

Driving Economic Growth in Central Ohio

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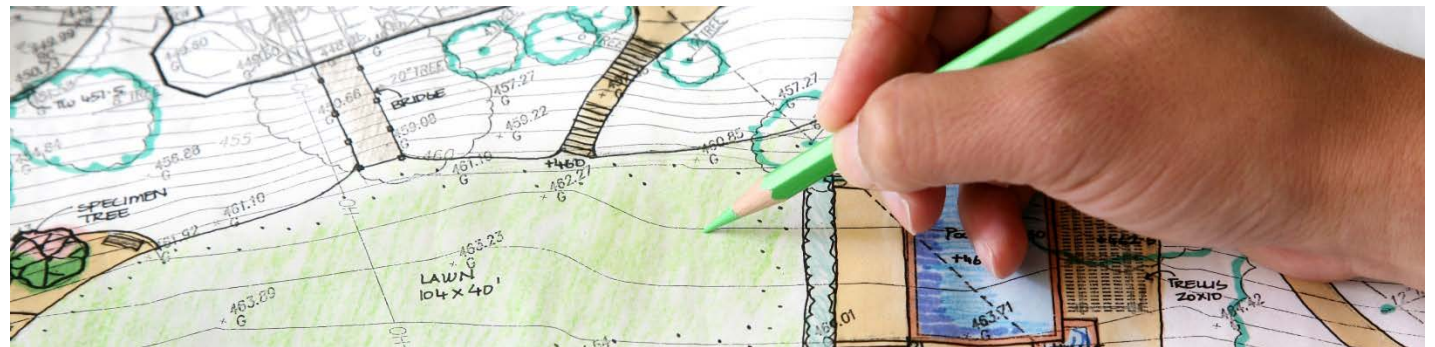


Data

- 65+ one-on-one meetings
- Counties, Cities, Villages, Port Authorities, Universities and more
- Peer benchmarking
- Two US EDA events

Member & Community Insights

- **Housing** emerged as a critical issue for all 11 counties.
- **Infrastructure Development** – site readiness – is a major regional priority.
- With significant ongoing projects and proposed growth, **Workforce Development** is a vital input for economic success.
- Smaller, rural communities **lack economic development and community-based planning** resources.



Purpose: Enabling and empowering communities of Central Ohio acquire resources to drive investments and achieve economic prosperity.

Roles

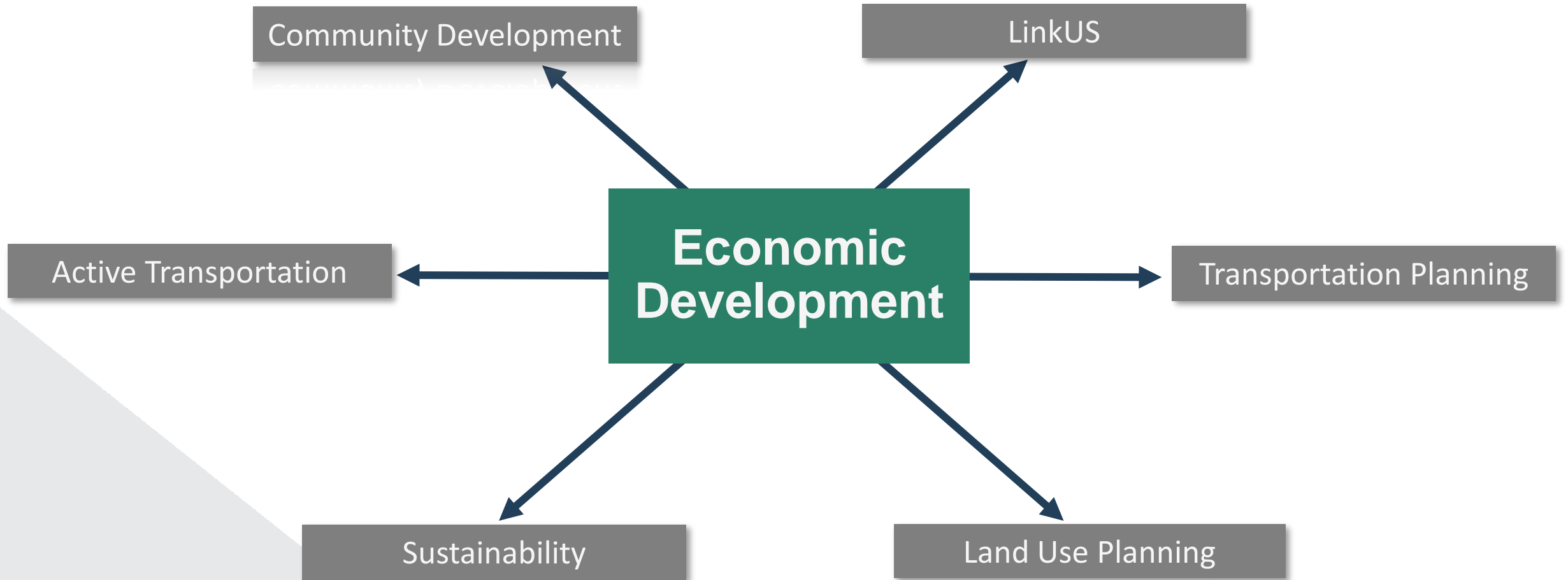
- ☐ Convenor and Capacity Builder
- ☐ Implementor
- ☐ Partner
- ☐ Advocate



Strategic Areas of Focus

- ☐ Economic Development District and Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
- ☐ Infrastructure
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Workforce
- ☐ Tech-based Economic Development

Collaboration and Synergy



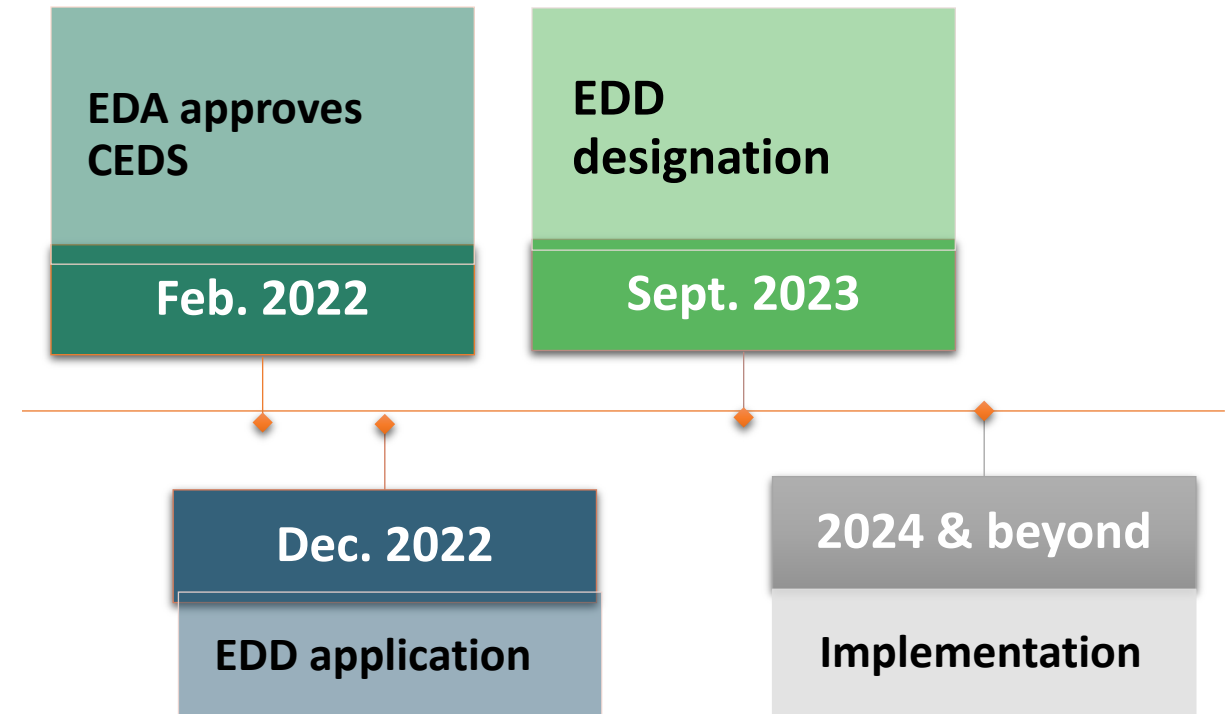
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Economic Development District



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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT TIMELINE





EDDs in action



**ADVANCE
REGIONAL
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**
TO IMPROVE
QUALITY OF LIFE
FOR RESIDENTS.



**ALIGN PUBLIC,
GOVT. AND
PRIVATE
INVESTMENTS**
TO ADVANCE
THE CEDS AND
ACHIEVE BETTER
OUTCOMES.



**IDENTIFY NEW
FUNDING
RESOURCES AND
TOOLS** TO CLOSE
GAPS AND FUND
NEW GROWTH
OPPORTUNITIES.



**PROMOTE
REGIONAL
COMPETITIVENESS
AND INNOVATION.**



**RECOMMEND
STRATEGIES
FOR RECOVERY
AND
RESILIENCE
PLANNING.**



**OFFER
TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE,
RESEARCH AND
DATA ANALYSES.**

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy



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CEDS Priority Areas

Build on Economic Development success

- ☐ Business retention and expansion
- ☐ Prepare communities for the future
- ☐ Regional alignment

Increase labor force participation

- ☐ Housing affordability and access
- ☐ Broadband access
- ☐ Mobility, Transit-Oriented Development
- ☐ Workforce re-entry programs

Increased & aligned infrastructure development

- ☐ Coordination on infrastructure projects
- ☐ Increase regional infrastructure investment



Courtesy of Intel

Freight Industry Coordination



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Freight Industry Coordination

Freight Coordination:

- Bridges transportation and economic development planning
- Improves and advocates for infrastructure assets that supports freight movement (airports, intermodal facilities, ports, railways, etc.)
- Maintains and strengthens central Ohio's competitive advantage in logistics and distribution
- Integrates freight considerations into other long-range planning initiatives

Notable Initiatives:

- 2018 Rickenbacker Area Study
- EDA Planning Grant application to develop a Regional Freight Plan
- Rickenbacker Area Stakeholder Group



Brownfields Redevelopment



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Brownfields Redevelopment

WHY?

- Improves public health and environment
- Makes the site more attractive to investment
- Increases property values
- Catalyst for broader community revitalization
- Puts underutilized or vacant land back into productive use

MORPC's role:

- Previously, US EPA Coalition Assessment grant
- Inventory of brownfield sites
- Tools and resources to remediate sites
- FY 2025 application to US EPA Community Wide Assessment grant



Competitive Advantage Projects - Program Relaunch



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PROGRAM RELAUNCH



Name

- Better Infrastructure. Stronger Communities.

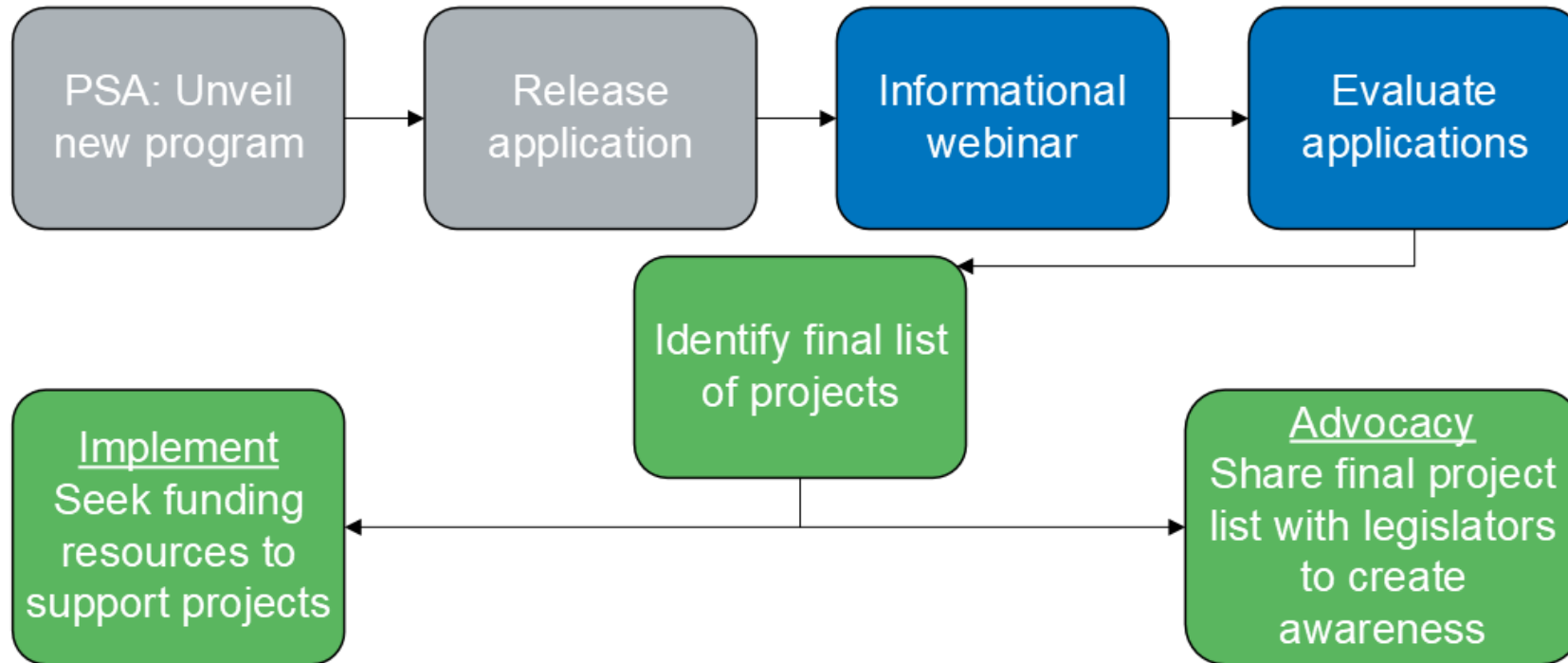
Tagline

- Identify. Implement. Advocate.

Objective

- Advance regional, transformational projects that help communities prepare for equitable economic growth

BETTER INFRASTRUCTURE. STRONGER COMMUNITIES.



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Grants Coordination



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Member-driven Grants Assistance



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**IDENTIFY
GRANT**



**DEVELOP
FACT SHEET**



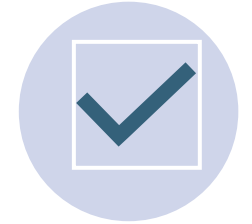
**CREATE
WORKSPACE**



**ORGANIZE
TEMPLATE**



**OBTAIN
LETTERS OF
SUPPORT**



**REVIEW AND
SUBMIT**

Grants in Action... a few examples



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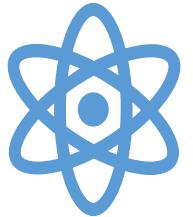
**Climate
Pollution
Reduction
Grant**



**Reconnecting
Communities and
Neighborhoods:
Neighborhood
Access and Equity**



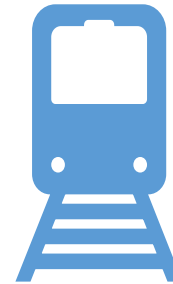
**Planning and
Technical
Assistance
Grant Program**



**Electric Vehicle
Charging
Reliability and
Accessibility
Accelerator**



**Rebuilding
American
Infrastructure
with
Sustainability
and Equity**



**Corridor
Identification
and
Development
Program**



**Safe Streets and
Roads for All**



Drive Investment Portal



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Drive Investment Portal

- Grant and loan programs from Federal, State, Local, and Private Foundations
- A MORPC member-oriented resource
- Designed to help local governments and communities save time while researching funding opportunities
- Users can contact MORPC team to request assistance & ask questions
 - Opportunity Requests
 - Partnership Requests
- Over 250 funding opportunities listed; updated weekly
- The Drive Investment Portal has been visited over 1,300 times over the past 6 months.

Scan QR Code
to view



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Products & Services

Strategic Planning	Lead the implementation, revision and updating of the CEDS
Grant Writing & Administration*	Assist communities with their grants before progressing to administration of state and federal grants
Technical Assistance	Planning and implementation assistance, identifying funding resources, providing interagency expertise, and facilitating project conversations with state and federal agencies.
Economic Development Academy*	Engage consultants and practitioners to offer in-person training workshops on a variety of economic development planning topics such as cost benefit analysis, cost and revenue projections, strategy development, land-use planning and more.
Regionwide Freight plan	Develop a regionwide freight plan to support economic development, strengthen regional cohesion around freight movement, and build a sustainable multimodal transportation infrastructure.
Brownfield Revitalization	Leverage tools and other funding opportunities to transform contaminated and underutilized properties back into productive community assets
Drive Investment Newsletter	Publish a bi-monthly newsletter to inform communities on key funding resources and economic development efforts.



Looking ahead...

- ✓ Convene CEDS Committee & EDD Board
- ❑ Develop a regionwide freight plan
- ✓ CAP “refresh”
- ✓ Brownfields grant application
- ❑ Access state & federal funding resources
- ❑ Stakeholder outreach and Building Awareness
- ❑ Nurture relationships with strategic partners
- ✓ Launch webpage - <https://www.morpc.org/programs-services/economic-development/>
- ✓ Launch Drive Investment newsletter – **visit the webpage to sign-up**



CEDS Rebranding



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Landscape Assessment themes

Job or Workforce
Training opportunities
are “somewhat
accessible”

For community readiness:
supportive zoning, updated
comprehensive plans, more
housing units, utility capacity, site
authentication

Access to education
and workforce training
are “somewhat
equitable”

Attainable housing options, infrastructure
readiness, access to job training programs,
transportation options (last mile coverage),
bike trails, daycare support are initiatives
needed to improve the region economically

Uncertainties and challenges - aging
population, affordable childcare,
infrastructure costs, housing shortage,
mixed VC landscape

Group Discussion



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Question 1



Are there specific areas where our federal designation and regional role as a convenor could add unique value to the region's collective economic development efforts?

Question 2



How do we ensure our work complements and doesn't duplicate existing initiatives?

Question 3



A common theme in the landscape assessment survey was the importance of comprehensive planning for your communities. What challenges do you face organizing those efforts?

Question 4



Many of you stressed the importance of attainable housing options and infrastructure readiness in the landscape assessment survey. How can the CEDS Committee or MORPC work toward these goals to prepare the region for the development that is coming?

Question 5



How can MORPC or the CEDS Committee support the economic development work that your organization is doing?

Other Business

- **Upcoming ED 411 event**

- December 6, 2024
- Hyatt Regency Columbus
- MORPC Panel Discussion: Economic Development Hub

- **Next Meeting: February 20, 2025**



DATA DAY
MAKING IMPACTS THROUGH TRUST AND DATA

Wednesday, February 5th, 2025 | 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Columbus State Community College Workforce Development Center
315 Cleveland Ave | Columbus, Ohio 43215

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