



Contact: Bernice Cage
Tel.: 614-233-4157
Cell Phone: 614-626-1117
Email: bcage@morpc.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MORPC Announces Free Home Repair Funds Available for City of Pataskala Homeowners

(Columbus – January 21, 2014) The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) along with the city of Pataskala announces the availability of free home repair funds through the Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP). With funding provided by the Ohio Development Services Agency, the city of Pataskala has grant funds available to assist its residents with home repairs. They are available on a first-come, first-served basis. These funds may be used to repair or replace a roof, update plumbing or electrical systems, or repair or replace furnaces. Homeowners may receive grants that average \$6,400 to make these needed but expensive repairs.

Help is also available for major home rehabilitation; this includes replacement of roofs, siding and windows, upgrades to heating systems, weatherization improvements, and removing lead paint hazards. Homeowners receive a loan up to \$30,000 that requires no repayment as long as the homeowner remains in the house for ten years.

The program replaced Julia Johnson's roof last fall. According to Johnson, the roof leaked where slate tiles had started to crumble. The leaks caused damage to two of her upper level rooms. Johnson and her husband had always been able to keep up with the repairs on their home by taking on a major item each year. After her husband passed away, she didn't know how she was going to pay for the roof repairs. Then she heard about the city's CHIP program. "I am no longer insecure when our Ohio weather hits. And the inside repairs are so neat and clean. I so appreciate all the work you did. The contractors were fantastic," stated Johnson.

In order to receive home repair or rehabilitation help, homes must be valued at less than \$160,000 and be located within the city limits of Pataskala. Certain income requirements apply as well. Please call Anne Arnott at (614) 233-4184 or toll free at (800) 886-6772 for more information on the program.

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MORPC is a voluntary association of 43 local governments in central Ohio serving the region through planning, direct service, public policy information and innovative programming and intergovernmental coordinating services in the areas of transportation, land use, energy conservation, the environment and housing.

Working to Build a Better Region

**111 Liberty Street, Suite 100
Columbus, Ohio 43215-5222
Phone (614) 228-2663 Fax (614) 621-2401
www.morpc.org**