

MID-OHIO VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL



MOVRC Monthly Newsletter
<http://www.movrc.org/>

January 2020

Mid-Ohio Valley Workforce Development Board

As we bring in the new year, there are a few new things happening for the MOVWDB. The MOVWDB has received the SNAP E&T grant. In preparation for these new responsibilities, staff members of the WDB and HRDF (Human Resource Development Foundation) have attended SNAP E&T trainings to increase their knowledge on the program. Later this month, the WDB will hold its full board meeting in Jackson County at the Calvary United Methodist Church at 10:00 am on the 24th.

In December, the Career Connections staff held a Christmas party for the participant's children.

Each child of a participant received a gift.



The WV Senior Corps Directors Association

The WV Senior Corps Directors Association participated in a service project at Mountaineer Food Bank for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Directors and Coordinators from the state were present on January 16, 2020 to take part in the event and tour the facility. Mountaineer Food Bank distributes over 15.3 million pounds of food and household items annually to over 450 partner agencies and feeding programs in West Virginia. They help fight hunger through food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, senior feeding, veterans table, mobile food distribution, and backpack and school food pantry programs. While visiting the food bank, directors and coordinators helped to sort and pack food boxes for distribution. A donation of \$1,000.00 was made to Mountaineer Food Bank from the WV Senior Corps Directors Association.



Community Development Survey

Here is an overview and a link to a survey Community Development would like to encourage ALL WV Residents to complete.

Please be aware that the State of West Virginia is in the process of updating the 2020-2024 Five-Year Consolidated Plan and FY2020 Annual Action Plan (AAP) for funding provided to the State by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

In short, this is how the public and local leaders are able to give input, and when the state is able to make changes, in how they will spend HUD dollars over the next 5 years. This is notable one of the rare times that the state seems open to changing their traditional priorities and plans which have focused almost solely on Water and Sewer Infrastructure with the Community Development (Small Cities) Block Grant. The state has developed a survey for public input available at this link:

<https://www.wurveymonkey.com/r/WVCAD>

The survey is open until March. If our board members can take this survey, as well as passing it on to your staff and citizens, our region can provide valuable input to help increase our opportunity to best use these HUD funds in our region in a variety of ways. One of the big benefits of showing that CDBG should be used in recreation is that those dollars could then be used by small towns or counties to match Land and Water Conservation Fund dollars for parks, campsites, trails, boat launches, etc.; whereas at this point, Land and Water can only be matched with state and local dollars. Demolition is also a possible addition to eligible activities and could help clean up some of our small downtowns and dilapidated and vacant buildings across the region, plus provide funding for redevelopment.

If you have any questions, please call Fred or Luke.



Great News for Broadband in our Region!

Tyler County Development Authority—USDA ReConnect Broadband Project

Funding = \$1,758,000 Loan and \$1,758,000 Grant

This Project is a partnership between Tyler County Development Authority Inc. and CityNet LLC which will build and operate the fiber network. The USDA ReConnect program invests in areas with no internet service or service which doesn't meet minimum speeds. In Tyler County the planned fiber network will serve 1,366 households with a population of 3,291 people over 26.13 square miles. The total fiber install from end to end will be 74 miles. Multiple businesses and 27 farms in the service area expressed support and need for the project. The **County seat of Middlebourne**, which **currently has no cable TV provider and unreliable phone and internet**, will be totally included in this fiber-to-the-home project. Chade Rupe, National Administrator for Rural Utilities Service presented the funding to Tyler County on December 18, 2019.

