



Fund Members Commit to Phase 3 Strategy

Members of the Fund unanimously approved its Phase 3 strategy at the quarterly Funders Committee meeting held June 9 on the Lakeland Community College campus. Fund members will make financial commitments to Phase 3, which is set to start in February 2010 and end in February 2013, over the next several months.

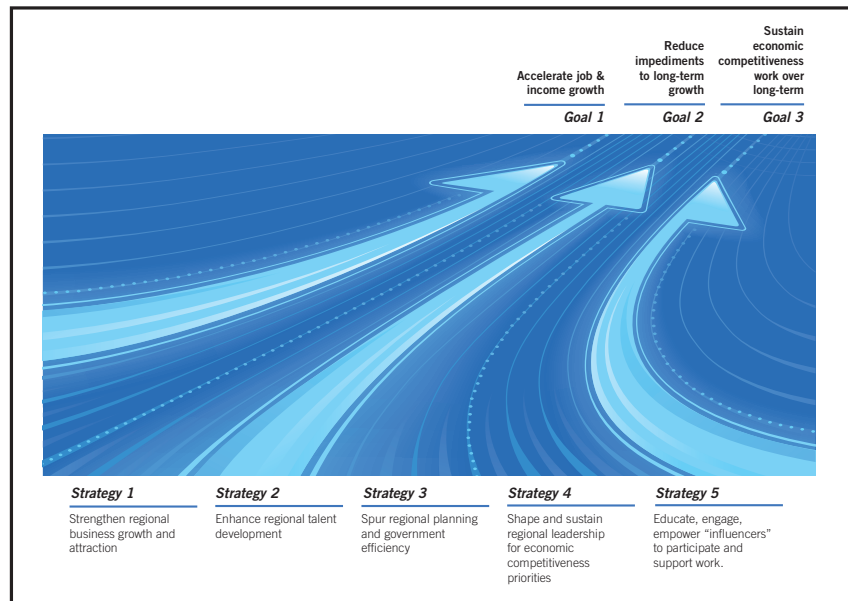
“The members’ unanimous support for continuing our collaboration reflects both the tremendous progress we have made in helping strengthen the region’s economy, as well as an appreciation that much work needs to be done to ensure a vibrant economic future for Northeast Ohio,” said Fund Chairman David Abbott, who is also executive director of The George Gund Foundation. “In these challenging economic times, it is more important than ever that philanthropy and others within the region unite to address the priorities that influence Northeast Ohio’s ability to compete in the global economy.”

Northeast Ohio by the Numbers

38
Ohio will receive \$38 million of Federal Recovery Act dollars to increase public safety and retain law enforcement jobs

13
Fast Company ranked Cleveland as one of the 13 most creative cities in the world

3
Case Western Reserve University's School of Medicine received \$3 million in federal grants to expand its HIV/AIDS research



Fund Vice Chair Brian Frederick, president of the Community Foundation of Lorain County, presented the Phase 3 strategy.

Abbott stated that despite the global financial crisis, the Fund will continue to be a leading force in supporting regional economic competitiveness in Northeast Ohio, while being capable of responding to the economic climate in the coming years.

“I am confident that the Fund will continue to accelerate progress in building growing industries, preparing our region’s residents for the jobs of the present and the future, improving the efficiency of local government and ensuring that all of our region’s residents have greater access to economic opportunities,” Abbott said.

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As in the first two phases, Phase 3 of the Fund will be a collaboration with members deciding collectively how to allocate grant dollars. The Fund will focus on the 16-county region of Northeast Ohio and continue working with its partners in the public and private sectors to implement Advance Northeast Ohio, the region's economic action plan.

Additionally, the Funders Committee approved two grants. A \$250,000 research grant was approved to explore ways to expand the agricultural industry in Northeast Ohio. The study will be conducted by the Ohio Agriculture Research and Development Center (OARDC), one of the nation's leading food and agricultural research centers. Also, the Fund approved a \$20,000 contribution to a study that will identify opportunities to tighten economic connections between Northeast Ohio and the Pittsburgh Region. The work will include conducting national/international benchmarking, assessing the shared assets of the two regions, facilitating interactions among potential partners, identifying federal funding sources and creating a network of interested partners.

EfficientGovNow Names Finalists; Public Voting Starts

EfficientGovNow, the Fund's government collaboration and efficiency award program, named its nine finalists and the general public will now decide which three projects will receive a share of the \$300,000 in EfficientGovNow awards. Public voting started July 1 and runs through July 31 with the winners announced in early August.

"Now it's the public's turn to drive change directly in our region as their votes will decide which projects share the \$300,000 in grant money," said Brad Whitehead, president, Fund for Our Economic Future. "The public has repeatedly and resoundingly told us they want to see local governments working collaboratively and more efficiently. This is an opportunity for them to put their words into action to recognize and accelerate some of those efforts."

The nine competing projects are:

1. ***Mahoning River Corridor Interactive Web site: "Rollin' on the River"***
2. ***"Sustain a Greener Ohio," A Collaboration to Map the Storm Water Conveyance System in Stark County***
3. ***Combined Dispatch to Use New Technology to Save Lives and Money (Ashland County)***
4. ***Westshore Regional Fire District Project (Cuyahoga County)***
5. ***Mahoning/Youngstown Regional Information System (MYRIS)***
6. ***City/Township/School District Fleet Management Collaboration Project (Oberlin, New Russia)***
7. ***Creating Efficiencies and Cost-Savings through Consolidation of Public Health Services in Summit County***
8. ***Rittman and Orrville Schools Administrative Compact***
9. ***Master Plan for the Western Reserve Joint Economic Development Zone of the Cities of Cuyahoga Falls, Hudson and Stow***

"In just the first few days we've seen some communities quickly rally support behind their finalist and engage residents in a strong 'get out the vote' effort," noted Whitehead. "It's wonderful to see the energy and passion behind this effort."

Details on the nine projects are on the EfficientGovNow Web site, www.EfficientGovNow.org. Residents of Northeast Ohio can vote in one of three ways:

- **At www.EfficientGovNow.org**
- **By telephone at 1-877-771-5206**
- **Via a mail-in ballot included in brochures at libraries throughout Northeast Ohio**

Media Promotes EfficientGovNow

"Get Competitive, Northeast Ohio"

(Akron Beacon Journal)

"Fleet Project Need Online Support"

(Chronicle-Telegram)

"Nine Projects Competing for \$300,000 in Grants"

(Youngstown Vindicator)

"EfficientGovNow Whittles Competition for \$300,000 to Nine Finalists"

(ThePlain Dealer)



Randell McShepard,
Vice Chair of the Fund

Restoring Prosperity Conference Focused on Urban Cores

“Philanthropy needs to take a more integrated approach to effectively help strengthen urban cores such as Cleveland.”

That was the message delivered by a panel of national and local philanthropic leaders during the day-long Restoring Prosperity session in Cleveland on June 8, hosted by Greater Ohio and Policy Bridge. The panel discussion was moderated by Susanna Krey, president of the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland. The Fund for Our Economic Future was one of the sponsors and several Fund grantees spoke during the event’s breakout sessions. More than 300 people attended, with the purpose of helping Greater Ohio develop specific policies that will strengthen the core cities of Ohio.

Comments from attendees include:

Northeast Ohio by the Numbers

80
Two Israeli technology firms relocating to Akron will create as many as 80 jobs

3,175
JumpStart and BioEnterprise won \$3.175 million from Third Frontier

250
JumpStart invested \$250,000 in electric car manufacturer Myers Motors of Tallmage

>> Phillip Henderson, president of the Surdna Foundation

Philanthropy must foster collaborations across sectors – ranging from arts to health care to economic development – to adequately address the challenges facing urban communities. Most foundations have more limited resources in the wake of the global economic collapse. We need to be better now that we are smaller.

>> Neil Kleiman, director of policy and research at Living Cities

Philanthropy needs to take a more integrated approach to these issues. What has to change is philanthropy needs to play the role of facility collaborations between cities, the state, business and others. Philanthropic entities need to think beyond simply funding nonprofits, and get involved in funding local government projects, as well.

>> Ronn Richard, president and CEO of the Cleveland Foundation

Philanthropy has to “hit on all cylinders” when addressing urban issues. Much of the focus in the past had been on housing, but a broader portfolio is required. Philanthropic institutions have the luxury of not being elected and therefore need to take on “third rail” issues like public school reform. Whatever it takes to fix the dysfunctional systems, we have a responsibility to figure it out.”

Additionally, Rip Rapson, president of the Kresge Foundation, praised the Cleveland Foundation, The George Gund Foundation and the Fund for Our Economic Future for stepping outside the traditional comfort zone of philanthropy to experiment and push for policy changes. He praised Cleveland area philanthropists for being flexible and responsive. And, David Abbott, executive director of The George Gund Foundation and chairman of the Fund, emphasized that although policy work is messy and dirty, it’s also vital to the future of Cleveland and the region’s other core cities.



MAGNET Helps Manufacturers Diversify

Fund grantee MAGNET is working hard to expand the region's manufacturing industry through a new program that aims to better position area manufacturers to diversify their businesses and transition into high margin markets within 90 days.

The market diversification program uses companies' existing product and service portfolios to quickly move manufacturers from selling products in no-growth industries to selling existing products and services to growing and expanding industries, including medical, government, alternative energy and aerospace.

To launch the new program, MAGNET held a market diversification workshop June 11 in Independence. The workshop included break-out sessions providing details on how to enter the supply chain for the federal government/military and medical manufacturing.

Bob Fenn, program director of Procurement Technical Assistance Center in Painesville, advised manufacturers to sell their products to the "world's largest customer," the federal government.

In a separate break-out session, Michael Southworth, a medical manufacturing consultant at Southworth & Associates in Beachwood, assured manufacturers supplying automotive and aerospace companies that they already have many systems in place to easily sell their products to the growing medical device market.

MAGNET will be holding a second Market Diversification Workshop July 16 at the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce in Toledo. For more information, visit www.magnetwork.org.

Northeast Ohio by the Numbers

125
Collectcorp
will add 125 jobs in
Middleburg Heights

33
Mainthia Technologies and N&R
Engineering are teaming up to
fulfill a \$33 million contract from
NASA's Langley Research Center

17
Summit and Stark counties
received \$8 million from the state
to revitalize old industrial proper-
ties and spur economic growth

Team NEO Impact Awards

The work of several members of the Fund was recognized at the third annual Team NEO Impact Awards, held June 3 at the Embassy Suites in Independence.

More than 450 business and community leaders, economic developers and chambers of commerce representatives from around the region gathered to honor 10 organizations from throughout Northeast Ohio for impactful economic development projects that have helped retain jobs, expand local companies and create jobs in the region over the past year.

"Despite the fact that the nation's headlines have been dominated with job and business losses for the past few months, it is important to recognize that simultaneously, new jobs are being created," said Team NEO CEO Tom Waltermire.

Of the more than 60 entries, 30 were chosen as finalists by a panel of third-party judges. Winning projects included work done by several members of the Fund:

In the category of Asset Creation, the Knight Foundation and grantee BioEnterprise (along with the Akron Children's Hospital, Akron General Health System, City of Akron, Northeastern Ohio Universities Colleges of Medicine and Pharmacy (NEOUCOM), the Summa Health System, County of Summit and The University of Akron) were awarded for the creation of the BioInnovation Institute.

In the category of Fostering Entrepreneurship, the Lorain County Community College Foundation was recognized for the 24 investments made by its Innovation Fund.

In the category of Foreign Investment, the Growth Partnership for Ashtabula County won for attracting RTS Companies (U.S.) Inc. to Northeast Ohio.

In the category of Talent Development, Cuyahoga Community College won for its advanced manufacturing and engineering center.

In addition, Team NEO honored Northeast Ohio Congressman Ralph Regula at the event with the annual H. Peter Burg Regional Vision Award. The award commemorates the late chairman and CEO of FirstEnergy Corporation, a regional leader who was the founding chairman of Team NEO.

Effort to Assist Low-Skilled Workers Taking Shape

A new research project sponsored by the Fund, aimed at identifying better ways to align the region's community resources to help low-skilled residents successfully enter the workforce, is moving forward.

Enlight Advisors, a Cleveland-based consulting firm, was chosen by the Fund's Talent Action Team to serve as research consultants on the project. They are to spend a year developing a strategy and implementation plan to close the gap between employers with a hiring need and low-skilled workers in the region.

Enlight's work will:

- >> **Articulate a business case to describe why the region should address the needs of employers to fill low-skilled and entry level jobs**
- >> **Recommend goals to address these needs**
- >> **Develop an action plan for the region to achieve these quantifiable goals**

The Regional Talent Network will use these results to target industry sectors that have the greatest demand for entry level and low-skilled workers and develop practices to better unite them with employers in the region.

Northeast Ohio by the Numbers

91
Cleveland Clinic received \$9.1 million from the National Institutes of Health for vascular research

2
Akron-based OrthoHelix Surgical Designs raised \$2 million

30
The GAR Foundation awarded grants to 30 nonprofits, totaling nearly \$1.8 million

JumpStart Honored by Department of Commerce

The U.S. Department of Commerce has awarded Fund grantee JumpStart with an Excellence in Economic Development Award for its urban and suburban economic development efforts.

The award, handed out annually in different categories, honored JumpStart's development of strategies to improve urban or suburban economic development, and the organization's ability to demonstrate regional collaboration.

"JumpStart, Inc. represents the best and brightest in 21st century economic development," U.S. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke said. "Excellence Award winners exemplify the importance of supporting regional strategies to ensure American communities succeed in the global marketplace and create higher-skill, higher-wage jobs."

Talking to *The Plain Dealer*, JumpStart CEO Ray Leach emphasized the importance of the Fund's support.

"We're grateful that we're a public-private partnership with many supporters, including the Fund for Our Economic Future and The Burton D. Morgan Foundation," Leach said. "We're able to assist entrepreneurs in accelerating growth of their businesses in 21 counties."

The Economic Development Awards are open to nonprofit organizations; local, state, and regional governments; colleges and universities. Nearly 90 groups applied for awards this year in seven categories. JumpStart was one of the 25 finalists that were evaluated by a selection panel appointed by the Assistant Commerce Secretary for Economic Development.