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**Institute for Livable and Equitable Communities  
Steering Committee Meeting**

**LOCATION:** Dayton Chamber of Commerce, 8 N. Main Street, Suite 100, Dayton, OH 45402

**DATE/TIME:** Friday, January 31, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.

**Agenda**

<u>Item</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Est. Time</u>	<u>Presenter</u>
I.	Call to Order and Introductions		9:30	Matt Joseph
II.	Approval of October 25, 2024 – Meeting Minutes	1	9:32	Matt Joseph
III.	Public Comment Period on Action Items		9:35	Matt Joseph
IV.	<b>RPC (Regional Planning Commission) Action Items</b>			
	A. <u>Resolution 25-01</u> : Authorizing the Executive Director to Participate in the SolSmart Program	3	9:40	Matt Lindsay
V.	<b>Information Items</b>			
	A. The Institute for Livable & Equitable Communities Evaluation Summary	14	9:55	Barbra Stonerock
	B. 2024 ILEC Progress Report	25	10:10	Brian Martin Fabrice Juin Arnie Biondo
	C. 2025 ISC Member Recruitment	45	10:40	Brian Martin
VI.	<b>Other Updates and Announcements</b>			
	A. <a href="#">Regional Equity Calendar</a>		10:50	Fabrice Juin
VII.	<b>Adjournment</b>		11:00	Matt Joseph

<u>Next Meetings</u>		
<a href="#">Age-Friendly Network</a>	Wednesday, February 12 at 9:30 a.m.	Via Zoom
<a href="#">Regional Equity Initiative</a>	Tuesday, February 25 at 11:00 a.m.	Location TBD
<a href="#">Institute Steering Committee</a>	Friday, April 25 at 9:30 a.m.	Location TBD

**MIAMI VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
INSTITUTE FOR LIVABLE AND EQUITABLE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES**

**University of Dayton Fitz Center for Leadership in Community  
1401 S. Main St., Dayton, OH 45409**

**October 25, 2024  
9:30 AM**

**Voting Members/ Alternates**

Nancy Byrge, City of Huber Heights  
Judy Dodge, Montgomery County  
Rap Hankins, Drive Electric Dayton  
Brian Housh, Village of Yellow Springs  
Matt Joseph, City of Dayton  
Tom Kelley, United Way of Greater Dayton  
MaryLynn Lodor, Miami Conservancy District  
Kristen Marks, Centerville-Washington Park District  
Nikol Miller, Miami Valley Urban League  
Carrie Scarff, Five Rivers MetroParks  
Deborah Wallace, Beavercreek Township

**Guests**

Casey Reichert, Choice One  
Alex Zaharieff, Beavercreek Township

**Staff**

Elizabeth Baxter  
Savannah Diamond  
Fabrice Juin  
Brian Martin

The Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission's Institute Steering Committee met on Friday, October 25, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. at the University of Dayton Fitz Center for Leadership in Community, 1401 S. Main St., Dayton, OH 45409. All members and news media were notified of the meeting pursuant to the Sunshine Law.

**I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Chairperson Joseph called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Self-introductions were made.

**II. APPROVAL OF JULY 26, 2024 MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Hankins made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 26, 2024 Institute Steering Committee meeting. Mr. Housh seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ACTION ITEMS**

None.

**IV. RPC (REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION) ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Resolution 24-023: Approving the 2024 Age-Friendly Responsive Grants**

Mr. Martin announced that the City of Beavercreek and Beavercreek Township, both member organizations of MVRPC, have applied for an Age-Friendly Community Responsive Grant from the Del Mar Health-Dayton Fund at The Dayton Foundation. He highlighted their joint application to expand age-friendly initiatives across Greene County. The Township's portion of the assessment is estimated at \$20,000, based on population size and previous studies. Together, the City of Beavercreek and Beavercreek Township, which share a Senior Center, aim to conduct a comprehensive community needs assessment to secure an age-friendly designation for the entire area. This partnership will allow for resource sharing and joint development of strategies to meet the needs of the aging population.

Mr. Martin recommended forwarding the 2024 Age-Friendly Community Responsive Grant applications to the MVRPC Board of Directors for approval. Ms. Wallace made a motion to forward the applications to the Board of Directors. Ms. Byrge seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**V. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**A. Regional Resiliency Toolkit & Guidebook**

Ms. Baxter, MVRPC’s Resiliency Planning Program Manager, introduced the development of a Regional Resiliency Guidebook and Interactive Toolkit aimed at making resiliency planning accessible and actionable for regional jurisdictions. The guidebook includes an overview of regional resilience goals, visuals of hazards and indicators, and user instructions, while the toolkit offers actionable steps, recovery frameworks, self-assessment tools, and guidance on funding and asset management. Ms. Baxter reviewed key goals which included raising public awareness, building partnerships, enhancing resilience, and protecting community assets. The project’s timeline began in mid-2024 with user group feedback collected during workshops and will culminate in finalized tools by late 2024, to be shared in early 2025. The initiative incorporates input from diverse professional groups, existing regional plans, and best practices to support informed recovery and resilience planning. Feedback from stakeholders, including ISC, RTPD, TAC, and Board members, will inform the final version of these resources. Lastly, Ms. Baxter opened the floor for questions and discussed how the jurisdictional boundaries were identified and utilizing open data sources.

**VI. INSTITUTE FOR LIVABLE AND EQUITABLE COMMUNITIES DOMAIN UPDATES**

Staff provided this quarter’s ILEC domain updates:

1. Engagement
  - a. Dayton Democracy Summit (Kettering Foundation Dayton Democracy Fellows)
  - b. Sponsorships: NCCJ Friendship Celebration, NAACP Hall of Freedom Awards
  - c. REI events and programs: [Regional Equity Calendar](#)
2. Health & Environment
  - a. EPA EJ Collaborative Problem Solving Grant Cooperative Agreement
  - b. EPA Community Change Grant Program
3. Housing
  - a. Access to Counsel Pilot Project
4. Technology & Connectivity
  - a. Connecting Southwest Ohio Coalition
  - b. Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program with United Way of the Greater Dayton Area

**VII. OTHER UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Juin provided information on the Native American Heritage month.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairperson Joseph adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.



Regional Planning Commission

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## MEMORANDUM

January 22, 2025

From: MVRPC Staff  
To: Institute Steering Committee  
Subject: MVRPC Participation in the SolSmart Program

The Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission seeks to join 19 municipalities and 2 other regional councils in Ohio that have received designation under the Department of Energy's SolSmart program. The attached letter represents the first required step for MVRPC to achieve a bronze designation under this program

SolSmart provides free technical assistance to cities, counties, villages and regional organizations that are committed to improving the market conditions for small scale solar installations in their communities. An important goal of the program is to reduce solar "soft costs," the non-hardware costs that include permitting, financing, and installing solar. These costs make up about two-thirds of the cost of a solar installation. Actions that local governments take can significantly reduce soft costs and encourage nationwide solar energy growth. Through our participation, MVRPC can connect our members with national best practices designed to encourage solar energy use at the local level.

A key goal for MVRPC's participation will be to develop solar equity goals and track progress toward solar adoption in underserved communities. We plan to leverage our partnerships through the Institute for Livable and Equitable Communities to envision equity goals and efforts to reach those goals. Our other important goal will be increasing the number of local governments in the Miami Valley that have achieved SolSmart designation. As of January 2025, our region has one designee: The city of Springboro has earned a Bronze designation. MVRPC will explore opportunities to partner with Springboro to share lessons learned in achieving this designation with our members throughout the Region.

This commitment letter is the first of three pre-requisites for SolSmart designation. Staff will be working to add a solar landing page on the MVRPC web site and to host a regional training for member staff as a part of this year's Climate Planning Seminar. Following those milestones, staff will work to meet the remaining criteria for Bronze designation by the end of 2025.



# Regional Environment & Economic Development

## SolSmart Program Overview

- What is SolSmart?
- Why SolSmart for MVRPC?
- Resolution



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# What is the SolSmart Program?

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- **National voluntary program that helps cities, towns, counties, and regional organizations become solar energy leaders.**
- Funded by the US Dept. of Energy – Solar Energy Technologies Office
- Managed by Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA)



# What is the SolSmart Program?

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- SolSmart offers...
  - **No-cost technical assistance** to help local governments follow national best practices to expand solar energy use in their jurisdictions
  - Recognition of these communities with SolSmart designations of Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze





National-level expertise in

- Planning
- Operational Support
- Community Engagement
- Market Development



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## Why SolSmart for MVRPC?

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- **Regional Resource** for our members to improve solar permitting and inspection processes.
- **Increase Regional Participation:** currently just one designated community in the Miami Valley – City of Springboro
- **Aligns with Climate and Resilience work:** reducing climate pollution; increasing energy resilience.



- Authorizes sending a Solar Statement – commitment to participate in SolSmart.
- First of three required steps to receive designation for a Regional Organization.





# Questions and Comments

**Matt Lindsay**

Manager, Environmental Planning

[mlindsay@mvrpc.org](mailto:mlindsay@mvrpc.org)

937.531.6548



# MIAMI VALLEY

Regional Planning Commission

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February 7, 2025

Debra Perry  
International City/County Management  
Association  
777 North Capitol St. NE, Ste. 500  
Washington, DC 20002

Brandy O'Quinn  
Interstate Renewable Energy Council  
125 Wolf Road, Suite 100  
Albany, NY 12205

Dear Debra Perry and Brandy O'Quinn:

On behalf of the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission, I am proud to announce our commitment to become a SolSmart-designated regional council. In partnership with the SolSmart team, our dedicated staff will work to educate and encourage member jurisdictions about the SolSmart program and the many benefits it brings to residents and businesses. By increasing local participation, we hope to improve solar market conditions; making it faster, easier, and more affordable for residents and businesses to install solar energy systems. These efforts will also increase the efficiency of local processes related to solar development, which could save local governments' time and money. We will leverage SolSmart to achieve the following goals:

- Develop solar equity goals and track progress.
- Increase the number of local jurisdictions participating in SolSmart.

These goals demonstrate that our region is committed to making continual improvement in our solar market. This includes ensuring solar development is inclusive and equitable. We're looking forward to learning more from the SolSmart program, expanding access to solar for all residents and supporting solar energy adoption for those that are under resourced or underserved.

The SolSmart program will build on our climate and resiliency efforts, such as the ongoing Climate Pollution Reduction Planning work and our innovative Regional Resiliency Toolkit.

To measure progress, we will track member jurisdictions participation in SolSmart and assist members in aggregating key metrics related to solar energy deployment at a regional level, such as installed solar and growth in residential installations.

We understand the SolSmart program has criteria and point requirements, which are outlined in the SolSmart Program Guide and needed to achieve each tier of designation. We're excited to submit this solar statement to complete the first requirement of the program.

Inquiries related to our SolSmart participation can be directed to Leslie King at [lking@mvrpc.org](mailto:lking@mvrpc.org).

Sincerely,

Brian O. Martin, AICP  
Executive Director



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## RESOLUTION 25-01 AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SOLSMART PROGRAM

**WHEREAS**, the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC) is leading a Regional coalition to develop the Region’s first Comprehensive Climate Action Plan for the purpose of reducing climate pollution emissions; and

**WHEREAS**, the largest single sector of climate pollution emissions in the Region are from production of electricity and increased renewable electricity production can reduce those emissions; and

**WHEREAS**, MVRPC has also developed the Region’s Community Resilience Toolkit for the purpose of assisting local governments to improve resilience to future natural hazards; and

**WHEREAS**, the SolSmart program provides best practices and technical assistance to local governments to improve the local/regional market for renewable solar energy; and

**WHEREAS**, the SolSmart program includes a designation path for regional organizations, like MVRPC; and

**WHEREAS**, participation and designation within the SolSmart program can further goals to reduce climate pollution emissions and build community resilience in the Miami Valley.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Commission approves participation by MVRPC in the SolSmart program for regional organizations.

**BY ACTION OF THE** Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission’s Board of Directors.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Brian O. Martin, AICP**  
Executive Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Sara Lommatzsch, Chairperson**  
Board of Directors of the  
Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Rachael Vonderhaar, Third Vice-Chairperson**  
Board of Directors of the  
Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission



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# **The Institute for Livable & Equitable Communities Evaluation**

## **Executive Summary**

**November 12, 2024**

**Prepared by: David Ramey, Consultant**

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*Changing the trajectory of the future by creating consensus on vision and strategy*

251 W Central Ave. Suite 504 Springboro, Ohio 45066 P 937.252.2342 F937.252.5128

**Contents**

**I. Overview:.....3**

**II. Executive Summary & Recommendations: .....5**



## I. Overview:

The Institute for Livable and Equitable Communities is a partnership that was created between the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission and The Dayton Foundation with collaboration and support from Learn to Earn Dayton, the DMH-Dayton Fund at The Dayton Foundation, AARP/World Health Organization, and local government, business, healthcare non-profit and higher education institutions.

The Institute was derived from livable communities domains outlined by the World Health Organization/AARP with a set of 9 domains specific to the most critical challenges in the Miami Valley.

It was the Vision for the Institute to place an intentional focus on livability and equity, launching programs and transforming systems that create a community where all people can thrive.

Equity was defined as a condition of parity that is achieved by being intentional about improving life for populations that are underserved, under-resourced, and vulnerable informed by three questions: Are there deficits? Who experiences the burden of these deficits? How do we make sure well-intentioned interventions do not make these deficits worse?

The Institute was initially created on February 21, 2020. In 2024 The Dayton Foundation retained Strategic Leadership Associates to conduct an evaluation of the Institute through a series of focus groups of its Institute partners and through a review of its critical accomplishments.

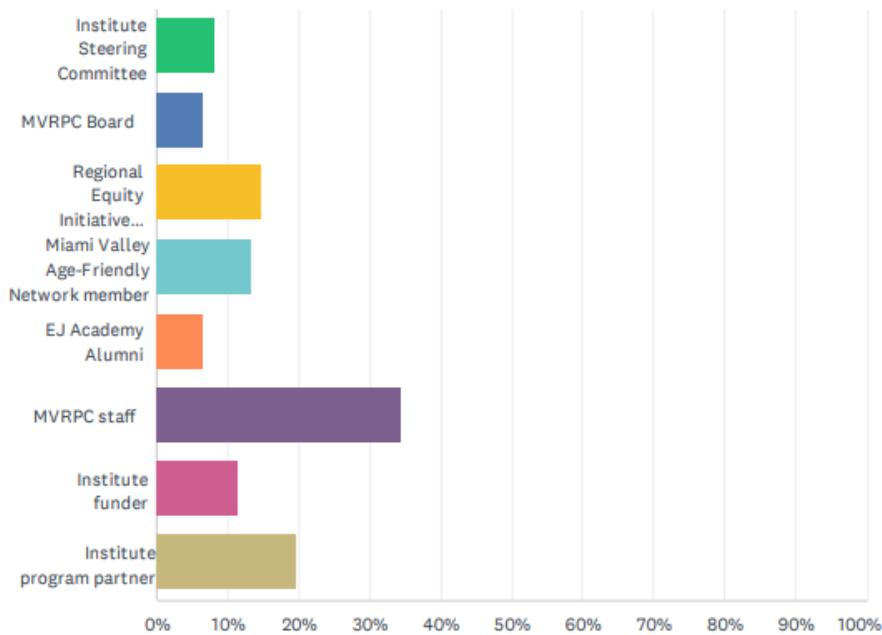
The table below outlines the dates and times and participations of the focus groups convened by Strategic Leadership Associates to evaluate the ILEC.

<b>ILEC Focus Group</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Miami Valley Age-Friendly Network	7/25/2024	7
Program Partners (includes EJ Academy)	7/25/2024	14
Institute Steering Committee & MVRPC Board	7/29/2024	5
Regional Equity Initiative subcommittee	7/29/2024	10
MVRPC Staff	8/1/2024	20
Institute Funders	*Individual Interviews	5*
<b>Total</b>		<b>61</b>

In addition, the following table outlines the affiliations of the participants in the focus group sessions convened by Strategic Leadership Associates between July 2024 and September 2024.

**Please indicate your affiliation with the Institute for Livable and Equitable Communities. Circle all that apply.**

Answered: 61 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Institute Steering Committee	8.20%	5
MVRPC Board	6.56%	4
Regional Equity Initiative subcommittee	14.75%	9
Miami Valley Age-Friendly Network member	13.11%	8
EJ Academy Alumni	6.56%	4
MVRPC staff	34.43%	21
Institute funder	11.48%	7
Institute program partner	19.67%	12
Total Respondents: 61		

## II. Executive Summary & Recommendations:

### Vision & Mission Effectiveness (Q2 & Q3)

**Question 2:** Stakeholders assessed the Institute’s effectiveness in promoting its vision of creating a livable and equitable community where everyone can thrive. Positive feedback included the Institute’s broad focus across multiple areas, strong staff engagement, and the successful establishment of an age-friendly network. However, concerns surfaced about the Institute’s visibility beyond organizational partners and the need for clear community-level impacts. Some stakeholders called for better-defined metrics to measure progress and identify which groups would benefit most. The Institute’s work in advocacy and system change was valued, though there were requests for further engagement and power-building within community networks.

**Question 3:** Responses on the Institute’s mission of coordinating partnerships across nine domains to improve community livability and equity indicated strong engagement with critical partners but highlighted potential challenges in scope. While there was appreciation for the Institute’s coordination with partners, elected officials and broader community members seemed less connected. Stakeholders also noted difficulties in transferring and applying the Institute’s high-level goals locally. Suggestions included emphasizing engagement within each domain and improving outreach to foster a sense of relevance in community planning.

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### Equity Focus (Q4)

**Question 4:** Feedback on the Institute’s equity efforts showed mixed results. Respondents commended the Institute for raising awareness and focusing on broadband and digital equity but noted the initial emphasis on racial equity had diminished. The Age-Friendly initiative was seen as a safe entry point to these broader equity discussions. Concerns included insufficient concrete actions on racial justice and inconsistency in meeting schedules, with some respondents describing discussions as high-level and lacking “homework” for practical follow-through. Suggestions included a more direct focus on racial equity and greater involvement from communities outside of major urban centers.

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### Age-Friendly Strategies (Q5)

**Question 5:** The Institute received positive feedback for its age-friendly initiatives, particularly around consistent community partner engagement and the support of The Dayton Foundation. Stakeholders praised efforts like the Fellows program, which provided valuable engagement and leadership training. Several community members pointed to AARP’s national resources as a model for expanding the Institute’s reach,

suggesting that the Institute could benefit from replicating successful age-friendly frameworks and connecting communities with national resources. While stakeholders acknowledged the initiative's effectiveness in creating a foundation, some expressed uncertainty about how strategies would translate into long-term benefits for older adults in the region.

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### **Education Domain (Q6 & Q7)**

**Question 6:** Stakeholders were asked to rate the Institute's impact on the education domain, which includes lifelong learning and workforce development. Many respondents recognized the importance of education but noted that other pressing needs, like housing and health, may supersede educational initiatives in certain communities. The Environmental Justice Academy (EJ Academy) was highlighted as a positive example of impactful community education, although the broader education domain was seen as lacking focus.

**Question 7:** In discussing these responses, stakeholders expressed interest in seeing more structured efforts in education, particularly around lifelong learning, with clearer connections to workforce development. Suggestions included building more partnerships with organizations focused on workforce development, such as Learn to Earn Dayton, and creating opportunities to address educational barriers across different communities.

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### **Entrepreneurship & Volunteerism (Q8 & Q9)**

**Question 8:** The Institute's role in promoting entrepreneurship and volunteerism received limited feedback, as some respondents were not aware of specific activities within this domain. The need for expanded access to entrepreneurship resources was highlighted, especially through partnerships with local nonprofits, libraries, and other institutions.

**Question 9:** In response to follow-up questions, stakeholders mentioned the challenges faced by different communities in terms of barriers to employment and volunteerism, with suggestions to collaborate more closely with partners in volunteer-driven sectors, such as Sinclair Community College, parks, and other community organizations. There was also feedback about the importance of creating accessible pathways to entrepreneurship for underrepresented groups.

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## **Community Engagement (Q10 & Q11)**

**Question 10:** The Institute’s engagement efforts received generally positive remarks, with respondents appreciating the opportunities for dialogue on topics such as climate and equity. The MVRPC staff was praised for its efforts in attending community meetings and engaging diverse groups. However, stakeholders noted challenges in scaling these efforts effectively and maintaining momentum across all communities.

**Question 11:** Further discussion emphasized the need for broader promotion of engagement opportunities and better models for community-driven action within the nine domains. Some participants suggested the Institute could enhance its role as an educator, providing resources and models to support local community engagement and participation. Challenges remain in achieving true “authentic engagement,” with a few respondents questioning whether the Institute’s methods resonate deeply enough with grassroots communities.

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## **Health & Environment (Q12 & Q13)**

**Question 12:** The Institute’s focus on health and environment, particularly through the Environmental Justice Academy (EJA) and Plan4Health, was viewed favorably. The EJA was noted for its success in bringing environmental justice conversations to the forefront. Some respondents, however, felt more focus could be placed on access to health care, which remains a significant issue in many rural areas.

**Question 13:** Participants highlighted the need for ongoing collaboration with partners in health and environment, suggesting the Institute could play a stronger role in connecting communities with models that address health and environmental issues comprehensively. Some respondents suggested expanding institutional support beyond the EJA to sustain broader environmental health initiatives, with a focus on wrap-around services and community support systems.

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## **Housing (Q14 & Q15)**

**Question 14:** Housing was recognized as a critical area where the Institute could make significant contributions. Participants emphasized the need for affordable housing options and noted the Right to Counsel initiative as a positive step toward addressing housing instability. However, many stakeholders expressed that the Institute's housing efforts needed more focus and resources to address Ohio’s diverse housing needs adequately.

**Question 15:** There was consensus on the importance of affordable housing and mixed-income communities, with a suggestion for the Institute to focus on building networks and convening discussions that address housing from a systems-level perspective. Some participants highlighted the role of the Institute as a convenor rather than a direct provider, suggesting it could bring together local experts to develop actionable strategies.

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### **Vibrant Neighborhoods (Q16 & Q17)**

**Question 16:** Stakeholders discussed the Institute's role in promoting vibrant neighborhoods that meet diverse community needs, noting successes in local areas like Gem City Market and Wright-Dunbar. However, respondents expressed a desire for broader, region-wide efforts to improve neighborhood vitality.

**Question 17:** Additional comments focused on the potential for the Institute to support neighborhood revitalization by collaborating with metro areas and engaging with local planning efforts. Stakeholders noted that while some programs show promise, it is still too early to gauge the full impact of these efforts on regional vibrancy and inclusivity.

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### **Public Health (Q18 & Q19)**

**Question 18:** Public health was identified as an area where more work is needed, particularly in underserved areas. The Institute's efforts around social determinants of health and environmental justice were recognized, yet several respondents felt that justice-focused actions could be more robust.

**Question 19:** Some stakeholders called for greater involvement in health and safety initiatives, with several noting the difficulty of implementing changes given limited resources. The Institute was encouraged to explore more collaboration opportunities to enhance public health outcomes and improve community safety.

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### **Technology & Connectivity (Q20 & Q21)**

**Question 20:** The Institute was highly rated in the area of technology and connectivity, especially for its work on digital equity and broadband expansion in rural areas. Stakeholders appreciated the Institute's leadership on this issue, viewing it as an essential part of closing access gaps in underserved communities.

**Question 21:** Respondents felt that connectivity efforts were advancing but noted that long-term funding and partnerships are essential to sustaining these initiatives. Suggestions included building on recent successes by continuing to secure state and federal funding to further regional connectivity.

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## Transportation (Q22 & Q23)

**Question 22:** Transportation was highlighted as a key focus for the Institute, particularly in promoting alternatives to driving. Respondents commended MVRPC's commitment to active transportation (e.g., biking, walking) but pointed out gaps in night, weekend, and rural transit services.

**Question 23:** Some participants suggested that the Institute focus on enhancing transportation access, especially for aging populations. While MVRPC's transportation work was praised, some felt that the Institute's specific role in advancing these efforts remained unclear and suggested more coordination with rural areas.

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## Future Priorities (Q24 - Q28)

**Question 24:** Stakeholders identified affordable housing, climate action, and workforce development as priority areas for the Institute. The need to better integrate existing coalitions and networks within these domains was noted. Recommendations included "unwinding" systemic barriers and emphasizing childcare, healthcare access, and regional resilience.

**Question 25:** Participants overwhelmingly supported the Institute's role as a regional convenor, with some advocating for it to act as a "network of networks" and avoid becoming a direct service provider. Strategic partnerships were also seen as essential for capacity building.

**Question 26:** To measure the Institute's effectiveness, respondents suggested focusing on community engagement metrics, system changes, and specific impact stories that capture quality-of-life improvements.

**Question 27:** Funding strategies included expanding access to federal and state grants, developing donor programs, and leveraging partnerships for sustainable funding.

In addition to the focus group sessions, Strategic Leadership Associates reviewed a number of critical documents provided by MVRPC and its ILEC staff members. These documents were reviewed to identify key accomplishments of the Institute during the first 4 years of its operation.

The documents reviewed included the following:

- **The initial Dayton Foundation and MVRPC Memorandum of Understanding in May 24, 2022 creating the Institute**
- **An MVRPC Equity Resolution passed by the Board of Directors**
- **The ILEC Purpose and Framework**
- **The 2022 Livable and Age-Friendly Initiative Grant and Program Description**
- **The 2021/2022 Environmental Justice Academy Program Summary**
- **The 2022 ILEC Progress Report**
- **The 2022 ILEC Fund Authorization**
- **The 2023 ILEC Fund Authorization**
- **The 2024 Fund Authorization**



## **Recommendations:**

The following are the recommendations of Strategic Leadership Associates resulting from its evaluation of the Institute for Livable and Equitable Communities.

- 1. Refocus the ILEC on 2 major dimensions of Age-Friendly Communities and Equity**
- 2. Diminish emphasis of the Institute on the AARP/World Health Organization domains as they represent a breadth and scope which is often reproduced by other institutions in the community and well beyond the capacity of a single leadership organization**
- 3. Restructure the leadership model of the ILEC to include a strategic partner alliance network for each of its primary objectives including Age-Friendly Communities and Equity**
- 4. Retain the position of Director for Equity and Advocacy to oversee the work of what remains of the Institute for Livable and Equitable Communities**
- 5. Focus the Age-Friendly action plan on the fifteen participating communities in the Age-Friendly Community**
- 6. Be sure in the next iteration of the Institute each of the fifteen participating municipalities and communities create their own Age-Friendly Action Plan with a request for support from the major donor for this initiative.**
- 7. Create an Equity Action Plan as part of a wider alliance in Greater Dayton to include the Urban League of the Miami Valley, the United Way of Greater Dayton, Equity Dayton, the Hope Center for Families, and the YWCA**
- 8. Connect the Age-Friendly initiatives of the ILEC more closely with the AARP Age-Friendly Initiative to be sure that the Miami Valley is strongly connected to the national Age-Friendly efforts occurring in this key focus area.**



# Institute for Livable & Equitable Communities

Annual Progress Report

**January 31, 2025**



# Institute for Livable and Equitable Communities

## How it started

**2016** Del Mar Encore Fellows Initiative created by The Dayton Foundation placing recently retired professionals in community-oriented work.

**2016** MVRPC hired the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity at the Ohio State University to examine the historical context of equity and inequity in the Miami Valley through data, maps, and other infographics.

**2017** MVRPC created the Miami Valley Equity Initiative to promote and receive feedback on the Miami Valley Equity Regional Profile.

**2018** The Dayton Foundation convened the Equity Design Team which worked over the course of 18 months to define critical next steps for the future of equity work in the Miami Valley.

**2019** MVRPC launched the Regional Equity Initiative under the newly formed Institute for Livable and Equitable Communities.

**2020** A large advisory group comprised of leaders from the community and a wide range of agencies and organizations in the Region began to define the Mission, Vision and Core Strategies for the Regional Equity Initiative.

**2021** The MVRPC Executive Committee and Board of Directors modified its Bylaws and Constitution to create the Institute for Livable and Equitable Communities Steering Committee (ISC).



# Institute for Livable and Equitable Communities

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## **VISION:**

The Institute for Livable & Equitable Communities (ILEC) places an intentional focus on livability and equity, launching programs and transforming systems that create a community where all people can thrive.

## **MISSION:**

The Institute convenes critical partners and is the central point of coordination for a long-term, multi-faceted effort to address nine domains proven to enhance livability and equity in communities.



# Institute for Livable and Equitable Communities Leadership



The Institute Steering Committee is a 13-member leadership board comprised of representatives from MVRPC member organizations and Institute funders who align with the Institute domains. Key responsibilities of this committee include:

- Providing oversight, guidance and advisory leadership to accomplish the mission and vision for the MVRPC Institute for Livable & Equitable Communities.
- Establishing strategic direction for the Institute and determine near and long-term priorities for the ISC and all Institute Sub-Committees.
- Appointing members to serve on the established Institute Sub-Committees.
- Evaluating evidence-based solutions and create synergy for the Institute strategic priorities.
- Ensuring sustainable operations strategy and alignment of resources to accomplish the established strategic priorities.
- Advocating for funding, legislation, and policy adoption in support of Institute strategic priorities.
- Offering formal motions of support, recognition and commendation for efforts aligned with Institute strategic priorities.



## 2024 Steering Committee

	Organization	Delegate	MVRPC Member Status
1.	Beavercreek Township	Deborah Wallace	Member
2.	Centerville-Washington Park District	Kristen Marks	Member
3.	City of Dayton	Matt Joseph	Member
4.	Drive Electric Dayton	Rap Hankins	Member
5.	Five River MetroParks	Carrie Scarff	Member
6.	Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association (GDAHA)	Sarah Hackenbracht	Member
7.	City of Huber Heights	Nancy Byrge	Member
8.	Miami Conservancy District	MaryLynn Lodor	Member
9.	Miami Valley Urban League	Nikol Miller	Non-Member
10.	Montgomery County	Judy Dodge	Member
11.	The Dayton Foundation	Mike Parks	Member
12.	United Way	Tom Kelley	Non-Member
13.	Village of Yellow Springs	Brian Housh	Member



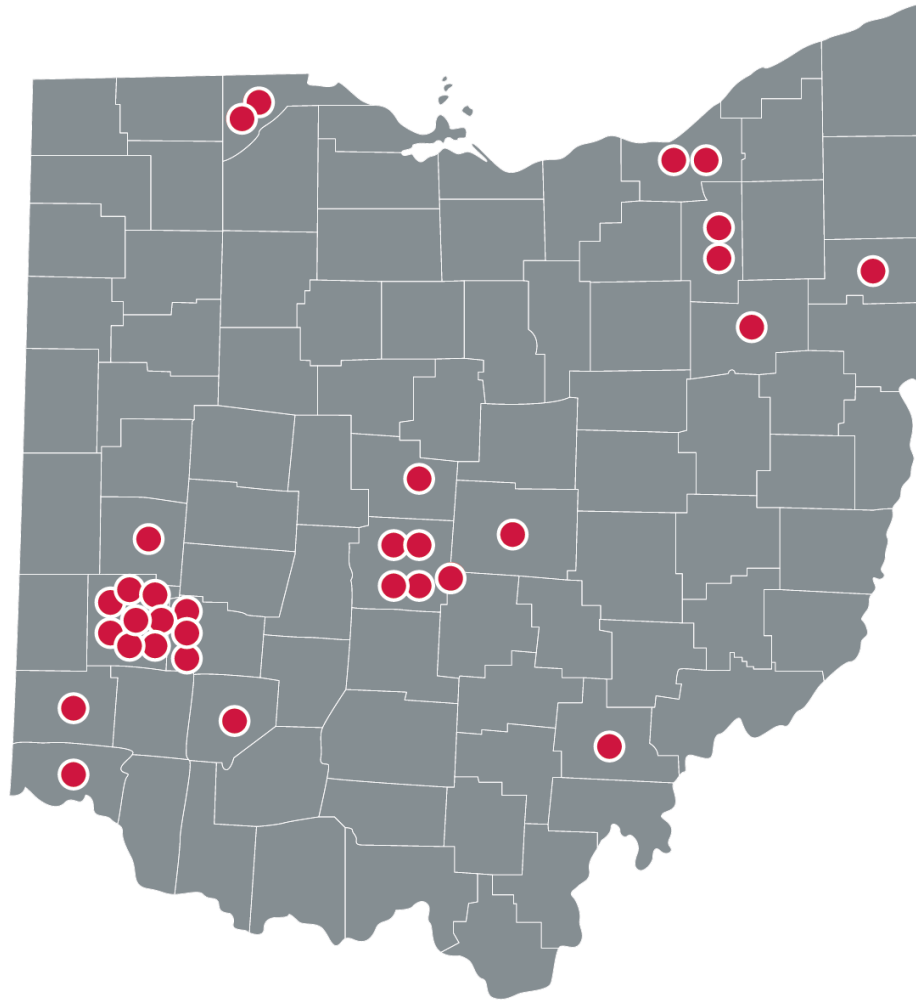
# Institute Domains

Domain	Definition
Education	A commitment to learning, beginning at an early age and continuing through all stages, is essential to developing a strong workforce and ensuring long-term economic viability.
Entrepreneurship, Employment & Volunteering	All individuals should have the opportunity to work for themselves, for others, or to volunteer their expertise, and contribute productively in a way that is meaningful and a benefit to our community.
Engagement	Authentic engagement of all individuals to shape the future of their community and a culture which embraces interactions among diverse groups, learning, mutual respect and value of the contributions of all.
Health & Environment	Access to quality, affordable health services, mental health resources and wrap-around community support systems are vital. Clean air and Clean water have a direct connection to health and quality of life.
Housing	Communities need to include affordable and desirable housing options for varying life stages, varying abilities, and varying bank accounts.
Neighborhood	Vibrant neighborhoods include residential, retail and open spaces that are well connected and meet the needs of all in the surrounding community.
Safety & Justice	Public health, safety, general welfare, and justice are fundamental needs. They are not luxuries afforded to a few. They must be protected and upheld for all individuals.
Technology & Connectivity	Expansion of access to technology, connectivity and the intentional dissemination of information through a wide variety of traditional and digital means to ensure all members of the community are informed of matters that impact them.
Transportation	Driving a car shouldn't be the only way to get around. Public transit, coordinated mobility and human service transportation systems, integrated freight and logistics systems, walkability, and bike-friendliness contribute to livable, equitable and lively communities for all.

The domains are areas of focus derived from the [Livable Communities framework outlined by the World Health Organization/AARP](#).



# Miami Valley Age-Friendly Network



- Beavercreek Township, City of Beavercreek, and Trotwood joined the network, bringing total cohorts to 15 Member Communities
  - Including Bellbrook, Brookville, Centerville, Dayton, Harrison Township, Huber Heights, Kettering, Miami County, Vandalia, Washington Township, Xenia, Yellow Springs





# Miami Valley Age-Friendly Network Grant Awards

Jurisdiction	Years in Program	Amount Awarded	Project Description
City of Beavercreek	1	\$20,000	Community Needs Survey
Beavercreek Township	1	\$20,000	Community Needs Survey
City of Bellbrook	3	\$10,000	Community Needs Survey
City of Brookville	3	\$10,000	Community Needs Survey
City of Centerville	3	\$20,000	Community Needs Survey; Public Event Accessibility/Golf Cart
City of Dayton	2	\$20,000	Community Needs Survey
Harrison Township	3	\$10,000 <i>(pending project funding)</i>	Community Needs Survey; Master Plan for Sinclair Park
City of Huber Heights	3	\$10,000 <i>(pending project funding)</i>	Community Needs Survey
City of Kettering	3	\$10,000	Community Needs Survey
Miami County	3	\$20,000	Community Needs Survey; Age-Friendly Action Plan
City of Trotwood	1	\$20,000	Community Needs Survey
City of Vandalia	2	\$10,000	Community Needs Survey
City of Xenia	3	\$10,000	Community Needs Survey
Village of Yellow Springs	+5	~\$13,000	Yellow Springs LEAF website Happy to Chat Benches/Sidewalk Updates



# Miami Valley Age-Friendly Network



- Hosted quarterly co-learning opportunities with cohort/network members, in addition to the first Miami Valley Age-Friendly Summit.
- Distributed funding and provided technical support to cohort/network members towards their advancement and progress through the AARP Age-Friendly Program Process.
- Continuing to leverage Del Mar Encore Fellowship as host organization.



## Common Elements of all Institute Work

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- Focus on Livability & Equity
- Outreach, Convening & Coordination
- Education
- Research
- Resources, Best Practices and Tools
- Policy Analysis / Policy Change
- Technical Assistance
- Regional Focus on the Miami Valley
- Secure Sustainable Funding



# Focus on Livability & Equity

- Livability is the sum of the factors that add up to a community's quality of life.
  - Asks whether basic necessities are being met for residents and community members.
- Equity is a condition of parity that is achieved by being intentional about improving of life for populations that are underserved, under-resourced, and vulnerable.
  - Considers the differences, deficits, and disparities related to fostering well-being for the most vulnerable community members.



# Outreach, Convening, & Coordination

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- Supports the agency's community outreach efforts across the region, and prioritizes outreach to the most impacted/vulnerable community members.
  - Climate Pollution Reduction Planning focus groups and listening sessions
  - Greater Region Mobility Initiative plan update
  - Public Participation Policy input
- Convenes numerous meetings engaging regional stakeholders and local residents on equity and livability matters.
  - Miami Valley Age-Friendly Cohorts/Network
  - Regional Equity Initiative Subcommittee
- Leads and co-leads the coordination of urgent/priority initiatives relevant to regional stakeholders and local jurisdictions.
  - Connecting Southwest Ohio Coalition (Affordability Workgroup)
  - Right to Counsel Sprint Team



# Education

- Multiple presentation requests fulfilled for the **University of Dayton** and **Wright State University**.
- Provided weekly digital literacy educational sessions across local libraries as hosts of an AmeriCorps American Connection Corps Member.
- Activated a tenant education program in partnership with the Dayton Tenant Union.



# Research



- Leveraged national and local data on evictions to conduct a preliminary investigation on the impact of legal aid in preventing unnecessary displacement with the Advocates for Basic Legal Equality.
- Supported **Montgomery County** in steering broadband infrastructure asset mapping and data-informed strategic planning.
- Identified local jurisdictions designated as disadvantaged and specifically vulnerable to environmental/climate challenges per EPA metrics.
- Worked with **The Dayton Foundation** to conduct an assessment and evaluation of the Institute.



# Resources, Best Practices & Tools

- Presented (alongside **City of Dayton & Montgomery County**) to the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce's Gen D Ignite cohort on their approach towards contributing to the local and regional digital inclusion movement.
- Presented at a Dayton Regional Green Sustainability Luncheon on the critical links between social equity and environmental sustainability.
- Regional Equity Calendar promotes in-person and virtual educational and informational opportunities spanning various topics and issues.





# Policy Analysis / Policy Change

- Exploring the regional relevance of and opportunity presented by the results of the Access to Counsel Pilot Program launched by Learn to Earn Dayton and in partnership with the Advocates for Basic Legal Equality.
- Maintaining an up-to-date Title VI Program Plan to inform programmatic and operational approach to fulfilling agency non-discrimination policy.



# Technical Assistance

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- Provided consultative services to the **City of Huber Heights** Culture & Diversity Citizens Action Commission efforts towards advancing a community needs assessment.
- Provided program development and grant-writing expertise to the United Way of the Greater Dayton Area on a funding opportunity focused on ensuring regional communities in **Preble, Greene, and Montgomery** Counties have access and skills to fully participate in the digital world.
- Guided resource acquisition services supporting the distribution of winter clothing to local residents through Latinos Unidos en **Dayton**.



# Regional Focus on the Miami Valley

- Prioritized a rural focus on ALL initiatives and projects involving the Institute.
  - Access to Counsel Pilot Project eviction analysis
  - Affordable Connectivity Program Outreach Grant
  - Climate Pollution Reduction Planning focus groups and listening sessions
  - EPA Collaborative Problem Solving Cooperative Agreement
  - Greater Regional Mobility Initiative plan update



# Secure Sustainable Funding

- Management of Title VI coordination; includes documentation updates, agency engagement, and HR-related collaboration.
- Enhanced resource acquisition efforts to pursue larger funding opportunities, allowing for more inclusive work and impact across all corners of the regional community.
- Continued focus on integrating livability and equity priorities across agency programs and projects.



- 2025 Age-Friendly Network Del Mar Healthcare Grant Opportunities for MVRPC Members.
- Various multi-million dollar grant pursuits awaiting decision.
- Assessment and evaluation of Institute completed by The Dayton Foundation.
- Establishing a strategic plan for Institute into 2030.



# Here's our ask:

- Come join us on the Institute for Livable and Equitable Communities Steering Committee
- 4 meetings helping to make our communities and region more livable and equitable
- 13 Members: 10 from member communities + 3 from partner agencies such as Learn to Earn Dayton, United Way, Urban League
- Watch for an email from Savannah coming in February





# MVRPC and you: Shaping Our Region's Future Together Questions?

NEWS & EVENTS | ABOUT | CONTACT | Committee Center | ENGLISH | ESPAÑOL | SEARCH

**MIAMI VALLEY**  
Regional Planning Commission

↓ TRANSPORTATION   REGIONAL ↓ PLANNING   ↓ ENVIRONMENT   DATA & ↓ MAPPING   OUR ↓ VISION   OUR ↓ MEMBERS

SHAPING OUR REGION'S FUTURE TOGETHER

LEARN MORE

MVRPC Strategic Plan

**NEWS** + VIEW ALL

2040 Long Range Transportation Plan Adopted by MVRPC Board of Directors  
Dateline: May 06, 2016  
The MVRPC Board of Directors adopted the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (2040 Plan). The 2040 Plan outlines nearly \$5 billion in transportation investments over the next 25 years. The development of the plan is a necessary step to obtain

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**MAY 2016**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

**A MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BRIAN O. MARTIN, AICP**

**Brian O. Martin, AICP**  
Executive Director  
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Suite 400  
Dayton, Ohio 45402

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[mvrpc.org](http://mvrpc.org)



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** MVRPC Board of Directors and Institute for Livable and Equitable Communities Steering Committee (ISC)

**FROM:** Brian O. Martin, AICP, Executive Director

**DATE:** January 31, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Nominations Open for 2025 Institute for Livable and Equitable Communities Steering Committee

MVRPC is accepting applications for the Institute for Livable and Equitable Communities Steering Committee (ISC), the leadership board guiding this initiative. The Institute serves as the central hub for a collaborative, long-term effort to improve livability and equity across the Miami Valley Region. Its work focuses on key domains that enhance community well-being, including Education, Entrepreneurship, Employment & Volunteering, Engagement, Health & Environment, Housing, Neighborhood, Safety & Justice, Technology & Connectivity, and Transportation.

The ISC is a 13-member leadership board comprised of representatives from MVRPC member organizations and Institute funders who align with the Institute domains. Key responsibilities of this committee include:

- Providing oversight, guidance and advisory leadership to accomplish the mission and vision for the MVRPC Institute for Livable & Equitable Communities.
- Establishing strategic direction for the Institute and determine near and long-term priorities for the ISC and all Institute Sub-Committees.
- Appointing members to serve on the established Institute Sub-Committees.
- Evaluating evidence-based solutions and create synergy for the Institute strategic priorities.
- Ensuring sustainable operations strategy and alignment of resources to accomplish the established strategic priorities.
- Advocating for funding, legislation, and policy adoption in support of Institute strategic priorities.
- Offering formal motions of support, recognition and commendation for efforts aligned with Institute strategic priorities.

The Institute is a partnership between MVRPC, The Dayton Foundation, the Del Mar Healthcare Fund of The Dayton Foundation, AARP/WHO, Learn to Earn Dayton and local business, healthcare, non-profit and higher education institutions.

**For those interested in serving on the 2025 Institute Steering Committee must submit your resume via email to Savannah Diamond at [sdiamond@mvrpc.org](mailto:sdiamond@mvrpc.org) no later than Friday, February 14, 2025.**

The nomination committee will submit their recommendations to the Board of Directors during the March meeting. This letter will also be shared with funding organizations and partners of the Institute. We appreciate your interest in serving our region.