

ANNUAL REPORT 2006



Buckeye Hills - Hocking Valley *Regional Development District*

Dear Friends,

The past year has been a continued effort to provide the Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District (serving Athens, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry, and Washington Counties), support with regional planning and development resources. Total development project costs exceeded \$26 million, with local and private resources providing over \$9 million. We have also continued our focus on building a basic infrastructure while providing quality, essential programs to the elderly through the Area Agency on Aging District 8 services.

The Revolving Loan Fund Program (RLF) loaned over \$715,000 (up from \$135,000 in 2005), creating 117 and retaining 16 jobs in the eight counties. The RLF program has emerged as one of the primary economic development tools serving small businesses in the region's rural areas. In addition, the Trickle Up Program made \$700 grants available to disadvantaged individuals for various aspects of micro business operations. A total of 19 Trickle Up grants was awarded totaling \$6,400. This grant assistance enabled the creation of 27 jobs throughout the region and generated reported sales income of nearly \$36,500.

Our Data Center served as a regional resource for data. The information system keeps agencies, businesses and individuals informed by disseminating demographic and economic data including: population, housing, labor force and other economic characteristics.

The Area Agency on Aging District 8 continued to research innovative programs and funding resources to provide a variety of programs to the elderly. In this report, you will read more details about the Project Lifesaver, Are You OK?, "Healthy U" Chronic Disease Management and COALA Homemaker Home Health Aide Training Programs that were launched or enhanced in 2006.

In addition, the Area Agency on Aging funded: 864 hours of personal care; 10,651 hours of homemaker service; 911 days of adult day care; 2,125 medical escort trips to medical appointments; 322 hours of legal assistance; nearly 45,000 congregate meals; and over 71,000 home-delivered meals with funding from a variety of sources. We served 750 PASSPORT clients, secured nearly \$287,000 to serve 90 home repair project clients and investigated over 200 nursing home complaints through the Ombudsman program.

We continued our proactive advocacy efforts defending funding for Economic Development and encouraging increased funds for aging programs. We promoted the interests of the region and worked to aid and secured grant funding for a variety of community projects.

Buckeye Hills is organized as a voluntary organization of local government political subdivisions to foster cooperative efforts in regional planning, and the implementing of regional plans and programs. We look forward to another year of service.

Boyer Simcox
Executive Director

Development Department Activities

The Development Department's mission is to **improve the socioeconomic conditions of the region by promoting the interests and needs of our constituents to persons and agencies empowered to create positive change.** In other words, we meet with and listen to the needs of the leaders in the eight-county district, and offer to assist leaders in meeting those needs. The needs are many and the resources are few.

The Buckeye Hills-HVRDD staff assisted communities in securing funding for the provision of health care services, water and sewer service, road upgrades, bridge replacements and basic community services. They worked with local economic development professionals to provide gap financing to small businesses for the creation and retention of private sector jobs. The staff also administered state and federal grant and loan funding for constituents and served as the liaison between the various state and federal funding agencies, congressional leaders, and the local leaders. With all the duties the staff must perform, they always keep in mind the ultimate goal: to improve the quality of life for the residents of the district.

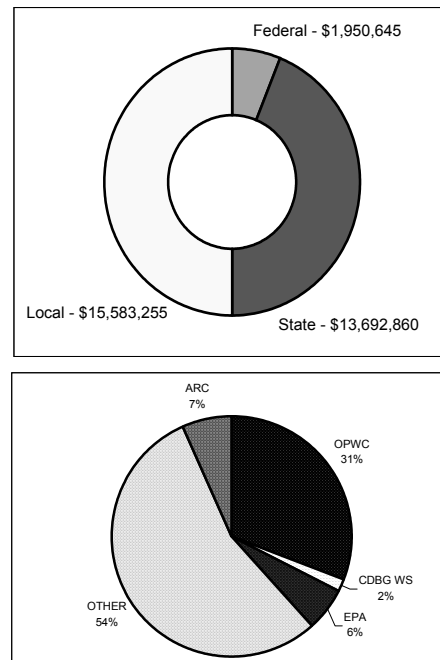
Funding Sources

Over the past year, the Development Department staff secured financing for various projects that have a positive impact on residential and commercial sectors. These projects improve the quality of life for the people of the region by enabling businesses to create and retain jobs; by providing education and training opportunities; by increasing the quality and availability of water and sanitary sewer services; by repairing and upgrading our roads and bridges, and by increasing accessibility and availability of quality health care.

Total costs for projects exceeded \$26 million, with local and private resources providing over \$9 million.

CY2006 Funding Sources and Percentage of Participation

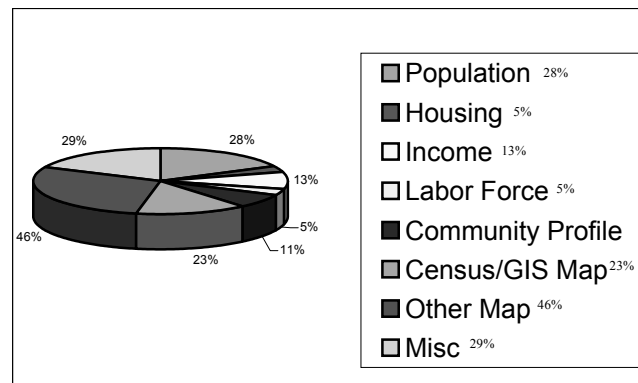
The chart to the right indicates the percentage of participation of funding sources in projects in the BH-HVRDD and District 18 of the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) that Development staff worked on or participated in during the year. The Appalachian Region Commission (ARC) slice includes ARC Federal funding and State Appalachia Funds administered by the Ohio Department of Development. The OPWC slice includes State Capital Improvement Program (SCIP), Local Transportation Improvement Program (LTIP), and Clean Ohio Conservation Funds. Funding sources listed as "Other" include Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), Ohio Water Development Authority (OWDA), Ohio Department of Administration Services, and State and Tribal Assistance Funds.



Data Center/Geographic Information System Services

In 2006 the Data Center continued to provide demographic and economic data to public and private entities. The data is requested for various reasons, such as preparing grant applications or writing media reports.

The Buckeye Hills staff receives the most current data sets from the state data center in both print and electronic formats. Data sets received over the Internet or via software on compact disk allow for queries and quick retrieval of data. The data center uses this vast information system to keep the agencies, businesses, and individuals in the region informed by disseminating demographic and economic data including: population, housing, labor force and other economic characteristics; the production of census maps for specific community and business applications; and preparing reports depicting area-wide community characteristics. The Data Center is also an affiliate of the Business and Industry Data Center (BDIC), a service provided by regional planning and development agencies in Ohio. The Data Center received 160 requests during the year. Service requests came from private developers, students, financial institutions, public service agencies and units of local government. The government sector requested the most data. Overall, the most requested type of data continues to be miscellaneous maps and other Geographic Information Systems related products.



Development Department Staff coordinated GIS activities with numerous parties during 2006, with the largest being the City of Marietta in Washington County. Buckeye Hills aided the City of Marietta, as well as other officials from Washington County, with selecting vendors and GIS related products/services needed to continue advancing GIS initiatives within the county. Staff also spent time working with officials from the City of Marietta to gather, update, and convert many sources of existing data for use in the new countywide network-based GIS system, due to be fully operational by mid-to-late 2007.

Business Assistance

During CY 2006, the **Revolving Loan Fund Program** loaned a total of \$717,793 (up from \$135,000 in 2005) to nine (9) borrowers, creating 117 and retaining 16 jobs in the eight counties. The RLF program has emerged as one of the primary economic development tools serving small businesses in rural areas. The **Trickle Up Program** is a \$700 grant available to individuals who are disadvantaged but wish to help themselves by starting or expanding a small home-based business. The grants may be used for various aspects of micro business operation, such as the purchase of equipment, inventory, or marketing assistance. The Trickle Up Program awarded 19 grants totaling \$6,400 during CY 2006. This grant assistance enabled the creation of 27 jobs throughout the region and generated reported sales income of \$36,439.27.

2006 Revenues & Expenditures

This summary covers the period July 1, 2005, through June 30, 2006. Local in-kind contributions are not reflected in the overall summary. Purchase of service contracts administered by the Area Agency on Aging District 8 and the activities of the Revolving Loan Funds are not included in this report.

This was the twenty-eighth year that Buckeye Hills has operated with a federally approved Cost Allocation Plan. This allows all the programs administered by the agency to be included in a single set of books and accounting records. The Cost Allocation Plan and its indirect cost rate permit a more equitable distribution of common agency costs among all the funding entities. A single audit will include all of the administrative operations of BH-HVRDD. All of the agency's programs are audited annually by a certified public accounting firm. Audit reports for 2006 reflect that the agency's operating policies and procedures are adequate and efficient, and in compliance with the rules and regulations prescribed by the funding agencies. All grant funds received above actual costs are either returned to the funding agency after completion of the annual audit, or utilized in the following year for allowable program activities.

Economic Development Administration (EDA)	\$ 62,891.00	Personnel.....	1,460,467.78
Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC).....	191,636.03	Fringe Benefits.....	812,281.76
Ohio Department of Aging (ODA).....	652,939.87	Travel.....	175,233.18
State of Ohio—Local Development District Support.....	126,693.33	Equipment.....	65,968.53
ODOD Brownfield Cleanup.....	30,000.00	Contractual Services.....	44,398.91
Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC).....	40,213.18	Other Direct Costs.....	376,460.85
Community Development Block Grant Administration.....	53,094.71	Indirect Costs.....	414,739.83
Local Per Capita Contribution.....	30,500.00		
Revolving Loan Fund.....	53,728.20	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3,349,550.84
PASSPORT Program.....	2,103,506.50		
Misc. Income.....	12,307.66	BALANCE.....	\$7,959.64
TOTAL REVENUES	\$3,357,510.48		

Area Agency on Aging District 8 Activities

Throughout 2006, The Buckeye Hills Area Agency on Aging District 8 (AAA8) serving Athens, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry, and Washington Counties, was active in advocacy and program planning efforts for the elderly in the district.

Planning for future needs and promoting independence, dignity, health, and well being for individuals 60+ and their caregivers throughout the region are the fundamental focus for the district's efforts. By contracting with service providers dedicated to delivering the highest quality service available and with long-term care programs like PASSPORT, the region's elderly are being well served.

In 2006, the Area Agency on Aging funded: 864 hours of personal care; 10,651 hours of homemaker service; 911 days of adult day care; 2,125 medical escort trips to medical appointments; 322 hours of legal assistance; nearly 45,000 congregate meals; and over 71,000 home-delivered meals with funding from a variety of sources.

Meeting Basic Needs

Continuing to monitor and provide services for older Ohioans' basic needs is critical to AAA8. Ensuring safety, security and daily nutrition and well-being are important to case managers and to the programs implemented in 2006.

PASSPORT: In 2006, 750 individuals participated in the PASSPORT program affording the opportunity to receive quality care and support services in the comfort of their own homes. The program makes better use of taxpayer dollars than other long-term care options. Nearly five people will be cared for through state funds available through PASSPORT for the same cost of providing state-funded care for one person in a nursing facility.

AAA8 performed 2,245 telephone and in-home assessments for eligibility in the program. Those who were not eligible received information and assistance on additional long-term care resources available in their areas.

The Housing Program served 90 clients and completed 75 total in-home repair projects. Repairs included wheel chair ramps, total handicap bathrooms, remodels for wheel chair-accessible showers, low-rise long-run steps for mobility-challenged walkers, roof and furnace repairs, water heaters and a host of minor home repairs. Buckeye Hills secured nearly \$287,000 in Ohio Housing Trust Fund, USDA Rural Development and Senior Community Services Block Grant resources.

The **Residential State Supplement (RSS)** is an Ohio program that assists older persons and qualified people with disabilities who do not medically qualify for nursing home placement, but who live in approved group living settings such as board and care homes and adult foster homes. AAA8 served eleven people through this program in 2006.

Behavioral Health: Many incorrectly assume that depression, substance abuse and other behavioral health conditions are a natural part of the aging process and that there is not much anybody can do. Others fail to seek treatment because they are embarrassed to admit that they have a problem or are afraid of what others may think. AAA8 has been active in planning new programs to address the gap in behavioral healthcare that exists in the region.

In September, 19 social service agencies identified service barriers, needs and gaps for each of the eight counties in the district. In November, plans for a network plan to utilize existing resources to address daily living needs, as well as physical and mental health needs for older individuals in the region were addressed. As a result, plans are well underway to launch a seamless care program to meet the behavioral health needs of elderly customers – the "Healthy IDEAS for a Better Life program" is a community depression plan designed to detect and reduce the severity of symptoms in older adults with chronic health conditions and limited functional abilities. It will be implemented in 2007.

With the continued increases in costs of home heating methods, **The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)** remains a critical basic need program in the region. AAA8 provided counties with over \$15,000 to assist in administration and outreach services to ensure those who need the program would be enrolled.

The Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) is a USDA program that awards grants to provide coupons to low-income seniors (not more than 185% of the federal poverty income guidelines) who are at least 60 years of age. The coupons may be exchanged for eligible foods at farmers' markets, roadside stands and community supported agriculture programs.

The Area Agency on Aging, District 8, has participated for the last four years. In 2006, AAA8 was awarded \$29,790 dollars and served over 650 seniors in Noble, Monroe, Athens and Morgan Counties.

Throughout 2006, AAA8 provided over \$18,000 in funding to support software and training for the Meigs, Morgan, Monroe, Noble, Perry and Washington County Sheriff's Offices to implement the **RUOK? Program**. The service provides elderly individuals living at home alone a daily phone call to see if they are okay. Enrolled individuals receive a computer-generated call at the same time each day. When the individual answers the phone, they hear a pre-recorded message asking if they are okay. If the individual fails to answer the phone after several attempts, the Sheriff's Office initiates a process to send a caregiver or deputy to the individual's home to ensure their safety. Plans are underway to provide the service to the remaining counties in the region.

One of the most terrifying occurrences is the tendency for aging individuals with Dementia or Alzheimer's disease to wander away from caregivers. Statistics show that after 24 hours of being missing, only half will return unharmed. Project Lifesaver was created to provide peace of mind to caregivers and their loved ones through a system of monitoring, as well as search and rescue. With a simple radio transmitter worn by the client and the use of a receiver by law enforcement, those who become lost are more easily located.

Project Lifesaver, the life-saving search and rescue program for enrolled individuals who have wandered away from their caregivers was launched in the remaining two counties within the district (Perry in July and Monroe in October). Grant funds of \$25,000 were utilized to provide software, training and additional receivers in existing counties so it may be provided at no cost to the families who need it most.

Ensuring Quality Care

In 2006, AAA8 provided over 15 **continuing professional education** and training opportunities for staff, providers, community professionals and consumers. More than 300 participants earned continuing education credits.

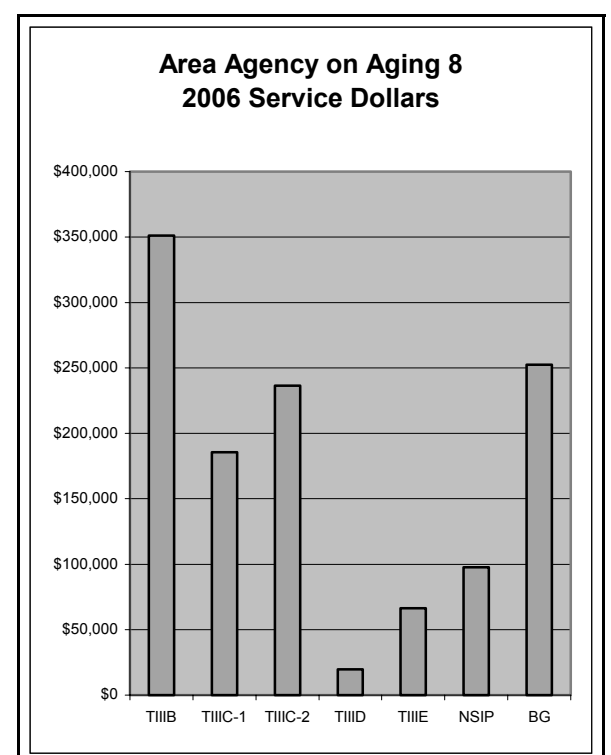
To help meet the need for quality home care workers, AAA8 began a program in 2002 to help train home health aides. In 2006, the AAA8 partnered with local resources to expand the **COALA (Council on Aging Learning Advantages: Homemaker Home Health Aide Training Program)** to locations in Meigs and Morgan Counties. The region had 36 COALA graduates and 18 obtained employment in the health care field. Grant funding of nearly \$28,000 was provided for this program by The Ohio Department of Development and local funding was provided in Meigs and Morgan Counties of nearly \$51,500.

Advocacy is a core service of the **Ombudsman Program**. It addresses concerns about the quality of long-term care services and negotiates for the solution of problems between providers and consumers. The Ombudsman investigates complaints confidentially, advocates for client's rights, and negotiates with service providers to resolve problems to the client's satisfaction. The Ombudsman is also involved in advocating for needed improvements in state and federal legislation and policies that impact consumers of long-term care services and senior citizens.

Over the past year, the Ombudsman paid staff made 92 total visits and spent 79 percent of reportable time investigating over 200 complaints, 19 percent on advocacy activities and two percent of the time providing general information. Volunteers contributed an additional 157 hours of advocacy and general information hours in the region with 90 visits.

Volunteerism continues to be a focus of the Program to expand consumer awareness of the program and consumer rights. Recruitment efforts are ongoing in attempt to have Volunteer Ombudsman coverage in all of the nursing homes in our area.

In 2006, the region launched "**Advancing Excellence in America's Nursing Homes**," a two-year, coalition-based campaign that promotes excellence in care giving, acknowledges the critical role staff have in providing care and monitors key indicators of care. The AAA8 program is committed to promoting this national campaign among residents, families and the facilities in the region.



The Area Agency on Aging receives funding through many sources to administer and support in-home services for people over 60. The Federal government provides funding for Title III services through the Older Americans Act, Nutrition Service Incentives Program (NSIP) and Senior Farmer's Market through the United States Department of Agriculture, and HEAP. The State of Ohio provides funding for Block Grant (BG), National Senior Service Corps, Alzheimer's and Housing repair assistance through the Department of Development.



Buckeye Hills - Hocking Valley

Regional Development District

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