

For Immediate Release
April 10, 2012

12 Counties Receive State Appalachian Development Grants *More than \$227,000 to help strengthen local communities*

COLUMBUS – Today the Governor’s Office of Appalachia announced State Appalachian Development Grants totaling \$227,800 that will fund projects in 12 Appalachian counties and one project to study tourism in the region. The Ohio Department of Development’s Office of Community Development administers the State Appalachian Development Program.

“Strong communities are critical to attracting new economic development opportunities,” said Christiane Schmenk, Director of the Ohio Department of Development. “These projects will not only strengthen each community but also will improve the lives of the residents.”

The State Appalachian Development Grants are designated for projects that will increase job opportunities for residents in the Appalachian region as well as improve the community infrastructure to encourage economic development activities.

“The Governor’s Office of Appalachia is committed to providing communities the support they need to grow and compete,” said Jason Wilson, Director of the Governor’s Office of Appalachia. “The projects receiving grants address a variety of community needs, including improvements to a library, community center, and county courthouse.”

Projects that have received State Appalachian Development Grants are:

Andover Public Library (Ashtabula County) received \$22,200 to cover the cost of materials associated with replacing the roof, which was installed in 1992. The current condition of the roof threatens the building contents such as magazines and computers. Matching funds will cover the cost of labor for this project.

Brightway Center (Jefferson County) received \$30,000 to renovate the center’s equipment barn into an activity center. The Brightway Center is focused on developing programming, workshops and camps that benefit the mind, body, and spirit. The center was the vision of Kara Bright, a Smithfield resident, and has provided teen bullying prevention workshops, CPR certification, health fairs, and youth groups. The center sits on a 177-acre farm and currently has a welcome center and pavilion.

Eastern Ohio Extension Camps, Inc. (Belmont County) received \$4,200 to improve energy efficiency at their facility. The project will replace 69 windows in 14 cabins at the Piedmont Camp facility, bringing the cabins up to energy efficiency and safety standards.

Eastgate Regional Council of Governments (Ashtabula, Mahoning, and Trumbull counties) received \$30,000 to provide administrative support to these three counties. As the local development district for the area, Eastgate will be involved in planning functions to improve coordination and cooperation among local governments.

Holmes County 911 Board (Holmes County) received \$10,400 to replace four repeaters in their communication system to be in compliance with the Federal Communications Commission narrowband requirement. The repeaters link fire, police, and EMS field staff, allowing them to communicate with each other and the central dispatch office. This project will benefit eight volunteer Holmes County Fire Departments and double the available channels for communication.

Ohio's Appalachian Country, Inc., (All 32 Counties) received \$32,000 to hire a company to study the impact of tourism on individual counties as well as the entire 32-county region. The results of the study will be used to educate legislators, media, event planners, and tourism stakeholders on the impact of tourism in the region.

Paper Circle (Athens County) received \$20,000 to help fund a four-week, all-day arts-based summer enrichment and wellness program for 60 Nelsonville-York City School District students between fifth and tenth grade. Students will participate in a curriculum designed to boost self-esteem through art-based classes. The program runs from June 18 – July 24, 2012, and will employ 11 local teachers, one director, and one assistant director.

Perry County received \$17,000 to repair the roof on the Perry County Sheriff's building. The current roof leaks, which causes damage to the building and could interrupt or damage 911 equipment housed at the facility. The repair and replacement of the roof is expected to increase the longevity of the building for more than 20 years.

Syracuse Community Center (Meigs County) received \$9,900 to purchase a new cooling system for the center. The project includes the purchase and installation of the cooling system and replacement of five exterior doors for the facility. The new cooling system will provide a comfortable environment for the center's patrons during the summer months.

Tuscarawas County received \$21,700 to repair the roof and gutter system for the County Courthouse Annex building. The project will re-coat the roof to prevent further deterioration. It is anticipated that this project will extend the life of the building by 15 years, and reduce the maintenance cost of the roof and gutter system.

Village of McConnelville (Morgan County) received \$17,600 to pay for materials to replace the roof at the McConnelville community facility building at the municipal pool. This project will repair leaks in the roof, and remove mold. Funds also will help pay for a new pump and filter for the pool to improve the safety of the pool water. This is the only public pool in Morgan County.

Village of Roseville (Perry County) received \$9,800 to make improvements to restrooms at the community facilities building. Currently the restrooms are not working and are not ADA accessible. The project will replace the bathroom sewer lines, replace fixtures, and create an ADA restroom. It also will include the installation of a hot water tank and replacement of electrical wiring in the chemical room. These improvements will allow the center to better serve more than 1,800 patrons this summer.

Watertown Township (Washington County) received \$3,000 to purchase materials for the rehabilitation of its township administration and equipment building. The project will repair the roof and replace exterior doors and windows, which currently are damaged due to the roof leaking. The township uses the building as a training facility and a backup location for the Watertown Volunteer Fire Department.

About Ohio's Governor's Office of Appalachia

As an advocate for Ohio's 32 Appalachian counties, the Governor's Office of Appalachia works on behalf 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.

*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 absolutely necessary for success by providing financial, informational, and technical assistance to those making an investment in Ohio's future.*

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

Office of Communications & Marketing • 77 South High Street • P.O. Box 1001 • Columbus, Ohio 43215 • U.S.A. • 614 | 466 2609

The State of Ohio is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of ADA Services.