BOBCAT Network

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BOBCAT Network

- **Building Opportunities Beyond Coal Accelerating Transition (BOBCAT) Network.**
- Partnership between Ohio University and the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission (OVRDC).
- $2 million project
  - $1.6M US EDA Assistance to Coal Communities
  - $400K Appalachian New Economy Partnership (ANEP) state funding
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Three focus area:
1. **Adams County**—Mitigating Impact, Transition, and Recovery
2. **Lawrence and Scioto Counties**-Mitigating Laborshed and Supply Chain Impacts
3. **OVRDC Region**-Economic Diversification and Preparing for Investment
Highlights of Efforts: Adams County

• Hiring economic recovery coordinator
• Industrial park feasibility and financial analysis
• Assess the social sector and develop alignment strategy to address loss of tax revenue and reduction in service
Highlights of Efforts: Scioto County

- Hiring brownfields recovery coordinator
- Skillshed analysis and workforce training center feasibility study
- Examine coal supply chain assets and map these core competencies to other, diverse industries
Highlights of Efforts: OVRDC Region

• Opportunity zones:
  – Identify best assets, best sites for development, develop prospectus for sites, hone investment pitches, etc.
• Entrepreneurial economy assessment
• Regionwide workforce inventory
Lessons

• Partnership and sharing resources are important.
  – Ohio University covered OVRDC match for EDA grant so that they could partner with us
• Fiscal impacts are more localized than economic impacts. Fewer options for addressing missing tax revenue.
• Two-year project--bringing in recovery coordinators to implement as we continue to work on next tasks.
Thank you!