Partners in Managing Ohio’s Water Resources
For over 30 years, areawide planning agencies have partnered with the state to maintain the availability of high quality water resources in Ohio for public consumption, business and industry, recreation and tourism, and economic development.

The areawides are directed by local elected officials in our 24 counties where more than 60% of Ohio’s population resides. We make decisions about environmental and infrastructure issues that affect not only water resources but also transportation and the economy. The partnerships we have built among local governments, the state and the private sector make informed decision-making possible at all levels.

Funding Need
Our agencies are responsible for water quality planning that is key to development and re-development. By federal and state law, Ohio EPA cannot issue permits for sewers and treatment facilities that conflict with our regional plans. Our work helps to expedite both permitting and community decision-making.

Regional plans need to be constantly updated and amended, but as federal and state mandates affecting water resources have increased, federal funding passed through the state has been evaporating. In 2010 only about $77,000 in federal funds was available for each areawide agency, which falls far short of the need to update and carry out plans. Future federal funding levels will depend on Congress, and are expected to reflect the national economy.

The funding shortfall affects our ability to sustain regional services that benefit both local and state interests. We have a track record of producing plans that have both local and state support, and leveraging dollars beyond what the state provides, but a state contribution is essential.

Because our work is essential and cost-effective, areawide agencies have been urged to request state financial support by local governments, public water suppliers, businesses and industries, utilities, wastewater and conservation agencies, health departments, environmental and citizen organizations.

Funding Line Item
The six areawide agencies in Ohio providing water management and planning services collectively request $450,000 per year ($75,000 per year per agency or $900,000 total in the next biennium). Despite rising costs, we are limiting the request to the amount granted in FY 2010-11.

Local Funding Match
Each areawide is prepared to provide no less than a 30% match of local funding to state funds.
Meeting State and Region-Specific Needs
All of the areawide agencies have regional water quality management plans that are required and prepared under Section 208 of the federal Clean Water Act. We need to keep these plans current, supportive of local development goals, and integrated with the state’s “208” planning for the other 64 counties. We work with local governments to determine who provides sewer service and the areas in which it will be provided, so that duplication of effort is avoided and government dollars are used cost-effectively.

All of our agencies provide water management and planning services, but each agency tailors its work to specific regional needs, resources and geographic conditions. For example, we may work with communities to maintain clean drinking water, to meet requirements for storm water management, and to assemble watershed plans so that state water quality standards can be met and no one group—communities, businesses, or farmers—bears the entire burden of pollution reduction alone. In every case, the need for our services far outstrips our ability to respond.

More Information
To learn more about the water management and planning services of each areawide agency, please contact the following:

**Eastgate Regional Council of Governments (ERCOG) in the Youngstown-Warren area**
City Centre One, 100 East Federal Street, Suite 1000, Youngstown, Ohio 44503
**John Getchey**, (330) 779-3800, or jgetchey@eastgatecog.org

**Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC) in the Dayton area**
Fifth Third Center, 1 South Main Street, Suite 260, Dayton, Ohio 45402-1827
**Matthew Lindsay**, (937) 223-6323, or mlindsay@mvrpc.org

**Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) in the Cleveland and Lorain-Elyria area**
1299 Superior Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44114-3204
**Andy Vidra**, (216) 241-2414, or avidra@mpo.noaca.org

**Northeast Ohio Four County Regional Planning and Development Organization (NEFCO) in the Akron-Canton area**
180 East South Street, Akron, Ohio 44311
**Joe Hadley**, (330) 252-0337, or jhadley@nefcoplanning.org

**Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI) in the Greater Cincinnati area**
720 East Pete Rose Way, Suite 400, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
**Jane Wittke**, (513) 619-7693, or jwittke@oki.org

**Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) in the Toledo area**
300 Dr. Martin Luther King Drive Suite 300, P.O. Box 9508, Toledo, Ohio 43697-9508
**Kurt Erichsen, P.E.** (419) 241-9155, or kurt@tmacog.org

**NOTE:** Past state appropriations to the areawide agencies for water quality management planning have been included in the budget of Ohio EPA’s Division of Surface Water, and Ohio EPA has supported the areawides’ request as a cost-effective pass-through item in every state budget since our first request in 1997. In the FY2010-2011 Ohio EPA budget it was included as Water Quality line item #715687.