

John R. Kasich
Governor

For Immediate Release

April 12, 2011

Communities Receive \$180,000 to Improve Downtowns

Columbus – Two Ohio communities will receive Comprehensive Downtown Revitalization Program grants, totaling \$180,000, to improve their downtowns. The federally funded program is administered by the Ohio Department of Development's Office of Housing and Community Partnerships.

The **City of Defiance** (Defiance County) will receive a \$165,000 grant from the Comprehensive Downtown Revitalization Tier III Program. The funds will be used to assist the Defiance Development and Visitors Bureau with the acquisition and renovation of the Daoust Building at 325 Clinton Street in the city's historic district. Renovation will include historic style façade improvements, handicap accessible bathrooms, code improvements, and interior upgrades. The Visitors Bureau and the Chamber of Commerce will occupy much of the first floor. A museum commemorating the history of the city will occupy the rear of the building and the second floor will include office space. The grant will be used in conjunction with Community Development Block Grant Revolving Loan Fund dollars.

The **Village of Geneva on the Lake** (Ashtabula County) will receive a \$15,000 grant from the Comprehensive Downtown Revitalization Tier I Program. The funds will be used to complete a development plan and market analysis to assess the current conditions and future needs of the village.

"Having a flourishing downtown atmosphere is crucial to the overall economic growth of Ohio's communities," said James A. Leftwich, Director of the Ohio Department of Development. "These funds will ensure that Defiance and Geneva on the Lake have the necessary resources to keep improvement efforts moving."

For more information about the Comprehensive Downtown Revitalization Program [click here](#).

*The Ohio Department of Development's **Community Development Division** administers a variety of state and federally funded programs that benefit Ohio individuals and families. The **Community Development Division** coordinates its programs to form a comprehensive strategy to build stronger, healthier communities throughout the state.*

*Working with our partners across business, state and local governments, academia, and the nonprofit sector, the **Ohio Department of Development** works to attract, create, grow, and retain businesses through competitive incentives and targeted investments. Engaged every day in marketing, innovating, investing, and collaborating, the **Ohio Department of Development** works at the speed of business to accelerate and support the teamwork that is necessary for success by providing financial, informational, and technical assistance to those making an investment in Ohio's future.*

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