

THE STATEHOUSE REPORT

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Governor DeWine announces historic investment plan for Appalachia



Washington County Commissioner Charlie Schilling welcomes Governor Mike DeWine in Marietta on Thursday as part of the governor's announcement of the Ohio BUILDS Initiative - A Plan for Appalachia

On Thursday, at the People's Bank Theater in downtown Marietta, Governor Mike DeWine announced his proposal for a \$500 million investment in Ohio's 32 Appalachia counties. Charlie Schilling, President of the Washington County Board of Commissioners, welcomed the governor and the audience of local elected officials. The governor's plan, "Ohio BUILDS - Small Communities, Big Impact - A Plan for Appalachia" would use American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to support projects in the proposal's three priority areas of restoring historic downtowns, improving community health, and rebuilding the local workforce.

The proposal, which requires approval from the Ohio General Assembly, includes a \$50 million planning phase to allow Appalachian communities and regional partnerships to develop plans that incorporate each of the three funding priorities. Following the planning stage, local governments could access \$450 million in implementation grants to help communities and regional groups carry out qualifying projects to rejuvenate the region and stimulate economic growth. In his remarks, the governor mentioned many possible uses for the funds, including parks and recreation, arts and tourism, broadband, downtown revitalization, school and community-based services for children, substance abuse treatment, and workforce development.

Representative Jay Edwards (House District 94) also spoke and thanked the governor for his proposal. John Carey, Director of the Governor's Office of Appalachia, will coordinate the program. Director Carey reminded the audience of the many challenges that the region has faced, including the decades-long decline of the coal industry, and stated that he looked forward to working with local elected leaders to revitalize the region's economy.

Ohio's 32 Appalachian counties are: Adams, Ashtabula, Athens, Belmont, Brown, Carroll, Clermont, Columbiana, Coshocton, Gallia, Guernsey, Harrison, Highland, Hocking, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Lawrence, Mahoning, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, Pike, Ross, Scioto, Trumbull, Tuscarawas, Vinton, and Washington.

The governor's press release can be found [here](#).

Members with questions please contact Senior Policy Analyst Jon Honeck, jhoneck@ccao.org, 614-220-7982.

\$60 million in brownfield remediation grant awards announced



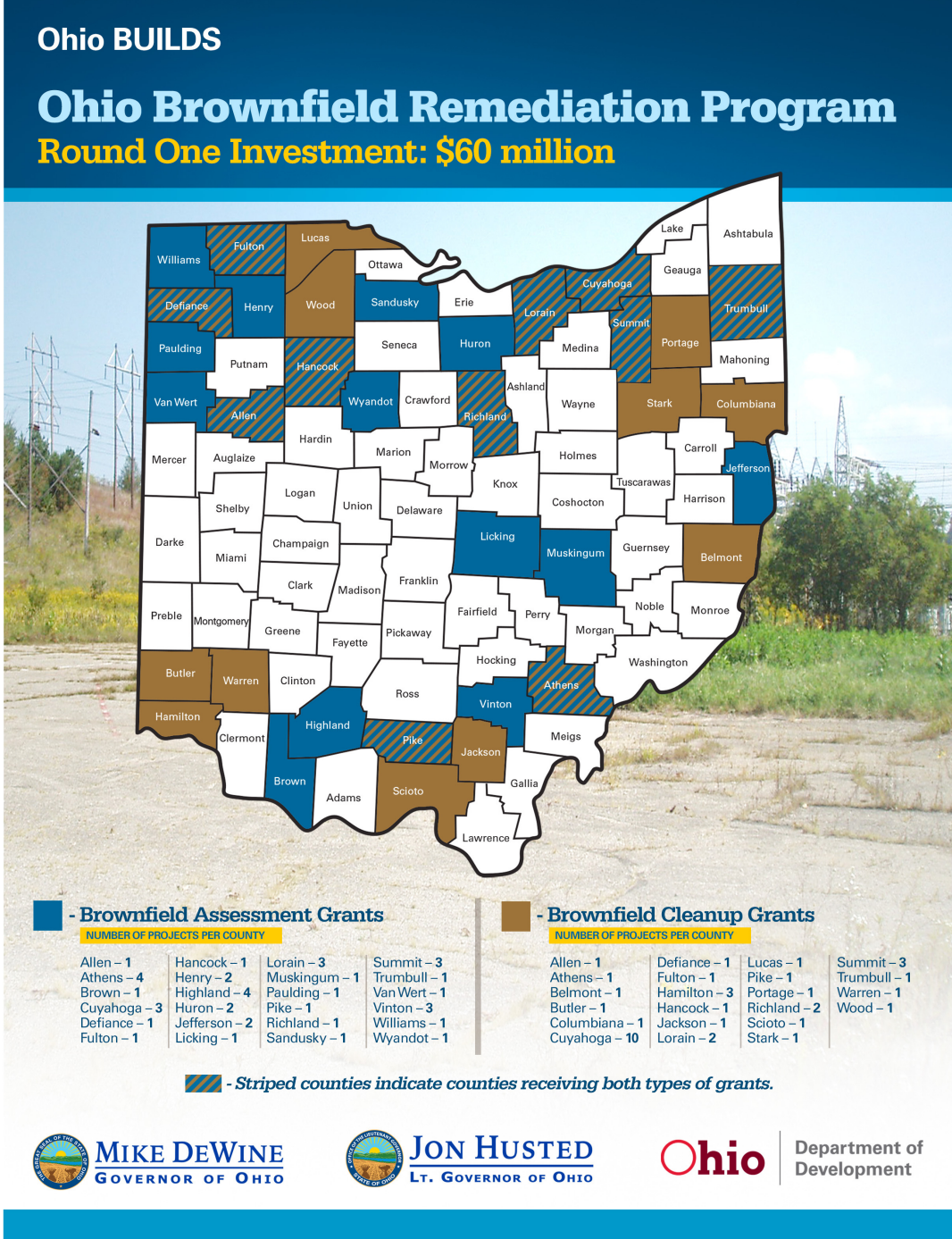
Governor Mike DeWine, joined by the Richland County Commissioners Tony Vero, Cliff Mears and Darrell Banks and other local officials on Tuesday in Mansfield to announce the first round of brownfield remediation grants.

On Tuesday, Governor Mike DeWine, Lt. Gov. Jon Husted and administration officials announced the first round of brownfield remediation grants, totaling \$60 million. The grants are part of a larger \$350 million grant program launched in late 2021.

In total, the first round of grants will fund 78 projects across 35 counties. Over \$54 million will go towards cleanup projects and \$5.5 million will be used for brownfield assessment projects. The program is focused on industrial, commercial and institutional brownfield sites that contain or have the potential to release hazardous substances or petroleum. The full list of brownfield sites awarded funds can be accessed [here](#).

"These hazardous, decaying sites -- some of which have been vacant for decades -- are barriers to economic growth and community revitalization, but now, we're going to help breathe new life into these areas," DeWine said in Mansfield. "The projects we're funding today will not only revive these sites for new development, but they'll also improve quality of life and open the door for exciting new opportunities for the citizens of our state."

In a [release](#) following Tuesday's announcements, CCAO President Debbie Lieberman stated, "These funds are vital to the redevelopment of contaminated properties. We are grateful to the Ohio General Assembly and the DeWine Administration for including these funds in the state budget." Lieberman added, "With state assistance, these sites will undergo a transformation that will start the economic revitalization of the neighborhoods around them."



Second round deadline for brownfield grants extended until May 31

In other brownfield-related news this week, the Ohio Department of Development announced this week that the application deadline for the second round of brownfield remediation grants has been extended to May 31, 2022. The previous due date had been April 30.

The extra time will allow additional counties to utilize the \$1 million reserved for projects within each county. Applications can be submitted for remaining set-asides available. Any requests over the remaining county set-aside will be eligible to apply in Round 3. A full list of Round 2 eligible counties and remaining set-asides can be found on the program webpage at Development.Ohio.Gov/Brownfield.

Bill Introductions

SB 329 (Schuring) - To authorize certain subdivisions to designate areas within which certain residential property is wholly or partially exempted from property taxation.

