



**NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Contacts:**

Curtiss L. Williams, Sr.

President/CEO

COCIC: The Franklin County Land Bank

(614) 724-4938

[cwilliams@cocic.org](mailto:cwilliams@cocic.org)

**COCIC Announces Sub-Recipients of the  
ODOD Building Demolition and Site Revitalization Program Grant**

*\$21.6 Million Awarded by the State to Projects in Franklin County*

**(COLUMBUS) January 30, 2023**—COCIC: The Franklin County Land Bank is pleased to announce it has been awarded \$21.6 million, as the lead entity for Franklin County and the grantee to whom the funds are given, by the Ohio Department of Development for the demolition of commercial, industrial, and residential properties in Franklin County.

The grant award was part of the Ohio Building Demolition and Site Revitalization Program, which provided nearly \$150 million in grants for the demolition of commercial and residential buildings and the revitalization of surrounding properties in all 88 counties. As lead entity for Franklin County, COCIC was responsible for collecting and submitting qualified projects. Five projects in Franklin County were approved by ODOD.

“We’re pleased to be able to partner with COCIC on this project to demolish some of the vacant and rundown buildings that are standing in the way of new development in our community,” said Board of Commissioners President, John O’Grady. “Older facilities like Westland Mall, Buckeye Yard, and the Golden Bear are part of the history of Franklin County, and now those parcels have the opportunity to serve again as sites for exciting new development for our community’s future.”

“We want to thank Governor DeWine and Lieutenant Governor Husted for making community infrastructure and revitalization a priority throughout the state of Ohio. The removal of dilapidated, unsafe and blighted properties is a cornerstone of building more vibrant neighborhoods. Our team is eager to see these projects commence knowing these grants will help return currently vacant properties to new, more productive uses,” said Curtiss L. Williams, Sr., President/CEO of COCIC.

The following five projects in Franklin County met the requirements set forth by ODOD and will be awarded grants:

- City of Whitehall, Woodcliff Apartments
- City of Columbus, Westland Mall
- City of Columbus, Buckeye Yard
- City of Columbus, Columbus Parsons Project
- City of Upper Arlington, Golden Bear

***About COCIC: The Franklin County Land Bank***

COCIC is a non-profit organization formed by the Franklin County Commissioners in 2012 to improve the quality of neighborhoods and communities within Franklin County. More information about COCIC can be found at [www.cocic.org](http://www.cocic.org).

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