



BUCKEYE HILLS
**regional
council**

Annual Report

2020



2020 GENERAL POLICY COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ron Moore, President Private Sector, Morgan County
Lenny Eliason, Vice President County Commissioner, Athens County
Kevin Ritter, Treasurer County Commissioner, Washington County

Ben Carpenter County Commissioner, Perry County
Carl Davis County Commissioner, Monroe County
Brian Howard Private Sector, Meigs County
Tim Ihle County Commissioner, Meigs County
Steve Patterson Mayor, City of Athens
Brad Peoples County Commissioner, Noble County
Josh Schlicher Mayor, City of Marietta
Adam Schriver County Commissioner, Morgan County
Gary Waugh County Commissioner, Hocking County

ATHENS COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Charlie Adkins County Commissioner
Andrew Chiki Deputy Service Safety Director
Chris Chmiel County Commissioner
Chris Cooper Private Sector
Gary Gooseman Mayor, Amesville
Christine Knisely City Council President, Athens
Jeff Risner City Council, Athens
Frank Scott City Manager, Nelsonville
John Simpson Private Sector

MEIGS COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Jane Aanestad Private Sector
Don Anderson Mayor, Pomeroy
Jimmy Will County Commissioner

MORGAN COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Tom Bragg County Commissioner
John Finley Mayor, McConnelsville

PERRY COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Kent Cannon County Engineer
Jeff Dennis Private Sector
Tom Johnson Mayor, Somerset
Scott Owen County Commissioner
Fred Redfern Private Sector
Trent Thompson Mayor, New Lexington

HOCKING COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Greg Fraunfelter Mayor, City of Logan
Larry Kienzle Private Sector
Ken Wilson County Auditor

MONROE COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Carl Davis County Commissioner
Tim Price County Commissioner
Michael Ricer Mayor, Woodsfield
Mick Schumacher County Commissioner

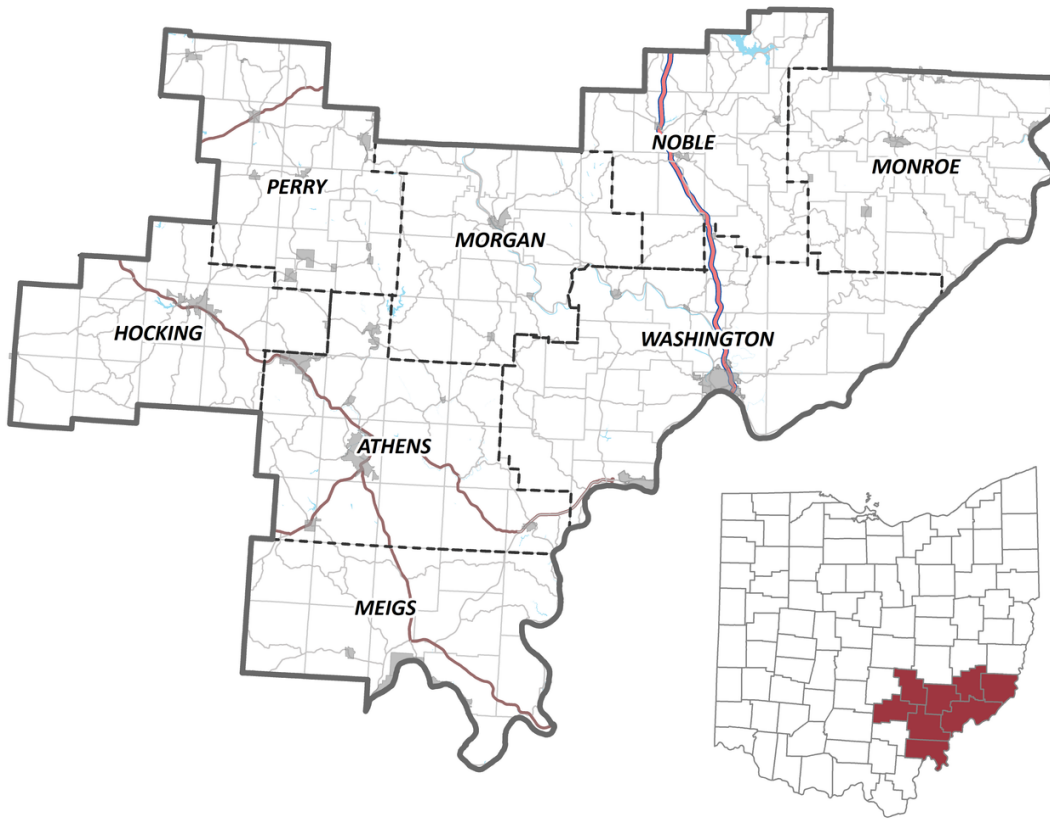
NOBLE COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Ty Moore County Commissioner
Misty Wells Mayor, Caldwell

WASHINGTON COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Gary Doan Trustee, Muskingum Township
Ron Feathers County Commissioner
Michael Gulliver Development Director, Marietta
Mike Lorentz Mayor, Belpre
Geoff Schenkel Council Member, Marietta
David White County Commissioner

SERVING SOUTHEAST OHIO



Buckeye Hills Regional Council facilitated investments of

\$65.4 MILLION

IN SOUTHEAST OHIO IN 2020

with local communities and private businesses leveraging

\$16.1 MILLION against **\$49.3 MILLION**

in state and federal funding.



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Resilience. Responsiveness. Ingenuity. These are a few of the words that come to mind when thinking about our partners, our staff, and the communities we serve as they faced the challenges of a once-in-a-century pandemic that gripped the nation and Southeast Ohio.

Despite these challenges, our Aging & Disability staff and provider network adapted to new means of ensuring our region's most vulnerable residents received the care, food, and social connection they need. Working with community leaders across southeast Ohio, our Development, Transportation, and Mapping and Data staff worked to solve unique problems that the pandemic presented to local governments and area businesses.

Alongside each of the snapshots of our five divisions, you'll see some of the highlights of the pandemic response in our region, from the distribution of life-saving PPE, to nourishing meals, and the location of the nearest Wi-Fi hotspot. Indeed, broadband access became a recurring theme throughout our work in 2020 as the pandemic forced people online for day-to-day activities from work, to education, to accessing healthcare. We knew before this that the digital divide in our region was wide. The pandemic brought this chasm to light and made clear the scope of the work that still needs to be done to fully connect our region.

There are more highlights from 2020 than we can possibly fit on these pages, so we've shared just a handful in this report. We look forward to sharing many more highlights in our Return on Investment meetings with each of our county and city members. We are ever grateful to work with each of our partners and communities to improve the quality of life in Southeast Ohio.

Ron Moore
Executive Committee President

Misty Crosby
Executive Director

2020 SNAPSHOT

Aging and Disability

\$13.2
MILLION

10,769
SENIORS SERVED

494,259
DIRECT SERVICE HOURS

278,557
MEALS SERVED

3,792
GRAB-AND-GO MEALS

1,428
GROCERY DELIVERIES

15,238
FARM MARKET VOUCHERS



6,000 WELLNESS KITS

With supplies from Ohio Department of Aging and help from Marietta College Office of Civic Engagement and the college's athletic teams, 6,000 pandemic wellness kits were distributed to senior housing, senior centers, and community action agencies in Athens, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry, and Washington counties.

The kits contained reusable masks, hand sanitizer, personal care items, and information about the Aging & Disability resources and services available through Buckeye Hills Regional Council.



INNOVATION IN SERVICE DELIVERY

The COVID-19 pandemic brought about the closure of congregate sites that many area seniors rely on for meals and social connection. CARES Act funding enabled our region's senior centers to quickly adapt, increasing the availability of home delivered meals, while also adding new services like grab-and-go meals, grocery deliveries, and creating partnerships to provide meals through local restaurants. Additionally, through telephonic check-ins, senior centers stayed in touch with local seniors. Others provided technology to assist seniors with access to evidence-based programs and telehealth services.

2020 SNAPSHOT

Community Development

\$14.1
MILLION

39
PROJECTS

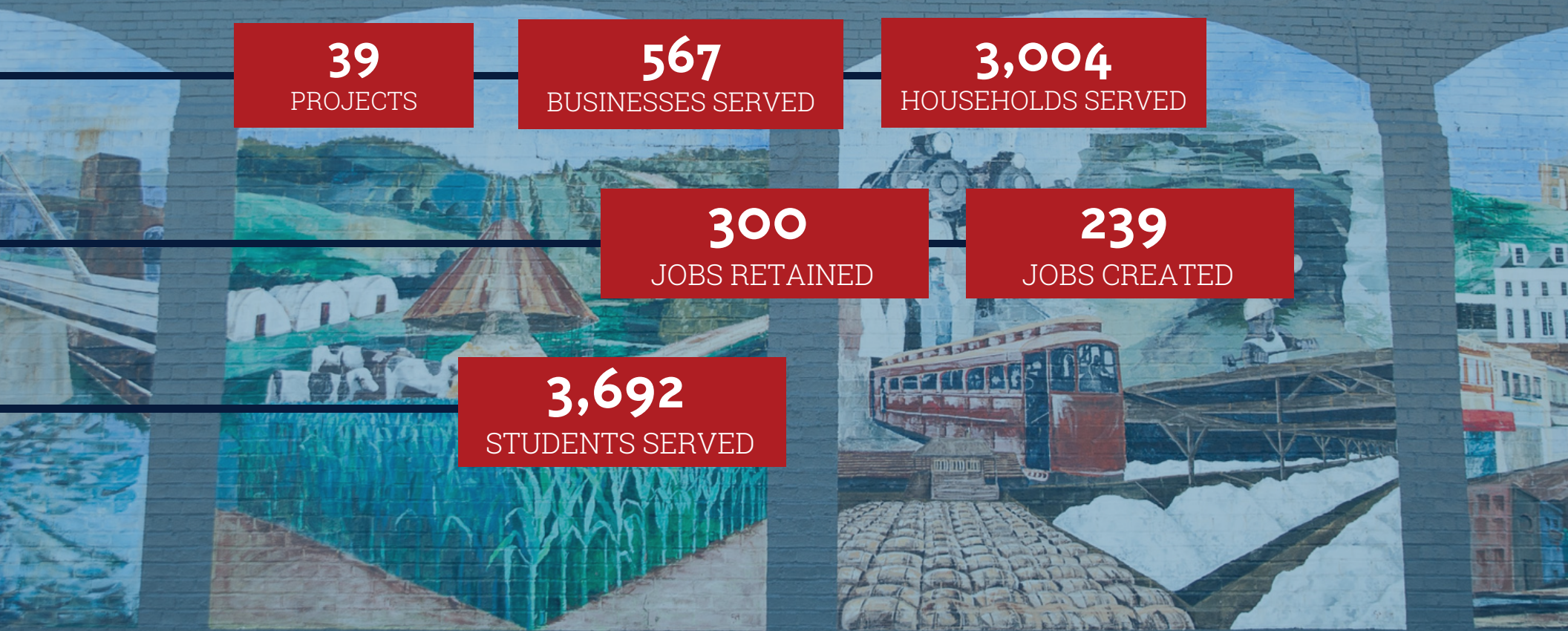
567
BUSINESSES SERVED

3,004
HOUSEHOLDS SERVED

300
JOBS RETAINED

239
JOBS CREATED

3,692
STUDENTS SERVED





400 HOLIDAY MEALS

Buckeye Hills staff partnered with the Morgan County Commissioners, Morgan County Office on Aging, and Morgan County Food Pantry to make the holidays a little brighter for 400 seniors and families in need by distributing holiday meals, made possible by the CARES Act.

CARES Act funding also made it possible to stock the Morgan County Food Pantry with various hygiene and sanitation items, as well as shelf-stable food during the holiday season.



\$3,021,703

INVESTED IN BUSINESS & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Through regional and local initiatives serving Athens, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry, and Washington counties, 2,500 students were served, 300 business were served, 239 jobs were created, and 300 jobs were retained in 2020.

2020 SNAPSHOT

Mapping & Data

\$8,299

64

MAPS CREATED

12

DATA ANALYSES

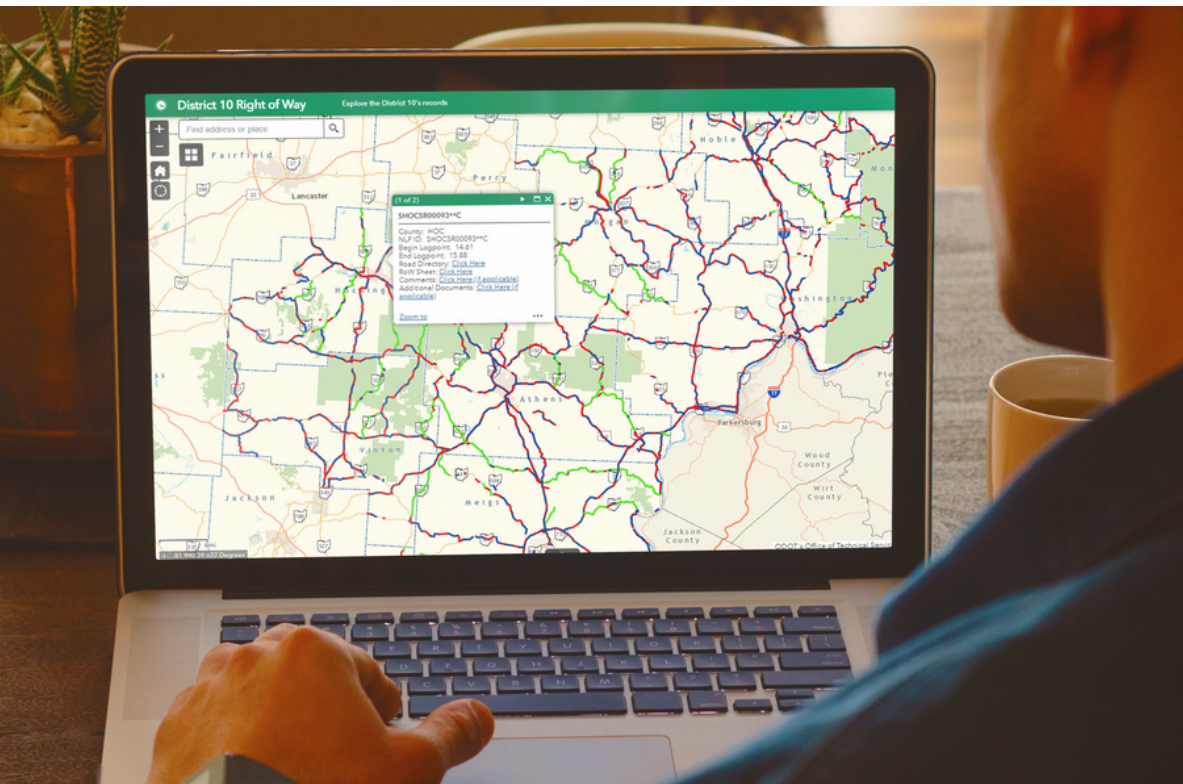
84

ITEM REQUESTS



FINDING WI-FI

The pandemic forced many in Southeast Ohio online for a variety of day-to-day needs. Realizing that not all households have ready or reliable access to internet service, our Mapping + Data team, created a tool to find and share verified Wi-Fi hotspot locations throughout the region. This tool helps with everyday tasks including completion of research and classroom assignments, searching and applying for benefits and relief, and taking advantage of telehealth appointments. The Wi-Fi Hotspot map can be found online at buckeyeohio.org/wifi



RIGHT OF WAY MAP

In partnership with ODOT District 10, our Mapping & Data team combined information about ODOT's rights of way, including scanned maps and supporting documentation, and put it into a viewer so that engineers and contractors know the scope of the property ODOT has rights to in our region. This is an adaptation of an in-house map product, and making it available for public use has significantly reduced the amount of ODOT staff time spent fielding right of way inquiries.

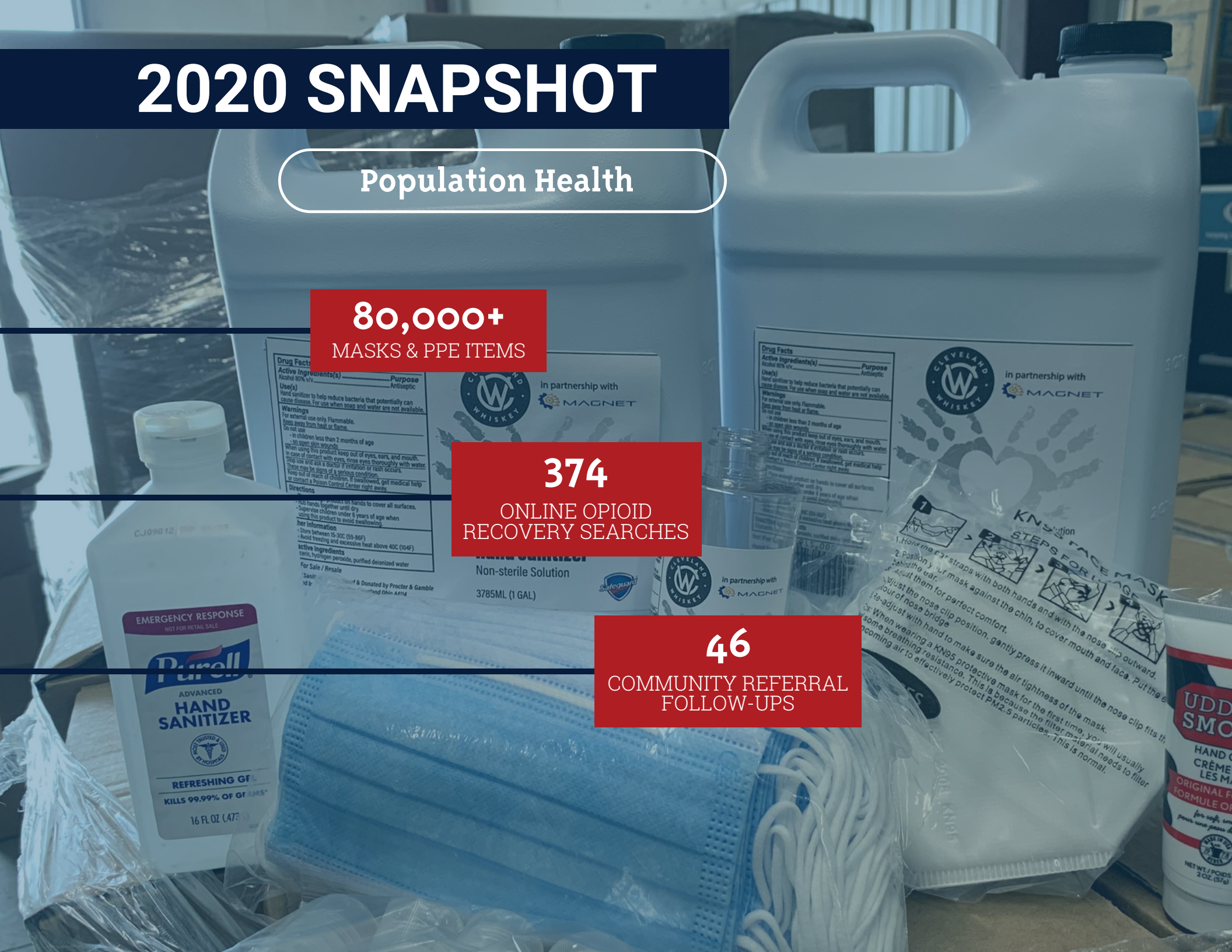
2020 SNAPSHOT

Population Health

80,000+
MASKS & PPE ITEMS

374
ONLINE OPIOID
RECOVERY SEARCHES

46
COMMUNITY REFERRAL
FOLLOW-UPS





MASKED UP

In partnership with local Emergency Management Agencies and with support from the Appalachian Regional Commission, Buckeye Hills distributed more than 80,000 masks, gloves, and gowns to frontline health workers.

An additional 300 cases of masks and sanitizer were provided to local employers by the OhioSE and JobsOhio initiative, "Ohio Safe. Ohio Working."



COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER

In partnership with Ohio University, Buckeye Hills Regional Council began utilizing Community Health Workers to augment our aging programs in serving older adults and persons with disabilities. Community Health Workers followed up on initial contacts and referrals and assisted older adults in accessing programs, ensuring they were connected to community resources and that their needs were being met.

2020 SNAPSHOT

Transportation Planning

\$1,357,608

4

PROJECTS

2

BIKE/PED/TRAFFIC
COUNTS



SAFE RIDES

CARES Act funding through Ohio Department of Transportation made it possible for transportation providers including O'Neill Center, WASCO, and Community Action Bus Lines to purchase equipment and supplies to regularly disinfect non-emergency transport vehicles during the pandemic, thereby mitigating community spread of COVID-19 to the at-risk populations served by these transportation providers.



HOPE GRANT FOR MEDICAL TRANSIT

A Federal Transit Authority HOPE grant was awarded to Athens Public Transit for a Regional Coordination of Medical Transit project. The goal of the project is to improve access to healthcare and jobs. The project addresses this goal through: regional Medicaid transportation scheduling assessment, advanced fare payment, and electric bus planning. Buckeye Hills RTPo and GIS teams will be contributing to the regional Medicaid transportation scheduling assessment project tasks. If the model developed in Athens County is successful, the intent will be to expand the model into other parts of the Buckeye Hills region with future grant opportunities.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

ADVOCATING FOR BROADBAND

Buckeye Hills Regional Council and the Buckeye Hills Foundation continued to advocate for our region's connectivity needs at the state and federal levels. In the summer of 2020, Buckeye Hills worked with Congressman Bill Johnson's office to challenge carrier claims that would have excluded more than 1,000 square miles of rural Appalachian Ohio and millions of dollars in support for the region's broadband needs from the FCC's Rural Digital Opportunity Fund.

After the announcement of awards to service providers from the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, Buckeye Hills subsequently analyzed the awards to carriers and made recommendations to the FCC on steps to take during the due diligence period to ensure that the service promised is actually delivered.

Buckeye Hills staff began conversations with BroadbandOhio on how best to meet the connectivity needs of rural Appalachian Ohio and on ways the state can most effectively utilize its resources with additional support from federal programs.

With support from Foundation for Appalachian Ohio and partners throughout Ohio's Appalachian counties, the Buckeye Hills Foundation began working with Reid Consulting Group to develop ConnectingAppalachia.org as the online home of our region's broadband advocacy efforts.





1,918

SENIOR FARMERS MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM ENROLLEES

Buckeye Hills accepted 1,918 applicants for farmers market coupons in 2020. These individuals redeemed more than 15,000 coupons for healthy, fresh produce grown by more than 40 local farmers.



38

HOME MODIFICATION PROJECTS

In 2020, 38 minor home modification and accessibility projects were completed across Athens, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry, and Washington counties. These projects allow older adults to remain safely in their homes as they age.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS



\$232,753

IN MEDICARE SAVINGS

Medicare Open Enrollment is a hectic time in a normal year. In the midst of the pandemic, in-person Medicare check-up events were canceled. Nonetheless, the Buckeye Hills Information & Assistance team served 128 individuals by phone and with private, socially-distanced appointments to help them find combined savings of \$232,753.17 in Medicare Part D premiums.

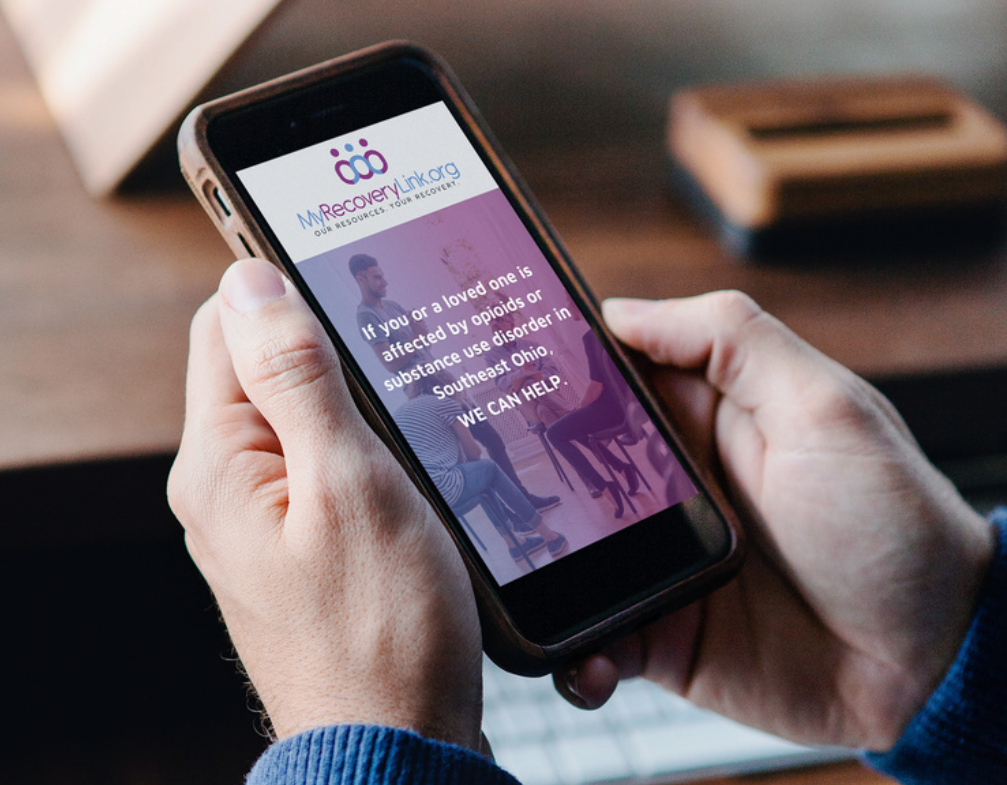


Sarah Hawley, The Daily Sentinel



GROUND BREAKING

The Meigs County Community Improvement Corporation, along with local leaders and elected officials, broke ground in October on a new \$1.9 million speculative industrial building in the East Meigs Industrial Park, the fourth in the development. The construction financing for the project is provided locally by Home National Bank of Racine. The Ohio Department of Development Services Agency (DSA) will provide permanent mortgage financing with a \$1.43 million Rural Industrial Park Loan. The Governors Office of Appalachia awarded a \$250,000 grant to support the project and AEP provided \$10,000 towards the project.



MYRECOVERYLINK.ORG

SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER RESOURCES

In August 2020, in partnership with the Ohio Valley Employment Resource (OVER), Buckeye Hills Regional Council hired an Opioid Resource Navigator and launched a new online resource for individuals dealing with addiction. MyRecoveryLink.org serves as a tool for residents of Monroe, Morgan, Noble, and Washington counties suffering from substance use disorder and family members affected by the disorder. This website provides an extensive listing of resources, support meetings, and facilities that serve southeast Ohio.



APPALACHIAN OHIO

TOURISM EXPANSION

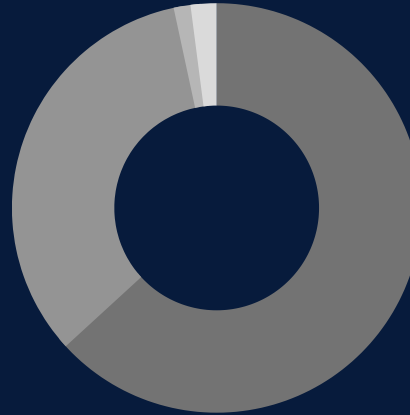
The Governor's Office of Appalachia and Tourism Ohio, in partnership with Buckeye Hills Regional Council and Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission, hosted a meeting in January 2020 to discuss expanding tourism in Appalachian Ohio. Meeting highlights included guidance on how tourism partners develop and share information on the "Ohio. Find it Here." website, information about ARC grants for tourism, sharing best practices, and fostering regional partnerships.

2020 OPERATIONS

REVENUE

- Federal Grants and Awards: \$3,573,003
- State Grants and Awards: \$1,890,197
- Local Funds: \$75,100
- Contract Income: \$115,752

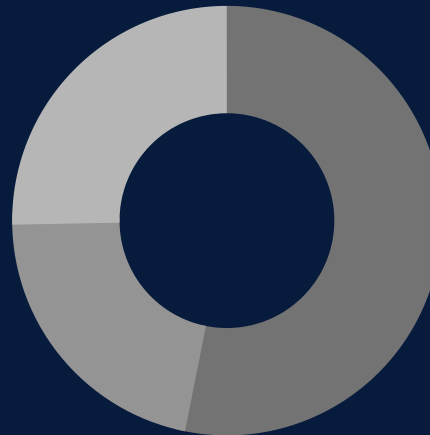
TOTAL: \$5,654,052



EXPENDITURES

- Personnel: \$2,866,950
- Fringe Benefits: \$1,164,185
- Operations & Other: \$1,365,336

TOTAL: \$5,396,471

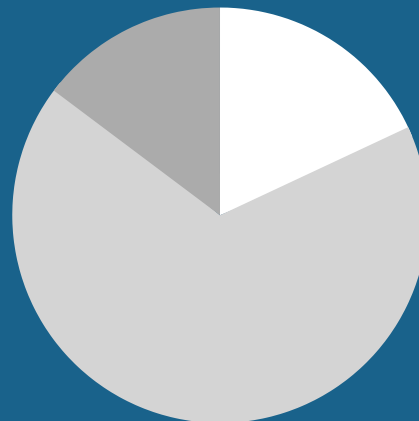


BALANCE: \$257,581

EMPLOYEES

In 2020, Buckeye Hills employed 61 staff members.

- Administration: 11 Staff
- Aging & Disability: 41 Staff
- Community Development: 9 Staff





BUCKEYE HILLS LEAD STAFF

MISTY CROSBY
Executive Director
mcrosby@buckeyehills.org

RICK HINDMAN
Assistant Executive Director
rhindman@buckeyehills.org

JENNIFER WESTFALL
Aging & Disability Director
jwestfall@buckeyehills.org

DREW TANNER
Communications Director
dtanner@buckeyehills.org

SAM MILLER
Development Director
smiller@buckeyehills.org

DENISE KEYES
Director of Fiscal Operations
dkeyes@buckeyehills.org

DAWN WEBER
Home Care Director
dweber@buckeyehills.org

ANGIE LAWRENCE
Human Resources Manager
alawrence@buckeyehills.org

JAMIE LEWIS
Information Technology Director
jlewis@buckeyehills.org

ABOUT BUCKEYE HILLS

Buckeye Hills serves as a forum through which local communities work cooperatively to improve our region. Founded in 1968, we work closely with government leaders, state and federal partners, and community partners to serve Ohio's Appalachian region.

Our organization is a designated Area Agency on Aging, District Liaison for the Ohio Public Works Commission, Economic Development District, Local Development District, Regional Transportation Planning Organization, and the Southeast Ohio Aging & Disability Resource Network

Since our inception, Buckeye Hills has brought over \$1.3 billion in programs and services to the Southeast Ohio region.



1400 PIKE STREET
MARIETTA, OH 45750
740.374.9436

WWW.BUCKEYEHILLS.ORG



Improving the quality of life in Southeast Ohio

BUCKEYE HILLS
**regional
council**

1400 PIKE STREET | MARIETTA, OH 45750 | 740.374.9436

BUCKEYEHILLS.ORG

