

For Immediate Release
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Loans Make Collaboration Possible in Ohio Communities *Local Government Innovation Fund provides funding for four new projects*

COLUMBUS – Local communities continue to press forward with collaborative projects, finding ways to improve services and cut costs for residents. Today, the Local Government Innovation Council approved more than \$1.5 million in loans to Ohio communities, which will help to promote collaborative projects. The Local Government Innovation Fund provides financial assistance to support collaboration, shared services and efficiency at the local level which in turn will reduce the cost of community services and provide a foundation for fiscal sustainability. The loans are contingent upon State Controlling Board approval.

“Communities participating in this program are on the forefront of a much larger movement for sharing services at the local level,” said Christiane Schmenk, director of the Ohio Development Services Agency. “Through collaboration, Ohio communities will see the savings and ultimately Ohio’s citizens will benefit.

The Local Government Innovation Fund is a competitive statewide program that provides loans and grants. The program awards up to \$100,000 in grant funds per feasibility study, up to \$100,000 in loan assistance per entity for demonstration projects and up to \$500,000 in loan assistance for collaborative demonstration projects. Requests fall into nine distinct categories: technology, public safety, facilities, economic development, fleet management, public works, administration, health and human services and educational instructional support.

City of Pataskala (Licking County) will receive a \$225,000 loan in the category of Public Safety for their project, Migration to P25 Multi-Agency Radio Communications System.

City of Xenia (Greene County) will receive a \$400,000 loan in the category of Public Safety for their project, Green County Cooperative Initiative.

Clark County Commissioners (Clark County) will receive a \$400,000 loan in the category of Administration for their project, Clark County Consolidation Project/Springview Facility.

North Central Ohio Educational Service Center (Seneca County) will receive a \$500,000 loan in the category of Technology for their Project, IT Consolidation Project.

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

*The **Ohio Development Services Agency** works with partners across business, government, academia and the nonprofit sector to build strong communities that support job creation. Development provides financial, informational and technical assistance to those making an investment in Ohio, ensuring a vibrant economic future for all Ohioans. Visit www.development.ohio.gov. Also, follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/OhioDevelopment and Twitter www.twitter.com/OhioDevelopment.*

Media contacts: Stephanie Gostomski at (614) 466-6619
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

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