



It Takes a Village: Leveraging Infrastructure Funding Solution Strategies

Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association (OMEGA)

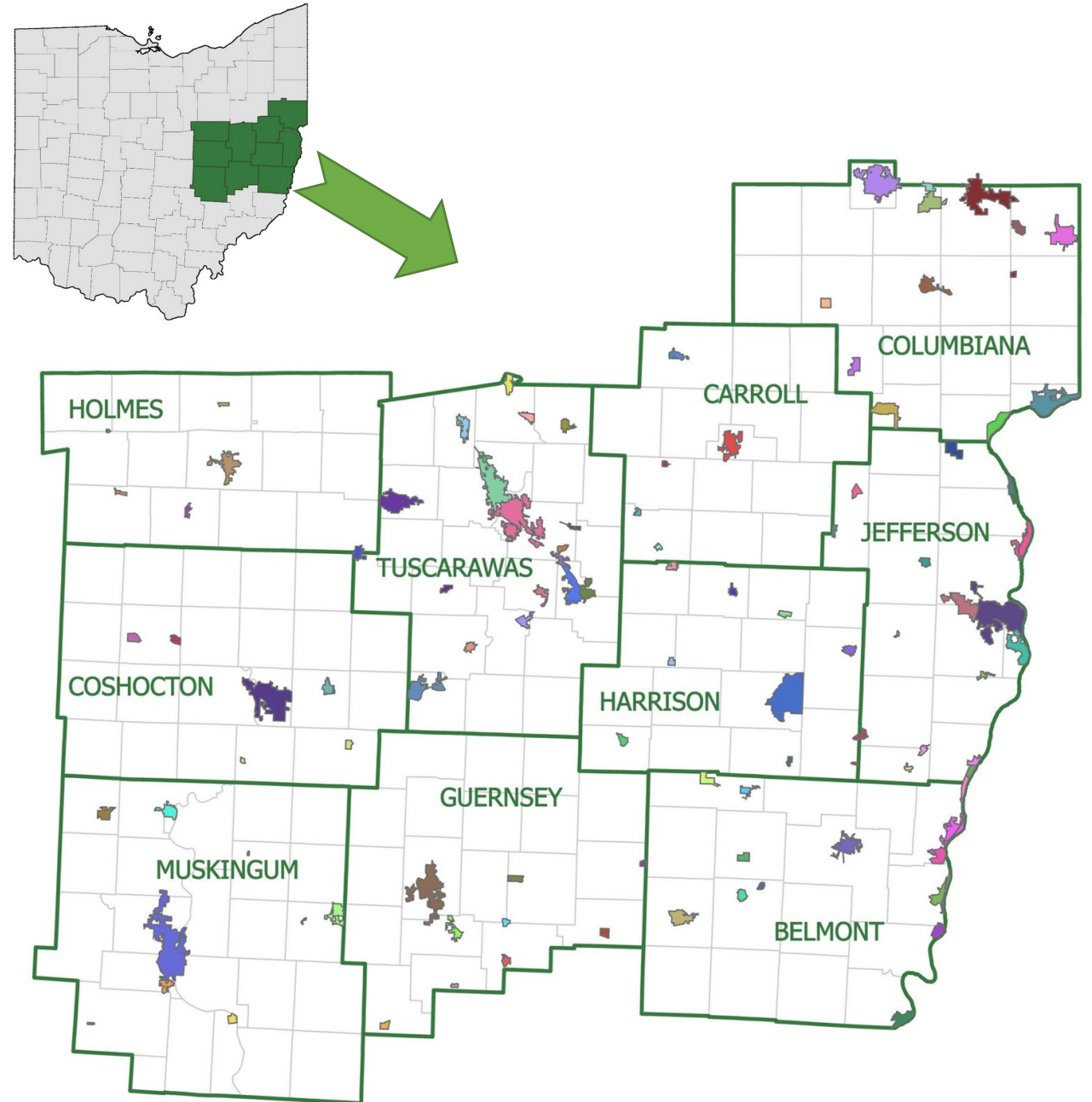
*Gwynn Stewart, MS, OhioCED
Community Development Manager*



Who is OMEGA?

Mission: To provide a pathway to enhance community and economic growth in the region by connecting communities to resources

- 10 Counties with 13 cities, 99 villages, & 177 townships
- Population nearly 574,000





• Federal



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

• State



Planning Collaborators

- **Ohio RCAP** (Rural Community Assistance Program)
- **Mayors' Partnership for Progress**
(@ Ohio University – Offers Planning \$)
- **Ohio State University Extension**
- **Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District**



Funding Collaborators

Ohio Small Communities
Environmental Infrastructure
Group (SCEIG)



Ohio Local Development Districts



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Department of
Transportation



Department of
Development



Governor's Office
of Appalachia



US Army Corps
of Engineers®



Environmental
Protection
Agency



**Raw waterline replacement from the reservoir
to the water treatment plant**
(crosses under a federal interstate and a rail line)

Raw Water System Upgrades

Total Project Estimate: \$19.4M+

- \$2M Congressional allocation (*pending*)
 - *if not received will seek EDA grant*
- \$500,000 - CDBG Critical Infrastructure
- \$500,000 - Ohio Public Works grant
- \$500,000 - OPWC loan (*0% interest*)
- EPA Loan = *Approved up to \$16M (approved)*
- USDA – *in discussion*
- \$250,000 – ARC / *2027 planned*
- Up to \$5M - City of Cambridge

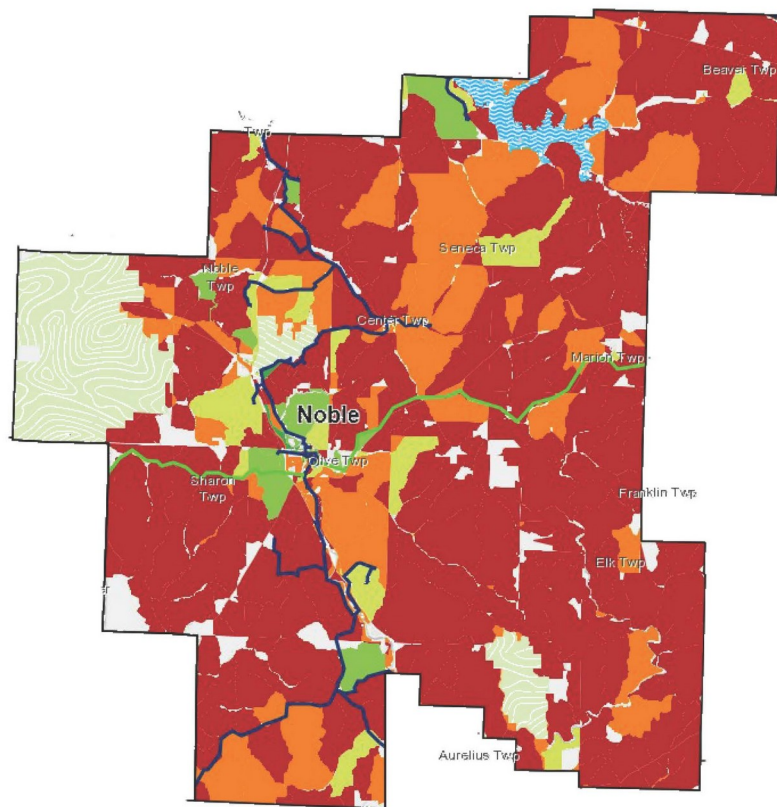


- *Built in 1906*
- *Provides expansion of services opportunity*

- **Customers – 29,576**
- **Residential Taps – 9,489**
- **Commercial Taps – 1,026**

Project Funding Exploration / Stack In Process





0-10 Mbps 10-25Mbps 25-50 Mbps 50-100 Mbps 100+ Mbps

State owned land or park Existing Open Middle-Mile
lake, river, or body of water Proposed Fiber
Areas with No Data (0 speed tests conducted)

60.95 miles of Open Middle-Mile in Noble County

OVERVIEW

92%
of the populated area
& **62%**
of households

DO NOT HAVE ACCESS
TO MINIMUM 25/3 Mbps

the county has

361.6 mi²
of populated area

➔ **334 mi²**
are unserved

0-10 Mbps: 71.9%
10-25 Mbps: 20.4%
*no data for 2.7% of area

6,469 households

➔ **4,006 unserved**

0-10 Mbps: 40.3%
10-25 Mbps: 21.6%
*no data for 21.2% of households

Source: REID
CONSULTING GROUP

Noble County Broadband

- \$20,000 Ohio State-funded Feasibility Study
- \$71,500 ARC POWER Technical Assistance
\$50,000 grant / \$21,500 Match
(from Ohio State Extension – Noble, CD)
- \$3.4 Million – Noble Co. Rural Development
Opportunity Fund (RDOF) (By Spectrum ISP)



Washington Electric
Cooperative, Inc.

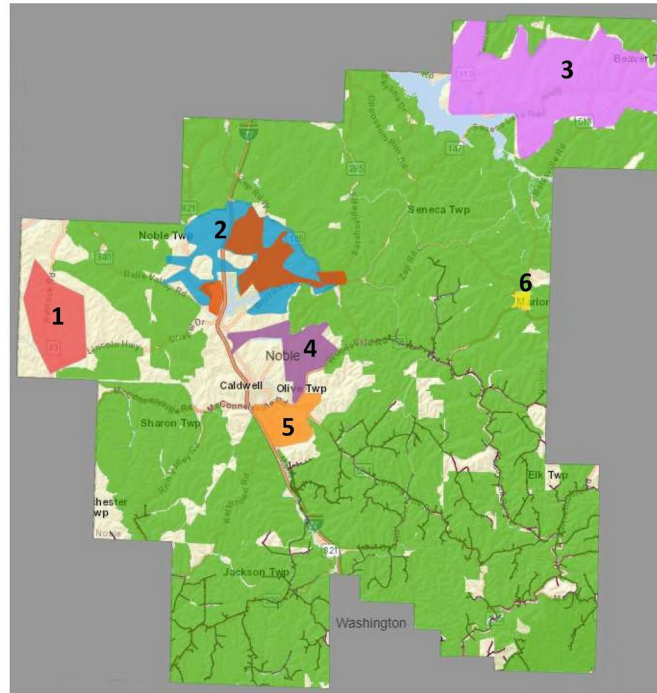
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

- \$1.5M ARC POWER grant / \$600,000 match
\$2.1M Total project cost
Grid Modernization across 215 miles of service
territory - (Match provided by WEC)
90% of Project is in Southern Noble Co.



Updated Project Areas

- Charter/Spectrum via FCC Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF)
- Served or Unpopulated
- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6: Project areas identified in unserved areas
- County ARC-Funded Area
- WECI ARC-Funded Routes



Source:



Noble County Broadband

- \$750,000 ARC “Distressed” Broadband**
Local Match \$59,840 + ISP \$294,904
Total Project Costs \$1,104,744

20% Match provided by Ohio State Univ. Extension CD & Internet Service Provider

- \$750,000 ARC “Distressed” Broadband**
Local Match \$197,560 + ISP \$670,096
Total Project Costs \$2,510,256

20% Match provided by Noble County Commissioners & Internet Service Provider

**Now Under Build as Broadband
As A Service Grants**

All Costs = \$9,206,500

The Black Horse Inn Restoration & Underground Railroad Museum Relocation

- \$250,000 – Appalachian Community Grant Program *Planning*
- \$3,901,017 – Appalachian Community Grant Program
 - Renovation of the historic Black Horse Inn (built 1807)
 - Conversion into the new Belmont County Underground Railroad Museum
 - Creation of a regional tourism and heritage destination
(support from OMEGA & Buckeye Hills Regional Council)
- \$772,992 - AMLER (Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization) Program through ODNR
 - 2nd Floor “Night at the Museum” five Airbnb experience units & one ADA-compliant unit
- \$250,000 – Appalachian Regional Commission Area Development
(application pending)
 - Outdoor Amphitheater & ADA Accessible Site Access
 - Internal Community Education & Gathering Spaces



Partners:

- Morristown Historic Preservation Association (MHPA)
- Belmont County Tourism Council
- Underground Railroad Museum

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Ohioline - The Ohio State University

<https://ohioline.osu.edu/>

The Basics of Grant Writing: Becoming Grant Ready

