

The Secretaries' Award for Public-Philanthropic Partnerships 2014

Foundation for Appalachian Ohio

Growing Home Initiative

Foundation for Appalachian Ohio: This regional community foundation works to ensure every community in Appalachian Ohio receives philanthropic support.

www.appalachianohio.org

Launched: 2012

Public Partners: Villages of Coalton, Freeport, Middleport, Quaker City, and Rio Grande, Ohio; Appalachian Partnership for Economic Growth; JobsOhio; and the U.S. Department of Agriculture

The Foundation for Appalachian Ohio (FAO) Growing Home initiative has been developed over time to serve counties without local philanthropic resources. The organization works hand in hand with these counties to grow the funds that will help them address local needs and pursue the opportunities needed for prosperity. In partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) through a \$200,000 Rural Community Development Initiative grant, FAO has amplified this work across the region. FAO is currently assisting eight counties in growing geographic affiliates under their management so these counties will have local philanthropy where it has never existed. With additional support from the Appalachian Partnership for Economic Growth, the Walmart Foundation, and U.S. Bank, FAO is developing flexible development resources in ways that will support not only the communities but also FAO's regional mission.

With USDA support, FAO has engaged the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship to develop a curriculum designed to help communities launch, grow, and develop community funds dedicated to enriching the county's quality of life and creating opportunities for the county's citizens that have not been available in the past.

FAO's community funds have increased locally focused assets; developed new funds to support local students, education, health, and community activities; and introduced philanthropy to nonprofits, businesses, and individuals across their communities. All eight community funds have already far exceeded the initiative goal of increasing their assets by 3 percent. In the case of the Community Foundation for Perry County, the funds under their county umbrella have grown from \$5,000 to more than \$1 million. Yet, true progress in these communities extends beyond financial growth, as the foundation works to develop the long-term capacity of these communities.

