



**EDWARD FITZGERALD**  
Cuyahoga County Executive

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Media contacts:

Emily Lundgard (216) 348-4395 or [elundgard@cuyahogacounty.us](mailto:elundgard@cuyahogacounty.us)

John O'Brien: (216) 698-2099 or [jfobrien@cuyahogacounty.us](mailto:jfobrien@cuyahogacounty.us)

## **Merger/Shared Services Study Grant Awarded in County Regional Collaboration Effort**

CLEVELAND – The State of Ohio today awarded a \$100,000 Local Government Innovation Fund (LGIF) grant for a Merger/Shared Services study being advanced by Cuyahoga County Executive Ed FitzGerald and four suburban Mayors.

The Merger/Shared Services Study Grant will allow the implementation of a phase of a study to consider merging Moreland Hills, Orange Village, Pepper Pike, and Woodmere, at their request. The study process is phased, seeking both immediate and long-term opportunities for merger and shared services.

"The grant will significantly bolster the study," said County Executive FitzGerald. "The study will allow these mayors to explore opportunities to collaborate in the short-term and evaluate whether a merger make sense in the long-term."

FitzGerald commended Mayors Richard Bain of Pepper Pike, Kathy Mulcahy of Orange, Susan Renda of Moreland Hills, Charles Smith of Woodmere and former Mayor Bruce Akers of Pepper Pike for taking the initiative to begin the study.

Mayor Bain of Pepper Pike: "We appreciate the recognition and support by the state of this important initiative. Our group of communities are committed to implementing the opportunities for cooperatively working together, making the delivery of services cost efficient and effective, and maintaining and improving the quality of services for our residents."

The Local Government Innovation Fund (LGIF) was established to provide financial assistance to political subdivisions for planning and implementing projects that are projected to create more efficient and effective service delivery within a specific discipline of government services for one or more entities. This program will promote efficiency, collaboration, merger, and shared services among local governments.