

Athens County Community Improvement Challenge 2017

The Athens County Community Improvement Challenge is meant to support and assist communities and individuals seeking improvement. Community is defined as a group of people living in the same place, having a particular characteristic in common, or a feeling of fellowship with others as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals. Athens County proudly supports the multitude of communities that provide vibrancy to Athens County.

Which communities can participate?

The Athens County Community Improvement Challenge 2017 is specifically geared towards the smaller, more rural communities in the county. The City of Athens and Nelsonville are exempt from this challenge. **The first 10 communities to submit a completed application to the Athens County Planner will be accepted as Athens County Community Improvement Challenge 2017 participants. Completed applications can be hand delivered to 280 West Union Street, Suite B, Athens, OH or submitted electronically to jpowers@athensoh.org.**

Athens County has 8 incorporated villages: Albany, Amesville, Buchtel, Chauncey, Coolville, Glouster, Jacksonville, and Trimble. The mayor and council members would be eligible elected officials.

Athens County has 5 census designated areas: Hockingport, Millfield, New Marshfield, Stewart, The Plains. These areas would require the support of township trustees to participate as the elected official.

Athens County has 31 unincorporated communities:

Beaumont, Beebe, Bessemer, Big Run, Burr Oak, Canaanville, Carbondale, Doanville, Frost, Garden, Glen Ebon, Guysville, Hamley Run, Hartleyville, Hebbardsville, Imperial, Kilvert, Lottridge, Luhrig, Mineral, Modoc, New England, New Floodwood, Pleasanton, Pratts Fork, Redtown, Shade, Sharpsburg, Torch, Utley, and Augustine/ Sugar Creek. These areas would require the township trustees to participate.

Community Challenge Goals

1. Promote civic involvement and improvement! Get together with members of your community to make it healthier, happier and more prosperous. Start with small goals and work up to solve larger challenges. Spur innovation, creativity, problem solving, resourcefulness, social participation, community pride and a can do attitude.
2. Learn about community improvement resources available through local, state and federal government agencies, non-profit organizations and community groups. A list of resources will be developed and shared to promote communities building capacity and support networks.

Community Challenge Overview:

In order to participate each community will assemble a steering team of 5 to 10 community members. The team will schedule a learning exchange meeting with an Athens County Commissioner and staff. During the learning exchange meeting a broad community improvement plan will be created, this community improvement plan will be presented to the community. Following the presentation of the newly created community improvement plan the community/ steering team will choose a minimum of three projects from at least two different improvement categories identified in the community improvement plan for implementation. One project must meet the health Community Improvement Challenge objective. Once projects are selected the steering team will submit documentation of steps taken to the County Planner's Office and the Athens County Commissioners will provide \$500.00 to assist in implementation of community improvement projects.

Community Challenge Participation Steps:

1. Assemble a Steering Team

Each community's steering team of 5 to 10 community members must include each of the following:

- a. an elected official
- b. a young adult (ages 11 to 17)
- c. an employed professional (consider variety of skilled professionals)
- d. a retired person or senior citizen
- e. a person representing a local civic organization

Once the team has identified members, it will complete and submit the Athens County Community Challenge Application Form, which identifies 3 dates the community is available to meet with the County staff for a Learning Exchange Meeting.

2. Learning Exchange Meeting

Learning Exchange meetings can be scheduled anytime and can be located at a facility within the community or can utilize the Athens County Extension Office meeting space. During the learning exchange meeting the community team will identify the needs and desires for improvement. The county staff will listen to and assist in data collection and creating a broad community improvement plan. The learning exchange meeting will serve as a time to discuss how each community can work toward the achievement of Athens County Community Challenge goals.

3. Community Improvement Plan

The Community Improvement Plan will combine the community's needs and interest in specific improvement projects with resources available to assist communities. Community Improvement Plan created at the learning exchange meeting will outline approximately 5 potential improvement projects the community could implement to meet Community Challenge objectives. The Community Improvement Plan will be presented to the community at a public meeting or event. The goal of publically presenting the Community Improvement Plan is to gauge interest in projects identified, continue the dialog surrounding community improvement, identify next steps, and identify additional community participants to assist in plan implementation.

4. Submission of Community Improvement Challenge Materials

Following the presentation of the Community Improvement Plan each Steering Team will choose three projects to work towards in 2017 from at least 2 Community Challenge Improvement objectives one objective must be health. Once projects are chosen the Steering Team will complete and submit documentation to the Athens County Planner's Office and receive \$500 to get started.

Athens County Community Improvement Challenge 2017

Objectives:

1. Health: Work with community members to promote and support healthy lifestyles within the community.
2. Beautification: Work with community members to upgrade the appearance of the buildings and grounds in the community.
3. The Internet and technology: Work with community members to upgrade the community's skills and assets based around the internet and technology.
4. Energy: Work with community members to upgrade the community's skills and assets based around the energy economy.
5. Businesses and Entrepreneurs: Work with community members to upgrade the community business ecosystem while increasing wealth and investment in the community.
6. Families: Work with community members to support healthy and successful families and children.
7. Community History: Work with community members to highlight and celebrate the community history and traditions.
8. Tourism: Work with community members to improve the tourism economy and increase opportunities for tourism in the community.
9. Mental Health: Work with community members to support a healthy and positive mindset in the community, especially in regard to the addiction epidemic.
10. Housing: Work with the community members to assess and upgrade housing stock in the community.
11. Transportation: Work with the community members to assess and upgrade transportation options available to the community.
12. Crime: Work with community members to identify existing problems and ways to mitigate crime within the community.

Athens County Community Challenge 2017 Application

Steering Team Members:

_____ (Participating Community)

A. Elected official(s)

1.Name:_____ Phone Number:_____

Email Address:_____

2.Name:_____ Phone Number:_____

Email Address:_____

B. Young adult(s) (ages 11 to 17)

1.Name:_____ Phone Number:_____

Email Address:_____

2.Name:_____ Phone Number:_____

Email Address:_____

C. Employed professional(s)

1.Name:_____ Phone Number:_____

Email Address:_____

2.Name:_____ Phone Number:_____

Email Address:_____

D. Retired individual(s) or senior citizen(s)

1.Name:_____ Phone Number:_____

Email Address:_____

2.Name:_____ Phone Number:_____

Email Address:_____

