

For Immediate Release
September 6, 2011

Ohio Communities Receive Nearly \$3 Million for Neighborhood Revitalization

10 Ohio communities to benefit from neighborhood grants

Columbus – In an effort to revitalize distressed areas around Ohio, the Ohio Department of Development has approved nearly \$3 million to make infrastructure improvements in 10 communities through the Neighborhood Revitalization Grant Program, a competitive program administered by the Department's Office of Housing and Community Partnerships.

"To make our communities economically successful and keep them vibrant, we must invest in local neighborhood infrastructure and design projects," said Christiane Schmenk, Director of the Ohio Department of Development. "These grants ensure the necessary improvements are made to neighborhoods to improve the quality of life for Ohioans."

Fiscal Year 2011 Neighborhood Revitalization Grant recipients include:

Brown County will receive a \$300,000 grant to make improvements in the Village of Sardinia. The improvements include making street and curb repairs, replacing sidewalks and drainage infrastructure, installing playground equipment, and demolishing two blighted structures. The work also includes installing an emergency siren, water infrastructure, 25 water system tap-ins, and three fire hydrants. Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP) funds will also be used to repair five housing units and Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP) funds will be used to weatherize two housing units. The project will leverage \$216,202 in additional funds.

City of Mount Vernon (Knox County) will receive a \$300,000 grant for improvements. The improvements include constructing a 1,260-square-foot building and installing three cameras at Riverside Park; surfacing a parking lot; planting a community garden; installing fencing, a fountain, and seven water valves. The work also includes making street repairs, installing a traffic control signal, installing 925 linear feet of water and sewer mains, replacing sidewalks, and installing five handicapped accessible curb cuts. Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP) funds will also be used to repair four housing units and rehabilitate two units. The project will leverage \$871,164 in additional funds.

City of Ravenna (Portage County) will receive a \$300,000 grant for improvements. The improvements include replacing sidewalks and curbs, making street repairs, installing 23 light fixtures, and installing nine flood and drainage catch basins. The work also includes installing a sanitary sewer lift station, 1,000 linear feet of sewer lines, and 12 sewer system tap-ins, as well as installing seven fire hydrants. The project will leverage \$157,000 in additional funds.

Clinton County will receive a \$300,000 grant to make improvements in the Village of Blanchester. The improvements include installing storm drainage and 10 catch basins, making street repairs, installing 90 LED street lamps, improving sidewalks, purchasing picnic benches, and installing a park shelter. The work also includes installing an emergency siren. Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP) funds will also be used to assist four households with home repairs and two low- to moderate-income homeowners with rehabilitation costs. The project will leverage \$332,000 in additional funds.

Erie County will receive a \$297,000 grant to make improvements in the City of Vermilion. The improvements include demolishing a blighted structure, purchasing 12 pieces of fire protection equipment, replacing 150 linear feet of storm sewer infrastructure, and installing storm sewer and two catch basins at Showse Park. The work also includes replacing sidewalks, installing a sanitary sewer pumping station, and making street repairs. Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP) funds will also be used to repair four housing units and rehabilitate two units. The project will leverage \$705,910 in additional funds.

Jackson County will receive a \$300,000 grant to make improvements in the Village of Coalton. The improvements include installing 69 hydrants; replacing 530 linear feet of culverts and 1,345 linear feet of storm sewer pipe; installing 280 water meters, 88 water valves, 43,000 linear feet of water pipe, and 265 tap-ins. The work also includes making street repairs, installing 65 traffic control signs, installing playground equipment, providing handicapped parking at the park, and installing a septic tank. Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP) funds will be used to rehabilitate one housing unit and repair seven units. The project will leverage \$645,390 in additional funds.

Miami County will receive a \$300,000 grant to make improvements in the Village of Bradford. The improvements include installing curbs and sidewalks; making street repairs; demolishing four structures; installing pipe, catch basins, and manholes; installing 1,600 linear feet of sewer pipe and 200 linear feet of water pipe, installing a hydrant, and seven water valves. The work also includes installing a handicap accessible door, adding parking at the library, rehabilitating the Bradford Railroad Tower, improving the athletic field, and relocating a utility pole. The project will leverage \$276,000 of additional funds.

Pike County will receive a \$300,000 grant to make improvements in Mifflin-Benton Township Investment Area. The improvements include installing 10 culverts, installing playground equipment, purchasing a fire truck and 10 sets of gear, installing a parking lot, and rehabilitating the inside of the Benton Township Community Center. Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP) funds will also be used to repair six housing units and rehabilitate four units. The project will leverage \$382,000 in additional funds.

Preble County will receive a \$300,000 grant to make improvements in the Village of West Alexandria. The improvements include making street and curb repairs, replacing 16 street lights, improving sidewalks, installing 12 curb cuts, installing 465 linear feet of storm sewer pipe and four manholes, and replacing five fire hydrants. The work also includes replacing 150 linear feet of waterline and 32 water meters. The project will leverage \$200,593 in additional funds.

Van Wert County will receive a \$300,000 grant to make improvements in the Village of Convoy. The improvements include replacing sidewalks and curbs, installing flood and drainage infrastructure and six catch basins, demolishing three blighted structures, making street repairs, installing walkway lights, and surfacing a parking lot. The work also includes installing 250 linear feet of water pipe, six hydrants, two water valves, 200 linear feet of sewer pipe, and eight manholes, as well as installing two handicap accessible doors, relocating two utility poles, and installing 1,000 linear feet of gas line. The project will leverage \$248,500 of additional funds.

*The **Office of Housing and Community Partnerships** provides financial and technical assistance to units of local government and nonprofit organizations in Ohio for project activities that benefit low- and moderate-income citizens.*

*Working with partners across business, state and local governments, academia, and the nonprofit sector, the **Ohio Department of Development** works to attract, create, grow, and retain businesses through competitive incentives and targeted investments. Engaged every day in marketing, innovating, investing, and collaborating, the **Ohio Department of Development** works at the speed of business to accelerate and support the teamwork that is necessary for success by providing financial, informational, and technical assistance to those making an investment in Ohio's future.*

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