

**For Immediate Release**  
September 8, 2011

## **State Approves more than \$1.2 million for Community Development and Housing Projects**

**Columbus** – The Ohio Department of Development has approved more than \$1.2 million through the Community Development Block Grant Discretionary Program and the HOME Investment Partnership Discretionary Grant Program, administered by the Office of Housing and Community Partnerships.

“These projects support improvements that will assist low-income Ohioans and foster new life and new purposes for community buildings,” said Christiane Schmenk, Director of the Ohio Department of Development.

**City of Greenville** (Darke County) will receive a \$250,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for the Henry St. Clair Memorial Hall. The building is located at 215 West Fourth Street. The funds will be used for historic preservation and code improvements for the building, which is located in the city’s historic district. The Hall includes an art gallery, meeting rooms, and an auditorium.

**City of Washington Court House** (Fayette County) will receive a \$443,500 Community Development Block Grant, in conjunction with the Community Action Commission of Fayette County, to develop the Lofts at Court and Main. The project will develop the city’s vacant Masonic Temple into 29 rental units for households with income at or below 50 percent of the area median income. Once completed, the project will provide affordable rental housing opportunities to 81 low-income people.

**Vinton County** will receive a \$50,000 Community Development Block Grant for the Appalachian Ohio Housing Initiative. The funds will enable the Ohio Community Development Corporations Association to conduct a comprehensive housing research project for the 32-county Appalachian region to address the lack of quality affordable housing. The project will include an affordable housing market study, asset inventory and preliminary identification of barriers, best practices, and a workshop with housing experts. Upon completion of the study, recommendations will be provided to the Ohio Housing Finance Agency.

**WSOS Community Action Agency** (Sandusky County) will receive a \$500,000 HOME Investment Partnership Discretionary Grant for the Shirley Daily Senior Housing project. The project will consist of 24 rental units to be occupied by low-income elderly residents. The project is being developed by the organization, New Lima Housing for the Future, and will be constructed on land previously occupied by a neighborhood school.

*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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