

For Immediate Release
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Strong Interest among Ohio Communities for Local Government Innovation Fund

115 projects up for review in new Ohio Department of Development program

COLUMBUS – Demand is high among Ohio communities for a new program designed to provide financial assistance to local governments for planning and implementing projects that improve the efficiency of delivering community services. The Ohio Department of Development’s Local Government Innovation Fund (LGIF) encourages collaboration at the local level to reduce the cost of focused community planning.

Following regional information sessions around Ohio, the Office of Redevelopment which administers the program, received 115 project applications from nearly 80 communities and 50 counties interested in taking part in this cost-saving program. More than 400 potential collaborative partners have been listed by applicants.

“The strong response we have received on the Local Government Innovation Fund is an important indicator of the need our Ohio communities are facing: finding ways to save money while still providing valuable community services,” said Christiane Schmenk, Director of the Ohio Department of Development. “Whether it’s an efficiency review of 911 services or two communities sharing snow plows, this program fosters collaborations where everyone wins.”

The Office of Redevelopment received 103 grant requests totaling \$8.5 million for feasibility, planning, or management studies; and received 12 loan requests totaling \$3.5 million for implementation projects. Each submitted project is currently under competitive review and awards will be announced at the Local Government Innovation Council Meeting on June 1, 2012.

The LGIF program will award up to \$100,000 in grant funds per feasibility study, up to \$100,000 in loan assistance per entity for demonstration projects, and up to \$500,000 in loan assistance for collaborative demonstration projects.

For more information on the program, visit <http://development.ohio.gov/Urban/LGIF.htm>.

*The **Office of Redevelopment**, located within the Ohio Department of Development’s Community Services Division, assists communities with place-based redevelopment which creates wealth from personal, business, and community successes. The Office works to identify the resources and financing necessary to enhance the economic viability of local communities.*

*Working with our 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 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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