



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Foundation for Appalachian Ohio Receives HUD/USDA Secretaries' Award**

### **FAO One of Ten Recipients of National Award**

**Cleveland, OH** – Across the nation, community foundations, private foundations, and corporate giving programs work to improve neighborhoods and the lives of the people who live in them. Today, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Council on Foundations honored the work of place-based foundations when they announced the 2014 winners of the [Secretaries' Award for Public-Philanthropic Partnerships](#).

The Foundation for Appalachian Ohio (FAO) earned the award for its outstanding partnership with the public sector. Through a partnership with the USDA, the Foundation worked hand-in-hand with local communities, including Perry County, to develop philanthropic resources to support their community development efforts. The awards were presented at the Council on Foundations' Fall Conference for Community Foundations in Cleveland.

"These foundations understand that strong communities connect families with the promise of living the American dream," said HUD Secretary Julián Castro. "Powerful outcomes occur when the philanthropic and public sectors come together to solve problems, enhance neighborhoods, and expand opportunity for others. I commend these honorees for their deep commitment to serving the common good."

"USDA is proud to partner with foundations on worthy development projects that are improving the quality of life for rural residents and providing them with new economic opportunities," Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said. "The work that foundations undertake often complements the work that our employees are carrying out at the local level. Congratulations to the foundations that have been recognized for their exceptional efforts in 2014."

"I'm proud to offer my congratulations to the winning foundations," said Vikki Spruill, president and CEO of the Council on Foundations. "Their work serves as a model for others in the field. Philanthropy works across sectors to engage communities in meaningful development and productive action. I am grateful to Secretary Castro and Secretary Vilsack for their leadership in recognizing the impact of foundations across the country. I look forward to continuing our engagement with them in order to push for still greater collaboration."

The Foundation for Appalachian Ohio was founded to make sure a strong source of community philanthropy existed in each of the region's 32 counties. Through its Growing Home initiative, FAO partners with communities to build the philanthropic resources they have long been without. The grant from the USDA has been



*Serving Ohio's  
Thirty-Two  
Appalachian Counties*

*Adams  
Ashtabula  
Athens  
Belmont  
Brown  
Carroll  
Clermont  
Columbiana  
Coshocton  
Gallia  
Guernsey  
Harrison  
Highland  
Hocking  
Holmes  
Jackson  
Jefferson  
Lawrence  
Mahoning  
Meigs  
Monroe  
Morgan  
Muskingum  
Noble  
Perry  
Pike  
Ross  
Scioto  
Trumbull  
Tuscarawas  
Vinton  
Washington*

essential to providing coaching and support on the scale necessary to help these communities develop the resources needed for their local community development efforts.

"The Foundation for Appalachian Ohio was established to create opportunities and to close the philanthropic gap in Appalachian Ohio," shared Cara Dingus Brook, president and CEO of the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio. "With the partnership and support of the USDA as well as of many local and corporate partners, we have been helping our communities grow home by growing the philanthropic resources needed for community development."

In partnership with the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio, the Community Foundation for Perry County was established at FAO to improve the quality of life and to serve the charitable needs of Perry County by attracting and administering charitable funds.

Awards were given to place-based funders for completed or ongoing initiatives that are executed in partnership with a local, regional, or federal government agency. This year's awards were made during the centennial celebration of the community foundation field, marking 100 years of community foundations making a difference.

#### **About HUD**

*HUD's mission is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all. HUD is working to strengthen the housing market to bolster the economy and protect consumers; meet the need for quality affordable rental homes; utilize housing as a platform for improving quality of life; build inclusive and sustainable communities free from discrimination; and transform the way HUD does business. More information about HUD and its programs is available at [www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov) and [espanol.hud.gov](http://espanol.hud.gov). You can also follow HUD on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, or sign up for news alerts on HUD's Email List.*

#### **About USDA**

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#### **About the Council on Foundations**

An active philanthropic network, the Council on Foundation ([www.cof.org](http://www.cof.org)), founded in 1949, is a nonprofit leadership association of grantmaking foundations and corporations. It provides the opportunity, leadership, and tools needed by philanthropic organizations to expand, enhance and sustain their ability to advance the common good. With members from all foundation types and sizes, the Council empowers professionals in philanthropy to meet today's toughest challenges and advances a culture of charitable giving in the U.S. and globally.

#### **About the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio**

The Foundation for Appalachian Ohio (FAO) is a regional community foundation serving the 32 counties of Appalachian Ohio. A 501(c)(3) public charity, the Foundation creates opportunities for Appalachian Ohio's citizens and communities by inspiring and supporting philanthropy. For more information about FAO, visit [www.AppalachianOhio.org](http://www.AppalachianOhio.org).

#### **About the Community Foundation for Perry County**

In 2012, past and present Perry County residents created the Community Foundation for Perry County (CFPC) Fund at the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio. The CFPC was created to provide grants to advance charitable projects of benefit to Perry County residents. It also establishes a collective resource for all those looking to support Perry County's current and future opportunities through charitable giving. More information can be found at [www.cfpcohio.org](http://www.cfpcohio.org).

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