

## Columbia Gas of Ohio Jobs Growth Fund Program

### **Overview:**

The Columbia Gas of Ohio (COH) Jobs Growth Fund program is a \$1.55 million grant program. The funds provide financial assistance to new and existing companies that create new jobs within COH's service territory. The grant awards range from \$50,000 - \$250,000. COH will fund approximately 2 to 4 industry and regionally diverse projects per year. The funds will be awarded through April 2012 or until funds are exhausted.

### **Eligibility:**

A new or existing company employing more than 50 employees within COH's service territory can apply for the grant. It is preferred that the company meet one or more of the three criteria: (a) involve a capital investment of at least \$1 million; (b) create at least 50 new jobs; or (c) add at least 20,000 sq. ft. of new floor area.

Small businesses employing less than 50 employees are also eligible for the grant. It is preferred that the company meet the following criteria: (a) create at least 10 full-time equivalent employees; (b) payroll wages of at least 175% of the federal minimum wage; and (c) the established business has been in existence for a minimum of three years.

### **Determination of Funding:**

The funding level will be based upon the following:

- Number of new jobs created
- Wages
- Use of funds
- Level of competition
- Level of investment
- Project location
- Demonstration of support and need
- Additional funding assistance from other sources

### **Use of Funds:**

The funds may be used to offset costs associated with new projects and existing company expansions. These funds may not be used to offset costs associated with natural gas utility infrastructure improvements to support new location projects and existing company expansions.

### **Application Process:**

The COH Economic Development (ED) Manager will collaborate with representatives of the local, regional ED organizations and the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) to identify eligible projects. The COH ED Manager will work with the applicant company to complete the grant application. An acceptance letter will be required from the applicant officially accepting the grant funds.

### **Contact:**

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[www.columbiagasohio.com/JobGrowthFund](http://www.columbiagasohio.com/JobGrowthFund)