



**Press Release:** For Immediate Release

### **Opportunity Appalachia Announces Launch in Ohio**

**Southeast Ohio: February 1, 2021** -- Ohio Southeast Economic Development (OhioSE), and Opportunity Appalachia will host a launch webinar on Friday, February 25 from 10:00-11:30 AM (EST) to launch a second, expanded phase of Opportunity Appalachia.

As the lead partner in Ohio, OhioSE invites all interested community and economic development leaders, local elected officials, developers, and business owners to learn about the opportunity to obtain technical assistance for important development projects to move your community forward.

Opportunity Appalachia will provide targeted support for downtown and rural development projects to build entrepreneurial communities where local business can thrive, creating quality jobs for residents, helping to address the COVID-19 downturn, and revitalizing local economies. The \$2.25 million in funding for technical assistance will provide support for more than 40 projects which are anticipated to create 3,000 jobs and bring \$400 million of new investment into Central Appalachian communities. The expanded program targets Appalachian communities in five states: Tennessee, North Carolina, Ohio, Virginia, and West Virginia.

“Opportunity Appalachia brings resources for technical assistance to those projects in the region that have good purpose but still need expertise to get the project through various stages and to investment,” said OhioSE Vice President, Katy Farber. “Redeveloping our communities is key to our long term success as a region.”

The Ohio program anticipates awards to up to eight (8) projects with the allocated portion of these funds. Selected communities will each access \$30,000 to \$75,000 in technical assistance to support their proposed development projects, to include (but not limited to):

- Development of investment prospectus, preparation of pro forma financial projections, structuring of project financing,
- Market research, demand assessment,
- Architectural and engineering,
- Business plan preparation, operations planning,
- Identification of project developers, and
- Investor outreach.

“We have many projects “in limbo” throughout our region because of scant resources,” said Farber. “Opportunity Appalachia can assist with continued technical expertise to make these projects become a reality.”

In 2020-2021, Opportunity Appalachia supported 17 projects (six in Ohio) which are seeking to raise over \$250 million in financing.

To learn more about Opportunity Appalachia and a listing of participating projects, [click here](#).

To register for the launch webinar on Friday, February 25 from 10:00 to 11:30 am, [click here](#).

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**Ohio Southeast Economic Development (OhioSE)** is the JobsOhio Network Partner for southern, eastern, and southeastern Ohio, providing economic development work and resources in 25 rural counties; they are the newest and geographically the largest of the six regions across the state. OhioSE partners closely with regional development districts, local economic development offices, state agencies, and other entities to expand, retain, and attract businesses in the counties they serve. Learn more at [OhioSE.com](http://OhioSE.com).

**JobsOhio** is a private nonprofit economic development corporation designed to drive job creation and new capital investment in Ohio through business attraction, retention and expansion. The organization also works to seed talent production in its targeted industries and to attract talent to Ohio through [Find Your Ohio](#). JobsOhio works with six regional partners across Ohio: [Dayton Development Coalition](#), [Ohio Southeast Economic Development](#), [One Columbus](#), [REDI Cincinnati](#), [Regional Growth Partnership](#) and [Team NEO](#). Learn more at [www.jobsohio.com](http://www.jobsohio.com). Follow us on [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

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