

MAYORS' PARTNERSHIP FOR PROGRESS

Promoting Regional Cooperation and Advancement



Meeting Reminder: Thursday, April 9, 2020 at OU Inn and Conference Center at 12:00 PM

TECHCRED

TechCred gives employees the ability to earn technology-focused credentials, to better prepare them for a job. Employers are able to apply online and if approved, the state will reimburse up \$2,000 of training after completion of the credential. A list of pre-approve credentials is provided on the website but employers are able to request a credential to be added to the list.

For more information and the application visit the the TechCred website.

APEG

APEG has kicked off the regional economic development strategic planning process and began the focus group process. Individuals that attend these focus groups meetings are sharing current strengths and challenges of doing business in southern and eastern Ohio. The conversations and efforts to address these strengths and challenges will continue into March.

For more information about how to get involved and the dates of the focus group meetings, head to the [APEG website](#).

WINTER CONNECT

Beginning October 14th through April 15th Ohio's electric and natural gas customers can reconnect or avoid disconnection of their utilities. Consumers may only use this Winter Reconnect Order during the months listed above. Consumers should speak to their utility company before using the Winter Reconnect Order. For more information on WRO, use this **fact sheet**.

ODOT

The Ohio Department of Transportation announced that the state will now cover 100 percent of project costs for local safety projects. Funding requests typically range from \$200,000 to \$5 million. ODOT will accept applications twice a year, April 30 and September 30. **More information about the program can be found on [ODOT's website](#).**

VISTA NEWS

Information has been sent out to the MPP Mayors about their responsibilities for indigent burials. We have a high poverty rate for our region. That makes this issue very important to our communities. O.R.C. 9.15 defines the responsibilities of municipalities and townships for paying for indigent burials. It also defines indigent person as having an income below 150% of the federal poverty lines that also applies to the person claiming the body. Approximately 30% of our region's population falls below the 150% FPL guideline. For the first time in nearly 20 years the state budget includes some limited funding to reimburse localities for this expense. One million dollars a year has been appropriated to the Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors. The rules are spelled out in OAC 4717-17.

Jack Frech, MPP VISTA