



PICKAWAY COUNTY – THE CROSSROADS FOR BUSINESS CONNECTIONS

## **Circleville Advances in America's Best Communities Competition Receives \$50,000 for Implementing Economic Development**

**April 29, 2015** — Across the country, 50 communities have advanced to the quarterfinalist round of the America's Best Communities competition, a \$10 million initiative to stimulate economic revitalization in small towns and cities. Frontier Communications, DISH, CoBank and The Weather Channel — the Competition's sponsors — announced that each community that has advanced to the quarterfinals will be awarded \$50,000 to further develop and implement their comprehensive strategies to accelerate their local economies and improve quality of life.

Pickaway Progress Partnership (P3) worked with the City of Circleville to develop a quality application and was selected for the quarterfinals. We will have 6 months to complete a comprehensive Community Revitalization Plan to be considered for additional investment. In early 2016, 15 semifinalists will be selected to attend the America's Best Communities summit to present their strategies, with eight finalists then awarded \$100,000 to continue implementation of their plans. In April 2017, the final awards will be presented— those with the most innovative proposals being effectively implemented. The winning community will be awarded \$3 million, with \$2 million for second place and \$1 million for third.

In the months ahead, P3 and the City of Circleville will partner with a major corporation that will provide guidance and support throughout the next stage of the competition. The America's Best Communities Adopt-a-Community Program has brought together 50 distinguished companies from across the U.S. to serve as a strategic mentor, while also contributing \$15,000 of the \$50,000 in prize money. These corporate partners will forge relationships with local leaders and focus their efforts on successful implementation of the innovative business plans.

Competition will be tough among the 50 quarterfinalist. The City of Circleville is one out of 6 communities in Ohio vying for the grand prize, as well as other communities around the United States. The selection was made by an independent group of expert judges from a pool of over 135 community applicants.

