



# Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission

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## News & Updates

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### [JobsOhio Rollout Event](#)

OVRDC would like to extend an invitation to you to join us on **Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup> for a regional JobsOhio rollout event at the Kenworth Auditorium at the PACCAR Medical Education Center in Chillicothe at IPM.** And we encourage you to bring your business leaders with you as well for this important conversation.

This event will be an opportunity for you to learn about JobsOhio, its vision, and structure directly from leaders including Mark Kvamme, Kristi Tanner, and Christiane Schmenk. The event will also feature an opportunity for Q&A. We hope you will be able to join us in learning more about the economic development landscape and how these partnerships will shape it moving forward.

With the unique terrain of economic development in Appalachian Ohio in mind, the region's JobsOhio proposal mentioned exploring a wealth creation framework currently being developed by the Ford Foundation with partners in Central Appalachia. To introduce others to this approach, there will be a presentation on the wealth creation framework immediately following the JobsOhio rollout. For those who are interested, further information can be found at [www.creatingruralwealth.org](http://www.creatingruralwealth.org).

**Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup> beginning at IPM  
Kenworth Auditorium at the PACCAR Medical Education Center  
446 Hospital Road, Chillicothe, OH**

Click [here](#) for executive summary of the proposal submitted for the southeast Ohio region. It should give you an overview of the steps ahead. [Here](#) is the map of the JobsOhio regions to give you a sense of how its network will be laid out across the state. We anticipate this will be a great chance for the partners in our region to come together in the early stages of our work.

**If you plan to attend the September 8<sup>th</sup> rollout, please RSVP to Sharon Clark at [sclark@ovrdc.org](mailto:sclark@ovrdc.org) by 1:00 pm Friday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please be sure to include the name and organization of any guest you will be bringing with you. If travel on the 8<sup>th</sup> is not possible, we may be able to set up a conference call-in line. Please e-mail Sharon by 1:00 Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> if you are interested in joining a conference call-in line so we can determine interest and distribute any call-in information and materials to you in advance.**

**Thank you in advance for considering adding this event to your schedule. We hope to see you on September 8th.**

### [Update on Ohio Department of Development](#)

As a valued stakeholder whom we often collaborate with, I wanted to make you aware of the restructuring of the Ohio Department of Development, including the functions that will remain and what will be transferred to JobsOhio.

As you may know, the Ohio Department of Development provided the Ohio General Assembly with the recommendations for the structure of the future agency, called the Ohio Development Services Agency or "ODSA". The report also includes how this new agency will interact with JobsOhio and the JobsOhio Network partners to best serve our customers.

I hope you will take the time to read the report. You can find the report [here](#) along with its executive summary [here](#).

## [ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT](#)

### [APPLICATION PERIOD HAS BEEN EXTENDED](#)

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announces that the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) application period will be extended for one week due to Hurricane Irene response and recovery. The **NEW** deadline for AFG applications is **September 16, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. EST.** This extension of time will allow our partners to address the immediate needs of their communities while providing adequate opportunity for them to apply for grant assistance under the AFG program.

Hurricane Irene has affected a wide expanse of communities on the East Coast of the United States. FEMA recognizes that many of the eligible applicants for the AFG grant application period, that is presently open, are fire departments and non affiliated EMS departments. FEMA understands that the most important focus should be on life and property.

Applicants who are in the process of completing an application can continue. Please note that the FEMA system did not have any disruption of service due to the storm and therefore, information submitted to date is intact. If applicants have not started their application yet, it's not too late. The AFG website has tools available to assist with preparing competitive applications ([www.fema.gov/firegrants](http://www.fema.gov/firegrants)).

### [LEARN HOW YOU CAN PREPARE A SUCCESSFUL AFG APPLICATION](#)

**With nearly 20,000 applications each year, and limited funds available, the level of competition for AFG awards is high. Help to ensure that your application stands out from the crowd and scores well during the evaluation process by following these tips:**

#### **#1 – KNOW THE FUNDING PRIORITIES**

This year, FEMA has designated High, Medium, and Low funding priorities for every eligible activity and/or item. This makes it easier for applicants to understand the programs FEMA is able to support. Use the priority system to increase your chances of winning an award. The more consistent your funding request is with the highest priority items, as described in the [FY11 AFG Program Guidance](#), the greater your chances of winning an award.

#### **#2 – COMPLY WITH STATE AND NATIONAL STANDARDS**

The AFG Program is designed to help applicants meet state and national standards, such as those provided by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Requesting any item that does not result in state or national certification, or comply with recognized standards, may lower your application's evaluation score. For more information on and for access to these standards related to this year's funding priorities, visit [www.nfpa.org/nfpaafg2011](http://www.nfpa.org/nfpaafg2011).

#### **#3 – ENSURE YOUR REQUEST IS REASONABLE AND JUSTIFIABLE**

The AFG Program is designed to meet firefighter essential needs, and to help your department meet national standards. Applicants should request only what they must have and only what they can justify. Requesting an excessively expensive brush truck, for example, or asking for what appears to be a "wish list" item is not in your best interest and will result in a lower application score. Applicants make a critical mistake by requesting equipment with excessive or unreasonable costs.

#### **#4 - PREPARE A DETAILED AND CONCISE NARRATIVE**

A surprisingly large number of applications contain poorly written narratives that do not adequately define the risks in the community, the proposed solution, the financial situation of the organization, or the cost-benefit of the project. Additionally, applicants should avoid borrowing language from vendors and manufacturers. Such boilerplate language tends to be general in nature and does not describe the local need.

The Narrative must contain a clear picture of your department and its finances, your community and its need(s), as well as the project and its cost-benefit. It should be detailed and concise. Allow enough time to write a complete narrative. This is your opportunity to convince a panel of your peers that your request should be funded—take advantage of it!

#### **#5 – TAKE ADVANTAGE OF AFG RESOURCES**

AFG offers a variety of assistance to ensure that deserving applicants are successful:

- ◆ View the [AFG Application Tutorial](#)
- ◆ Review the [AFG Program Guidance and Application Kit](#)
- ◆ Watch an AFG webinar. Follow the instructions on the calendar at [http://www.fema.gov/firegrants/js/workshop\\_schedule\\_august.html](http://www.fema.gov/firegrants/js/workshop_schedule_august.html)
- ◆ Download the [Get Ready Guide](#)
- ◆ Download the [Narrative Assistance Guide](#)
- ◆ Call or email the Help Desk: 1-866-274-0960 or [firegrants@dhs.gov](mailto:firegrants@dhs.gov)
- ◆ [Contact your Regional Representative](#)
- ◆ Find additional resources on our website under [Rules and Tools](#)

## [Brownfield Action Plan Pilot Program](#)

The Ohio Department of Development's Urban Development Division will soon be accepting Applications for the Brownfield Action Plan Pilot Program.

### [What is the Brownfield Action Plan Pilot Program?](#)

The **Brownfield Action Plan Pilot Program** is a new initiative that will use existing funds to assist communities in the expedited development and implementation of an area-wide Brownfield Action Plan. The pilot program will involve **two parts**: 1) technical assistance for development of a plan, and 2) subsequent grant funding from the Ohio Department of Development and partners to jumpstart implementation of the action plan.

The pilot program is intended to help communities with multiple brownfield sites that are clustered in a neighborhood, district, block, or corridor. As these sites are connected through infrastructure or geographic location, their negative impacts go beyond nearby properties and may have an economically devastating effect on the larger area including homes, businesses, schools, and recreational areas that are not brownfields. The pilot program will assist communities in identifying priority brownfield sites and developing focused redevelopment strategies. Planning for large brownfield-impacted areas at one time can ensure a more coordinated, efficient and successful path to redevelopment.

### [What are the objectives of the program?](#)

The **Brownfield Action Plan Pilot Program** seeks to meet the following objectives:

1. Assist selected communities in developing an **assertive brownfield action strategy** in a focused economic development area;
2. Produce **actionable deliverables** for the community such as a brownfield priority list and action strategy for funding and redevelopment; and
3. Spur communities to **swiftly begin implementing** their strategy with local, state, and private funding sources.

### [What kind of assistance is available?](#)

The pilot will be comprised of **two phases**. The **first phase** will involve the applicant receiving *technical assistance* to complete their Brownfield Action Plan. The **second phase** will begin upon completion of the Action Plan, and will include *grant funding* of approximately \$50,000 per awardee to jumpstart implementation of their action plan.

### [When do I apply?](#)

The Division plans to release the Request for Letters of Interest and application form on **Thursday, September 1, 2011** with a due date of **Friday, October 14, 2011**. The Division anticipates awarding up to four pilot projects, which would be notified by the end of November.

For more information please visit the program website, [www.development.ohio.gov/urban/brownfieldawp.htm](http://www.development.ohio.gov/urban/brownfieldawp.htm).

### [Who should I contact for additional information?](#)

If you have questions regarding the **Brownfield Action Plan Pilot Program**, please contact Diane Alecusan at [diane.alecusan@development.ohio.gov](mailto:diane.alecusan@development.ohio.gov) or call (614) 728-1229.

## [AEP Access to Environmental Education Mini-Grant Funding Opportunity is Now Available](#)

The Foundation for Appalachian Ohio (FAO) is inviting applications from educators and 501(c)(3) community organizations throughout the 32 county region of Appalachian Ohio for projects encouraging and supporting creative, local environmental education and stewardship activities that build on the unique assets and strengths of the region's individual communities.

Funding is available from the [AEP Access to Environmental Education Fund](#) and FAO seeks [applications](#) from public school and community organizations for projects providing opportunities for youth to participate in learning experiences tied to local natural resources, and which enable youth to share lessons learned with the broader community.

"For nearly a century, AEP has taken great pride in being an active partner within the Appalachian Ohio community," said Joseph Hamrock, AEP Ohio president and chief operating officer. "The AEP Access to Environmental Education mini-grants continue that commitment by providing schools and community organizations with an opportunity that combines real-world experience in environmental education with the unique resources of Appalachian Ohio, all while encouraging creative thinking and community partnership."

Approximately \$23,500 in funding is available for awards ranging from \$250 to \$1,500. All applications must be submitted [electronically](#) by **Friday, October 14, 2011**, and the AEP Access to Environmental Fund Advisory Committee will review eligible applications and recommend projects to the Foundation's Board of Trustees.

To [learn more](#) about AEP Access to Environmental Education mini-grants and to apply for funding, visit [www.appalachianohio.org](http://www.appalachianohio.org).