



**FOR RELEASE:** March 23, 2012  
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**Mahoning County Property Receives Covenant Not to Sue  
Under Ohio EPA's Voluntary Action Program**

Through the voluntary efforts of YWCA of Youngstown Housing LLC, another Youngstown property has been investigated and remediated under Ohio EPA's [Voluntary Action Program](#) (VAP).

Ohio EPA has issued a covenant not to sue to YWCA for its property located at 25 W. Rayen Avenue. YWCA has owned the one-third acre site since 1910 and has used it for transitional housing, recreational facilities and other programs consistent with the organization's mission.

Following standards developed by Ohio EPA, YWCA hired a certified environmental professional to assess the site, identify any areas of concern and, if needed, remediate contamination to a level that would allow for continued residential use of the property. In addition, asbestos removal took place throughout the existing five-story building.

A covenant not to sue protects the property's owner or operator and future owners from being legally responsible to the State of Ohio for further investigation and remediation. This protection applies only when the property is used and maintained in accordance with the terms and conditions of the covenant.

In the 16 years since Ohio EPA issued the first covenant under VAP, more than 6,000 acres of blighted land have been revitalized at more than 300 sites across the state.

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