

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Communities Receive \$1.6 Million in Water and Sewer Funds**

*Grants to Improve Critical Infrastructure Systems Assist more than 1,000 Households*

**Columbus** – Three Ohio communities will receive funds totaling \$1.6 million to make critical improvements to their wastewater and sewer systems. The grants are from the federally funded Water and Sanitary Sewer Program, which is administered by the Ohio Department of Development's Office of Housing and Community Partnerships.

"The water and sewer investments will ensure safe and sanitary conditions for these communities and improve residents' quality of life," said Christiane Schmenk, Director of the Ohio Department of Development.

**Village of Somerset** (Perry County) will receive \$500,000 to install more than 19,000 linear feet of waterline. The estimated project cost is more than \$1 million, and will benefit 654 households.

**Village of LaRue** (Marion County) will receive \$500,000 to develop a new well field and construct a new water treatment plant. The estimated project cost is more than \$2.4 million, and will benefit 290 households.

**Wood County** (Village of West Millgrove) will receive \$600,000 to install nearly 31,000 linear feet of sewer lines and one pump station. Also, 48 low- and moderate-income households will receive tap-in assistance. The estimated project cost is more than \$2.7 million, and will benefit 111 households.

*The **Water and Sanitary Sewer Program** is administered by the Ohio Department of Development's Office of Housing and Community Partnerships and helps local governments maintain, improve, and expand water and sanitary sewer systems. Applications for the program are accepted on a continuous basis and are rated against the following criteria: number of persons expected to benefit from the project; ability to leverage funds; program impact; program readiness; and the community's financial capacity and rate structure. Communities with documented health and safety concerns receive priority for funding.*

*The **Office of Housing and Community Partnerships** provides financial and technical assistance to units of local government and nonprofit organizations in Ohio for project activities that benefit low- and moderate-income citizens.*

*Working with 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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