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## **New Website Helps Small Community Do Big Business**

A new website is giving the city of Salem in Northeast Ohio an economic development tool they've never had before. The city of Salem, the Salem Area Chamber of Commerce and the Sustainable Opportunity Development Center collaboratively applied for a Local Government Innovation Fund grant in 2012 and were awarded \$80,600 for the project. The money went towards the development and implementation of the new website.

The website known as SEED BASE (Salem) is designed to allow smaller communities an opportunity to quickly interact with developers. Anyone interested in economic development in the Salem area can get on this website and find out everything they need to know about the location they are interested in, rather than searching several websites. This is a one-stop shop of economic development information, interactive maps and resources for the community of Salem.

"Seeing a project come to fruition like this is what it's all about," said David Goodman, director of the Ohio Development Services Agency. "This website has become so popular, neighboring communities are already asking for it to be duplicated in their area."

The Local Government Innovation Fund is a competitive statewide program that provides loans and grants to promote shared services and efficiency practices. The next Local Government Innovation Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 5, 2014.

Find out more about this program at [http://development.ohio.gov/cs/cs\\_localgovfund.htm](http://development.ohio.gov/cs/cs_localgovfund.htm).

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