

Southcentral Ohio Regional Plan Overview

I. Highlights of Economic & Workforce Data Analysis

- Local Workforce Area 11 (Franklin County) and Local Workforce Area 20 (Fairfield, Hocking, Pickaway, Ross, and Vinton Counties) comprise the Southcentral Ohio Region
- It has a highly diversified mix of industries, including federal and state government, educational institutions, financial services, manufacturing, and healthcare.
- About half of the Region's households have income that is less than \$50,000 annually.
- Approximately 90% of the labor force resides in Franklin and Fairfield Counties.
- Only about a third of the projected job openings in the Region for the next five years will require some type of postsecondary education, including 2- year or 4-year degrees.
- At 15.8%, the unemployment rate for Black/African-American residents was more than double the 7.6% for White individuals. The rates for Hispanic/Latino Ethnicity and Asian were 8.9% and 4.7%, respectively.
- Nearly 10% of the population ages five and older speaks a language other than English at home.
- About 90% of individuals ages 25 and older have a high school diploma and nearly a third have a Bachelor's degree or higher.
- The Region is home to 59 college campuses with total enrollment of over 136,000; producing more than 20,000 graduates every year.
- Approximately 42,000 commuters travel from Fairfield and Pickaway Counties to jobs in Franklin County.

II. Regional Strategies to Enhance Workforce Activities

- **Communications and Collaboration** - Implement a unified voice for workforce development activities throughout the region
- **Services to Employers** – Develop a consistent approach for conducting business services throughout the region
- **Services to Job Seekers** - Create a consistent method for delivering job seeker services throughout the region
- **Policies and Practices** - Establish a regional approach for public workforce policies and practices
- **Resources** - Maximize the available workforce resources throughout the region

III. Key Partners for Regional Action

- Workforce Development Boards for Local Workforce Areas 11 and 20
- Columbus 2020/JobsOhio
- Central Ohio Compact
- Appalachian Partnership for Economic Growth (APEG)
- Workforce Development Boards for Areas bordering Local Workforce Areas 11 and 20
- Governor's Executive Workforce Board
- Key Industry Groups, Chambers of Commerce, Local Economic Development Entities
- Multiple Departments of State Government