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## **JobsOhio tags Lima for Transformative Redevelopment through Inclusive Community Grant Program**

**COLUMBUS, Ohio** – JobsOhio, the state’s private nonprofit economic development corporation, today announced a \$1.2 million grant through the Vibrant Community Program to fuel economic development and revitalization in the Central District Lima project.

As a part of the inclusive program, downtown Lima will see the transformation of four deteriorated and underutilized buildings on S. Central Avenue. The \$4.3 million project, with the help of local partner CDC Real Estate Holding, will include the re-imagining and renovation of over 50,000 square-feet into new mixed-use spaces that will fuel creativity and future investment. The program, which is representative of JobsOhio’s mission to initiate more inclusive economic development and equity across the state, assists distressed communities to implement catalytic development projects that represent a significant reinvestment in areas that have traditionally struggled to attract new investment.

“Through the revitalization of key corridors and downtowns, cities like Lima will receive a vital economic infusion to assist in their future development and economic growth,” said JobsOhio President and CEO J.P. Nauseef. “We will continue to work with our local partners to identify and target distressed areas across all corners of our state that require assistance. These transformative projects - focused on inclusion, job growth and revitalization - will have a generational impact in Lima and other cities across our great state.”

The renovated buildings will include a Makerspace, residential and retail offerings, entertainment areas and urban greenspace. When complete, the Central Avenue Lima project will create and retain 90 jobs.

“It took a combined effort from all of those involved to make this project and opportunity to come together,” Ohio House Speaker Bob Cupp said. “Our community stakeholders recognized the ability of this grant to greatly enhance, strengthen, and accelerate the redevelopment in the center of Allen County. This reinvestment project will bring jobs, economic growth, and create significant opportunities and beneficial activity in the downtown area. It will benefit residents, workforce activities, and visitors by creating a better environment for all.”

Allen Economic Development Group was one of the many entities that assisted with the project.

“It is a privilege to work with local, regional and state partners to support the revitalization of downtown Lima,” said Dave Stratton, President and CEO of Allen Economic Development Group. “This JobsOhio vibrancy grant will work in conjunction with public and private investment to have a positive effect on the city of Lima and stimulate more economic development in the future. The impact will be felt for many years ahead.”

Previously, in August 2021, JobsOhio announced that the cities of Van Wert, Sandusky, Coshocton and Painesville would receive over \$4 million to fuel economic development. JobsOhio also provided a \$1.5 million Vibrant Community Grant to the City of Oxford to help fund a \$10.4 million development project with Miami University.

As part of the program, JobsOhio has identified the 98 communities with populations between 5,000 and 75,000 and poverty rates that are at or above the state’s average poverty rate of 14.6% as eligible to submit proposals for JobsOhio consideration. This program recognizes that distressed communities often do not have adequate resources to develop and implement economic development projects that can attract private investment and create new jobs in the community. For more information, please visit <https://www.jobsohio.com/vibrant-community-program/>.

#### **About JobsOhio:**

JobsOhio is a private nonprofit economic development corporation designed to drive job creation and new capital investment in Ohio through business attraction, retention, and expansion. The organization also works to seed talent production in its targeted industries and to attract talent to Ohio through Find Your Ohio. JobsOhio works with six regional partners across Ohio: Dayton Development Coalition, Ohio Southeast Economic Development, One Columbus, REDI Cincinnati, Regional Growth Partnership and Team NEO. Learn more at [www.jobsohio.com](http://www.jobsohio.com). Follow us on LinkedIn, Twitter and Facebook.