



Reflect & Refocus

Greater Ohio Policy Center's FY2024-25 Main Operating Budget Recommendations

Resilient Communities are able to withstand and recover quickly from difficult conditions. Ohio has hundreds of cities, villages, counties and townships that have weathered economic recessions, natural disasters, and other major challenges, emerging changed, but formidable.

GOPC's 2023-24 public policy agenda, **Reflect & Refocus: Furthering Resilient Communities** calls for state policy changes that will strengthen communities' resiliency through revitalization and sustainable development. These goals are reflected in our recommendations for the biennial budget for fiscal years 2024 and 2025. Investing in programs that will help our cities, villages and townships redevelop and modernize are key to furthering resilient communities throughout Ohio.

FY2024-25 Main Operating Budget Recommendations



Continue to Support the Brownfield Remediation Fund with At Least \$350 Million in Program Resources

- The FY22-23 main operating budget provided a one-time investment of \$350 million for the new Brownfield Remediation Fund (BRF). This oversubscribed program will see more than 300 environmentally contaminated sites in 83 counties cleaned-up or assessed for contamination.
- The success of this important program is only just beginning to be fully realized. 125 of the projects which received funding are for assessments, and will require additional funding to mitigate, clean-up, and revitalize the sites.
- Sites that are being cleaned-up with grants from the BRF will be redeveloped into mixed-use facilities, remediated for new manufacturing, transformed into affordable and market rate housing, and repurposed for recreational use.
- GOPC recommends a full commitment of GRF funding of at least \$350 million for the biennium (preferably with allocations in each fiscal year) to ensure that additional funding is available to address sites currently being assessed, with further funds available for future sites.



Pilot a Program to Help Local Communities Modernize their Zoning Codes

- Many communities in Ohio are operating under zoning codes that have not evolved with changing market preferences. A pilot program, run by the state, would help select communities produce modern zoning codes that reduce the time and paperwork needed to build the buildings the market wants and residents desire.
- Such a program would support a wide array of new development, including 2-4 unit homes in single family neighborhoods, mixed-use buildings in neighborhood commercial districts, and other improvements that help unify the feel of a neighborhood or district.
- GOPC recommends a pilot program with anywhere from \$5-\$10M in funding for the biennium to pilot a program and assess the long-term feasibility of the project for future use.