

Athens County Overview



Demographics:

- Athens County is located in southeast, Ohio.
- Population of 65,945
- 45 minute drive-time population of just under 600,000.
- Ohio University is the county's "economic engine" and employs over 500 people.
- Other major industries: healthcare and retail and accommodation/food services given the presence of the university.
- Cost of living is 11.8% lower than US average

Athens County Economic Development Council

- The Athens County Economic Development Council (ACEDC) works to diversify Athens' economy and prioritizes business retention and attraction in the advanced manufacturing, biotechnology, bio health and agri-technology sectors.
- The Athens County Port Authority is run through the ACEDC and leads site development and remediation efforts for the county.

Athens County Challenges & Opportunities



CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES
Lack of adequate site inventory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ InSite Site Authentication Program ▶ State budget investing \$30mm into the Rural Industrial Park Loan Program ▶ Creation of tax incentives to encourage development
Long-term divestment in smaller communities/villages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ ARPA funding for critical infrastructure projects ▶ Active Athens County Land Bank - acquiring blighted and tax-delinquent properties for redevelopment. ▶ JobsOhio Inclusion Grant for smaller and medium sized businesses ▶ Improved transportation to these communities
Access to workforce and workforce retention (+childcare)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Local/Regional Remote Work Strategies ▶ Ohio University ASCENT Funding for Intel ▶ Strong education partnerships
Broadband expansion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Funding ▶ Broadband as a Service (SaaS) ▶ WFD Node Funding
Affordable housing inventory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Port Authority issuing bonds for affordable housing projects

Athens County Major Projects



▶ Port Authority Speculative Building

- ▶ 60,000 SF manufacturing spec building at the Bill Theisen Industrial Park
- ▶ Project funded by JobsOhio and the Economic Development Administration (EDA)
- ▶ Construction beginning this month

▶ Albany Industrial Park

- ▶ OhioSE Large Sites Initiative - funding site due diligence studies
- ▶ ARPA funds supporting critical sewer extension
- ▶ Prelim engineering completed for new access road
- ▶ Creation of new Community Reinvestment Area (CRA)

▶ Armory Rehab & Remote Work Project

- ▶ Downtown redevelopment of historic Armory building into shared works spaces and event space
- ▶ Funded through the Appalachian Community Grant program and part of regional strategy

▶ ODOD Brownfields Remediation Projects

- ▶ To date has funded 6 remediation and interior demo projects in the communities of Athens, Chauncey, Trimble and Albany

Contact

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