

Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission

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News & Updates

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OVRDC Website has a New Look



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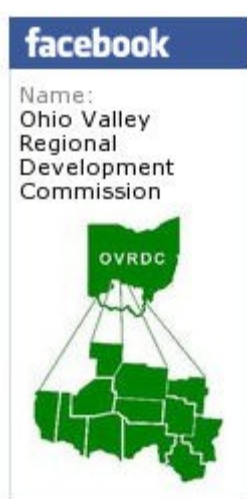
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Welcome to the new and improved Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission (OVRDC) website. We hope this new and improved format will assist you with finding information about the OVRDC and the region it serves. Additional updates will be forthcoming, so keep visiting the site as we continue to add new and exciting information. As always, we certainly welcome input about our website from you. If you have any suggestions, please email us at email@ovrdc.org.



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OVRDC Full Commission Banquet and Election of Officers

OVRDC'S Full Commission Banquet and Election of Officers was held on March 31st at the Fayette County Commission on Aging in Fayette County with over 80 members and guest attending.

Presiding at the head table were Bob Proud, OVRDC Chairman and Clermont County Commissioner, Doug Corcoran, OVRDC Treasurer and Ross County Commissioner, Roger Rhonemus, OVRDC Vice Chairman and Adams County Commissioner, John Hemmings, OVRDC Executive Director, Karen Fabiano, Ohio Department of Development, State Representative Bob Petersen, and State Senator David Daniels.

Entertainment for the evening event was provided by Cheryl Stockwell, Director of the Fayette County Commission on Aging. The dinner was prepared and served by 3 Mom's Catering and the flower arrangements were provided by the Robin's Nest Flowers and Gifts.



Mr. Proud and Mr. Hemmings presented an Appreciation Certificate to the Fayette County Commissioners (Jack DeWeese, Dan Dean and Tony Anderson) for hosting the event.

The officers elected for 2011-2012 were Bob Proud, (Clermont County Commissioner) Chairman; Roger Rhonemus, (Adams County Commissioner) Vice Chairman; and Doug Corcoran, (Ross County Commissioner) Treasurer. The slate of Executive Committee Member nominations were also approved for 2011-2012.

Mr. Hemmings presented the 2010 OVRDC Annual Report to the audience. The 2010 Annual Report is linked below.

[2010 Annual Report](#)

The next Full Commission Appreciation Banquet will held in Scioto County in September 2011.

ARC Announces New Substance Abuse Initiatives Grant Competition

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) has announced the 2011 Competition for Community-Based Substance Abuse Initiatives, a program that will provide training, technical assistance, and a total of \$150,000 in grants to 30 community-based substance abuse coalitions in the most economically distressed areas of Appalachia.

Beginning April 13, ARC will accept letters of interest from local coalitions that are ready and able to expand efforts to combat substance abuse in their communities. Selected coalitions will participate in program activities intended to support and expand local substance abuse partnerships. Grant awards in the amount of \$5,000 each will be targeted to performance-oriented local projects that use evidence-based approaches to prevention, intervention, or treatment.

Community-based coalitions or other organizations are eligible for the competition. Applicants must be located in and serve one of 196 counties that ARC has designated as "distressed" or "at-risk" for 2011 and/or 2012. Letters of interest must be submitted no later than Monday, May 16, 2011, and winners will be announced by May 27.

The 2011 Competition for Community-Based Substance Abuse Initiatives will be completed through a cooperative effort with East Tennessee State University's Office of Rural and Community Health and Community Partnerships.

More information about the grant competition, including [application materials and a list of eligible counties](#), is available on the ARC Web site.

PROGRAM AND APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS Community-based coalitions or other organizations are eligible for the competition. The coalition or organization must be located in and serve counties that ARC has designated as "Distressed" or "At-Risk" for 2011 and/or 2012. **Ohio:** Adams, Ashtabula, Athens, Gallia, Guernsey, Harrison, Jackson, Lawrence, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry, Pike, Scioto, Vinton.

Competitors must meet one of these three descriptions:

- Currently formed and recognized substance abuse coalition which has received state or national funding to support its community activities
- Currently formed substance abuse coalition which is dependent on the contributions of local volunteers
- Other organizations which wish to form a coalition to address a substance abuse issue or adopt a new major strategy to address substance abuse

Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack invited agricultural producers and rural small businesses to apply for loans and grants through the Rural Energy for America Program in order to install renewable energy systems and make energy efficiency improvements. Renewable energy systems can include solar electric, solar thermal, wind, geothermal, biomass and anaerobic digestion systems. Energy efficiency improvement systems can include lighting improvements, insulation, electric motor replacements and other energy efficiency improvement projects as outlined in an energy audit. Grants are available on a competitive basis for up to twenty-five percent of the eligible project costs while loan guarantees are available for up to seventy-five percent of the eligible project costs.

The program has been modified this year to include the following:

- Eligible projects now include the installation of flexible fuel blender pumps at rural retail gas stations and convenience stores. This project type was added in an effort to further promote the use of ethanol and biodiesel. This incentive is intended to provide fuel station owners with the opportunity to install flexible fuel pumps that will offer Americans more renewable energy options. The Obama administration has set a goal of installing 10,000 flexible fuel pumps nationwide within the next 5 years. We believe that this program will greatly improve the fueling choices available to rural residents.
- Agricultural producers in non-rural areas are now eligible for REAP assistance. For example, a greenhouse grower in an urban setting can apply for assistance to install energy curtains to retain heat in the greenhouse or to install a biomass boiler to provide a renewable heat source to their facility. This exception does not apply to non-rural businesses.
- Demonstrated financial need for the grant has been eliminated. Applicants are no longer required to show the grant is necessary to make the project financially feasible.
- U.S. Citizenship as a requirement for program eligibility has been eliminated. This requirement was removed to make the program consistent across all Rural Development energy programs.
- Grain dryer replacement projects are receiving less emphasis in Fiscal Year 2011. Since only dryers of similar size can be funded through this program, an application with a proposed increase in dryer capacity may result in the grant request and award. These reviews will be completed once an application for grant and/or loan guarantee assistance is received.

For Fiscal Year 2011, additional emphasis is being placed on projects that are requesting less than \$20,000. Congress has authorized a specific budget allocation to fund these smaller projects which provide energy efficiencies or can produce renewable energy for the applicant.

If you are interested in pursuing a grant or loan guarantee for the Rural Energy for America Program contact Randy.Monhemius@oh.usda.gov. All applications for the Rural Energy for America Program must be received in the Rural Development office by **June 15, 2011 at 4:30 p.m.** Applications received after June 15, 2011 will not be considered for funding in Fiscal Year 2011.