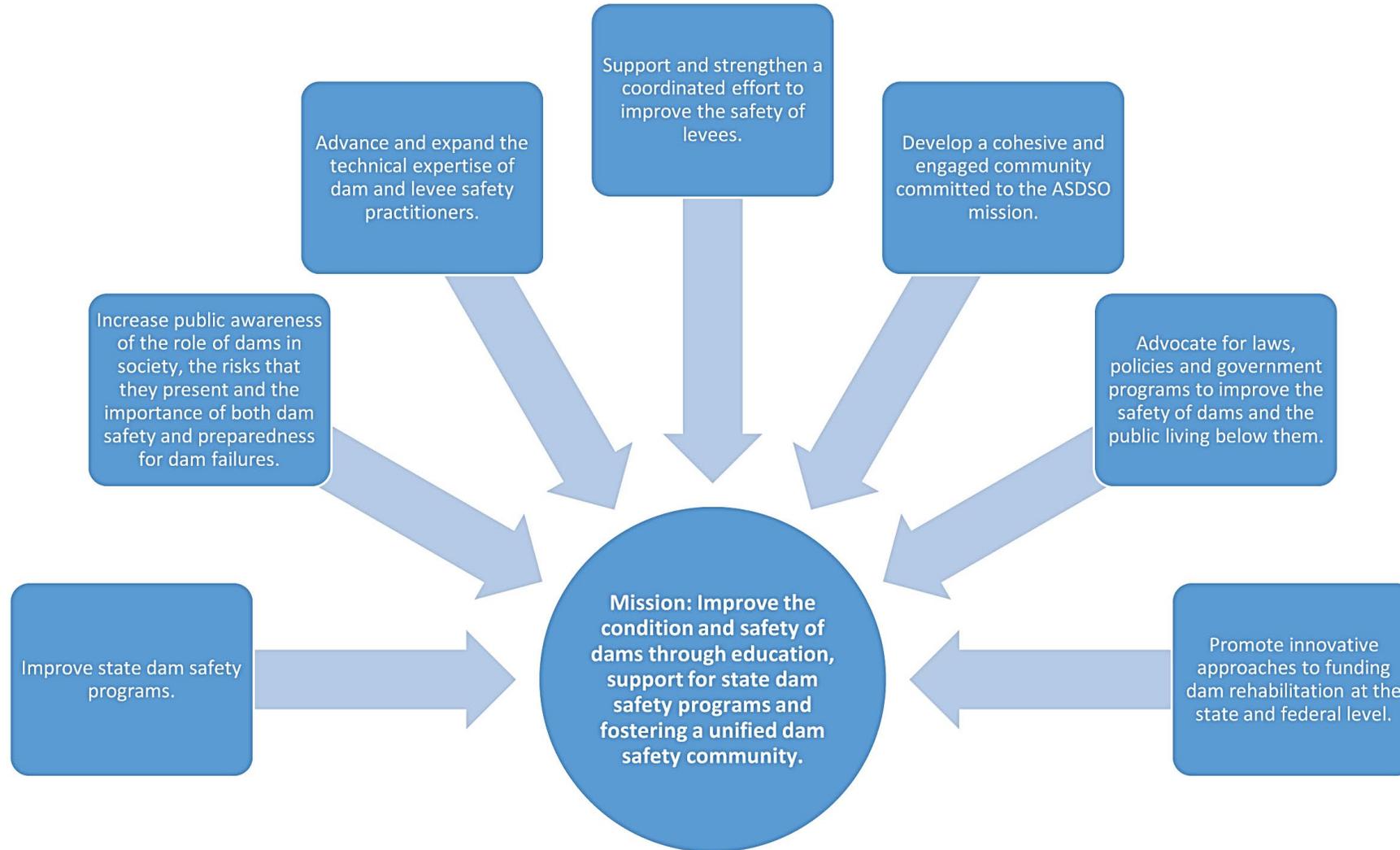


# ABOUT US

*Association of State Dam Safety Officials*

[www.damsafety.org](http://www.damsafety.org)

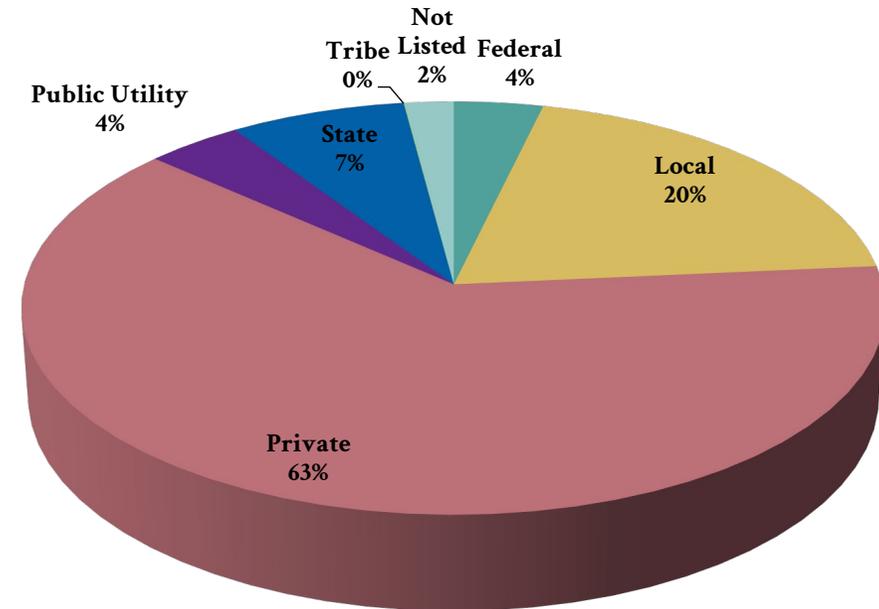


Over 3000 members including state and federal dam safety officials, private engineering consultants, dam owners and other dam safety stakeholders.

# UNITED STATES DAMS STATISTICS

- National Inventory of Dams (NID) has 92,072 total dams – 1392 in Ohio
  - 16,528 High Hazard Potential (probable loss of life) – 418 in Ohio (Class I)
  - 10,535 Significant Hazard Potential – 555 in Ohio (Class II)
  - 54,737 Low Hazard Potential – 419 in Ohio (Class III)
  - Others are Undetermined or Not Reported
- Over 60% of all dams are privately owned – 63% in Ohio.
- States Regulate 74% of NID dams (20,248 unregulated) – 93% in Ohio
- Average age of a dam in the NID is 57 years – 62 years in Ohio.

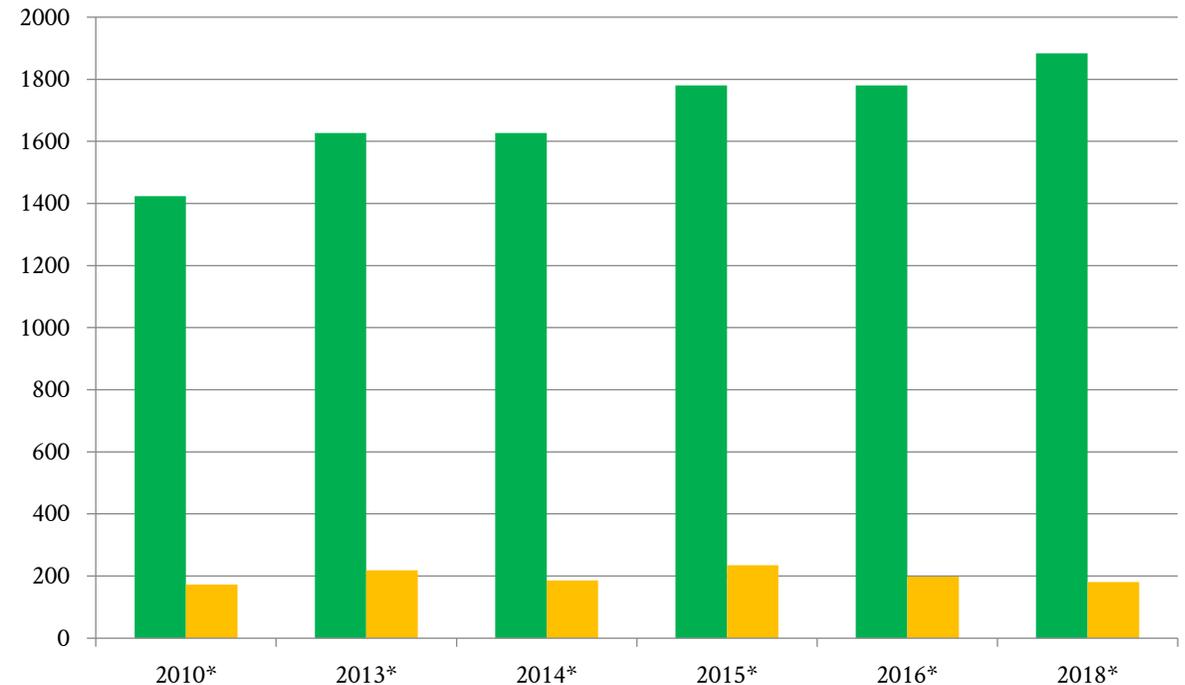
Ohio Dam Ownership



# DAM SAFETY CHALLENGES FOR OHIO AND THE NATION

- The Increasing Hazard:
  - Condition assessments show over 2300 deficient HHP dams total – over 1850 among state regulated.
  - Aging Can = Deterioration: Average age of a dam with a known completion date in the NID is 57 years. Over 63% with a known completion date were completed prior to 1970.
  - Hazard Creep: More people and property downstream. In 2001 there were 9716 HHP Dams. In 2021 there were 16,528 and growing.
- State regulatory programs are underfunded.
- Recent failures and incidents show that traditional visual inspection isn't sufficient – more comprehensive engineering assessments needed creating even more strain on state regulatory programs
- Climate change is adding additional stress on aging dams.
- Funding for Rehab is Lacking

**State Regulated High-Hazard Potential Dams Identified in Need of Remediation (green) and Remediated (orange) in the Given Calendar Year**



# PROPOSED 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY DAMS ACT – DAM SAFETY PROPOSALS

## THROUGH THE UNCOMMON DIALOGUE PARTNERSHIP

- ASDSO is part of a group of public safety, environmental and hydropower advocacy groups trying to get funding for dam rehabilitation/removal into an infrastructure bill (total proposal \$26 billion over five years). The proposals are intended to accelerate the rehabilitation, retrofit, and removal (the “3Rs”) of the nation’s dams.
  - Increased funding for the National Dam Safety Program to support state programs in comprehensive assessments.
  - Increased funding for the HHPD program to fund rehabilitation/removal of high-hazard potential, non-federal dams.
  - Funding to the Small Watershed Dam Rehabilitation Program to rehabilitate NRCS flood control dams.
  - USACE inspection of unregulated high- and significant-hazard potential dams.
  - Funding for dam failure inundation maps and Emergency Action Plans.
  - Funding to USACE for low-interest loans to rehabilitate deficient dams through the Corps Water Infrastructure Financing Program (CWIFP)

# IIJA DAM SAFETY FUNDING

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act contains over \$800 million in direct appropriation funding to existing federal programs for dam safety from Uncommon Dialogue Partnership proposals.

- **\$585 million total for High Hazard Potential Dam Rehabilitation grants including \$75 million for dam removal** (current appropriation - \$12 million per year)
  - National program based on a funding formula for eligible dams
  - Ohio has 126 HHP dams listed as Poor or Unsatisfactory Condition in the NID
  - Matching grant – 65% federal/35% local match
  - Other Requirements – must have a local Hazard Mitigation Plan, Floodplain Management Plan, Emergency Action Plan, commit to maintenance for lifetime of dam
  - Private dams can be eligible but must have a government/non-profit sponsor
  - Interested Dam Owners - Ohio's Grant Process
    - FEMA issues the Notice of Funding Opportunity
    - ODNR establishes the list of eligible dams and contacts the owners to determine interest
    - ODNR prioritizes the list of interested projects with a risk-based methodology and submit applications based on available funding

# IIJA DAM SAFETY FUNDING

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act contains over \$800 million in direct appropriation funding to existing federal programs for dam safety from Uncommon Dialogue Partnership proposals.

- **Corps Water Infrastructure Financing Program - new USACE program for low-interest loans for dam rehabilitation could provide up to \$7 billion for dam rehabilitation loans**
  - Eligibility – must be credit worthy, must be in the NID, non-federal, at least \$20 million project although projects can be bundled.
  - Could potentially be used for local match
  - USACE currently developing rules for the program – hope to issue first loans late 2022
- **\$118 million total for NRCS Small Watershed Rehab Program Grants** (current appropriation – about \$10 million per year)
  - Over 60 NRCS-Small Watershed dams in Ohio – Seven listed in Poor condition
  - Last week, Biden Administration announced \$420 million in funding for dam rehab and flood-control projects

# IIJA DAM SAFETY FUNDING

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act contains over \$800 million in direct appropriation funding to existing federal programs for dam safety from Uncommon Dialogue Partnership proposals.

- **\$148 million total for state assistance grants through the FEMA national Dam Safety Program to support state dam safety programs** (current appropriation – less than \$9 million per year)
- **\$67 million total under FEMA Operations and Support for the National Dam Safety Program** (current appropriation – about \$3 million per year)
- **NOAA - funding for studies including modernized precipitation frequency and probable maximum precipitation**

# WHAT'S NEXT

- **The Uncommon Dialogue Coalition continues to advocate for Dam Rehabilitation, Removal and Retrofits**
  - Work with the federal agencies and others on successful implementation of the IIJA funding
    - Coalition is sending letters to agencies and holding meetings with program staff explaining our vision for the funds.
    - Setting up stakeholder workshops and providing other information to explain the programs and how to access the funding.
  - Advocating to members of Congress for continued appropriations for dam safety, removal and retrofit programs.
    - IIJA funding is direct appropriations, however we need to continue advocating for existing program funding.

# WHAT'S NEXT

- The Uncommon Dialogue Coalition continues to advocate for Dam Rehabilitation, Removal and Retrofits
  - 3 Rs package in the upcoming Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)
    - Will authorize \$100 million per year for the FEMA HHPD Rehabilitation Grant Program
    - Broaden the eligibility criteria for dam rehabilitation projects
    - Create a definition of a Small Underserved Community with no local match requirement
    - Reauthorize the National Dam Safety Program at \$43 million per year – continues the IJA level of funding for the State Assistance Grants.
    - Authorizes \$1.5 billion for a national dam removal program in the USACE.
    - Establishes a Dam Removal Council with responsibility to notify dam owners of available funding and programs for dam removal, evaluate federal and non-federal project submittals, and submit recommendations to the Secretary of the Army for projects to fund.
    - National Assessment of federal and non-federal dams using existing data to identify what dams serve vital roles and should be prioritized for safety and environmental upgrades or retrofitted for hydropower generation. Assessment will also evaluate which dams would be good candidates for removal.
    - Establish a Hydropower Assessment Center of Expertise to facilitate the review and implementation of appropriate dam retrofits to accommodate hydropower generation.