



Local Economic Development Partners

Business Resource Network (BRN)

The Business Resource Network is a nationally-unique, locally-driven partnership of chambers of commerce, economic development and workforce organizations, government agencies and elected officials, schools, colleges and universities and other organizations offering a wide range of business incentives, services and training for businesses in Mahoning, Trumbull and Columbiana counties.

<http://www.thebrn.net/>

CASTLO Community Improvement Corporation

The CASTLO Community Improvement Corporation was incorporated in April 1978 in response to the permanent closing of the former Youngstown Sheet & Tube Company's Campbell Works in 1977. Governed by an independent board of trustees, its purpose is to advance, encourage and promote the industrial, economic, commercial and civic development of Campbell, Struthers, Lowellville, Coitsville Township and Poland Township. In 1980, CASTLO acquired the former YS&T Struthers Works for conversion into the 120-acre CASTLO Industrial Park. The non-profit group has retrofitted 12 buildings and constructed two new structures to attract business and industry. Economically self-sufficient, CASTLO supports the region with its own real estate taxes and also the federal, state and municipal taxes paid by its 21 tenants' 150 employees. A key player in the multi-jurisdictional Mahoning River Corridor of Opportunity partnership, CASTLO strives to facilitate sustainable redevelopment on approximately 1,470 acres of a former steel mill industrial brownfield straddling a five-mile stretch of the Mahoning River in Youngstown, Campbell and Struthers.

<http://www.castlo.com/>

City of Warren

The City of Warren's Community Development Department is charged with improving economic opportunities, creating strong and vibrant neighborhoods, and maintaining affordable housing- with the emphasis on improving the quality of life for its low to moderate income citizens. Through collaborative efforts with other city departments, government offices, non-profits and private-sector organizations, and with funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant and HOME programs, this department administers a wide range of community-based programs. The Community Development department strives to provide an array of proactive, responsive and people-oriented services by developing and maintaining partnerships with the city's residents and other community and government agencies & organizations.

<http://www.warren.org/communitydevelopment.htm>

City of Youngstown

The Office of Economic Development serves as a liaison for the City of Youngstown and the business community. We offer extremely competitive financial incentives to businesses wanting to locate here or for the expansion of existing businesses, and we are actively developing business/industrial parks in our region. Through careful management and efficient use of resources, our mission is to enhance the factors of productivity—land, labor, capital and technology—and to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Youngstown through economic strength, growth and vitality.

<http://www.ytowndevelopment.com/ytownhome.php>

Eastgate Regional Council of Governments

The Eastgate Regional Council of Governments is directly responsible for a variety of federal, state, and local planning and project implementation and administration programs. As the Metropolitan Planning Organization and Areawide Water Quality Management Agency for Mahoning and Trumbull Counties, and the designated Economic Development District, Eastgate maintains required certifications and planning documents to qualify the region for federal and state funding. Eastgate performs the administration of: District 6 Public Works Integrating Committee State Capital Improvement Program, Department of Defense Procurement Program, regional Rideshare program, Clean Ohio Conservation & Revitalization Funds and the Local Development District of the Appalachian Regional Commission. Other major areas of responsibility include: air quality planning and air advisory day programs, Intergovernmental review, and local project sponsor for the Mahoning River Dredging Project.

www.eastgatecog.org

Export Assistance Network (EAN) of Youngstown State University

The Export Assistance Network (EAN) provides detailed and comprehensive services to businesses looking to expand into overseas markets. EAN provides international market research and advises businesses on various aspects necessary to international trade. Services include: market research, due diligence, export readiness assessment and education, financial assistance through partners and trade missions.

<http://www.ysucoe.com/itac>

Mahoning Valley Economic Development Corporation

The Mahoning Valley Economic Development Corporation (MVEDC) is a principal, private, non-profit economic development corporation, serving companies in Mahoning, Trumbull, Columbiana, Ashtabula, Geauga and Portage counties in northeastern Ohio and Beaver, Lawrence and Mercer counties in Pennsylvania. A partnership of public and private interests focused on the revitalization and diversification of the Mahoning Valley, MVEDC has assisted more than 1,500 companies, which have retained or added 16,000 jobs. Designated by the U.S. Small Business Administration as a Certified Development Company, MVEDC operates a variety of revolving loan funds or business relocation and expansion, including a mini-loan fund. MVEDC's Technical Procurement Center assists companies to bid on federal agency contracts. MVEDC owns and develops the Warren Commerce Park in Warren and the Youngstown Commerce Park in North Jackson. These industrial parks total 411 acres. MVEDC also owns a network of industrial railroads that service industries in Mahoning and Trumbull counties.

<http://www.mvedc.com/>

Ohio Means Jobs – Mahoning County & Trumbull County

OhioMeansJobs Trumbull, Mahoning and Columbiana offers coordinated workforce development and direct customer service to employers and job seekers - at one accessible location - to promote ongoing regional economic development. OMJ partners with career centers, educational systems, veterans' services, workforce investment areas, disabilities services and senior employment services to assist with employment-related services. Job search tools, information on training and supportive services are provided for job seekers, while recruitment services, and help with workforce education and training needs are offered to employers.

<http://www.onestopohio.org/>

The Ohio Small Business Development Center at Youngstown State University

The Small Business Development Center (SBDC) program is the most comprehensive and effective business assistance network in the nation. Its purpose is to help existing businesses develop and retain a competitive advantage in the ever-changing global economy, and to help new entrepreneurs realize their dream of business ownership. SBDCs throughout Ohio enhance economic development in their regions, the state and the country. The Ohio SBDC at YSU is sponsored by YSU and its Williamson College of Business Administration. Its mission is to provide in-depth consulting and training to existing small to mid-sized companies and new business startups, and advocate for a strong and successful business community. The Center assists residents mainly in Mahoning, Trumbull and Ashtabula counties.

<http://www.yzu.edu/sbdc>

SCORE at YSU

SCORE, "Counselors to America's Small Business," is a non-profit association dedicated to entrepreneur education and the formation, growth and success of small business nationwide. SCORE is a resource partner with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and has 389 chapters throughout the United States and its territories, with 10,500 volunteers nationwide. Both working and retired executives and business owners donate time and expertise as business counselors. SCORE was founded in 1964.

<http://www.score.org/index.html>

Tech Belt Energy Innovation Center

The Tech Belt Energy Innovation Center focuses on commercializing technologies for startups as well as working with larger corporations to develop additional opportunities within the energy industry. The incubator houses testing equipment and space geared toward energy and battery applications, but also brings together additional business services within the facility that can assist the startup companies.

<http://www.tbeic.org/>

Trumbull County Planning Commission

The Trumbull County Planning Commission is authorized by ORC. Section 713 to make plans, maps and studies for the betterment of the county. Since the mid-1980's, this has included a Revolving Loan Fund and Enterprise Zone to assist businesses with low-interest loans and tax abatements to create or retain jobs through new private investment. The county also assists businesses with public infrastructure improvements, such as the extension of water and sanitary sewer facilities and road improvements through state and federal grants and Tax Increment Financing. For many years, the county has partnered with the City of Warren and local banks to provide "mini-loans" to start up businesses through the Reinvestment Partnership Corporation.

<http://planning.co.trumbull.oh.us>

Warren Redevelopment & Planning Corporation

Established in 1980, Warren Redevelopment and Planning Corporation (WRAP) is a non-profit economic development corporation located in the City of Warren, Ohio. WRAP provides technical assistance to the city on economic and business development issues, owns and manages commercial properties, directs the City Design Review process and administers the city and RPC loan programs. WRAP also monitors the on-street and deck parking within Downtown Warren.

http://www.warren.org/CD_EconomicDevelopmentServices.htm

Western Reserve Port Authority/Northeast Ohio Development and Finance Authority

The Western Reserve Port Authority can assist with financing economic development projects. The Port Authority may acquire, construct, enlarge, maintain, sell, lease or operate Port Authority facilities, and may make those facilities available to businesses. Additionally, the Port Authority has the ability to issue revenue bonds and operate foreign trade zones.

<http://www.westernreserveportauthority.com>

Youngstown Business Incubator

Youngstown Business Incubator's mission is to cultivate, accelerate and promote the formation, growth, commercialization and innovation of technology-based businesses by providing comprehensive, high quality entrepreneurial services and resources in a robust environment that promotes company success, attraction and retention. YBI has been integral to the success of companies that, in aggregate, have been awarded 17 intellectual property patents, developed 24 new commercial software applications, created over 230 jobs, have customers in 80 countries and have won prestigious awards.

<http://www.ybi.org>

Youngstown State University – Regional Economic Development Initiative (YSU-REDI)

REDI serves in the role as “Navigator” in research-based, implementation-focused economic development support services for the Mahoning Valley. REDI’s focus and mission reflects an organizational focus on a plan-implement structure known as design-build. REDI also provides leadership on federal, state, and private grant-writing initiatives, and valuable GIS mapping and data services to a number of local and regional government, nonprofit, and social service agencies throughout the Mahoning Valley.

<http://cms.yzu.edu/administrative-offices/redi/regional-economic-development-initiative-redimvedc.com/>

Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber

The Regional Chamber is a private, non-profit organization whose mission is to provide leadership and business services that promote the growth of our nearly 3,000 members—representing more than 150,000 employees in the Mahoning Valley—and enhance the essential partnership between economic development and education to improve our quality of life. Our Economic Development Division has successfully assisted more than 450 new/existing entities invest more than \$3.2 billion and create some 20,800 new jobs, develop more than 21.6 million square feet of office and industrial real estate space.

www.regionalchamber.com
