

Community Development



Top: Agrivoltaics research in Ohio, Bottom: Rendering of health clinic in Noble County, construction will start in Spring 2025.

Business Retention and Expansion Initiatives

Our Community Development professionals gave leadership to numerous Business Retention and Expansion initiatives in 2024. The following are some highlights of their work:

- Ohio Sea Grant helped businesses in Ottawa County in the aftermath of COVID-19. Our professionals provided the county with targeted business information, training and outreach that enhanced business operations and supported 2,184 jobs.
- Team members are helping facilitate the establishment of a health clinic in Noble County, one of Ohio’s Appalachian counties—including securing an \$8.4M grant through the Ohio Department of Development.
- A \$2.2M Department of Energy grant provided resources for Agrivoltaics research in Ohio—this area of study investigates utility scale solar vegetation management.

Community Development in Ohio

Our educational and applied research efforts are aligned under four areas of emphasis — economic development, leadership development, organizational capacity building, and community planning.



48,000

Individuals Participated in community development programming annually — including more than 800 local, state, and national educational events.



200+

Community Partner Relationships have been built with state, regional, and local governments and departments, schools, non-profits, and corporations.



\$27.4M

Extramural Funding Secured from federal and state governments, organizations and institutions, non-profits, and private businesses.



BroadbandOhio Bridges Ohio's Digital Divide

BroadbandOhio, OSU Extension, Heartland Forward, and the Benton Institute for Broadband & Society work toward the common goal of bringing high-speed internet access to every Ohioan. They provide local governments with access to the resources they need to leverage new dollars that are available via the federal government's infrastructure program for support of broadband projects.

It is also important to the team's work of bridging Ohio's digital divide to build a best-in-class broadband network across the state.



IMPLAN Reports Outline Regional Economic Data

The IMPLAN User Team generates and shares annual economic reports with communities across the state that focus on a given region's industry and occupational strengths.

In addition to economic data, the reports also provide information related to a region or community's demographics, industries, occupations, and environment.



Noble County Business Park — a \$4.8M investment

An on-going business park project in Noble County, was designed to attract logistics, light manufacturing, and oil and gas support industries in the region. The initial \$4.8M investment was made possible by way of public-private partnerships involving JobsOhio, Noble County commissioners, OSU Extension, township trustees and village administrators, and private landowners.

