

**Fairfield County
Land Reutilization Corporation
Lancaster, Ohio**

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Fairfield County Land Bank Earns Grant

The Fairfield County Land Reutilization Corporation (“Land Bank”) has recently learned that it has been awarded a Neighborhood Initiative Program grant in the amount of \$642,500. The Neighborhood Initiative Program is a program of the Ohio Hardest Hit Fund Project. The funds will be used to stabilize property values by removing and greening vacant and blighted properties in targeted areas in an effort to prevent future foreclosures for existing homeowners.

Jim Bahnsen, Land Bank Board Chairman stated, “The proposal for the grant was a collaborative effort, and we are excited to receive the grant award in order to reduce blight and supporting community economic development.”

This is the first grant that the Land Bank has received. It was created by the Board of County Commissioners in September, 2013. Its operations are funded by the collection of delinquent taxes, of which 5% is set aside for its operations. Commissioner Mike Kiger, Board of Commissioners President, stated, “It is great to hear of the grant award and to be a part of the progress of the Land Bank, an organization that will be helpful to all within the county.”

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