

History

The Mayors' began meeting in 1995 as the vision of several regional mayors. In 1996 they were formally incorporated as the Mayors' Partnership for Progress, signing an agreement for technical assistance with Ohio University. The organization later became a nonprofit in 2003.

The Mayors' Partnership for Progress brings together mayors and city managers from cities and villages throughout Appalachian Ohio to share information and resources and tackle common issues faced by municipalities throughout the region.

Membership

The Mayors' Partnership for Progress is comprised of over 60 villages and cities in an 11-county area including:

Athens	Lawrence	Scioto
Gallia	Meigs	Vinton
Hocking	Pike	Washington
Jackson	Ross	

Purposes of Mayors' Partnership

The Mayors' Partnership meets on a monthly basis. There are at least three core functions that the Mayors' Partnership to area municipalities:

- 1. Sharing of Information, Concerns, Advice, Resources:** Mayors discuss successes and challenges their communities are facing:
 - a. Sometimes informal peer-to-peer technical assistance that happens (particularly with more established mayors providing assistance to newer mayors), and
 - b. Sometimes based on needs mayors identify opportunities to share resources (snow removal equipment).
- 2. Informational Forum Regarding Issues of Potential Impact and Technical Assistance:** Each month Mayors address a current, relevant topic. The Voinovich School helps identify speakers and collect information about the topics. Prior examples include:
 - a. Discussions about legislation that may have an impact on local communities (e.g., SB 221, Ohio's Energy Future),
 - b. New state-level initiatives (Building Ohio's Jobs, \$1.7 billion jobs stimulus package),
 - c. Technical assistance around areas of shared concern (e.g., Waste Water Resource Directory).
- 3. Platform for Local Leaders to Communicate with Political Stakeholders:** There are typically various representatives from members of Congress who participate in the monthly convenings as well as representatives from state offices.

"Providing leaders from small, rural communities a stronger, regional voice."