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Regional Equity Initiative Subcommittee Meeting

LOCATION: Montgomery County Employment Opportunity Center (4303 W. Third St., Dayton, OH 45417)

DATE/TIME: Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

Agenda

<u>Item</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Pg.</u>	<u>Est. Time</u>	<u>Presenter</u>
I.	Welcome & Introductions		11:00	Rap Hankins
II.	Program Manager Updates		11:05	Fabrice Juin
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ILEC Annual Report ● ILEC Evaluation – Executive Summary ● Domain Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Dayton Daily News Community Advisory Board ■ Greater West Dayton Conversation ○ Health & Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Community Listening Sessions ■ Great Lakes Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program ○ Housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Dayton Tenant Union Tenant Education Program ○ Technology & Connectivity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ohio Digital Inclusion Grant Program 	Pg. 5 Pg. 27		
III.	FY25 Project Focus: Miami Valley Environmental Justice Partnership		11:45	Fabrice Juin
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement 			
IV.	Agency Data and Mapping & Institute Metrics		12:15	Fabrice Juin
V.	Subcommittee Chair & Member Updates/Insights		12:30	All Participants
VI.	Other Informational Items		12:50	All Participants
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Upcoming Equity Engagements 			
VII.	Action Items, Follow-Up, & Next Meeting		12:55	Fabrice Juin
VIII.	Closing Remarks		1:00	Rap Hankins

****NEXT MEETING is May 27, 2025****

All Information is available on the [MVRPC Committee Center](#)

Interpreters for hearing-impaired individuals are available upon request; requests should be made at least one week ahead.

**MIAMI VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
REGIONAL EQUITY INITIATIVE SUB-COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY**

Guests Present

Kemo A'akhutera, Mod Fab Inc.
Tania Arseculeratne, The Dayton Foundation
Allison Bair, Rivers Institute
Peter Benkendorf, The Collaboratory
Bonnie Buthker, Ohio EPA
Nancy Byrge, City of Huber Heights
Tara Campbell, Dayton United for Human Rights
Ellen Claiborne, Office of Strategic Initiatives
Gayle Covington-Fowler, EJ Alumni
Taylor Curtis, YWCA Greater Cincinnati
Rap Hankins, Chairperson
Jasmine Henderson, Good Hood Foundation
Supora Hunter, Ohio EPA
Gabriel Kelley, River Stewards
Debra Lavey, ABE
Nancy McHugh, Fitz Center for Leadership
Jeffrey Mims, Mayor of Dayton
Amy Piner, Montgomery County BCC
Zach Piso, UD Rivers Institute
Tim Pritchard, City of Dayton Office of Sustainability
Honorable Judge Walter Rice, U.S. District Courts
Martha-Jeannette Rodriguez, City of Dayton
Michael Roediger, Dayton Art Institute
Della Rucker, Good Hood Foundation
Robert Salinas, Dayton Hispanic Chamber
Paul Sime, ABLE
Emma Smales, Learn to Earn Dayton
Barbra Stonerock, The Dayton Foundation
Stephanie Van Hoose, Community Coalition for Indigenous Peoples
Christa Wheeler, EJ Alumni
Demarus White, NPOWER
Jamaica White, City of Trotwood

**November 26, 2024
11:00 a.m.**

Staff

Savannah Diamond
Fabrice Juin
Leslie King
Brian O. Martin
Megan Young

The Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission hosted the Regional Equity Initiative Sub-Committee meeting on November 26, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. at The Fitz Center and via Zoom Video Conference.

I. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Chairperson Rap Hankins called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. Self-introductions were made.

II. PROGRAM MANAGER DOMAIN UPDATES

Regarding the Engagement Domain:

Fabrice Juin reported on recent MVRPC sponsorships and partnerships:

- A team from MVRPC rode in the Tour de Gem on August 31st which was hosted by the United Way of the Greater Dayton Area and raised funds for the Institute of Livable and Equitable Communities.

- Attended the Kettering Foundation Dayton Democracy Summit on September 20th. The full recording of the Summit can be found the Kettering Foundation's website.
- MVRPC sponsored the Dayton NAACP 73rd Hall of Freedom Awards on October 25th
- MVRPC sponsored the NCCJ 47th Annual Friendship Celebration on October 29th
- MVRPC sponsored the 3rd Annual REACH Fest (REACH Indigenous Advocacy) on November 15th-17th in commemoration of Native American History Month

Regarding the Health & Environment Domain:

The EJPCS Cooperative Agreement was discussed, which funds organizations addressing environmental and public health issues. Mr. Juin noted the goal of the agreement is to foster collaboration between local businesses, government, healthcare providers, and community stakeholders to find solutions. This initiative will establish the Miami Valley Environmental Justice Partnership, offering micro-grants and grant-writing support, with ABLE leading the effort. Fabrice Juin shared that the project has been given the green light to start in January 2025. ABLE is seeking a Program Manager and a Grant Specialist for the three-year project program. Mr. Juin said that the RFPs for these positions have been made available.

Chairperson Rap Hankins asked if the funding for the EJPCS has been secured. Fabrice Juin referred to Debra Lavey to comment on the funding from ABLE. She did not have the information at that time, but said she would get the information from their new Outreach Manager. Rap Hankins stressed the importance of knowing that the project funds are secured. Mr. Juin commented that he would have more updates available after the project kick off in January.

An update on the Community Change Grants Program, which focuses on environmental and climate action in disadvantaged communities, was received. Track I is Community-Driven Investments for Change that will focus on multi-faceted applications with Climate Action Pollution Reduction Strategies to meaningfully improve environmental, climate, and resilience conditions affecting disadvantaged communities. Track II is focused on Meaningful Engagement for Equitable Governance which will facilitate the engagement of disadvantaged communities to in governmental processes to advance environmental and climate justice. The similarity between both tracks is that this program is specific to disadvantaged communities. According to the EPA's data and analysis, there are disadvantaged communities in every part of the Miami Valley Region.

Mr. Juin reported that Track I was applied for at the \$15 million level and Track II was applied for right below the \$3 million level. For a local government entity to be eligible for the grant, they had to partner with a communities based non-profit organization. Track I's CBO statutory partner is The Good Hood Foundation. Track II's CBO statutory partner is Dayton United for Human Rights.

Della Rucker from The Good Hood Foundation spoke on her role with the organization. Her job is to bring her background in urban planning, economic development, community development, and nonprofit to support what business owners need. Ms. Rucker Summarized Good Hood's role into three "buckets." One is supporting partners such as MVRPC to do necessary work for the communities who are in need. The second is to serve as a fiscal agent. The third is working on building community initiatives at the grass roots level.

Tara Campbell, Dayton United for Human Rights, shared insights on the organization's role in the community. Dayton United for Human Rights is working with the City of Dayton to declare Dayton as the first Human Rights City in Ohio. They work in the community to

educate about Human Rights and how it relates to every day lives. They have started a Human Rights Student Ambassador Cohort where the students can be engaged in their community.

Mr. Juin expressed his gratitude for these organizations' role in the Community Change Grants Program application process. He commented on the work program for Track I which focuses on capital investments and how improvements can be made across neighborhoods. The work program includes a connection with SOCHE to facilitate an internship program specific to disadvantaged community members in careers related to climate action and pollution reduction, a resident education and engagement program, a neighborhood-level community fund, and community resilience hub design and model through Mod Fab. Kemo A'akhutura shared that Mod Fab takes shipping containers to address missing needs within a community. Moving on to the work program for Track II, Mr. Juin explained that it focuses on educating community members on how to communicate and engage with their local government leaders. This includes a public participation program, a community-based environmental advisory board, and regional environmental and climate justice strategies.

Rap Hankins posed the question if funding for these programs has been secured. Mr. Juin clarified that the grant application process has been completed and that funding is dependent on whether or not the application is selected for funding. Mr. Brian Martin commented that there was debate about if the grant should be applied for because of the results of the election. It was decided that the application process would move forward because of the needs of the community. Mr. Martin also noted that the relationships and partnerships that have been created during the application process are invaluable and long-lasting. He suggested that federal funding was only one option, and that there might be other funding opportunities available if the application is not selected for federal funding.

Regarding the Housing Domain:

Mr. Juin highlighted the November 12, 2024 launch of the Access to Council pilot program which is led by Learn to Earn Dayton. This program provides legal representation (via the Advocates for Basic Legal Equality) and wrap-around services for up to 125 families in Northwest Dayton over the period of one year. Debborah provided an update on the program. Paul Sime is the attorney that is working on the pilot. They also hired a social worker who is in-house and will be working with clients. Learn to Earn has provided funding to partner with Stout to collect data throughout the pilot. An evaluation of the pilot program will be completed at the end of the one-year period.

Regarding the Technology & Connectivity Domain:

Mr. Juin shared that the state of Ohio (via BroadbandOhio) was awarded over \$23 million through the State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program to create a digital inclusion grant program, develop a statewide device ecosystem to increase access to affordable technology, and offer online digital skills training to incarcerated individuals.

Fabrice Juin also shared that through the United Way of the Greater Dayton Area, a Digital Equity Competitive Grant application was submitted for just under \$13 million. This grant would fund initiatives that ensure communities have the access and skills to fully participate in the digital world, regardless of their background or circumstances. This program will complement digital equity activities funded by the Capacity Grant Program. The workplan includes county-specific and regional digital inclusion plans, a multilingual help center, workforce development, and community outreach. Mr. Juin noted that they

are expecting a response about the grant application sometime during the early winter season.

III. FY25 PROJECT FOCUS: MIAMI VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP

Mr. Juin summarized that the Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant is going to serve as the effort that formalizes the Environmental Justice Partnership. Fabrice Juin anticipates after the kick off of this program in January, there will need to be a series of memorandums to identify what each organization is contributing to the effort. More updates will be provided in February.

IV. AGENCY DATA MAPPING & METRICS

Mr. Juin reported that this will be a topic of discussion at the February meeting. He will provide a full list of the data and metrics that the agency has available so the subcommittee can determine what additional resources they would like to see to measure equity and livability in the Miami Valley Region.

V. SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR & MEMBER UPDATES/INSIGHTS

Ms. Van Hoose presented on REACH Indigenous Advocacy's third annual REACH Fest that was held on November 15th-17th at the downtown Dayton Metro Library. REACH Fest is a Native American heritage festival featuring performers, vendors, and speakers from over ten tribal nations, sharing their heritage with Daytonians through dances, classes, art, and food.

Dayton United for Human Rights shared that the Inaugural Student Competition on December 14th at the Dayton Metro Library. It is free family event from 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM.

Mr. Juin recognized Latinos Unidos en Dayton and The Dayton Foundation for providing winter coats and clothing to new Latin Americans.

6888 Kitchen shared about their fundraiser on December 8th which is a special showing of 6888 Kitchen Incubator Produced by Tyler Perry at the Neon.

Rap Hankins shared that Drive Electric Dayton would be in the Dayton Children's Parade.

VI. ACTION ITEMS, FOLLOW-UP, & NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is to be held on Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 11:00 AM. The location of this meeting has not yet been decided.

VII. CLOSING REMARKS

Chairperson Rap Hankins adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m.



Institute for Livable & Equitable Communities

Annual Progress Report

January 31, 2025



Celebrating 60 Years | 1964-2024



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

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.



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



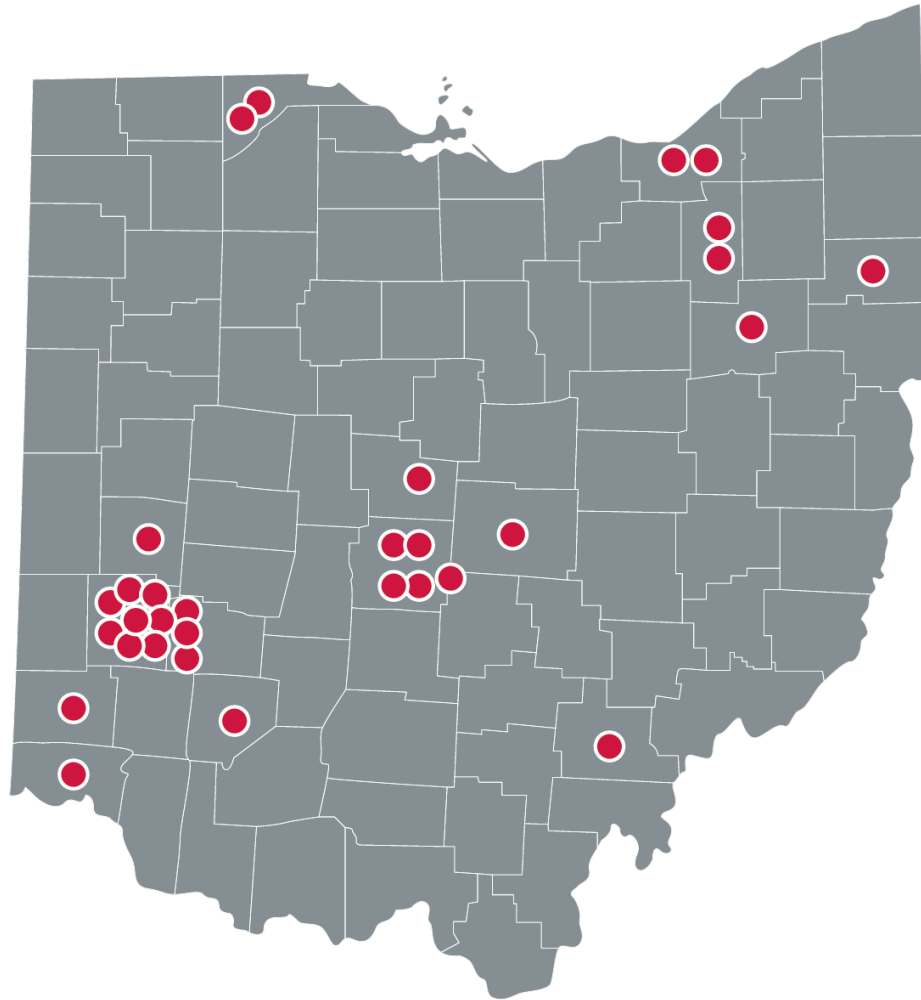
Institute Domains

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

- 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

- 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

- 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.



Looking Forward

- 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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The Institute for Livable & Equitable Communities Evaluation

Executive Summary

November 12, 2024

Prepared by: David Ramey, Consultant

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

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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.

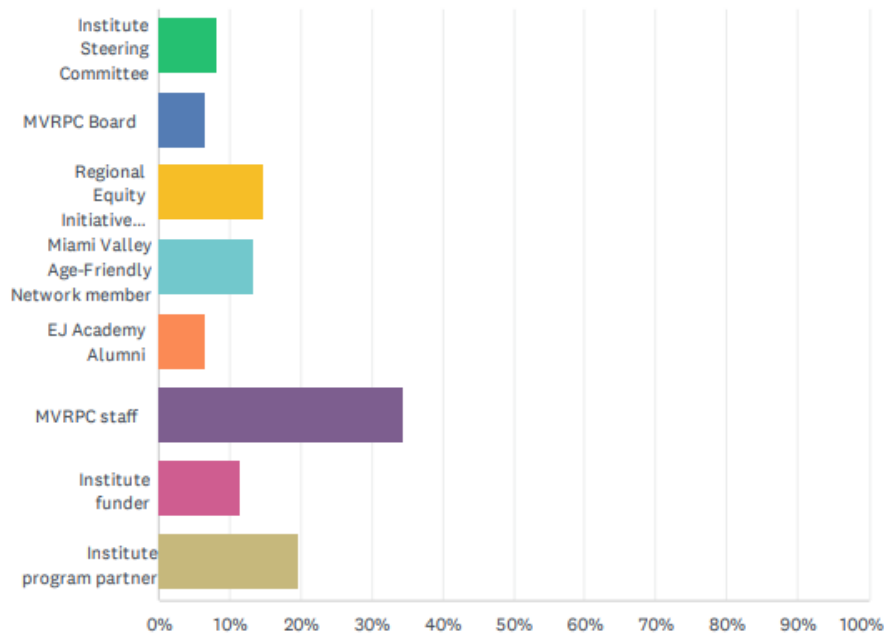
The table below outlines the dates and times and participations of the focus groups convened by Strategic Leadership Associates to evaluate the ILEC.

ILEC Focus Group	Date	Attendance
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*
Total		61

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.**