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www.waynecountyedc.com

Wayne County Economic Development Tool Kit

Wayne County

A LEGACY OF STRENGTH IN MANUFACTURING, INNOVATIVE THINKING AND AGRICULTURE

Over the past several decades, Wayne County has evolved into one of the most dynamic small communities in the country with amenities offered by our award winning micropolitan area. With efficient access to national and global markets, Wayne County retains a lower cost of living and doing business. The County is also comprised of diverse companies, including The J.M. Smucker Co., Schaeffler Group, Morton Salt, The Wooster Brush Company, Daisy Brand®, Seaman Corporation, Venture Products Inc., Smith Foods Inc. and Frito-Lay Inc.

In Wayne County, many have also discovered the true partnership between government, business and education. The effort to build a supportive environment has carried on for many years with outstanding results. From providing incentives and loan assistance, to fast track permitting and infrastructure assistance, local government and partners in Wayne County are dedicated to continued growth and success.

WAYNE COUNTY BY THE NUMBERS



116,710
Population (2021)



38.6
Median Age



\$61,424
Median Household Income (2020)



6.5%
Sales Tax Rate

About the WEDC

The Wayne Economic Development Council is a public-private partnership dedicated to the economic development of Wayne County and Northeast Ohio. In serving the interests of the local community, the WEDC's primary role is to stimulate new capital investment and job growth through business retention, expansion and attraction initiatives.

The WEDC Team

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**For more information contact
Wayne Economic Development Council**

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OUR MISSION

Partner, Promote, Prosper

The Wayne Economic Development Council is a business-led, public private partnership that maintains and promotes the strength of Wayne County's cities, villages and agricultural areas. By aligning and engaging key stakeholders, the WEDC fosters balanced and sustained economic growth and prosperity for Wayne County and addresses issues critical to its competitiveness.



OUR VISION

The Wayne Economic Development Council is a leading and collaborative go-to organization that contributes to Wayne County's national recognition for achieving high quality growth that benefits both businesses and residents while maintaining a balance between industry, agriculture, commercial and residential development.



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Cultivate, Connect & Align Networks
Within & Beyond Wayne County

Support Business Development
With Attention to Retention & Expansion

Drive Critical Issues
To ensure future competitiveness

Wayne County

STATE, NATIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

Award winning micropolitan area:

- Wooster/Wayne County is among the Top 3 Micropolitan Areas in the U.S. for business expansion and attraction according to Site Selection Magazine. The area has ranked in the top ten development areas in the country for over a decade.
- In the 2022 POLICOM Strength Ranking, Wooster/Wayne County placed 14 nationally and was #1 in Ohio for 5 years in a row.

Award winning education:

- The Ohio State University, College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) Wooster Campus is home to the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, the nation's largest research facility dedicated to agricultural bio-sciences.
- The University of Akron's business program continually ranks as one of the best in the nation according to *Bloomberg Businessweek*.
- In 2022, the College of Wooster was recognized by *US News and World Report* to be in the top 5 colleges in Ohio.

Award winning healthcare:

- Wooster Community Hospital has been recognized as one of the 2022 Fortune/Merative 100 Top Hospitals® list for the eighth time.
- Aultman Orrville Hospital has been recognized and placed on *Newsweek's* list of Best Maternity Hospitals of 2022.

Wayne County's success and prosperity is anchored by a diverse mix of businesses comprised of:



346

Construction Companies



313

Manufacturing Companies



205

Professional & Business Services



132

Financial Institutions



661

Trade, Transportation & Utilities



2,034

Farms



Site Selection

FEATURED SHOVEL READY SITES

The Wayne Economic Development Council is dedicated to assisting site selectors, commercial real estate agents, business executives and entrepreneurs to navigate the selection process in today's competitive environment. Numerous resources and services are available to help prospects in making informed, streamlined decisions based on their comprehensive needs.

WOOSTER INNOVATION PARK Geyers Chapel Road, Wooster, Ohio 44691



Type of Space: Vacant Land
Max Size: 61 acres
Sale Price Per Acre: \$35,000
Zoning: I-2 General Industrial
Utilities at Site

- Site Due Diligence:**
- ✔ Phase I Environmental Assessment
 - ✔ Geotechnical Study
 - ✔ Wetlands Delineation
 - ✔ Archeological Study
 - ✔ Endangered Species Study

Type of Space: Vacant Land
Max Size: 83.7 acres
Sale Price Per Acre: \$35,000
Zoning: M-2 Heavy Industrial
Utilities at Site

- Site Due Diligence:**
- ✔ Phase I & II Environmental Assessment
 - ✔ Geotechnical Study
 - ✔ Wetlands Delineation
 - ✔ Archeological Study
 - ✔ Endangered Species Study

RITTMAN INDUSTRIAL SITE 100 Industrial Avenue, Rittman, Ohio 44270



For more information contact Wayne Economic Development Council

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Location

EASY ACCESS TO PROFITABLE MARKETS

Wayne County is strategically positioned between Columbus and Cleveland, Ohio with convenient access to interstate highways I-71, I-76 and I-77.



Within **one-hour flight** of half the U.S. population.



A **one-hour drive** to downtown Cleveland's business district and cultural attractions or **35 minute drive** to similar amenities in Akron or Canton.



Accessible to **20 major U.S. markets** via one-day interstate highway drive, with **30 other major metropolitan areas** reachable on the second day.

YOU CAN GET IT THERE FROM HERE



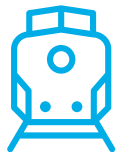
GENERAL AVIATION

Wayne County Airport in Smithville provides services for private and business aircraft and boasts a new parallel taxiway that matches the length of the 5,189 ft grooved runway.



COMMERCIAL AIR SERVICE

Akron/Canton Regional Airport offers complete commercial passenger/freight service and is located approximately 25 miles east of Wayne County. **Cleveland Hopkins International Airport** (50 miles north) serves Northeastern Ohio with over 100 daily nonstop departures.



RAILROAD

CSX, Norfolk Southern, RJ Corman and Wheeling & Lake Erie provide rail services throughout Wayne County. These rail services provide local industries with easy access for transporting supplies and products.



TRUCKING SERVICES

Several major delivery services including **Federal Express** and **United Parcel Service** provide services throughout Wayne County. There is also an **extensive selection of trucking firms** in the area, from contract haulers and heavy and light haulers to general motor freight.



Location

MILEAGE TO MAJOR CITIES

Our close proximity to Cleveland and other major markets provides convenient access to global transportation and distribution networks for your business.

Boston, MA	670	Montreal, QB	630
Buffalo, NY	250	New York, NY	470
Chicago, IL	350	Philadelphia, PA	440
Cincinnati, OH	205	Pittsburgh, PA	130
Cleveland, OH	60	Toronto, ON	340
Columbus, OH	95	Washington, DC	380



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Incentives & Financing

COMPETITIVE OFFERINGS TO HELP YOUR BUSINESS SUCCEED

In Wayne County, incentives for locating or expanding your business are available to reduce risk and help ensure a successful business operation.

Please contact the Wayne Economic Development Council to discuss specific projects and various ways we can assist in achieving business goals. Our economic development team works closely with local, county, state and federal agencies to determine eligibility and assist with application for incentives.

COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA PROGRAM

OVERVIEW – The Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) Program is an economic development tool administered by municipal and county government that provides real property tax exemptions for property owners who renovate existing or construct new buildings. Community Reinvestment Areas are areas of land in which property owners can receive tax incentives for investing in real property improvements.

FOR WHOM – The CRA Program is a direct incentive tax exemption program benefiting property owners who renovate existing or construct new buildings.

BENEFITS – The exemption percentage and term for commercial and industrial projects are to be negotiated on a project specific basis.

ENTERPRISE ZONE PROGRAM

OVERVIEW – The Enterprise Zone (EZ) Program is an economic development tool administered by municipal and county governments that provide real tax exemptions to businesses making investments.

FOR WHOM – Enterprise Zones are designated areas of land in which businesses can receive tax incentives in the form of exemptions on eligible new investment. The EZ Program can provide tax exemptions for a portion of the value of new real property investment, when the investment is made in conjunction with a project that includes job creation.

BENEFITS – The exemption percentage and term for commercial and industrial projects are to be negotiated on a project specific basis.

Incentives & Financing

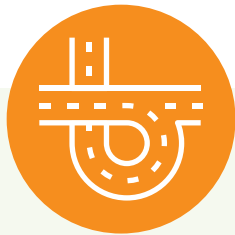
COMPETITIVE OFFERINGS TO HELP YOUR BUSINESS SUCCEED

TAX INCREMENT FINANCING (TIF)

OVERVIEW – Tax Increment Financing is an economic development mechanism that uses the increased real property taxes generated by new development, to finance project costs.

FOR WHOM – TIFs are implemented at the local level and may be created by a township, municipality or county.

BENEFITS – Payments derived from the increased assessed value of any improvement to real property beyond that amount are directed towards a separate fund to finance the construction as defined within the TIF legislation.



Transportation Improvement District

Provides funding for transportation projects that promote economic development.



Community Improvement Corporation

Established to advance, encourage, and promote industrial, economic, commercial and civic development.

REVOLVING LOAN FUND PROGRAM

OVERVIEW – The Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Program seeks to promote business start-up and expansion by creating and/or retaining employment opportunities for low to moderate income persons.

FOR WHOM – For-profit businesses located within Wayne County

ELIGIBLE USE OF FUNDS –

- Working capital
- Land/Building Acquisition
- Acquisition of Machinery and Equipment



Incentives & Financing



Department of
Development

Micro Loan Program

Designed to stimulate the growth of new and existing businesses by providing micro-loans at 0% interest.

Business Enterprise Loan Program

Designed to stimulate the growth of existing women-owned businesses by providing loans at market rate or below market rate interest.

Minority Business Direct Loan Program

Provides fixed, low-interest rate loans to certified minority-owned businesses.

Roadway Development 629

Provides funding for public roadway improvements, including engineering and design costs.

Research and Development Investment Loan Fund

Provides loan financing for projects primarily engaging in R&D activity.

166 Direct Loan

Gives eligible businesses loans for land and building acquisition, construction, expansion or renovation and equipment purchases.

Ohio Enterprise Bond Fund

Offers revenue bond financing through an S&P-rated fund, whereby proceeds from the sale of bonds are loaned to companies for fixed-rate, long-term capital asset financing.

Innovation Ohio Loan Fund

Provides loans to companies developing next-generation products and services within the state's key industry sectors.



Wayne Economic
Development Council

WAYNE COUNTY, OHIO

Incentives & Financing



Economic Development Grant

Exists to promote economic development, business expansion and job creation.

Ohio Growth Fund

Provides capital for expansion projects to companies that have limited access to funding from conventional, private sources of financing.

Research and Development Center Grant

Facilitates the creation of corporate R&D centers in Ohio to support the development and commercialization of emerging technologies and products.

Revitalization Program

Provides both loans and grants to public and private entities seeking to clean up and redevelop sites.

Inclusion Grant

Exists to provide financial support for eligible projects in designated distressed communities and/or for businesses owned by underrepresented populations.

Workforce Grant

Promotes economic development, business expansion and job creation by providing funding to companies for employee development and training programs.



Entrepreneur & Business Resources



Team Neo focuses on accelerating economic growth and job creation throughout Northeast Ohio. Team Neo can provide expert insight into regional, national and global data, consultation to address talent and supply chain needs, assistance with site selection and connections to financial tools through JobsOhio. teamneo.org



Jobs Ohio plays a leading role in economic development and serves as a catalyst to accelerate growth by investing in communities, helping Ohio's businesses expand and attracting new companies to the state—all contributing to job creation, greater payrolls and more investment. jobsohio.com



Small Business Development Center (SBDC) provides business counseling and assistance to individuals who are looking to start or grow their business. akronsbdc.org



MAGNET supports small and mid-sized manufacturers by providing hands-on support with business consulting, new product design, operations excellence, and workforce innovation, bringing industry, education and community leaders together. manufacturingsuccess.org



Jumpstart is a venture development organization that assists entrepreneurs in starting and growing companies. Jumpstart focuses primarily on providing capital, delivering services and acting as a strategic partner. jumpstartinc.org

Entrepreneur & Business Resources



Wayne County
A proud partner of the
American Job Center network

Ohio Means Jobs: Wayne County (OMJ) works with businesses to attract, retain and advance talent. OMJ also provides on-site consultation and job training services.

everybodyworks.org/wayne



Economic and Community Development Institute (ECDI)

offers a range of resources to assure small business owners have the support they need to succeed, including: financial assistance, one-on-one consultations, financial literacy training, marketing, business planning and other coaching.

ecdi.org/resources



The Senior Corp of Retired Executives (SCORE) is a business mentoring and education organization, offering the expertise of volunteers who have either owned a successful small business or held an executive leadership position. SCORE provides free education courses and one-on-one mentoring.

akron.score.org/



Wayne County Public Library – Business Center assists entrepreneurs with research and access to proprietary data resources. One-on-one assistance is available to those looking to start up or expand their business.

wcpl.info/content/business-and-career-center



**Akron
Urban League**

Minority Business Assistance Center (MBAC) works with entrepreneurs and emerging business enterprises to help them achieve, scale and market success. The overarching goal is to help small, minority-owned and disadvantaged businesses contribute to job creation and economic growth.

akronurbanleague.org/what-we-do/entrepreneurship/mbac-program



**Wayne Economic
Development Council**

WAYNE COUNTY, OHIO

Workforce Training Resources

Businesses will find support for their workforce development efforts from the available training resources, education institutions and community workforce development efforts our region has to offer.



Wayne County

A proud partner of the American Job Center network

OHIO MEANS JOBS: WAYNE COUNTY

Ohio Means Jobs: Wayne County provides seamless and professional services in one convenient location. The local office located in Wooster offers a wide array of employment and training services. From the job seeker desiring a career change to the employer looking for a pool of skilled workers, Ohio Means Jobs is ready to help with your specific needs.



The University of Akron
Wayne College

THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON WAYNE COLLEGE CAMPUS

Continuing and Professional Education at The University of Akron recognizes that companies have unique differences.

Through the Akron Campus, Wayne College looks to form a working partnership with organizations to assist with developing and implementing strategies that will achieve new goals or solve current problems. Training programs provide flexibility, experienced trainers and consultants with real-world experience.



OHIO TECHCRED

Ohio's TechCred Program gives employers the chance to upskill current and future employees in today's tech-infused economy. Employers who submit successful applications will be reimbursed up to \$2,000 per credential when current or prospective employees compete eligible technology-focused credentials. The program encourages employers to partner with the training provider that will most effectively meet their needs. Eligible training providers include universities, community colleges, technical centers and private training providers.



**Wayne Economic
Development Council**

WAYNE COUNTY, OHIO

Workforce Training Resources



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY CFAES WOOSTER CAMPUS

The Ohio State Business Training and Educational Services is a leader in workforce development and their performance improvement training focuses on developing a high-performance workforce that is critical to business success.

Taking a collaborative approach, the institution's Business and Training Services staff in tandem with key-decision makers utilize critical thinking in order to develop a plan that meets a business's unique needs. Ohio State CFAES Wooster Campus delivers a full spectrum of worker training from conducting the initial needs assessment to delivering customized training or individual coaching. Flexible training times and locations are available.



WAYNE COUNTY SCHOOLS CAREER CENTER

The Wayne County Schools Career Center (WCSCC) provides career and technical training to approximately 850 high school students and 3,500 adult students each year.

For businesses and industries who are expanding, retraining, or relocating, WCSCC offers consulting services in Human Resource and Assessment, Industrial Training and Business Training. The WCSCC offers state-approved, full-time career development programs in nursing, welding, office and other fields important to the area workforce. The Wayne County Schools Career Center provides year-round, all-day options and individual, small group, large group, single or multiple session training.

For more information contact Wayne Economic Development Council

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