

The State of Community Development in Ohio



September 2019



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Preface

Purpose

The purpose of a program review is to guide program development on a continual basis. A program review is a process that evaluates the status, effectiveness, and progress of programs and helps identify future direction and priorities. Program reviews are a standard practice in youth development programs (Roth & Brooks-Gunn, 2016) and higher education (Halonen & Dunn, 2017). The Ohio State University Extension Community Development program review is a voluntary practice for self-study and external review.

The Review Includes Five Elements

- The State of Community Development in Ohio
- Ohio State University Extension Community Development Internal Self-Study
- Ohio State University Extension Crowdsourcing Insight Summary: Community Development
- External committee visits and final report
- Key stakeholder communication throughout the process

Context

Ohio State University Extension embarked upon a multi-year effort to build the Extension organization of the future. That journey began with the [Vice President's Conversation on the Future of Extension](#). The overall goal of that effort was to ensure that OSU Extension remains relevant and responsive to the needs of Ohioans well into the future.

Data gathered through the *Vice President's Conversation* was used as a foundation for a [designEXT effort to put ideas into action](#). One of the designEXT steps includes partnering with individuals and communities to co-create multi-faceted solutions for current and emerging issues.

The *OSU Extension Community Development Program Review* is the second of a series of OSU Extension program reviews.

ONE Thing

Our land-grant mission –

OSU Extension delivers knowledge from Ohio State to every county in Ohio, and we work **WITH** people right where they live to strengthen their own lives and communities.

*(excerpt from OSU Extension Interim Director update,
Jackie Kirby Wilkins – August 2019)*

Contact

Ohio State University (OSU) Extension Program Reviews are conducted on behalf of Dr. Jackie Kirby Wilkins, interim director of OSU Extension for the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. The OSU Extension Community Development Program Review was led by Dr. Julie Fox and Dr. Greg Davis, with support from Michelle Gaston and Terri Fisher.

<https://extension.osu.edu/strategic-initiatives/ohio-community-development-program-review>

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*For the purpose of this report, the Ohio State University Extension
Community Development program may be referred to simply as Ohio CD or CD.*

Introduction

Community Development Definitions

The National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals (NACDEP) defines community development as “a practice-based profession and an academic discipline that promotes participative democracy, sustainable development, rights, equality, economic opportunity, and social justice, through the organization, education, and empowerment of people within their communities, whether these be of locality, identity, or interest, in urban and rural settings.” According to NACDEP, the Extension professional’s role in community development is to “work WITH communities to support activities that encourage broad participation and result in social, environmental, and/or economic improvement as defined by the community.” (<https://www.nacdep.net/what-is-community-development->)

The International Association for Community Development (IACD) views community development as both “a practice-based profession and an academic discipline that promotes participative democracy, sustainable development, rights, economic opportunity, equality and social justice, through the organisation, education, and empowerment of people within their communities, whether these be of locality, identity, or interest, in urban and rural settings.” (<http://www.iacdglobal.org/>)

The Community Development Society (CDS) is a professional association comprised of academicians, educators, and community development practitioners at all levels. CDS views community development “as a profession that integrates knowledge from many disciplines with theory, research, teaching, and practice as important and interdependent functions that are vital in the public and private sectors.” The CDS follows what are referred to as core Principles of Good Practice (<http://www.associationsites.com/page.cfm?usr=commdev&pageid=1694>)

Models of Community Development

The approaches to community development vary widely. Community development, broadly defined, consists of many of these approaches such as:

- Asset mapping, asset approach, asset-based community development;
- Capacity building, capacity development;
- Community economic development;
- Community planning, comprehensive planning, land use planning, regional planning, urban planning;
- Economic development;
- Industrial development;
- Leadership and/or organizational capacity development;
- Place-making;
- Sustainable communities, sustainable development; and
- Workforce development.

Approaches and Classifications

Within Ohio, the approaches above are undertaken at a variety of levels: local, county, regional or multi-county, and statewide. Generally, the responsibility for a community development activity or approach is determined by that effort's geographic scope. For example, local efforts are led by a local organization (e.g. local chamber of commerce), county-level efforts led by a county-level organization (e.g. county economic development board), multi-county efforts are led by a multi-county or regional organization (e.g. regional planning commission), and statewide efforts are led by a statewide organization (e.g. JobsOhio). The various agencies, groups, and organizations listed in this report are arranged by their span of reach or geographic scope. They are also grouped by their area(s) of focus:

- Economic development,
- Leadership development,
- Organizational capacity development, and
- Community planning.

Most counties have functioning chambers of commerce, community improvement corporations or economic development groups. Similarly, there are over 1,600 township boards of trustees and 87 boards of county commissioners in Ohio that implement a variety of community development approaches in carrying out the respective statutory responsibilities of the political subdivision. These are not listed in this report. However, they are partners in community development and in many cases collaborators for Extension Community Development professionals throughout Ohio.

Community Demographics in Ohio

Geographic Distribution of Poverty in Ohio

Poverty in Ohio is the highest among 11 Appalachian Counties, the 32-county Appalachian area is outlined. (See Figure 1.) The top five counties with the highest poverty rates are Athens, Adams, Scioto, Meigs, and Highland counties, in rank order. The five counties with the lowest poverty rates are Delaware, Warren, Medina, Geauga, and Putnam counties, in rank order (American Community Survey, 2013-17).

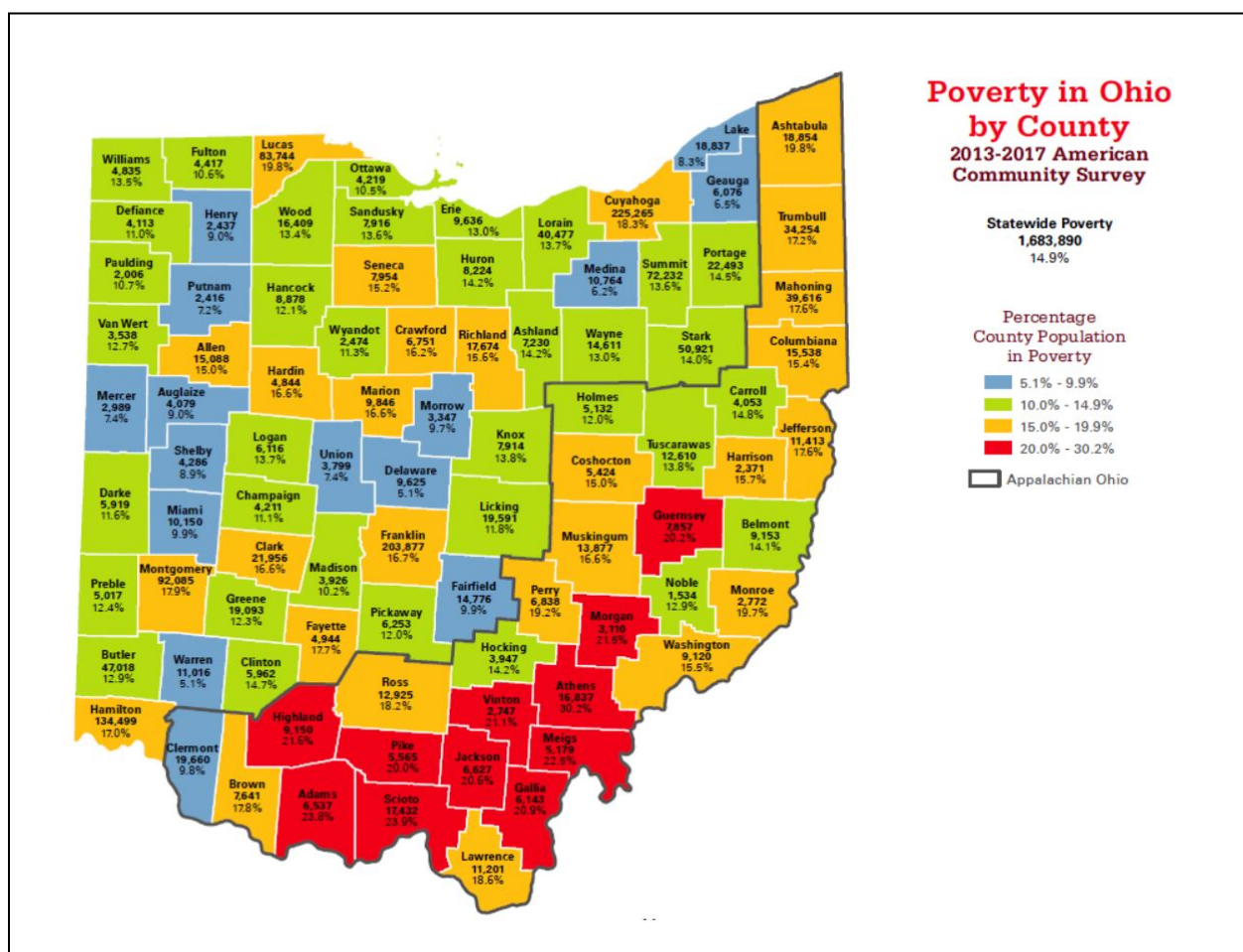
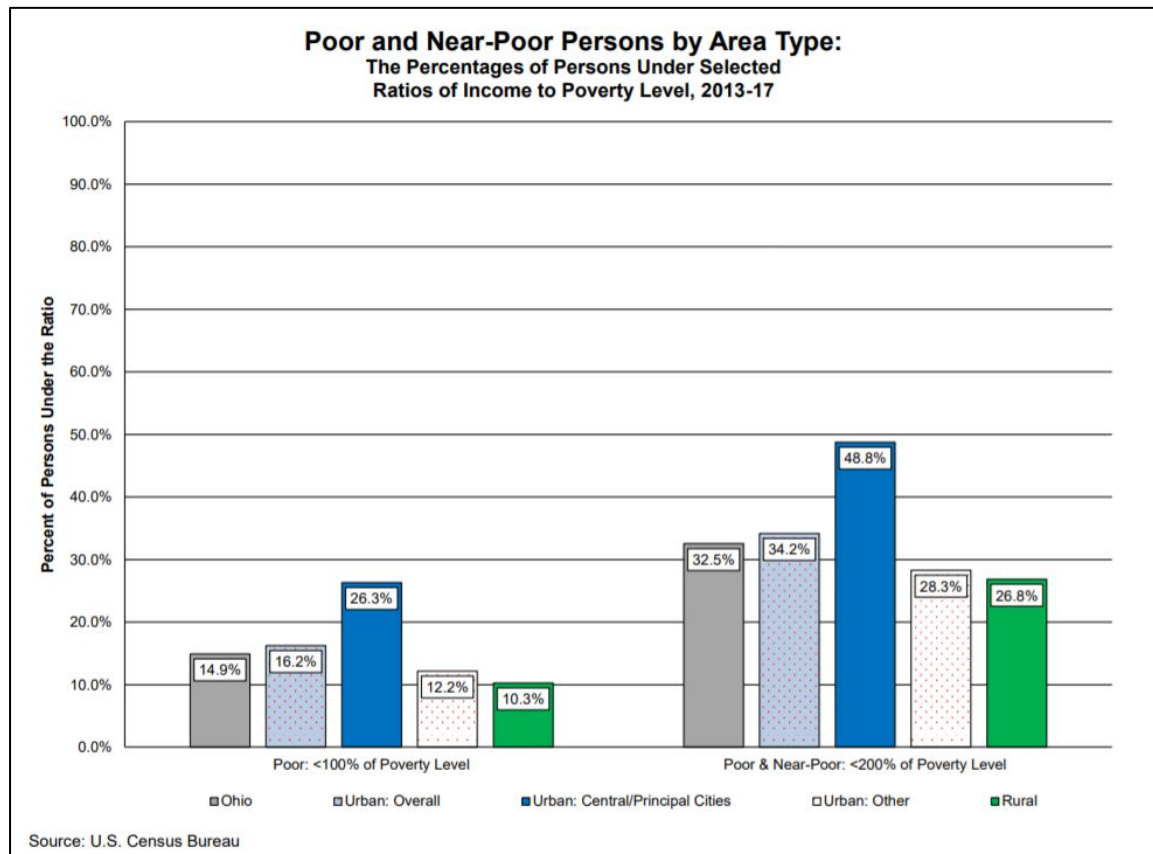


Figure 1. Percent of population in poverty by county. Adapted from “The Ohio Poverty Report, 2019,” by the Ohio Development Services Agency.

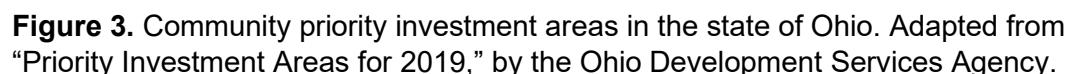
Distribution of Poverty in Area Types in Ohio

The variations in poverty and near-poverty rates by the area types in which Ohioans live is illustrated as 14.9% (Refer to Figure 2) of all Ohioans were poor during 2013-17 (grey column in the left set); up to 32.5% were poor or near-poor (grey column in the right set). Poverty and near-poverty rates were noticeably lower in rural areas (green columns) – between 4% and 8% lower than the corresponding state averages at every level, while urban areas (light blue columns with dots) were slightly higher than the state averages – between 1% and 3% above the state averages (The Ohio Poverty Report, 2019).

Figure 2. Population in poverty based on area types in Ohio communities. Adapted from “The Ohio Poverty Report, 2019,” by the Ohio Development Services Agency.

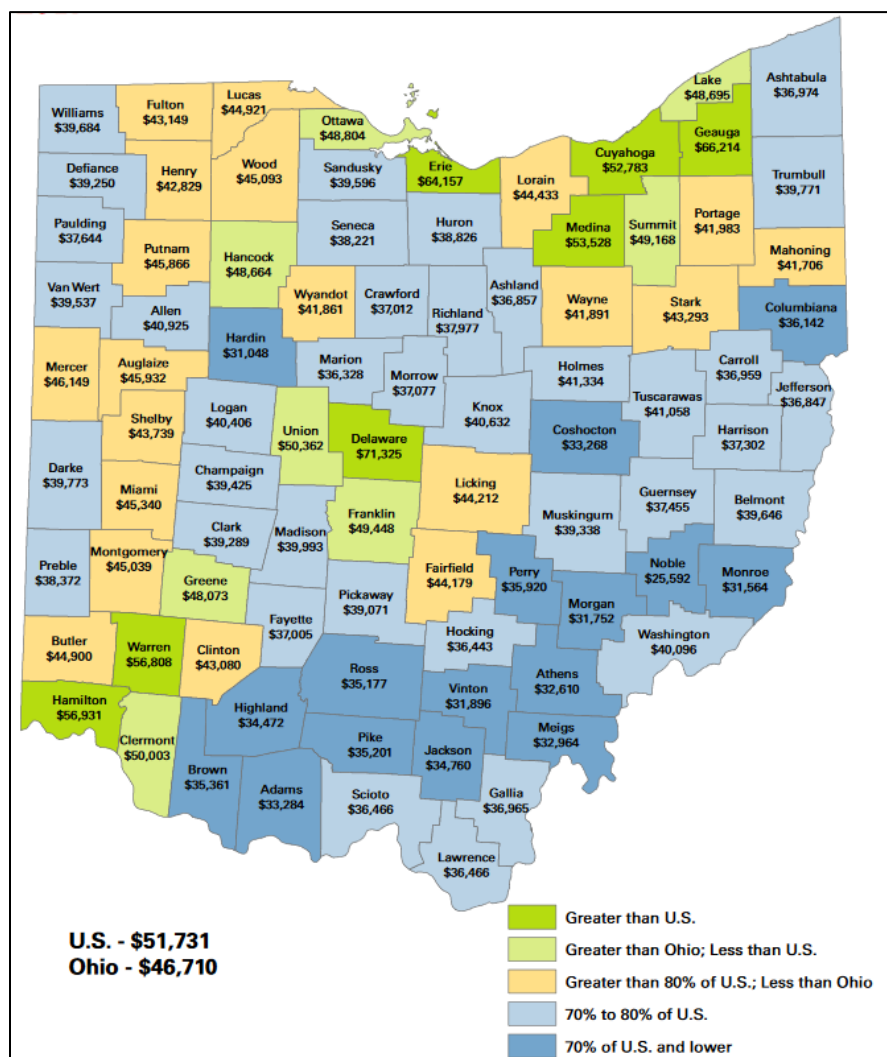


Investment areas are centered around the community's specific needs for economic development. Distressed counties and cities have an unemployment rate of 125% or greater; a per capita income at or below 80% of U.S. per capita income; a 20% or greater population with incomes below the poverty level. Labor surplus counties and cities exists with an unemployment rate of at least 6%; these counties include Mahoning and Ottawa and the cities of Lima, Trotwood, Lorain, Sandusky, Garfield Heights, and Maple Heights. Situational distress areas in counties and cities that are experiencing a closing or downsizing of their major employers. Inner city distress exists in Columbus, Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Toledo where 20% and greater of the population is living at or below the published poverty level (Ohio Development Services Agency, 2019).



Socioeconomic Status Per Capita Personal Income

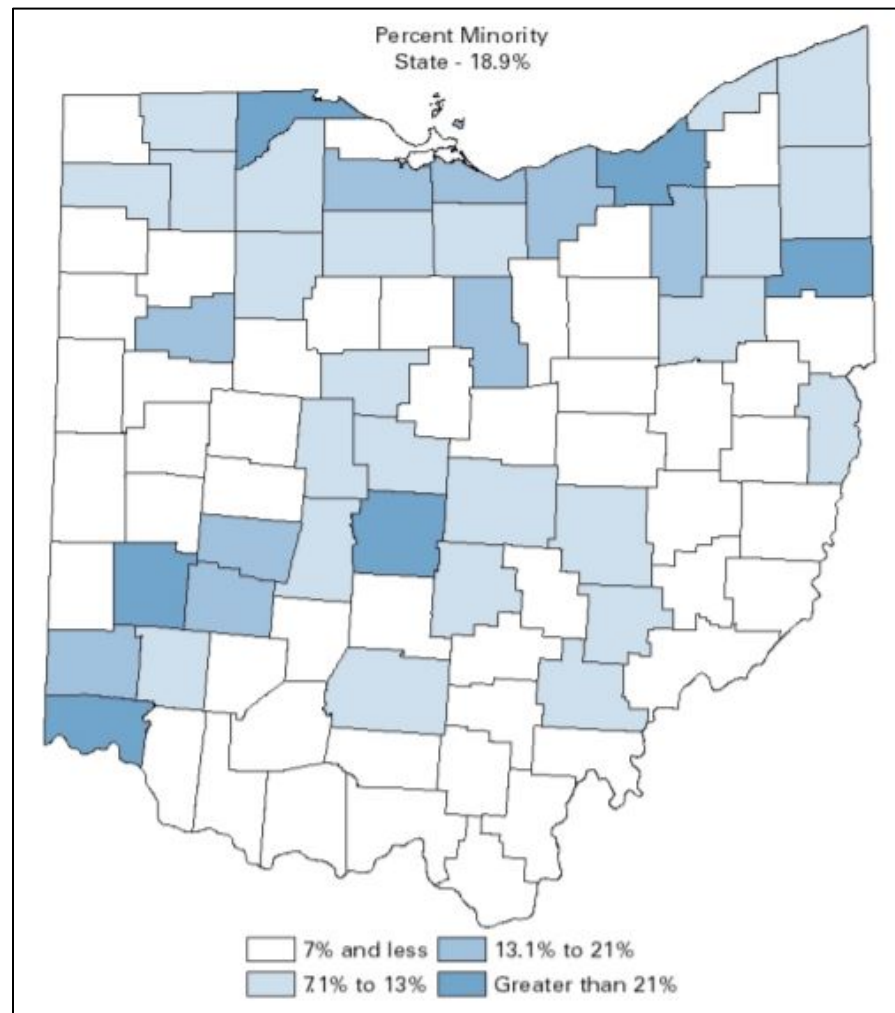
The 2018 median per capita personal income for Ohio was \$48,242. Figure 4 represents the 2017 median per capita income for Ohio of \$46,710. The Bureau of Economic Analysis estimates this median income every year, with counties lagging one year behind the nation and states. The top five highest median per capita personal income counties are Delaware, Geauga, Erie, Hamilton, and Warren counties, in rank order. The counties with the lowest median per capita personal income are Noble, Hardin, Monroe, Vinton, and Morgan counties, in rank order. Of the five counties with the lowest per capita personal income, four of the counties (Noble, Monroe, Vinton, and Morgan) are in the Appalachian region (Source: BEA Per Capita Income 2018 found at <https://development.ohio.gov/files/research/E1002.pdf>).



Ethnicity

Ohio's minority population increased 20% from 2000 to 2010. The minority population is defined as all persons except non-Hispanic whites. The minority population of the state increased from 16% to 18.9% in 2011. Much of the minority population is concentrated in the central counties of metropolitan areas. (See Figure 5.) The counties having a high population of minorities include Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton, Sandusky, Defiance, and Lorain counties. The 10 counties with the lowest concentration of minority populations, below 3%, can mostly be found in south and southeastern Appalachian counties (Source: Charting the Changes Ohio Demographic Profile, 2011 found at <https://development.ohio.gov/files/research/P1096.pdf>).

Figure 5. Percent of Ohio's population consists of 18.9% minorities. Adapted from "Charting the Changes Ohio Demographic Profile, 2011," by the Ohio Policy Research and Strategic Planning Office.



Community Development Organizations in Ohio

This section contains a sample list of community development organizations in Ohio. The community development organizations are categorized by internal and external partners. To better understand the reach of the community development organizations they are sub-categorized by statewide partners and regional partners. For a continuation of specific outreach and engagement in program areas, the classification of the community development organizations are listed as economic development, leadership development, organizational development, and community planning.

For this report, OSU Extension Community Development is not included. OSU Extension Community Development is the focus of a separate more in-depth report that is part of this overall review of OSU Extension Community Development. This report provides support to the overall review.

Each organization's description is supported by the information that was gathered in sources within each community development organization. A sample of 15 internal and 8 external organizational partners in community development are listed on the following pages. If the reach or annual report is unknown or not publicly available, then it is not included in the information describing the organization.

Internal Partners

Statewide partners serving communities across Ohio.

Organization: OSU Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources

Classification: Economic Development, Leadership Development, Organizational Development

Location: Columbus, Ohio

Mission: "Engaging people to strengthen their lives and communities through research-based educational programming."

Description: Agriculture and Natural Resources team provides Ohioans resources and educational programs focusing on profitable and sustainable agriculture, a clean environment and proper stewardship of Ohio's natural resources.

Reach: Ohio communities

Goals or Vision: Agriculture and Natural Resources is a dynamic educational entity that partners with individuals, families, communities, business and industry, and organizations to strengthen the lives of Ohioans.

Annual Report:

Website: <https://agnr.osu.edu/>

Organization: Agricultural Communications, Educational, and Leadership (ACEL)

Classification: Leadership Development

Location: Columbus, Ohio

Mission: “To prepare educators, communicators, and leaders in the food, agricultural, and environmental sciences to integrate research-based information through learning, practice, and engagement, in ways that will advance positive changes that strengthen individuals, families, and communities.”

Description: ACEL is an academic department in CFAES.

Reach: Students, staff, faculty, and Ohio communities.

Goals or Vision: “Our community of scholars is recognized worldwide for excellence in the integration of learning, discovery and practice in education, outreach and engagement, communication, and leadership. Our students and graduates are leaders in the food, agricultural, and environmental sciences, known for developing and adapting new knowledge to address issues and solve problems facing a changing world.”

Annual Report: [Strategic Plan](#)

Website: <https://acel.osu.edu/>

Organization: Alber Enterprise Center

Classification: Economic Development, Leadership Development, Organizational Development

Location: Marion, Ohio

Mission: “To enable organizations to build internal strengths and remove obstacles for success through leadership development, continuous improvement, and innovative culture.”

Description: The Alber Enterprise Center connects individuals, organizations, and communities to lead enhanced productivity, empowered leadership, and creative problem-solving.

Reach: Ohio communities

Goals or Vision: “To stimulate positive change for maintainable economic growth in individuals, organizations, and communities.”

Annual Report:

Website: <https://www.alberosu.com/>

Organization: Center for Urban and Regional Analysis (CURA)

Classification: Economic Development and Community Planning

Location: Statewide

Mission: “To serve as a bridge across academia, industry, and the policy sector by providing spatial analysis of economic, social, environmental, and health issues in urban and regional settings in Ohio and beyond.”

Description: CURA serves as a bridge across academia, industry, and the policy sector by providing spatial analysis of economic, social, environmental, and health issues in urban and regional settings in Ohio and beyond. They are the hub for data-driven urban science on campus.

Reach: Urban and regional settings in Ohio – Ohio residents.

Goals or Vision:

Annual Report: <https://cura.osu.edu/annual-report>

Website: <https://cura.osu.edu/>

Organization: <https://energizeohio.osu.edu/>

Classification: Economic Development and Community Planning

Location: Statewide

Mission: Through non-biased education and research, Energize Ohio develops community capacity by improving the knowledge and awareness of participants. Ultimately, Energize Ohio is designed to enhance participants knowledge of energy development drivers, policy, environmental, and financial implications in order to promote best practices, informed decision-making, and the implementation of sustainable energy strategies in Ohio's community's farms, and businesses.

Description: "A number of factors such as increasing population, environmental concerns, and the desire to minimize dependency on foreign resources are influencing the development of energy policy, industry regulation, and market investment. The abundance of natural resources and extensive open space positions rural communities across Ohio to play a central role in the development of future energy projects. However, energy development presents new social, economic, and environmental opportunities and challenges to impacted communities. Energize Ohio is an Ohio State University Extension Signature Program that is a source for non-biased, research-based information to address critical energy issues."

Reach: 62 Ohio counties; 11,000+ participants in renewable and shale energy programs.

Goals or Vision: "Increased knowledge and understanding of energy development options and the associated benefits and challenges. Increased knowledge and confidence in decision-making and planning abilities. More informed and effective decision-making on energy development projects. Development and implementation of sustainable community energy plans. Adoption of best practices on the development of distributed energy projects and the implementation of energy management strategies on farms and businesses. Creation of sustainable renewable energy opportunities. Increased wealth and income for local communities and residents. Development of a local culture that supports energy literacy and sustainable energy development."

Annual Report:

Website: <https://energizeohio.osu.edu/>

Organization: Knowlton School of Architecture

Classification: Economic Development and Community Planning

Location: Columbus, Ohio

Mission: “To educate future architects, planners, and landscape architects; To shape, as well as serve, the professions of architecture, city and regional planning, and landscape architecture; To contribute to the intellectual and creative purposes of the university; To promote the improvement of environmental quality and design on the campus and elsewhere.”

Description: The Knowlton School is an administrative unit within the College of Engineering at The Ohio State University. The school is comprised of three academic sections: architecture, landscape architecture, and city and regional planning.

Reach: “Each academic section offers undergraduate and graduate programs of study to a combined student population of nearly 900 students.”

Goals or Vision:

Annual Report:

Website: <https://knowlton.osu.edu/>

Organization: Ohio State Corporate Engagement Department

Classification: Economic Development

Location: Columbus, Ohio

Mission: “Provide world-class partnerships, world-changing impact.”

Description: “With your short-term objectives and long-term strategic plan in mind, we bring together the right connections at Ohio State to achieve your business goals through meaningful, collaborative partnerships. All while providing the front-door to the university for interacting with companies of all scales.”

Reach: Ohio State students, faculty, staff, Ohio communities and world-wide partners.

Goals or Vision:

Annual Report:

Website: <https://www.osu.edu/initiatives/corporate-engagement/>

Organization: Ohio State Wooster – OARDC

Classification: Economic Development and Leadership Development

Location: Wooster, Ohio

Mission: “The mission of the OARDC is to enhance the well-being of the people of Ohio, the nation and world through research on foods, agriculture, family, and the environment.”

Description:

Reach: Ohio communities

Goals or Vision: <https://oardc.osu.edu/about>

Annual Report:

Website: <https://oardc.osu.edu/>

Organization: Ohio State Wooster – ATI**Classification:** Economic Development and Leadership Development**Location:** Wooster, Ohio

Mission: “Ohio State ATI provides educational programs leading to associate degrees in agriculture, horticulture, environmental sciences, business, and engineering technology. With a high value placed on lifelong learning, we provide accessible, high-quality, applied educational experiences. Our goal is to prepare individuals to be technically competent, self-reliant, and productive citizens in a global society.”

Description: Ohio State ATI is the associate-degree-granting academic unit with CFAES. ATI is a part of the college’s academic programs and help the college fulfill its educational mission. In keeping with the Ohio State’s role as a land grant university, ATI provides affordable, accessible associate degree programs that lead directly to employment or bachelor’s degrees.

Reach: 700 students

Goals or Vision: Ohio State ATI is the post-secondary institution of choice for local, regional and international learners seeking technical education in agriculture, horticulture, environmental sciences, business, and engineering technology. Ohio State ATI is recognized and respected as an exemplary public institution that provides associate degrees, certificates and continuing education course work in agriculture, horticulture, environmental sciences, business, and engineering technology, and selected specialty areas.

Annual Report: <https://ati.osu.edu/aboutus/mission-and-vision/re-envisioning-project>**Website:** <https://ati.osu.edu/>**Organization:** School of Environment and Natural Resources**Classification:** Economic Development and Leadership Development**Location:** Columbus, Ohio

Mission: “The School of Environment and Natural Resources creates science-based knowledge and fosters environmental sustainability through teaching, research and outreach. By integrating the natural and social sciences, we promote discovery and leadership through a comprehensive approach to better understand and address environmental and natural resource challenges locally, regionally and globally.”

Description: SENR is a distinct, interdisciplinary academic unit administratively housed within the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES).

Reach: Ohio communities**Goals or Vision:****Annual Report:** https://senr.osu.edu/sites/senr/files/imce/files/about_us/Yearbook/highlightswebspread.pdf**Website:** <https://senr.osu.edu/>

Organization: The Lawrence and Isabel Barnett Center for Integrated Arts and Enterprise

Classification: Economic Development

Location: Columbus, Ohio

Mission: The center works to promote and connect with departments, faculty, graduate students, and organizations to share the multiple opportunities that show case cross disciplinary and interdisciplinary learning available through and across our vibrant communities.

Description: The Barnett Center educates and prepares students for successful careers in the arts and related entrepreneurial fields. The Center advances and increases students' understandings of the business side of the arts and the worlds of arts management, policy, and culture by focusing on the entrepreneurial aspects of the arts.

Reach: Ohio State students.

Goals or Vision: The Center expands the vision of Lawrence and Isabel Barnett who imagined creating a place where students could learn skills and abilities that would equip them to be successful in the arts.

Annual Report:

Website: <https://barnettcenter.osu.edu/>

Organization: OSU Extension 4-H Youth Development

Classification: Leadership Development

Location: Statewide

Mission: "4-H Youth Development education creates positive environments for diverse youth and adults to reach their fullest potential as capable, competent, caring, and contributing citizens."

Description: The 4-H name represents four personal development areas: head, heart, hands, and health. Youth complete hands-on projects in areas like health, science, agriculture, and civic engagement in a positive environment where they receive guidance from adult mentors and are encouraged to take on proactive leadership roles. 4-H is delivered by University Extension – a community of more than 100 public universities. For more than 100 years, 4-H has given youth a voice to express who they are and how they make their lives and communities better.

Reach: 503,826 Ohio youth: 12% in organized clubs, 11% in school enrichment, 75% special interests (such as community nutrition, EFNEP, and SNAP-Ed), 2% camp. 16,074 adult volunteer leaders and 6,793 youth volunteers. 4-H reaches 7 million young people in more than 50 countries.

Goals or Vision: "Ohio 4-H is the state's premier leader in developing youth to become positive productive citizens and catalysts for effective change and improve our diverse society."

Annual Report: <https://ohio4h.org/about/ohio-statistics>; <https://4-h.org/about/annual-report>

Website: <https://ohio4h.org/>

Regional partners serving specific communities in Ohio.

Organization: Ohio State Lima

Classification: Economic Development

Location: Lima, Ohio

Mission: The Ohio State University at Lima builds the future of western Ohio by developing leaders and providing access to the resources and strength of the state's top university.

Description: Ohio State Lima builds the future of western Ohio by developing leaders and providing access to the resources and strength of the state's top university.

Reach: Western Ohio communities

Goals or Vision: "The Ohio State University at Lima will continue to be both the destination of choice for some students and a gateway for others to the opportunities on the Columbus campus. Upon graduation, students will be well-prepared for the workforce and ready to serve as leaders in their professions and communities. The campus will serve as a catalyst for economic development, the arts, and lifelong learning. By exceptional research, teaching, and service, faculty will encourage innovation while preserving the best of a traditional campus-centered experience. Together, faculty and staff will foster a culture of excellence. The campus community will meet the diverse needs of our students and provide them with a sound foundation for success, extending the global recognition that equates Ohio State with distinction and quality."

Annual Report:

Website: <https://lima.osu.edu/>

Organization: Ohio State Marion - Career Services Department

Classification: Economic Development

Location: Marion, Ohio; 11-county service territory

Mission: "The mission of our program is to assist students with career development throughout their undergraduate career. Our office provides the following services: Major and career exploration, career assessments, career decision making, career planning, graduate and professional school options, resume and cover letter review, internship and co-op opportunities, and interview preparation."

Description: "We make an effort to reach and work with many of our students on the Marion campus and also area employers."

Reach: Marion campus students and surrounding communities

Goals or Vision: "Our goals and vision for the program are to work on getting more students doing internships and taking advantage of experiential learning opportunities. We are also striving to educate students on what it means to be Career Ready."

Annual Report:

Website: <https://osumarion.osu.edu/academics/academic-support-services/career-services>

Organization: Ohio Sea Grant

Classification: Economic Development

Location: Columbus, Ohio; 33 Lake Erie watershed counties

Mission: The mission of the Ohio Sea Grant College Program is to increase the public's understanding and improve development and conservation of our Great Lakes and ocean resources, with emphasis on Lake Erie.

Description: "With a strong combination of research, education and outreach efforts, as well as partnerships with academia, governmental agencies, and the private sector, Ohio Sea Grant works with the Lake Erie community to solve the region's most important environmental and economic issues."

Reach: 6,500 Stone Lab students and field trip students; Ohio residents in 33 Lake Erie watershed counties

Goals or Vision: The mission of the Ohio Sea Grant College Program (Ohio Sea Grant) is to increase the public's understanding of Lake Erie issues and to improve development and conservation of Lake Erie's resources. Within this mission, the program has several overarching goals: Promote sustainable economic development on the Lake Erie coast and within the watershed by applying scientific knowledge to solve resource concerns; Develop the critical knowledge and technology to help coastal industries in Ohio as they work to enhance revenue while protecting ecosystem function; Identify, protect and conserve valuable coastal habitats and strive to improve environmental conditions in Lake Erie and Great Lakes ecosystems; Enable coastal and Great Lakes communities to successfully adapt to a variable climate, and stochastic social and economic conditions; Improve the quality of aquatic education in Ohio to foster a more informed citizenry with a higher quality of life.

Annual Report:

Website: <https://ohioseagrant.osu.edu/outreach/experts>

External Partners

Statewide partners serving communities across Ohio.

Organization: American Planning Association – Ohio Chapter

Classification: Economic Development, Community Planning, Organizational Development

Location: Statewide

Mission: APA Ohio is dedicated to advancing the art, science, and profession of good planning – a physical, economic and social – to create vibrant communities that offer better choices for where and how people work and live in order to maintain and improve the quality of life for all Ohioans.

Description: APA Ohio is a statewide, non-profit association of citizens and professional planners committed to promoting and enhancing planning and the quality of planning for all governmental entities in order to maintain and improve the quality of life for all Ohioans.

Reach: Ohio residents statewide.

Goals or Vision:

Annual Report:

http://www.ohioplanning.org/aws/APAOH/asset_manager/get_file/280458?ver=314

Website: http://www.ohioplanning.org/aws/APAOH/pt/sp/home_page

Organization: County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO)

Classification: Economic Development and Community Planning

Location: Statewide

Mission:

Description: The County Commissioners Association of Ohio advances effective county government for Ohio through legislative advocacy, education and training, technical assistance and research, quality enterprise service programs, and greater citizen awareness and understanding of county government.

Reach: Ohio's 88 counties.

Goals or Vision:

Annual Report:

Website: <https://ccao.org/>

Organization: JobsOhio**Classification:** Economic Development**Location:** Statewide**Mission:** JobsOhio is a private non-profit corporation designed to drive job creation and new capital investment in Ohio through business attraction, retention, and expansion efforts.**Description:** JobsOhio plays a leading role in economic development and serves as a catalyst to accelerate growth by investing in communities, helping Ohio's businesses expand and attracting new companies to the state – all contributing to job creation, greater payrolls, and more investment.**Reach:** For 2018, JobsOhio achieved 266 project wins with companies that committed to create 27,071 new jobs with \$1.3 billion of new payroll, retain 69,905 existing jobs and invest \$9.6 billion of new capital.**Goals or Vision:****Annual Report:** <https://www.jobsohio.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/JobsOhio-Annual-Report-2018.pdf>**Website:** <https://www.jobsohio.com/>**Organization:** Ohio Farm Bureau**Classification:** Economic Development and Leadership Development**Location:** Statewide**Mission:** "Working together with Ohio farmers to advance agriculture and strengthen our communities."**Description:** Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation was founded in 1985 and is a 501(c)(3) charitable, nonprofit organization. It has helped community groups, civic leaders and consumers in rural, suburban and urban neighborhoods use agriculture to address a variety of quality of life issues. Today the Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation funds programming in four areas: education, community development, legal issues, and animal issues.**Reach:** Ohio communities**Goals or Vision:****Annual Report:****Website:** <https://ofbf.org/>

Organization: Ohio Township Association

Classification: Economic Development, Community Planning, Leadership Development, Organizational Development

Location: Statewide

Mission: “To protect and promote township government in Ohio.”

Description: “A non-profit 501(C)(4) trade organization dedicated to the preservation of township government.”

Reach: Ohio communities

Goals or Vision: “To support and educate township officials and employees; to enhance training opportunities for these individuals; to lobby on behalf of township government at the Ohio General Assembly and U.S. Congress to preserve and protect the purest form of local government; to work with other local government organizations on education, training, and legislation to support local government; to create new programs for members.”

Annual Report:

Website: <https://ohiotownships.org/>

Organization: USDA Rural Development

Classification: Economic Development and Organizational Development

Location: Statewide

Mission:

Description: “We offer loans, grants, and loan guarantees to help create jobs and support economic development and essential services such as housing, health care, first responder services and equipment, and water, electric and communications infrastructure. We promote economic development by supporting loans to businesses through banks, credit unions and community-managed lending pools. We offer technical assistance and information to help agricultural producers and cooperatives get started and improve the effectiveness of their operations. We provide technical assistance to help communities undertake community empowerment programs. We help rural residents buy or rent safe, affordable housing and make health and safety repairs to their homes.”

Reach: Statewide

Goals or Vision:

Annual Report: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/publications/reports>

Website: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/>

Regional partners serving specific communities in Ohio.

Organization: Appalachian Partnership for Economic Growth

Classification: Economic Development and Community Planning

Location: Nelsonville, Ohio

Mission:

Description: JobsOhio's official regional partner for economic development in eastern and southern Ohio. APEG works with companies to facilitate growth, capital investment and job creation throughout southern, eastern, and southeastern Ohio.

Reach: Ohio residents in eastern and southern Ohio.

Goals or Vision: "APEG, one of six network partners throughout the state, acts as the single point of entry for economic development activities in the 25 counties we serve. The APEG-JobsOhio team works with site selectors, counties and communities to attract new companies and with the region's existing companies to grow their operations."

Annual Report: https://apeg.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/APEG-2018-Annual-Review-2019_01_20.pdf

Website: <https://www.jobsohio.com/>

Organization: Buckeye Hills Regional Council

Classification: Economic Development and Community Planning

Location: Marietta, Ohio

Mission: Buckeye Hills Regional Council is a council of governments dedicated to improving the lives of residents in southeast Ohio.

Description: "By working collaboratively with elected officials across Athens, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry, and Washington counties, we grow strong communities through our five divisions: Aging & Disability, Community Development, Mapping & Data, Population Health, and Transportation Planning."

Reach: Ohio residents in Athens, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry, and Washington counties.

Goals or Vision:

Annual Report:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5bcf4ef5b2cf79f60ff09deb/t/5cb60434e5e5f07a9e563086/1555432569344/2018+BH+Annual+Report%2C+Digital.pdf>

Website: <https://www.buckeyehills.org/our-mission>

Conclusions and Trends of Community Development in Ohio

Ohio is a diverse state. It is both rural and urban, with transportation routes enabling commuting for employment. Economic activity varies across the state and includes manufacturing, agriculture, and service employment. Construction continues throughout Ohio.

Specific opportunities and needs for community development vary across the state by region, by county, and in some cases from community to community. This may explain, in part, the variety and multitude of local, regional, and statewide community development-focused agencies and organizations.

The aging population in the state of Ohio will see a sharp increase over the next two decades as the Baby Boom Generation accounts for 28% of Ohio's population. The median age of the Appalachian region is the highest at older than 41 years, far ahead of the nation's median age of 37.2 years in 2010. Seven of the 10 highest county median ages in Ohio can be found in eastern Appalachian counties (Charting the Changes Ohio Demographic Profile, 2011).

Based on the information collected and shared in this report on the community development organizations in Ohio, there is no one consistent community development model or approach followed. Among the community development organizations there was no indication on their public reports of a specific model followed. It is clear to the public that the staff are trained in a discipline and focus their efforts in areas that directly represent the organization itself (e.g. planning commissions know planning and focus on community planning).

Ohio's community development organizations rely in part on the support of local and state agencies and organizations to engage diverse communities.

At the grassroots level, the 1,308 Ohio townships that exist in Ohio counties provide local, community specific support for residents to promote community development efforts. The Ohio townships offer support in legislation development, professional training and networking, and community-based infrastructure development.

In Ohio, 86 of 88 Ohio counties have a three-member elected board of commissioners (Note: Cuyahoga and Summit counties have county councils). The county commissioners provide direct county support to community organizations to increase the organization's community-based involvement. County commissioners provide direct access from a local level to state level government on legislation effecting Ohio counties and their residents.

In the counties, roughly 200 chamber of commerce organizations provide community development organizations direct access to the local business community to enhance economic and capacity building program efforts. The local chamber of commerce business networks represents current and future economic development interests of the communities.

Resources

“About Community Development Society.” *Community Development Society*,
www.associationsites.com/page.cfm?usr=commdev&pageid=1694

“Charting the Changes: Ohio Demographic Profiles.” *Development.ohio.gov*, Ohio Research and Strategic Planning Office A State Affiliate of the U.S. Census Bureau, June 2011,
<https://development.ohio.gov/files/research/P1096.pdf>

“IACD Is the Only Global Network for Professional Community Development Practitioners.”
The International Association for Community Development, www.iacdglobal.org/

Journal of Extension. “What Is Community Development?” *National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals*, 2014, www.nacdep.net/what-is-community-development



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