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## P3 receives \$10K AEP Ohio Grant for economic development

- By Steven Collins Senior Reporter

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CIRCLEVILLE— Pickaway Progress Partnership (P3), the local economic development entity for Pickaway County, has received a \$10,000 grant for economic development from AEP Ohio.

The funding comes through AEP Ohio's Local Economic Assistance Program (LEAP), which focuses on providing funding to help local communities with retention and expansion of manufacturing jobs.

“AEP Ohio is proud to partner with our communities through our ongoing LEAP grants,” said Tim Wells, manager of economic and business development for AEP Ohio. “Our goal is to help the communities we serve thrive.”

Ryan Scribner, executive director with P3, said the funds will be used to create a comprehensive economic development strategic plan.

“Since 2011, P3 has had a significant impact on our community's economy,” Scribner said. “We have assisted in bringing almost 1,700 jobs and over \$1 billion in private capital investment to Pickaway County. We have also received over \$49 million in grant funding for business

retention, expansion and attraction projects. Our success hasn't been by accident. When P3 was created a decade ago, we had a plan and followed it. It's time to look further into the future and make sure that our actions are taking us in the direction that fits our community."

Scribner said the plan they'll create is similar to the Economic Revitalization Plan the city of Circleville put together for the America's Best Communities Competition.

"P3 has been around for a little over 10 years and it's been 10 years since we've done our own plan for the county," he said. "A lot has happened in the last 10 years; a lot of good things, as well as some challenges. We're passed due to stop for a moment, catch our breath as an organization and a community, and take stock of what's been happening and what we've been working on, and most importantly recapture what we want to do for the next 10 years."

Scribner said the money will be used to help fund a consultant to take a look at the plan, and consider input and direction from stakeholders.

"We're enlisting the support of an outside consultant, and that costs money," he said. "That's not something we account for in the annual budget. The funding will go towards that. We're very grateful for the ten grand and for AEP Ohio's support."

P3 was one of 21 economic development organizations to receive a LEAP grant in 2017.

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