



# Statewide Impact Report

December 2025



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY



Buckeye pride was on full display throughout the 2024 College Football Playoff run, especially when Ohio Stadium hosted Tennessee on Dec. 21, generating an estimated \$12 million in local economic impact.

# The Ohio State University is for Ohioans.

**NO CHALLENGE IS TOO BIG** or too small. Putting our shared knowledge to work, we rally to address Ohioans' needs — further fueling our courage to care, to innovate and to lead.

We are proud that every Ohio high school graduate has access to one of our six campuses. We are proud that nearly 70% of Ohio State graduates stay in Ohio to build their lives and contribute to our vibrant communities.

We are proud that we are the largest employer in central Ohio, and we were named one of the best employers in Ohio by *Forbes*.

We are proud to be a land-grant, public research state university with a student body of more than 65,000 — one of the largest institutions of higher education not only in the United States, but in the world.

The university has campuses in Columbus, Lima, Mansfield, Marion, Newark and the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences Wooster campus — an important component of our statewide research enterprise. We are home to 15 colleges, as well as 200 majors and 300 master's, doctoral and professional degree programs. We cover 14,500 acres. We employ 41,000 Ohioans

full-time, including student employees. We have Extension offices that serve Ohioans in every part of the state. Ohio State students, alumni, patients, employees and facilities can be found in each of Ohio's 88 counties.

In addition to contributing more than \$19.6 billion a year in economic impact to the state of Ohio, we are one of the state's greatest economic development partners. Ohio State's most enrolled-in and top-rated programs, including nursing, social work and education, align with the most critical and in-demand jobs needed in Ohio; and a quarter of the 17,000 students who graduated from Ohio State during the 2024-25 academic year earned degrees in those fields.

Ohio State's undeniable impact reaches across Ohio. We have built, and continue to strengthen, relationships with Ohioans and Ohio communities — because they depend on us.

In 2025, the university launched the "Education for Citizenship 2035" strategic plan, emphasizing priorities such as accessibility, student success, workforce development and service to the state. We address Ohioans' needs — and move Ohio forward — by proactively and collaboratively sharing and applying knowledge in practical ways.

# Ohio State by the numbers

**71.1%**

of Ohio State's total enrollment comes from Ohio. (73% of the 2024-25 first-year class comes from Ohio.)

**78,000**

contacts made with Ohioans through workforce development programs offered by Ohio State University Extension (2024).

**19.2%**

enrollment increase at Ohio State's regional campuses and Ohio State ATI over the past two years.

**4,250**

students who graduated from Ohio State during the 2024-25 academic year (or 25%) earned degrees that directly prepare them to fill the most critical and in-demand jobs in Ohio.

**56.6%**

of Ohio State undergraduates completed their degrees without taking on student loans.

**74.1%**

of the 2025 graduating class finished within four years, more than the previous five cohorts.

**\$1.58 billion**

in research conducted that helps Ohioans live longer, healthier, happier and more productive lives.

**7.03 million**

patient visits to The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, including patients who reside in each of Ohio's 88 counties.

**\$222.7 million**

economic impact of nine home games during the 2024 football season, including the College Football Playoff game in December.

**100%**

of Ohio counties have residents participating in a clinical trial at the Ohio State Wexner Medical Center.



Health care is among the fastest-growing industries in central Ohio and one of the most in-demand jobs in the state. The new University Hospital at the Ohio State Wexner Medical Center, opening in February 2026, will create economic opportunity as well as ensure we continue to meet the rapidly growing health care needs of the communities we serve across Ohio.

## Driving the economy

**IN TERMS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT,** Ohio State is the largest employer in central Ohio. The university's most recent economic impact report, analyzing 2019 data and released in September 2022, shows Ohio State generated \$663.1 million in direct tax revenue to state and local governments. More broadly, the university's annual overall economic impact for the state of Ohio was estimated at \$19.6 billion.

Ohio State also adds gravitational pull to the region. After attending Ohio State, our graduates overwhelmingly stay in Ohio to start their

careers. Nearly 70% of our undergraduates who planned to enter the workforce stayed in the state, and more than half of Ohio State's graduate, PhD and professional students go on to call Ohio home.

However, we also address Ohioans' needs—and move Ohio forward—by proactively and collaboratively sharing and applying knowledge in practical ways. To do that, we ensure that our students are ready to fill gaps in Ohio's workplace today and are prepared to shape and lead Ohio's economic future.

### Meeting Ohio's workforce needs

Ohio State contributes to workforce development, helping foster a thriving economic future for the state of Ohio and Ohioans. Six of the top 10 most critical and in-demand jobs currently available in Ohio require a bachelor's degree; and these jobs align with Ohio State's most enrolled-in and top-rated programs, including nursing, social work and education. Business degrees and leadership skills continue to be sought-after qualities employers are looking for.

Not only is the Fisher College of Business producing graduates for in-demand jobs in accounting, human resources and management, but Ohio State's general education curriculum emphasizes communication, self-management, conflict resolution and civil discourse. A 2024 survey of 96 employers, conducted by Ohio State's Center for the Study of Student Life, found that 91% of employers rate Ohio State graduates as well- or exceptionally well-prepared for work. This survey also found that employers rate Ohio State graduates as having higher proficiency in professionalism, critical thinking, leadership and communication skills than graduates nationally, according to data from the National Association of Colleges and Employers.

Among the most critical and in-demand jobs in the state, and across the country, are health care professionals, including nurses. There are currently more than 9,000 job openings in Ohio for registered nurses, nurse practitioners and specialized-care nurses. Ohio State is proud of its efforts to help fill the gap in nursing. During the 2024 spring commencement, more than 640 soon-to-be nurses and health care professionals earned their degrees — prepared to enter the workforce.

This includes students from our top-ranked Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Master of Science in Nursing and online Doctor of Nursing Practice programs (*U.S. News & World Report*), as well as future leaders in health care innovation and clinical research. We also graduated our first class of scholars from the nation's only Doctor of Nursing Education program to help increase the pipeline of doctorally prepared educators so that nursing programs can expand their capacity and prepare more nurses for the future needs of Ohio and the nation.

Ohio State also ensures we keep animals — in farms and homes — safe and healthy. Ohio State is the only veterinary teaching hospital in a three-state area — and we are No. 3 among veterinary colleges ranked by the American Veterinary Medical Association Council on Education.

In February 2024, we broke ground on the \$60 million Multispecies Animal Learning Complex (MALC) and dairy, which will advance student learning and workforce development in animal agriculture at the Waterman Agricultural and Natural Resources Laboratory on the Columbus campus. The new facilities will not only provide opportunities for hands-on training that leads to careers in animal agriculture, but it will serve as a hub for research and workforce development for one of Ohio's top industries, agriculture.

The MALC and dairy will facilitate education in essential STEM fields and foster workforce development for diverse careers such as animal sciences, engineering, food science, human nutrition and health. Students will have opportunities to gain hands-on experience with swine, equine, poultry, cattle, sheep and goats. The public will have a chance to learn about

modern livestock production with tours, a viewing area into the animal barns and interactive, educational displays.

The new facility is a true public-private partnership, which includes \$11.5 million from the Nationwide Foundation and a \$10 million investment from Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine and the General Assembly that was allocated in the state budget toward the project.

Beyond the traditional classroom settings located on our campuses, Ohio State University Extension offices, located in all 88 counties in Ohio, had 78,000 contacts with Ohioans looking to improve their skills in the workforce last year. The workforce development outreach and education helps adults and youth build essential skills, a resilient work ethic, and a sense of purpose to prepare them for successful employment. Extension faculty and staff engage with Ohioans of all ages to develop competencies in areas such as:

- Job interviewing
- Work ethic
- Public speaking
- Career readiness
- Leadership development
- Emerging enterprises
- Agribusiness management
- Agricultural marketing
- Agritourism

Workforce development efforts take place throughout the state via formal programs, such as Ohio 4-H Pathways to the Future, and informal learning opportunities, including junior leader clubs and school enrichment activities.



### Waterman – Multispecies Animal Learning Complex (MALC)

Just across from the Innovation District at Ohio State, the world-class Multispecies Animal Learning Complex (MALC) will bring people and animals together and support education for students at The Ohio State University, in grades K–12, and across the lifespan. Watch our construction progress live:



[waterman.osu.edu/places-and-spaces/MALC](https://waterman.osu.edu/places-and-spaces/MALC)

### Supporting Ohio companies

With two-thirds of our graduates remaining in Ohio, Buckeyes are making a meaningful impact in all of Ohio's 88 counties. But Ohio State economic development support extends beyond ensuring a well-prepared workforce. It helps Ohio companies grow and thrive through research that is industry-sponsored and federally funded.

In fiscal year 2024, Ohio State saw a 3% increase in industry-sponsored research, for a total of \$159.5 million.

One example of these collaborations is Ohio State's new Amgen STEM Learning Center on the Columbus campus. Opened on Oct. 2, 2024, the Amgen STEM Learning Center is the result of a \$2 million investment supporting Ohio State's colleges of Arts and Sciences and Engineering. The new learning center is an important milestone in the university's partnership with Amgen, a leading biotechnology company with a growing presence in central Ohio. The gift bolsters Amgen's significant commitment to workforce development in the university's STEM fields, while also advancing the shared goal of building a talent pipeline for Ohio.

In August 2024, Ohio State researchers were awarded \$26 million from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to jumpstart natural rubber production in the United States and enhance workforce development to fuel the new domestic industry. This federally funded Engineering Research Center (ERC), known as the "Transformation of American Rubber through Domestic Innovation for Supply Security" (TARDISS), is leading fundamental research supporting the creation of a "Silicon Valley of Domestic Natural Rubber Production."

This research collaboration will harness the power of nature, creating bridges between engineering, biology and agriculture to revolutionize alternative natural rubber production from domestic crops: guayule, the TK "rubber" dandelion and mountain gum. The initiative will also help create jobs, train a new engineering and agricultural workforce, and ease supply chain issues by building a domestic rubber supply.

"Ohio State is prepared to make the most of this opportunity to get domestic natural rubber production up and running," said Distinguished University Professor Judit Puskas, a professor of food, agricultural and biological engineering (FABE). "This significant federal support coupled with the large network of expertise under the ERC umbrella positions us well to meet the critical need for a biotechnology-driven solution that boosts domestic manufacturing and reduces reliance on imports."

Industry partners such as The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co, the Rubber Division of the American Chemical Society, and the Waters Corp. are critical to the success of TARDISS ERC both in terms of supporting technology translation and workforce development efforts.

This is the second NSF-funded ERC to be established at Ohio State in the last two years. The Hybrid Autonomous Manufacturing, Moving from Evolution to Revolution (HAMMER) ERC was awarded funding in 2022. As a result, Ohio State joins only a small number of universities to have led simultaneous awards. NSF HAMMER ERC is developing a new approach to design and manufacturing, putting product needs first and then finding new manufacturing pathways based on the agility of artisans and reproducibility of machines.



The HAMMER ERC is helping Ohio manufacturers develop, deploy and maintain advanced manufacturing practices while creating new jobs and strengthening America's supply chain.

## Strengthening Ohio's economy

**WHILE OHIO CONTINUES** to attract jobs in new and emerging industries, the state's economic roots continue to be firmly planted in agriculture. Contributing more than \$124 billion to the state's economy, nearly 96% of the state's farms are family-owned. However, 1 out of 14 Ohio farm families experiences a farm-related injury each year. Those include repetitive motion injuries, head or spinal cord injuries and amputations caused by accidents.

Ohio AgrAbility is a partnership program led by Ohio State University Extension to assist farm families coping with disabilities or long-term health conditions. More than 5,000 Ohioans engaged in its outreach and services—including 156 helped by communications, on-farm assessments and referrals—in 2024. It provides free on-site assessments for farmers to help determine what equipment modifications, alternative options or assistive technology—such as platform lifts and motorized chairs—might enable them to continue to work.

Any Ohioan who works in agriculture and has a limitation or disability is eligible to benefit from Ohio AgrAbility, one of 21 state and regional projects funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

**Support Ohio's auto industry**

Ohio has the third-largest number of workers employed by Japanese companies in the nation, after only Texas and California. With the longtime presence of companies such as Honda of America Manufacturing and its



**Ohio State's relationships with Ohioans run deep in all 88 counties.**

Learn how Ohio AgrAbility helped Preble County farmer Len Vonderhaar keep working the land he has owned since 1961.



[osu.edu/impact/in-the-community/for-ohioans-agrability](https://osu.edu/impact/in-the-community/for-ohioans-agrability)

Marysville auto plant, Ohio is an attractive place for Japanese companies to do business, industry experts said during a panel discussion hosted by The Ohio State University in 2024.

The virtual panel was part of a year long series promoting discussion on how to enhance U.S. competitiveness in the global marketplace and focused on strategies to strengthen relationships between Ohio's business community and companies that have ties to Japan. It provided a space for Ohio leaders to build relationships with Japanese business operations and trade representatives to attract new investment opportunities in Ohio.

In 2025, Honda announced a \$1 million gift to Ohio State to establish the Honda Endowed Professorship in Automotive Manufacturing in the College of Engineering. Building on 25 years of a beneficial partnership, the endowed professorship will provide leadership for and administration of the college's newly launched Automotive Manufacturing Certificate Program. Honda provided the impetus for Ohio State to start exploring the feasibility of such a program and worked closely with the university to bring it to fruition.

Open to all engineering majors, the certificate is 13 credit hours and delivered entirely in person. The goal is to increase interest in automotive industry careers and build relevant skills. Upon completion of the certificate, students will gain practical experience with equipment and processes used in each of the various areas of automotive manufacturing, as well as exposure to the application of different engineering disciplines in the field.

**Keeping Ohio competitive in a tech-driven economy**

To keep Ohio competitive in a fast-changing, technology-driven economy, new partnerships and programs have been developed to prepare students and Ohio's workforce to be successful.

For more than two years, Ohio State and Cisco Research have partnered to push the boundaries of innovation by funding and working on projects with the potential to make a substantial impact. Experts in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) regularly explore a variety of promising projects that align with both institutions' strategic interests.

The initial phase of these projects began in 2022, focusing on cybersecurity, information and data management, and networking, with contributions from Ohio State CSE professors. This was followed by a second phase of projects that expanded the research scope to include augmented and virtual reality, natural language processing, systems for AI and edge computing. These most recent collaborations aim to advance future technology and amplify the ability to make a societal impact in smart homes and in the digital lives of consumers.

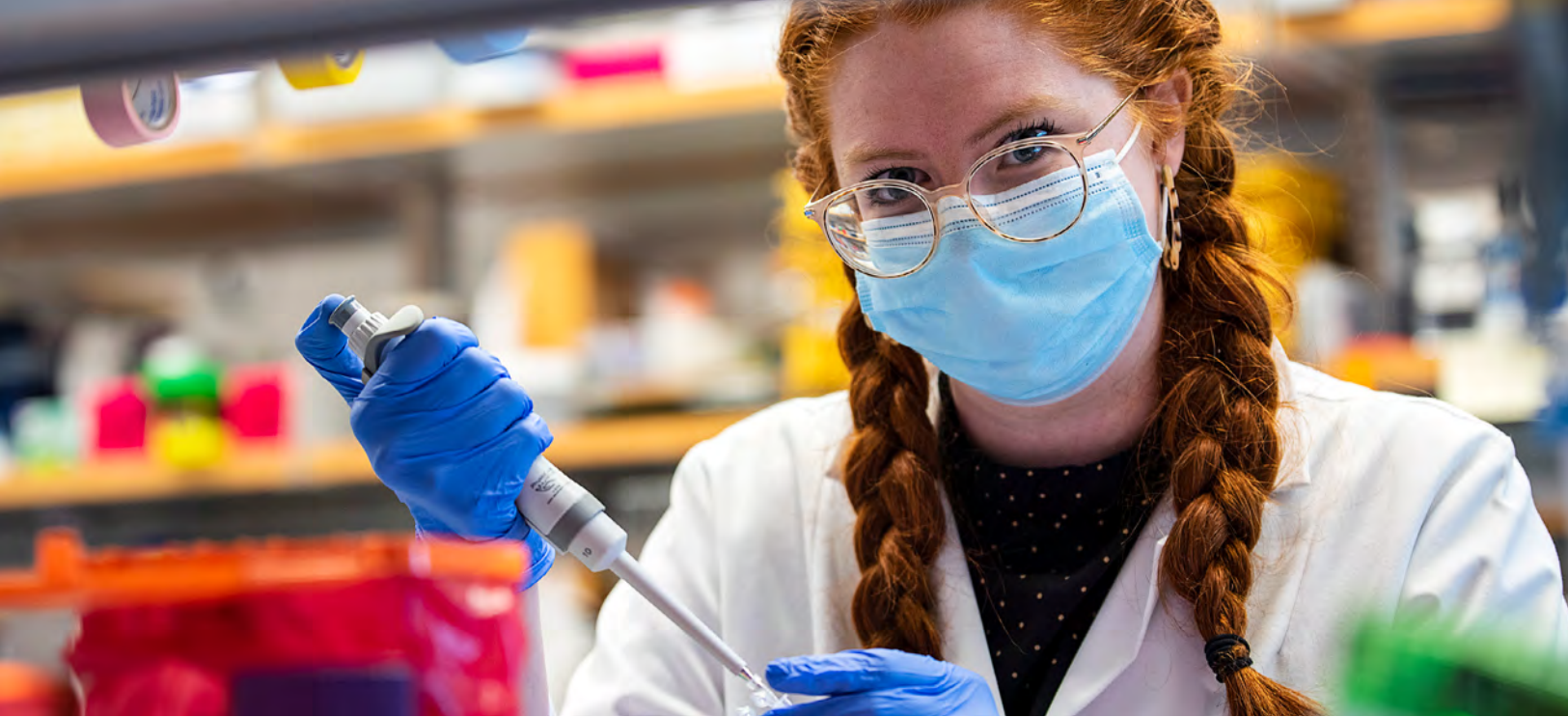
Cisco continues to invest in sponsored research opportunities with Ohio State to pioneer projects for natural language interfaces to databases and AI web agents. A natural language interface enables users to talk to a system in an everyday language, like having a conversation. This applicable collaboration has led to the publication



of six papers, co-authored by researchers from both institutions. The results have garnered attention across the tech ecosystem, where several tech start-ups are utilizing these new tools.

Thanks to \$700,000 in grants from Meta's New Albany Data Center, Ohio State announced in May 2025 that it would build the Meta STEM Instruction Innovation Hub as a student-centered and technology-rich space designed to facilitate and promote STEM learning. Already home to several technology companies including Meta, Ohio has become a preferred site of expansion for international STEM-related corporations. The hub allows instructors to further develop their active learning and inclusive instructional skills to improve educational outcomes and drive STEM workforce development for Ohio.

The Meta STEM Instruction Innovation Hub will accommodate 150 active learners in a single classroom. It will benefit 1,200 math and chemistry students per semester, and once expanded to all STEM fields, it will support 16,000 students per year.



# Applying research

## Ohio State research saves, improves lives

The Ohio State University reported more than \$1.58 billion in research expenditures for fiscal year 2024 — a new university record. That represents an increase of over 9% from the previous year.

The university's research and development expenditures have more than doubled since fiscal year 2012 and increased more than \$600 million over the past four years.

Ohio State remains a top 15 research university according to the National Science Foundation's Higher Education Research and Development (HERD) survey rankings for fiscal year 2023. The university ranks ahead of esteemed research programs at Harvard, Yale and Georgia Institute of Technology, and just behind Stanford, Cornell and Duke.

Stories of the research that saves and changes lives are told every day at Ohio State. One example includes a 2024 study that used gene therapy to shine light on cancer cells' energy centers — literally — to damage these power sources, killing cancer cells while leaving normal cells unharmed. This research could lead to new ways to treat cancer.

In experiments with mice, Ohio State researchers found that gene therapy reduced tumors in two hard-to-treat cancers — glioblastoma brain cancer and triple negative breast cancer — and helped mice with glioblastomas live longer. The research team is also studying this therapy's effectiveness against other cancers.

In 2025, Ohio State researchers identified a potential new way to protect people from Influenza A, a deadly strain of the flu. Experiments found a new antibody — delivered through a nose spray — that sticks to the mucus in the nose and lungs to catch and stop the flu virus before it spreads. This could be used as a preventive treatment for the seasonal flu in the future.



## Building a brighter tomorrow

At Ohio State, we unite world-class researchers, partners and industries to ask the bigger questions, spark new ideas and transform breakthroughs into real-world impact — revolutionizing the way we live, work and solve society's greatest challenges.



[impact.research.osu.edu](https://impact.research.osu.edu)



Community members gathered at Mercy Health St. Rita's for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the launch of the SOAR study's recruitment efforts in western Ohio.

Leveraging federal research funding, researchers at Ohio State used an advanced machine learning model to design a new smart insole system that monitors how people walk in real time. Constructed using 22 small pressure sensors and fueled by small solar panels on the tops of shoes, the system offers real-time health tracking based on how a person walks, a biomechanical process that is as unique as a human fingerprint. This data could help users improve posture and provide early warnings for conditions from plantar fasciitis to Parkinson's disease.

### Breaking the chain of mental health risks

In fiscal year 2024, the State of Ohio sponsored an additional \$66.9 million for leading-edge research. This included \$20 million for the State

of Ohio Adversity and Resilience (SOAR) Study, supported by Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine and funded by the Ohio General Assembly through the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. This research initiative, led by Ohio State Wexner Medical Center, seeks to identify the root causes of the ongoing epidemic of persistent emotional distress, suicide and drug overdose.

The SOAR Study approach allows for an integrated analysis of individual, family, group and community factors. By studying generations of families, investigators will identify patterns of intergenerational transmission of risk and resilience. This can allow families to break the chain of risk for mental illness, substance abuse and deaths related to persistent distress.

The SOAR Study features government, academia and the private sector working together in this innovative mental health research effort that has two parallel but connected projects. The Wellness Discovery Survey is assessing the mental health of 16,000 Ohioans ages 12 or older across all 88 counties through an online survey, and the Brain Health Study features in-person visits using an MRI to complete brain scans with 1,650 families at rural, suburban and urban sites across Ohio, including Ontario, Jackson, Boardman and Lima.

### Conducting research on Ohio farms

Grants and awards also foster development of innovative agricultural solutions that enhance crop yields, improve soil health and combat pests and diseases, supporting Ohio farmers.

In 2024, Ohio State University Extension professionals collaborated with local agricultural producers to capture critical data from 428 research sites statewide through the eFields, eBarns and ePLUS research programs. Their findings highlight the essential role of research in navigating challenges posed by climate, technology and resource management in Ohio's agricultural communities.

eBarns connects Ohio State's research facilities with livestock farms, focusing on enhancing animal production, growing high-quality forage, improving precision nutrient management and developing analytical tools for digital agriculture. In 2024, this included work in 15 Ohio counties, on 31 research sites and four statewide projects. This work supported livestock producers who were facing challenges with fluctuating prices, Asian longhorned tick

infestations, drought and the highly pathogenic avian influenza (commonly known as bird flu).

In 2024, eFields research was expanded to better understand how agricultural management practices can help improve environmental stewardship, sustainability and profitability. This research aims to help Ohio farmers improve the resilience of their farm operations while maintaining their commitment to be stewards of Ohio's natural resources. One of the studies was the "Soil Health Survey Across Ohio Farms," a three-year survey to better understand how past management practices of no-till, cover crops and manure applications influence soil health values and crop yield to generate better outcomes for agricultural production and Ohio's water quality in the future.



Land-grant universities, like Ohio State, were founded on the principles of practical research and innovation that benefit not only academic growth, but also the livelihoods of communities, industries and the public. Extension offices are one way we advance that mission.

# For Ohioans

**FROM STUDENTS AND ALUMNI** to patients and offices, Ohio State serves all 88 Ohio counties. Through collaborative partnerships, the university's impact reaches across the state, and it fosters a sense of pride that belongs to everyone.

## Wood County

**Seeking solutions for harmful algal blooms in Ohio**  
 Researchers at Ohio State and Bowling Green State University are collaborating with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and local farmers on leading-edge research on the beneficial use of Lake Erie dredge sediment as an agricultural soil amendment.

## Madison County

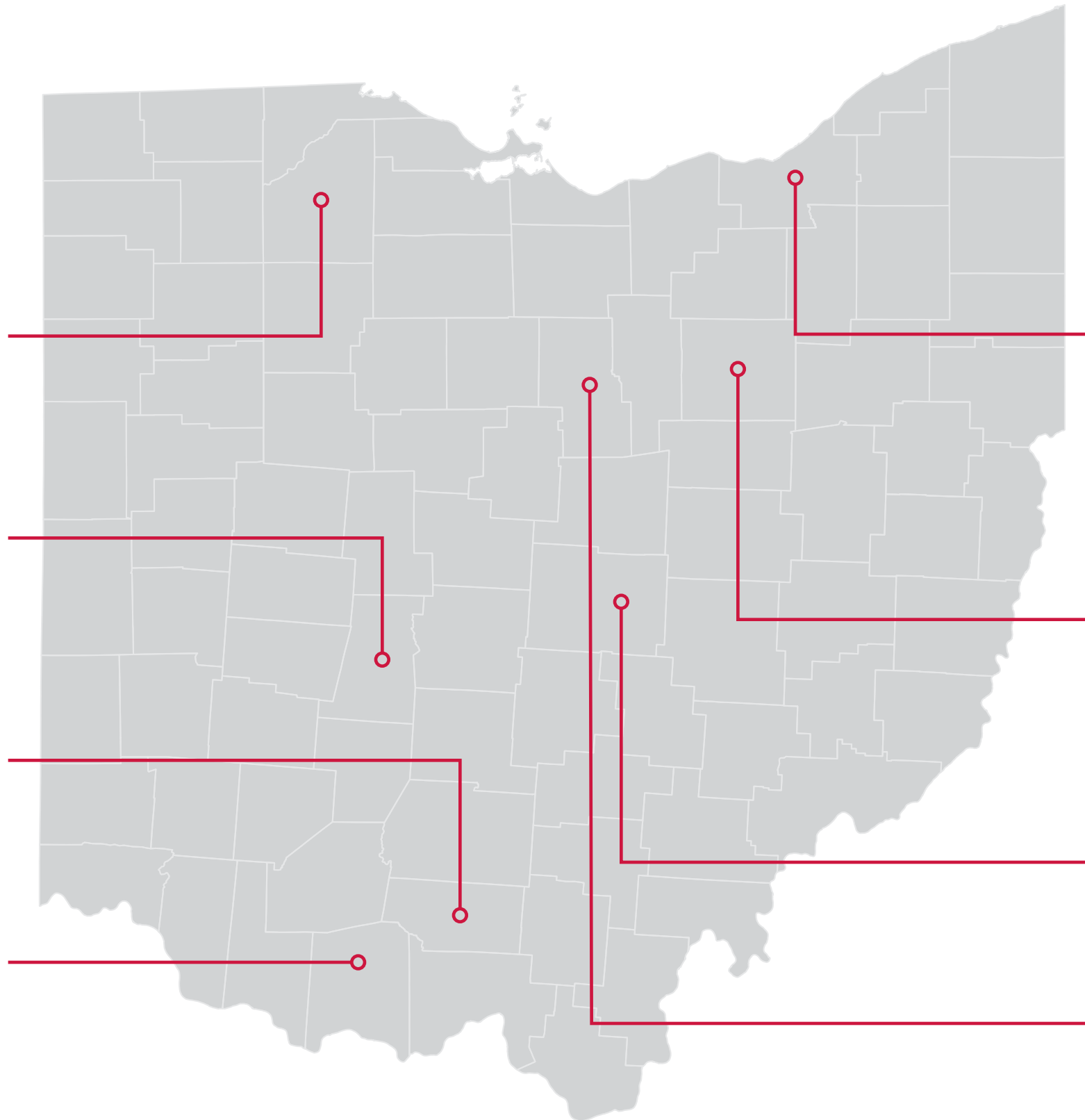
**Assisting farmers after drought, rain create challenges for soybean crops**  
 Ohio State experts supported farmers in Fairfield, Madison, Pickaway, Ross and Fayette counties when a combination of drought conditions and a deluge of heavy rainfall from the remnants of Hurricane Helene in 2024 left many Ohio soybean farmers grappling with compromised crop quality and uncertain futures.

## Pike County

**Supporting southern Ohio small businesses**  
 The Small Business Development Center at the Ohio State South Centers, located in Piketon, provides resources to help grow and expand new or existing small businesses in Adams, Brown, Fayette, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Lawrence, Pike, Ross, Scioto and Vinton counties.

## Adams County

**Helping launch more student agricultural co-ops**  
 Ohio State's College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) Center for Cooperatives partnered with the Ohio Valley Career & Technical Center's agribusiness program to provide training for students on the cooperative model, agribusiness marketing and sustainable production.



## Cuyahoga County

**Engaging Lake Erie communities about plastics and marine debris**  
 The Ohio Sea Grant program, supported by Ohio State's CFAES School of Environment and Natural Resources and Extension, works with local partners, including Cuyahoga Community College Youth Technology Academy, the Great Lakes Plastic Cleanup, Plastic-Free Cleveland and Cleveland Public Library, to educate people about the dangers of plastics to Lake Erie and how to reduce plastic that makes its way into the lake.

## Wayne County

**Supporting Ohio strawberry growers facing challenges from fungal disease**  
 Ohio State's C. Wayne Ellett Plant and Pest Diagnostic Clinic, located on the CFAES Wooster campus, offers free disease diagnosis for commercial fruit and vegetable crops. Funded by the Ohio Produce Growers and Marketers Association, this service helps growers identify infections early, allowing them to take timely action to protect their crops.

## Licking County

**Offering free dyslexia screening to the community**  
 Ohio State faculty started a free dyslexia screening and intervention clinic at Ohio State's Newark campus, offering one-time, non-diagnostic screenings for children and adults.

## Richland County

**New STEM laboratories opened on the Mansfield campus**  
 The new labs provide state-of-the-art equipment for students to train for careers in STEM and advanced manufacturing to ensure they have the training, experience and skills to be competitive in high-growth industries in Ohio.



The Buckeyes and the Ducks assembled food packages to be distributed to low-income senior citizens, women with infants and children, and others in Los Angeles County before the 2024 Rose Bowl. The food packages consist of items like canned fruit, canned vegetables, rice, cereal and other non-perishable items.

# Serving communities

## Buckeyes giving back

Whether it's on campus at a tailgate or watching a big game surrounded by family and friends, Ohio State's athletic events give all Buckeyes an opportunity to come together to cheer on our student-athletes and create moments of celebration and pride. However, Buckeye pride extends beyond the fields and courts where our student-athletes compete.

Ohio State staff and faculty support young athletes across the state. Building confidence and learning ways to help student-athletes through stressful

situations are among the strategies fostered by the Coach Beyond training program developed by Ohio State's LiFEsports initiative — a curriculum helping coaches across the state.

In partnership with the Ohio High School Athletic Association, Coach Beyond is working to change the landscape of coach training throughout Ohio. Coach Beyond met its goal to train 15,000 coaches by 2023 and has now trained over 24,000 coaches in pursuit of reaching 25,000 coaches by the end of 2025 in Akron, Dayton, Cleveland, Streetsboro, Logan, Princeton, Newark and Lancaster. This work has been supported by the Susan Crown

Exchange and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

## Connecting in Columbus communities

Each year, Ohio State's Office of Student Life provides opportunities for students and staff to engage with the surrounding community in meaningful ways. Many of these efforts that bring students and staff together for service are organized under Student Life's Kindness Initiative, with a goal of driving students' sense of belonging to the Ohio State and central Ohio communities. The initiative showcases the power of collective action, the strength of shared values and the positive impact of kindness, including:

- **Be Kind Food Packing Project:** Every year, more than 1,000 people gather on the Columbus campus to pack meals that are then distributed to areas with low food security around the state. Since the program's launch six years ago, the Buckeye community has contributed to the distribution of almost 2 million meals to people in need. In 2024 alone, more than 1,100 students, staff, alumni and community members came together to assemble an astounding 350,000 meals that were donated to more than 115 nonprofit organizations.
- **Bowl Service Project:** The latest edition of Student Life's decades-long annual tradition to hold service events in the host city of the football team's bowl game. For the first time, this season that meant two service projects in two different cities, Los Angeles and Atlanta. In Los Angeles, Ohio State and University of Oregon joined forces to volunteer at the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank to assemble food packages for distribution to low-income senior citizens and women with infants and children. For the National Championship game

in Atlanta, more than 100 volunteers came together to pack 35,000 meals for distribution to food-insecure Georgians.

- **The Big Table:** Social connections and engaging dialogues are vital to our mental and physical health. This year, Student Life hosted the Columbus Foundation's The Big Table Initiative to encourage community conversation using Ohio State's Listen. Learn. Discuss. platform. Ohio State students, parents, faculty, staff and community members spent time focused on learning about and practicing skills to promote respectful listening, discussion of different viewpoints, building trust and navigating complex conversations.



## Coach Beyond

Hear how the LiFEsports initiative has helped student-athletes at Hilliard Davidson High School in suburban Columbus:



osu.edu/impact/research-and-innovation/for-ohioans-lifesports



### Serving communities throughout Ohio

Nearly 125 years ago, the 4-H program was created in Clark County, Ohio, as a way to apply public school lessons with hands-on practices that young people living in rural communities needed to learn. Today, it is one of the nation's largest youth development organizations. Ohio State Extension supported 4-H clubs, camps, schools and after-school programs for 154,687 Ohio youth ages 5 to 19 in 2024.

Beyond agricultural education and support, Ohio State University Extension also offers research, education and service efforts in three family and consumer sciences-related areas: healthy finances, healthy people and healthy relationships. The programs and workshops developed and delivered by Extension professionals address the needs of Ohioans in the 21st century, with topics such as childhood obesity, money management, and mental health and resiliency.

Real Money. Real World. (RMRW) is a youth financial education program that aims to increase youth knowledge and awareness about finances

and how their decisions can make a big impact on their lives. Extension professionals collaborate with many community partners including schools, banks, juvenile justice centers and homeschool groups to deliver the RMRW curriculum. Of the more than 12,000 students completing a RMRW evaluation, these changes in behavior were noted:

- 69% indicated an increased understanding of the amount of deductions taken from a paycheck for taxes and other withholdings.
- 83% reported that after participating in the program they would be more likely to have a plan for money that includes both wants and needs.
- 80% indicated that they were more likely to think about how their spending impacts their other opportunities and choices, and other people.



More than 20,000 Ohio youth took part in financial literacy programming in 2024.

## Advancing health

**AS PART OF A** land-grant university — with central Ohio's only academic medical center — Ohio State is committed to creating a healthier Ohio.

**The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center**, along with our seven Health Sciences Colleges, lead collaborative efforts across the state to care for the medically underserved and to ensure that no one is left behind when it comes to accessing quality health care. It includes:

- 33 consecutive years ranked as a “Best Hospital” by *U.S. News & World Report* for 2024-2025
- More than 7 million patient visits, including 61,000 inpatient visits annually, with patients residing in each of Ohio's 88 counties
- Home to more than 45 research centers and institutes and seven hospitals
- 140 shared core research laboratories, with experts from virtually all reaches of The Ohio State University
- In 2026, University Hospital, our new 820-bed, 1.9-million-square-foot inpatient hospital, will open
- The medical center includes **The Ohio State University College of Medicine**, which is among the top 16 Tier 1 medical schools for

research and among 35 schools in Tier 2 for primary care, as ranked by *U.S. News & World Report*. Additionally, 54% of the college's alumni live in Ohio, improving lives throughout the state.

### Transforming lives through world-class care

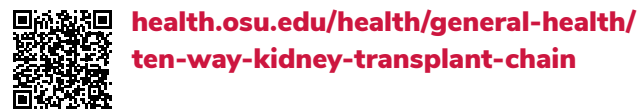
At the Ohio State Wexner Medical Center, we're driving breakthrough health care solutions that transform people's lives and the communities in which we live. We offer health care services in virtually every specialty and subspecialty in medicine. Our clinical programs of distinction include:

Our **Comprehensive Transplant Center** is the only adult organ transplant program in central Ohio. We're a top 20 national program by volume, performing more than 13,600 solid organ transplants since 1967, a milestone achieved by fewer than 8% of all U.S. transplant centers. We're also implementing and researching new ways to expand the pool of available organs through initiatives like our in-house Organ Repair and Assessment Center and the study of ex-vivo organ perfusion, which seeks to resuscitate and repair damaged organs to make them suitable for transplant.



**In 2025, Ohio State performed one of the largest single-institution organ donation chains.**

Read how this miraculous chain of surgeries was orchestrated over two days, giving 10 recipients a new lease on life.



**The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute** (OSUCCC – James) is the only cancer program in the United States that features a National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer center aligned with a nationally ranked academic medical center and a freestanding cancer hospital on the campus of one of the nation’s largest public universities.

Here, over 1,500 researchers are accelerating discovery, improving standards of care and advancing health for all Ohioans through advances in immunotherapy, drug discovery and many more. Along with a passionate community of

supporters — as evidenced by more than \$339 million of cancer research funds raised by Pelotonia through the 2025 ride — we’re dedicated to expanding the footprint of research and clinical trials that advances our goal of creating a cancer-free world.

Among many high-profile recruits to the OSUCCC – James in 2024 was Dr. Glen Barber, a globally renowned virologist and immunologist whose lab studies innate immunity — the body’s natural defenses against harmful microbes (i.e., viruses and cancer) — and finds the origins of infectious, inflammatory and cancer-associated diseases.



**Harnessing the body’s immune system for cancer breakthroughs**

Read how Dr. Barber’s groundbreaking work may lead to new treatments for cancer and inflammation.



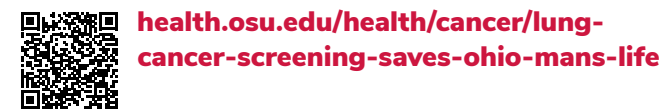
Lung cancer, the leading cause of cancer deaths, is highly treatable when caught early, but devastating once it spreads. That’s why screenings are so critical. The OSUCCC – James mobile lung

cancer screening unit is filling gaps in screening access throughout rural areas of the state.



**Ohio State takes lifesaving lung cancer screenings on the road**

Read how lung cancer screening helps patients, like Mike Penrod from Meigs County, catch lung cancer early.



**Caring for all Ohioans**

Ohio State is one of the only leading public research institutions with a top-ranked academic medical center located on the same campus as our seven Health Sciences Colleges, which uniquely positions us for incredible discovery and innovation that solves health care’s most pressing challenges.

One of the many ways we do that is by expanding our clinical trials platform — the engine that helps take new treatments, diagnostics and prevention strategies from the lab to the bedside and into communities — to drive access in rural and medically underserved areas. With more than

37,000 patients across all 88 counties enrolled in interventional and observational clinical trials at Ohio State, we’re making this potentially life-saving care more accessible.

And by working together with community partners across the state, we’re expanding access and resources for all Ohioans.

Dental care is the leading unmet health need in Ohio. Our College of Dentistry serves Ohioans at more than 40 extramural sites. This care is complemented by the H.O.M.E. (Health Outreach Mobile Experience) Coach, a pediatric mobile dental clinic that provides care at Columbus City and central Ohio schools. The H.O.M.E. Coach accepts only public health insurance — and no payments are required if patients are uninsured.

In 2024, a new dental clinic, operated by the College of Dentistry, opened at Ohio State Outpatient Care East, adding six new treatment spaces.

The dental clinic marked an expansion of the health care services offered by Ohio State’s existing Federally Qualified Health Center, which is a community-based health center that receives federal funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration.

In partnership with the Wexner Medical Center, the new Ohio State University Total Health Care Center, a nurse practitioner-led primary care practice run by the university’s College of Nursing, provides comprehensive physical and mental health services to patients, regardless of their ability to pay.

According to the National Institutes of Health, nearly 20% of Americans live in rural areas, but only 10% of physicians practice there. The Community Medicine MD Track (CMT), a program of Ohio State’s College of Medicine, aims to prepare medical school graduates for future careers in rural and small community medicine.



**THE OHIO STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

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