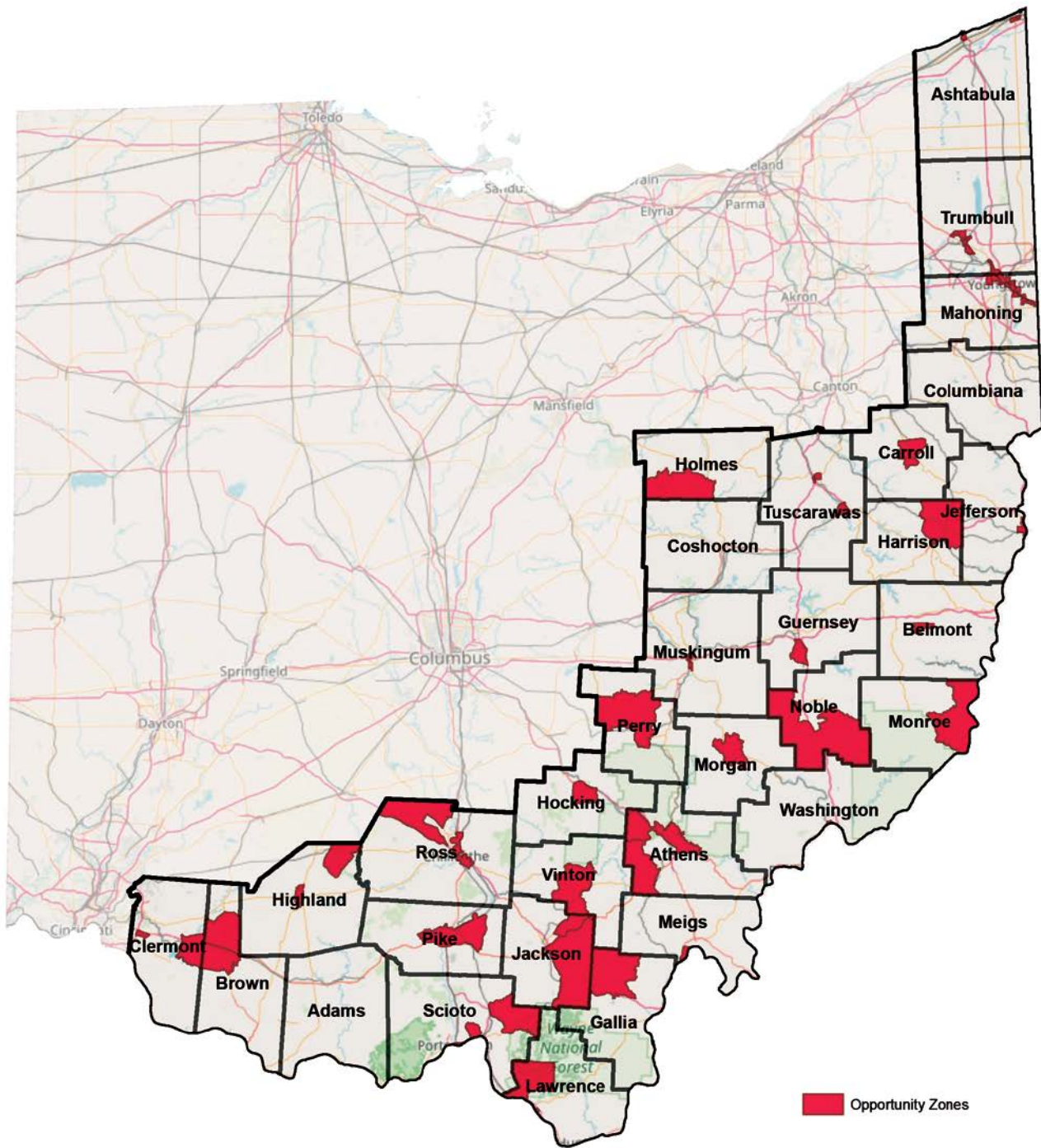
Appendix F: Ohio's Shale Deposits

Appalachian Wells Drilled, Drilling or Permitted 2009-2019



Prepared by the Office of Community Development,
Community Services Division,
Ohio Development Services Agency (August 2019)

Appendix G: Ohio's Appalachian Opportunity Zones



Prepared by the Office of Community Development,
Community Services Division,
Ohio Development Services Agency (August 2019)

Appendix H: Ohio's Appalachian County Status

Distressed	Adams Athens Meigs Monroe
At-Risk	Ashtabula Coshocton Gallia Guernsey Highland Jackson Jefferson Lawrence Morgan Noble Perry Pike Scioto Vinton
Transitional	Belmont Brown Carroll Columbiana Harrison Hocking Mahoning Muskingum Ross Trumbull Tuscarawas Washington
Competitive	Clermont Holmes

Appendix I: Local Development District Contact Information

Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission (OVRDC)

73 Progress Dr.

Waverly, Ohio 45690-1196

740-947-2853

Executive Director: John Hemmings

Email: email@ovrdc.org

Website: <http://www.ovrdc.org>

Counties: Adams, Brown, Clermont, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Lawrence, Pike, Ross, Scioto, Vinton, (Fayette)

Buckeye Hills Regional Council

1400 Pike St.

Marietta, Ohio 45750

740-374-9436

Executive Director: Misty Crosby

Email: info@buckeyehills.org

Website: <http://www.buckeyehills.org>

Counties: Athens, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry, Washington

Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association (OMEGA)

326 Highland Ave., Suite B

Cambridge, Ohio 43725

740-439-4471

Executive Director: Jeannette Wierzbicki

Email: jeannettew@omegadistrict.org

Website: <http://www.omegadistrict.org>

Counties: Belmont, Carroll, Columbiana, Coshocton, Guernsey, Harrison, Holmes, Jefferson, Muskingum, Tuscarawas

Eastgate Regional Council of Governments

City Centre One Building

100 E. Federal St., Suite 1000

Youngstown, Ohio 44503

330-779-3800

Program Manager: Kathy Zook

Email: kzook@eastgatecog.org

Website: <http://www.eastgatecog.org>

Counties: Ashtabula, Mahoning, Trumbull