

URBAN COUNTY FACT SHEET

Why is it called Urban County?

- Urban County is a legal term from Housing and Urban Development (HUD) which uses this term due to its inclusion in the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (HCDA) Section 102 (6) (A).

How do we qualify as an Urban County?

- Lorain County qualifies by its population being over 200,000 people excluding Metropolitan Cities.
 - A Metropolitan City is defined in the HCDA as having 50,000 people or more for its population (among other ways to qualify). Currently the Cities of Elyria and Lorain are the only Metropolitan Cities in the County and are not counted for determining eligibility.

What does this ultimately do for me?

- The County has been receiving HUD funding via Ohio's Department of Development for multiple decades for the same purposes discussed in this document. The difference with becoming an Urban County is more funding to feed seniors, demolish vacant structures, repair or rehabilitate homes, and give microenterprise assistance for local small businesses. Simply put it can provide more funding to help individuals and communities in need.

Is this related to the Megasite (Advanced Technology Center)?

- No, this has no relation to the Megasite. Becoming an Urban County, commonly referred to as an Entitlement, would be an option regardless of the County having a Megasite or not based on our population size.

Are we trying to get rid of our rural communities?

- No, each Political Subdivision (Village, City, and Township) has power over zoning laws which dictate how your community develops. Lorain County does not control nor seeks to control that process.

Do the Cities of Elyria and Lorain have to give up their Metropolitan City status or funding?

- No, Elyria and Lorain will not have to relinquish their status as Metropolitan Cities and they will not lose their funding.

What is the benefit of getting this designation?

- Lorain County can get approximately 3-4 times more funding along with autonomy to design a program specific to Lorain County's needs. Currently we must follow the State of Ohio's Program which has to take into account all 88 Counties in Ohio, so this would help by allowing a custom-tailored program for Lorain County.

So it's been decided and I don't get any say?

- Although Lorain County has decided to apply, the process is specifically designed to be open and inclusive of Citizen Participation. In fact, it's a mandatory part of the application. Dates have not yet been established, but when announced will list the time and place public comment periods will be held to understand how Lorain County Residents want help in their Communities.

Everyone is guaranteed money then?

- Although funding is expected to increase substantially, around 3-4 times, not every project or service that is requested can be funded.

Funding Benefit

Purpose	Improvement	Benefit
Critical Infrastructure Construction	Water, Sewers, Roads, Bridges, Wastewater, & Stormwater Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More Funding Per Year Yields More Local Awards • Stretches Local Budgets Funding Other Projects • Apply to More Grants • Strategic Planning Through the County via Continuity of Projects • Larger Scope Possible Through More Guaranteed Phases of Construction
Senior Services	Transportation, Home Care, Meals on Wheels, Home Maintenance	
Demolition	Removal of Spot Blight	
Barrier Removal	Barriers for Elderly/Disabled Removed	
Job Creation	Small and Microenterprise Business Loans	

Examples of Eligible Activities

Water, Sewer, and Utility Lines	Septic System Repair/Replacement	Historic Preservation	Small Business Job Assistance
Flood and Drainage Improvement	Home Rehabilitation	Nursing Homes, Hospitals, and Shelters	Microenterprise Assistance (5 Employees or Less)
Lead Hazard Reduction	Matching Funds for Federal Grants	Senior Services	Repair Objective Deterioration

Examples of Ineligible Activities

Government Expenses	Operating Expenses	Purchase of Equipment	Income Payments
Motor Vehicles	Maintenance Expenses	Political Activities	Government Renovation

National Objectives

Low to Moderate Income by Area, Limited Clientele, and Housing	Prevention or Elimination of Slum or Blight by Area, Spot, and Urban Renewal	Urgent Need Serious and Immediate Threat
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