

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Communities Receive \$300,000 to Assist Brownfield-impacted Areas** *Six communities will receive \$50,000 and technical assistance to create and implement a Brownfield Action Plan*

**Columbus** – Today, the Ohio Department of Development announced that six Ohio communities will receive \$300,000 from the newly-formed Brownfield Action Plan Pilot Program, to create and implement a plan for a brownfield-impacted area of their community.

“With the Brownfield Action Plan Pilot Program, we are able to provide direct assistance for communities that are struggling to redevelop vacant and underutilized properties,” said William Murdock, Chief of the Department’s Community Services Division. “We are excited to be a national leader in this concept of area-wide planning for brownfields and look forward to the increased economic development and job opportunities that result from it.”

The program will provide technical assistance in the first phase of the project to help develop a community’s Brownfield Action Plan. In the second phase, grant funding is available to implement action plan activities. The two-phase process is designed to quickly, but thoughtfully, develop an actionable plan and maintain momentum to ensure the plan’s next steps are taken, increasing the likelihood and speed with which properties will transform into economically beneficial locations.

The Department’s Office of Redevelopment, which administers the Brownfield Action Plan Program, also worked closely with the federal Brownfields Area-Wide Planning Pilot Program launched in Spring 2010, with awards given in the fall of 2010. The federal program brought together the Environmental Protection Agency, Housing and Urban Development, and the Department of Transportation to create an innovative initiative that encourages communities to approach brownfield redevelopment in a wider, more comprehensive way.

Ohio’s program is intended to help communities build capacity, develop partnerships, gather ideas from the public, and collect and organize information regarding their brownfield-impacted area. Upon completion of the plan, communities will be better prepared to conduct assessments and cleanup activities, apply for grant and loan funding, market a property to developers, and utilize local funds more effectively.

### **The Pilot Round grantees for the Brownfield Action Plan Program are:**

**City of Fairborn** (Butler County) – The City of Fairborn will develop a plan for the 145-acre Broad Street Corridor, a significant thoroughfare located immediately adjacent to the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (WPAFB). The 1.8-mile corridor possesses the typical characteristics of a neglected commercial strip and passes through the historic downtown. The redevelopment of the corridor will drive economic prosperity for the area surrounding WPAFB, as well as the region. The City has requested assistance to create an itemized action plan for moving forward, including a vision for the corridor, identification of potential future uses, how the sites can be prepared for future uses, and strategies to facilitate the reuse of existing infrastructure.

**City of Newark** (Licking County) – The City of Newark will develop a plan for the 91-acre Union Street Corridor, once a successful commercial area. It has been identified as a priority location for

redevelopment due to its centralized location and ease of access to other areas of the city and major highways. The area was home to what was once the largest stove manufacturer in the world (The Wehrle Stove Company), a manufacturer of automobile and bicycle tires (Pharis Tire and Rubber Company), and several other potential brownfield sites. The City is requesting assistance to research properties in the area, partner with property owners and potential developers, identify reuse options, and develop a timeline for plan implementation.

**City of Piqua** (Miami County) – The City of Piqua will develop a plan for the 26-acre Riverfront Mill District. The District is located just south of the City’s central business district and is adjacent the Great Miami River. With a history of commercial and industrial uses, the area has been challenging to redevelop but provides great opportunities because of its location and existing assets. The City is seeking assistance with its pre-development efforts to create a conceptual plan and guiding vision for the district, as well as assistance with marketing services to help find private resources that will be necessary to redevelop the area.

**City of Ravenna** (Portage County) – The City of Ravenna will develop a plan for a 220-acre area bordered by North Diamond Street, North Prospect Street, Lincoln Avenue, and West Main Street. The planning area encompasses two major gateways into the City and numerous zoning districts. The corridors of Chestnut Street and Cleveland Avenue are of primary importance and hold the key to the City’s future development. The City has requested assistance to help identify brownfields in the area, educate stakeholders, identify risks and scenarios for development, build contingencies, and understand details of existing funding sources for remediation and redevelopment.

**City of Xenia** (Greene County) – The City of Xenia will develop a plan for the 118-acre Hub District located just south of the central business district. The area is home to the city’s bike hub which links five regional bike trails at a central location and serves as a focal point for many city and regional activities. Additionally, the area has a strong history of industrial uses and is located along a former railroad and train depot. The City is requesting assistance to reach out to brownfield property owners, market the plan to the community, and perform basic research and analysis on the area that will ultimately result in a cohesive plan for redevelopment and revitalization.

**Seneca Industrial and Economic Development Corp. (SIEDC)** (Seneca County) – The SIEDC will develop a plan for the 280-acre Wall Street Corridor in the City of Tiffin. The corridor is a five-block long section of northern Tiffin that is made up of very old industrial facilities, low-income housing, and future Tiffin University facilities. The SIEDC recognizes the importance of planning on an area-wide basis and would like to adopt this approach to ensure the compatibility of existing and future development in this area, be better-prepared for future funding opportunities, and to understand the range of programs available for assistance in remediation and redevelopment.

For more information on the program, please visit <http://development.ohio.gov/Urban/BrownfieldAWP.htm>

*The **Office of Redevelopment**, housed within the Ohio Department of Development’s Community Services Division, assists communities with place-based redevelopment, which creates wealth from personal, business, and community successes. The **Office of Redevelopment** works to identify the resources and financing necessary to enhance the economic viability of local communities.*

*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 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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