



Local Governments Working for Development



(L to R): Director of the Governor's Office of Appalachia, Jason Wilson, awards a check for \$75,000 to Coshocton County Head Start representatives Steve Troendly, Executive Director, and Kenneth Smailes, Board President

Coshocton County Head Start Program Receives Grant Funds for Renovation

The Governor's Office of Appalachia recently awarded the Coshocton County Head Start Program \$75,000 for renovation of the East Wing of the Hilltop Facility. The total cost of the renovation project is \$905,000. The renovation will include new plumbing, walls, floors, ceilings, and windows. New lighting and high efficiency HVAC units will also be installed in the effort to convert the east wing of a former nursing home into an Early Head Start classroom facility to benefit 72 low and moderate income families with early learning programs. Congratulations to all staff members of Coshocton County Head Start and Dana Soter, OMEGA ARC/GOA Project Manager who worked with Director Wilson and the Ohio Development Services Agency to secure funding for this early childhood education project.

OMEGA Wins Excellence in Regional Transportation Award from NADO

The National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) recently announced the winners of the **2016 Excellence in Regional Transportation Awards**. Each award recognizes a noteworthy project that helps meet regional needs in innovative ways, through cooperation with partners, increasing system and community resilience, and in many cases, using creative funding. The award-winning projects serve as models for many different transportation program areas in which regional development organizations engage.

Congratulations to OMEGA which serves as a Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) for 8 counties in the district that are not served by a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). OMEGA's project, **Rural Road Safety Audit—A Multi-disciplinary Approach to Improving Road Safety**, was led by Ken Shonkwiler, Transportation Planner and GIS Coordinator. Mr. Shonkwiler offered the following, "In Muskingum County, our Road Safety Audit team examined and made recommendations to Dillon Falls/Dillon School Road and Licking Road, ultimately producing a Road Safety Audit document to address roadway needs. Efforts to make improvements are currently underway."

The award will be presented at the 2016 National Regional Transportation Conference in Chattanooga, TN in mid-June. Jeannette Wierzbicki, P.E., Executive Director, and Mr. Shonkwiler will be attending the conference to accept the award on behalf of OMEGA.

OMEGA Receives Approval from EDA to Continue Partnership Planning Efforts

OMEGA recently received approval from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA), to continue serving as an EDA Economic Development District (EDD). The \$163,884 partnership planning grant award will be matched with additional funds exceeding \$100,000. We are looking forward to continuing to work with our partners on Public Works, Technical Assistance, and other EDA eligible projects. If you would like to learn more about EDA funding programs, please contact Cindi Kerschbaumer at (740) 439-4471, ext. 206 or cindik@omegadistrict.org.

OMEGA Revolving Loan Fund Expanding to Include Ohio Regional 166 Funding

OMEGA was recently awarded State of Ohio 166 Loan Program funds to add to their Revolving Loan Fund Program. The 166 Loan Program offers low, fixed-rate loans that can finance up to 40% of a total project for private, for-profit businesses in the OMEGA region. The maximum loan amount is \$500,000. Loan proceeds can be used for fixed assets only—real estate, machinery, equipment, etc. A 10% owner equity contribution is required. The program allows for the balance to be financed through third party investors and/or private financial institutions. For more information on the Revolving Loan Fund program, please contact Lolly Ravak, Loan Administrator, at (740) 439-4471, ext. 203 or lrvak@omegadistrict.org.