

**For Immediate Release:**  
October 24, 2012

## **Governor's Office of Appalachia Provides Grant to Support Small Businesses**

**COLUMBUS** – The Governor's Office of Appalachia has awarded WSOS Community Action, Inc. (Sandusky County), a \$50,000 grant from the State Appalachian Development Program. The grant will help WSOS Community Action provide technical business assistance to 12 second-stage companies in Ashtabula, Brown, Highland, Jackson, Jefferson, Morgan, Meigs, Pike and Scioto counties. The State Appalachian Development Program is administered by the Ohio Development Services Agency's Office of Community Development.

"Strong businesses are essential to a community and its future," said Jason Wilson, director of the Governor's Office of Appalachia. "This grant encourages and cultivates economic development by providing the tools small businesses need to be successful and grow."

WSOS Community Action with the assistance of local, county and regional economic development practitioners will identify and enroll 12 second-stage businesses into the economic gardening program. The designated businesses will receive individual consultation and tailored services designed to promote their growth. Participants will have access to certified specialists, sophisticated market research, search engine optimization (SEO) and Geographic Information System (GIS).

The State Appalachian Development Grants provide funding for projects that improve the standard of living for residents of Ohio's 32 Appalachian counties and support the goals of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC).

### **About Ohio's Governor's Office of Appalachia**

*As an advocate for Ohio's 32 Appalachian counties, the Governor's Office of Appalachia administers grant programs of the Appalachian Regional Commission in Washington, D.C. to promote the region's assets and to support local, regional, state, and federal initiatives. These initiatives contribute to the economic, educational, and community prosperity of the people of Ohio's Appalachian region.*

*The **Ohio Development Services Agency (Development)** works with partners across business, government, academia, and the nonprofit sector to build strong communities that support job creation. Development provides financial, informational, and technical assistance to those making an investment in Ohio, ensuring a vibrant economic future for all Ohioans. Visit [www.development.ohio.gov](http://www.development.ohio.gov). Also, follow us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/OhioDevelopment](http://www.facebook.com/OhioDevelopment) and Twitter [www.twitter.com/OhioDevelopment](http://www.twitter.com/OhioDevelopment).*

###

Media contacts: Penny Martin at (614) 644-8774  
or the Communications and Marketing Office at (614) 466-2609