

Do you need to make home improvements, or want to beautify your space?

Whether it's something as exciting as a new fireplace, or as necessary as a septic system upgrade, most homeowners in Portage County have home improvement projects they'd like to get started.

Do you own a family farm or small business, but are delaying investments because costs are too high?

For too many farmers and job creators, the costs of doing business are simply too high – leading to stalled growth and dreams deferred.

If so, **Portage GrowLink** may be for you!

Fortunately, there is a solution that can help homeowners make improvements and help our community thrive – all without breaking the bank.

Portage GrowLink is designed to help Portage County homeowners, family farms and small businesses complete projects at interest rates up to 3% below what a bank would normally offer.

For program details, including how to sign up, read the handy tips contained in this brochure, or call the Treasurer's Office at 330-297-3586.



Dear Homeowner –

Across Portage County, residents have put off needed home repairs, farmers have delayed planting, and small business owners have stalled expansions for a simple reason – it costs too much to borrow the funds needed to complete a project.

Our office can help. Through **Portage GrowLink**, property owners can get loans at up to 3% below the rate a bank would normally offer. It's a great tool for folks in our community to get home projects off the "to do" list, grow, and create jobs – all of which help Portage County thrive.

You can find out more about this program in these pages. If you still have questions about the program, please contact us. We're here to help however we can!

My Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brad".

Brad Cromes, Portage Co. Treasurer

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www.portagecounty-oh.gov/treasurer

Introducing



Portage GrowLink

*A Portage County Treasurer's
Office Program*

Low-interest
loans for Portage
County
homeowners,
family farms and
small businesses.

How does **Portage GrowLink** work?

To make **Portage GrowLink** available, the County deposits a portion of its investment pool with participating local banks. In exchange, the banks make low-cost loans available to borrowers.

How much is the discount?

Home equity loans, farm loans and small business loans made through **Portage GrowLink** will be discounted at up to 3% *below* what a bank would normally offer.

Who can participate in **Portage GrowLink**?

Any Portage County homeowner, family farm or small business current on their taxes – meaning they don't owe any late fees – can participate.

Borrowers must apply and qualify for a loan with a participating lender be eligible for a discount.

What can I spend the money on?

Participants in **Portage GrowLink** can use the money for home repairs, remodeling, property upgrades, and other permanent projects.

Family farms can use proceeds for upfront costs for seed, fertilizer, fuel and other expenses.

Small businesses can use funds for creating/retaining jobs, renovating facilities or systems, and to expand operations.

How much is available?

Up to \$2 million in total loans. Individual loans are available for up to \$25,000 for homeowners, \$50,000 for family farms, and \$250,000 for small businesses.

Limit one loan per borrower per term.

How long do I have to pay?

Loans made under **Portage GrowLink** can last as long as lenders allow, but the discounted interest rate applies *only* to the first 5 years of home loans, 1 year for farm loans, and 2-4 years for small businesses.

After that, rates return to market.

When should I do the project?

Borrowers must submit proof to the Treasurer's Office that the loan proceeds were spent on qualified projects within one year of receiving them.

Do I make too much money?

Portage GrowLink is focused on improving *properties* in Portage County.

There is no limit on a borrower's personal income.

Are there special incentives?

We appreciate the unique contributions our veterans make to the Portage County community – and **Portage GrowLink** includes a veteran's preference during high demand periods.

Apply Today!

To get started, provide the information requested below and return this slip to a participating bank branch near you.

Hometown Bank – 330-673-9827
142 N. Water St.
Kent, OH 44240



Portage Community Bank – 330-296-8090
1311 E. Main St.
Ravenna, OH 44266



All Institutions are Members, FDIC, Equal Housing Lenders

Name: _____

Parcel No.: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Veteran? Circle: Yes / No

Applications will be processed on a "first-come, first-served" basis, so apply today!

For more information, please call the Treasurer's Office at 330-297-3586.