

Q: What is the Ohio Urban University Program (UUP)?

A: The Ohio Urban University Program (UUP) was created in 1979 as a program of the Ohio General Assembly and the Ohio Board of Regents. It remains a unique network linking the resources of eight urban universities in Ohio with the communities and students they serve in cooperative efforts to improve the state's urban regions. Eight highly regarded center units at the University of Akron, Cleveland State University, Kent State University, The Ohio State University, The University of Toledo, Wright State University, Youngstown State University, and the University of Cincinnati, provide research and service to Ohio's Urban areas. As Ohio's only statewide think tank for urban issues, the UUP was proposed by the Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs and the College serves as the flagship for the UUP.

Q: What does the UUP Do?

A: The mission of the Ohio Urban University Program is to apply the resources of urban universities to help identify urban challenges and facilitate solutions designed to enhance the vitality of Ohio and its metropolitan regions.

Q: What are some tangible UUP research results?

A: The UUP supports collaborative inter-institutional research and service statewide networks and projects that address issues of statewide importance or impact. The UUP also plays a convening role to share and discuss our research findings. Some recent research includes:

- **Ohio Certified Public Manager Program (OCPM)**

Since spring 1998, UUP, Ohio Rural University Program (RUP) schools and the Ohio Department of Administrative Services have been working to fulfill the mandate for a statewide Certified Public Manager Program (CPM). CPM is a nationally recognized certificate program that provides practical, applied general management training among public managers. To date there have been 27 cohorts of government officials from urban and rural areas who have become certified public managers since the program began in 1998.

- **Ohio Housing Research Network**

OHRN, a statewide network of researchers from all eight UUP member institutions, was established in 1988 to develop and conduct research on regional dynamics. The study results are used by federal, state and local officials to develop policies and strategies to address regional issues.

- **Economic Development (ES 202)**

The Ohio Economic Development Information Network (OEDIN) is a statewide resource network of researchers dedicated to the development and utilization of an establishment-level employment and payroll database, also known as the ES202 database created for tax collection purposes by each state in the country. The database provides information that allows researchers to better understand economic activity in the region, which in turn helps researchers understand and monitor the performance of major development projects, industry targeting, small business growth, and labor force training.

- **Geographic Information Systems (GIS-Net)**

The Ohio Geographic Information Systems Network (Ohio GIS-Net) is an innovative consortium of Ohio's urban and rural universities. Consortium members apply state-of-the-art geographic information systems technology to research in the areas of economic development, policy sciences, civil engineering, public administration, economics and the environment. It is a resource to state and local economic development efforts and urban infrastructure analysis.

- **Research Databases**

The UUP has developed several large databases that are used as a resource by researchers throughout the state to better understand and address issues of statewide importance such as employment trends and regional growth and development. The UUP also provides training and, technical assistance to state and local organizations in every county in Ohio.

- **Urban Design Network**

Established in 1999, the Ohio Urban Design Network is a partnership between the three UUP Urban Design Centers in Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati. The network focuses on urban design projects including an annual Ohio Design Assistance Team project, the first of which was held in Springboro in southwest Ohio.

- **Urban Schools Research Network**

Established in July 2000, the Urban Schools Research Network is a collaborative project between Cleveland State University, University of Akron, University of Cincinnati, the Ohio State University, University of Toledo, Wright State University, and Youngstown State University that focuses on issues related to education in the 21 urban districts from across the state of Ohio. This partnership between urban universities, urban schools and other agencies serving urban children and families to facilitate effective decision making will enhance the success of students in urban environments.

Q: How does the UUP Work for Ohio?

A: The UUP accomplishes its mission through Applied Research. Faculty and staff from the eight universities analyze trends, collect and distribute data, explain patterns and outcomes and identify options for community action. UUP member universities conduct research and provide hands-on management and technical assistance in search of solutions to such challenges as Ohio's aging housing stock; repairing aging infrastructure (roads, bridges, sewers); helping local government officials manage more efficiently; advancing the state's economy; reducing environmental pollution; and providing executive education for Ohio's public officials.

Q: Where does the UUP funding come from?

A: Across the past 20 years the UUP has leveraged the State's funding 2:1 with university dollars and grants and contracts. The UUP allocation was \$500,000 in 1979. During the last biennium, the state's investment of \$8.2 million was leveraged with over \$10 million in university dollars and \$8 million in outside grants and contracts. The UUP Budget has several distinct components. When examining the OBOR budget for GRF 235-583 Urban University Programs include a net budget split into the UUP Base and a series of "set-aside" programs (for example, WCPN funding and special funding for projects at several UUP institutions.



The Ohio Urban University Program

Maxine Levin College of Urban Affairs at
Cleveland State University

University of Cincinnati
Kent State University
University of Toledo
The Ohio State University
Wright State University
University of Akron
Youngstown State University

<http://uup.csuohio.edu/>

Q. What are UUP Priorities?

A: The UUP continues to improve Ohio's urban communities across the state through research, training, technical assistance, and outreach programs. Ohio's Urban universities work together to strengthen existing programs, create new programs, research new ideas and communicate new findings to the community. Together, the UUP strives to accomplish the following:

- Continue to build Centers of Excellence.
- Provide research and technical assistance for local governments, decision makers, and citizens to help revitalize Ohio's urban communities.
- Develop new methods of sharing information and utilizing technology to propose solutions to urban problems, as well as expand existing methods such as the Geographical Information System.
- Invest in and strengthen the collaborative, inter-institutional research and service Networks.
- Support community organizations such as neighborhood groups, schools, and Chambers of Commerce as they work to improve the lives of urban residents.
- Explore potential linkages with the urban outreach efforts of Ohio's cooperative extension program.
- Create an evaluation plan that will enable us to gain a better understanding of how UUP impacts the lives of those who live in Ohio's urban areas.
- Develop a strategy to communicate findings of UUP-related activities.
- Continue to develop the capacity of member institutions to address the mission and goals of the UUP.