



# Ohio IS OPEN for Business

Date: January 7, 2013



## Project Summary

For businesses that are looking to relocate or expand their businesses to the State of Ohio, there is an overwhelming list of agencies and regulations that may impact their decision. In past years, several businesses have chosen to locate to other States adjacent to Ohio. Even though the State of Ohio could provide similar if not better services, the business's decisions were based upon less complicated access to information. At the present time there is no one source that can provide businesses with State, County or Municipal contacts required for permits or inspections for building sites. At the same time it is not clear who has jurisdiction due to the amount of limited information that is available.

## Project Goals

The purpose of this project is to provide the Ohio Development Services Agency a GIS website with enhanced visualization of regulatory and jurisdictional contact information based on the site locations of prospective businesses. This list will include all State, County contacts required for permits or inspections for building sites for new or expanding businesses in the State of Ohio.

The goal is to provide the Ohio Development Services Agency with the resources necessary to make the State of Ohio more competitive, marketable and attractive to prospective businesses utilizing this "Concierge" service. Easy access to all agency contacts will streamline the businesses due diligence and the overall regulatory process.

The outcome will result in providing competitive advantages for the State of Ohio to establish new businesses and employment opportunities.

## Project Methodology

The project was initiated with the identification of the problem. In brainstorming, the team narrowed the scope of the project to focus on the contacts needed for most potential business locations. The planning and execution included identifying the data and sources needed to provide a solution of one source of data containing contacts and a software tool. Tasks identified and assigned to team members included obtaining the data and formatting appropriately. Research was conducted to identify software tools available and narrowing the options based on what features each had to offer. The data was gathered and input into a compatible format to work with the software tool chosen. Configuration settings within the software tool were optimized to present the data in a user friendly display. The project team met and communicated on a regular basis throughout the project. As a result of coordinated efforts with the Ohio Development Services Agency the project team was able to identify the specific needs and to develop a tool which could be easily implemented and maintained.

## Project Team

For more information about this project, contact team members:

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