



Franklin County
**BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS**

2020

State of the County Report



WELCOME LETTER

Dear Franklin County Residents,

Welcome to the 2020 State of the County Report. We look forward to this opportunity each year to let you know everything that is going on in county government, and all the big plans we have for the coming year. Last year was another great one for our region, which continues to grow and thrive, and we'll highlight some of the things we're most proud of below. So far, however, 2020 has been a challenge.

As this report goes to press, most county facilities are closed to the public for all but the most urgent business. Most Board of Commissioners employees are working from home, if they're able, but some continue to provide their services to a public that very much relies on them for social services, child support enforcement, clean water, support for justice-involved residents, and even taking care of the residents of the county dog shelter. Franklin County is very fortunate in many ways, but our greatest strength is that of the people who work here.

Our community, too, is strong and resilient. We will weather the current public health crisis, and emerge stronger for having taken good care of each other in its midst. In the meantime, we commissioners are proud to have already begun a series of efforts to help the community recover via small business loans, workforce development and cash support for individuals, and by funding assistance efforts of the United Way and Urban League. There is more work to do, however, and we are committed to doing it.

Last year was as busy as ever in Franklin County. We couldn't be prouder of our team and all they accomplished in 2019, including winning a number of national awards, joining the nationwide Forward Cities program to support entrepreneurs in struggling neighborhoods, opening a new memorial to Franklin County veterans, and debuting a new, and much improved, hearing room in which to conduct our weekly public meetings. We are also very pleased to have been able to continue to support our team with a very progressive benefits program, and to have been named as the healthiest large employer in Central Ohio. We hosted the first annual Franklin County 5K this year as well, and raised the minimum wage for Board of Commissioners employees to \$15 per hour.

Read on to learn more about all that we accomplished in Franklin County last year, and what we have in store for you in 2020. For the first time this year, the commissioners' State of The County report also includes an update from county partners SWACO and MORPC, both of which play a vital role in keeping our community running smoothly and ensuring that we can continue to thrive in the years to come.

Thank you again for taking the time to read our 2020 State Of The County report. It comes out at a challenging time, but documents so much that we can be proud of and so many reasons to be excited for the future. You can find more information, including the county budget and commissioners' core principles on the Board of Commissioners website, and please don't hesitate to contact our office with any question or concern you may have.

Stay healthy,





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COMMUNITY SAFETY, SECURITY & EFFECTIVE JUSTICE



CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW FORENSIC SCIENCE CENTER NEARING COMPLETION; PROGRESS CONTINUES ON THE NEW CORRECTIONS CENTER

Construction is nearing completion on the new state-of-the-art Forensic Science Center, located at 2090 Frank Road, in the southwestern part of the county. The new facility will replace the current facility on the campus of The Ohio State University Medical Center, which first opened in 1975.

The new Forensic Science Center will be almost 57,000 square feet, making it three times larger than the current building, and will include eight autopsy stations, expanded toxicology labs and conferencing space. The commissioners have also tasked the project team with achieving LEED certification. Groundbreaking and construction mobilization occurred in the fall of 2018. The new facility is on schedule to be completed and occupied in May 2020.

Significant progress continues on the new Corrections Center being built on Columbus' west side, 2551 Fisher Road. The new Corrections Center creates a cutting-edge direct-supervision model facility and provides an increased standard of care, with particular attention to medical and mental health facilities and inmate programming spaces. The initial section of the building is approximately 429,000 square feet and includes housing for about 870 inmates and full build-out of core support spaces. The first section of the building is on schedule to be completed by the end of 2020 and occupied in 2021, which will allow for the closure of the current downtown jail facility that opened in 1969. The continuation phase, which will provide for an additional several hundred inmates, is currently in design with procurement and construction beginning in 2020.

For the first time, the commissioners have set a goal in the construction of the Corrections Center to utilize Small and Emerging Business Enterprises for at least 12 percent of the construction work. The project has far exceeded that goal to date.

Corrections Center

\$360 MILLION-PLUS

Project budget

1,210

Jobs created or sustained

Forensic Science Center

\$30 MILLION

Total project budget

201

Jobs created or sustained

OFFICE OF JUSTICE POLICY & PROGRAMS

The commissioners' Office of Justice Policy and Programs (OJPP) serves as the Metropolitan County Criminal Justice Services Agency for Franklin County and has responsibility for all county initiatives regarding Department of Justice grants such as JAG, Title II, and VAWA, as well as reentry planning and recommendations, intimate partner violence prevention, and Data Driven Justice involvement. In 2020, the county's CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) program, which provides advocates for abused and neglected children in the court system, will become part of the Office of Justice Policy and Programs.

Sequential Intercepts

The Sequential Intercept Model is a respected strategic planning tool for communities to reduce the involvement of individuals with mental health and substance use disorder across all points of the justice system. The Office of Justice Policy and Programs prides itself on using both evidence-based practices and innovative concepts to prevent or reduce interactions with the justice system for vulnerable populations at each intercept in the model. The layers of intervention at sequential opportunities in the residents' interaction with the criminal justice system can positively change the lives of these residents while providing cost-savings across the county.

Community Services

Addressing the addiction epidemic in Ohio by reducing barriers to treatment, supporting organizations providing evidence-based harm reduction resources, and partnering with drop-in centers to meet community members where they are.

Law Enforcement

Funding training opportunities for local law enforcement to incorporate person-centered responses when engaging community members with mental health and substance use disorders on patrol and within correctional settings.

Initial Detention/Initial Court Hearing

Analyzing bail practices within the county to provide recommendations on eliminating disparity.

Jails/Courts

Continuously partnering with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office to provide nationally recognized programming to women and men incarcerated in our jails.

Reducing the risk of opioid related overdoses by embedding a Medication Assisted Treatment Coordinator and Discharge planner at FCCCII to coordinate pre-release Vivitrol injections and linkage to post-release treatment for inmates.

Collaborating with local courts to provide peer support services to those in specialized dockets and creating safe and responsive justice engagement for the LGBTQIA community.

Reentry

Support educational efforts to reduce reentry barriers for our returning community members including expungement, driver's license reinstatement, Certificate of Qualification for Employment (CQE), eviction, and landlord education.

Community Corrections

Funding resources for intensive supervision of individuals with behavioral patterns of domestic violence.



COMMUNITY SAFETY, SECURITY & EFFECTIVE JUSTICE



SAFE Stations

This partnership intervention at the Community Services level is a partnership with the City of Whitehall, to reduce barriers to accessing treatment. Since the June 2018 launch, 774 individuals have walked into the Whitehall Division of Fire seeking recovery. Whitehall Fire transported 652 of those individuals directly to treatment regardless of their insurance status. Upon interview, a SAFE Stations patient reported the program removed the hurdles they had previously experienced trying to access treatment, which had caused them to give up trying and continue living in active addiction.

Pathways

The nationally recognized Pathways program is an intervention for women within the jail, and successfully graduated 54 participants in 2019 and connected 31 women to Peer Support Specialists. Peer Supporters use their own lived experience to support the individual recovery journeys of Pathways participants. This support along with pre-release groups and pro-social activities; post release support groups and intensive case management have resulted in close to a million dollars in cost savings (\$936,054) in jail bed nights at the two-year post-graduation mark. A gender responsive men's Pathways program will be launching in 2020.

Medication Assisted Treatment

Since embedding a Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) coordinator at FCCCII, 172 inmates received MAT prior to release and linkage information for follow up treatment in the community. Additionally, 211 inmates received hard reduction education and naloxone administration training prior to release.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY

In 2019, the commissioners' Office of Homeland Security and Regional Communications was reorganized to move some of its responsibilities to the Office of Justice Policy and Programs, and some to the Franklin County Emergency Management Agency. The Emergency Management Agency coordinates and prepares county-wide disaster plans, community education, warning, training, grant funding, response and recovery efforts in order to prepare the residents of Franklin County before, during, and after both natural and man-made disasters.

Each year, EMA produces an annual county risk assessment that considers and ranks the possible hazards our region might face based on how likely they may be and how disruptive they may be to life in Franklin County; everything from tornadoes to terrorist attack, and from earthquakes to extreme heat. The agency also engages in hazard mitigation planning to reduce any loss of life or property that might stem from such hazards.

Recent planning and training exercises have included a regional joint SWAT exercise with teams from the Franklin and Delaware County Sheriffs, Columbus Police, Ohio State Patrol, and the FBI, and tabletop exercise to test and refine state emergency response to a transportation accident that results in the release of a hazardous material. The agency also maintains and operates the county's 196 tornado warning sirens, the electronic weather and emergency warning system, Alert Franklin County, and partners with the Ohio State University on the Buckeye Alert System.

ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL

The Department of Animal Care and Control operates the county's Dog Shelter & Adoption Center, providing compassionate care, lost dog services, education, and adoption for impounded dogs, and enforces dog laws throughout the county in order to keep the public safe from animal-related health and/or safety dangers.

6,406
Dogs impounded

4,133
Dogs adopted

92.2%
Live release rate

505
Dogs transferred to rescue

1,615
Volunteers

34,908
Hours volunteered

759
Dogs spayed/neutered through
SNYP-It Program

3,142
Other dogs spayed or neutered



Community Pet Food Pantry

The Franklin County Dog Shelter & Adoption Center is proud to run the Community Pet Food Pantry. The shelter offers free dog and cat food to Franklin County residents who cannot afford, or may be struggling, to feed their pets. This program allows dogs to stay in their homes and avoid having to be surrendered to the shelter. Community members can access the pantry any time the shelter is open.

The pantry is 100% maintained by generous donations from the public. The shelter honors the generous community which continually answers requests to replenish supplies. Donations can be dropped off at the shelter any time the shelter is open. Donations help keep dogs in their loving homes and allows owners who are struggling to keep their families together. In 2019, the shelter supplied over 1,700 units of food to Franklin County residents.

"I was having a real tough time a few months ago. I'm on a limited income and had a medical emergency. Without savings I had to cut back and wasn't able to buy the food my baby dog needed. The shelter has helped keep Papi with me. He's my only support and I don't know what I'd do without him. Thank you for helping me during a tough time." - Ester C.

Shelter Running Club

Started by volunteers, the Shelter Running Club allows volunteers to run with dogs before and after the shelter opens on predetermined routes of up to five miles. This program benefits the shelter's longer-term residents, as well as those dogs who may not be able to attend playgroup for some reason. This running club allows dogs the opportunity to be outside, get exercise, and spend valuable time away from their kennel.

JOB CREATION, STRATEGIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & FISCAL SECURITY



Historic Investment in Affordable Housing

The Central Ohio economy has grown faster in the past ten years than during any other decade in its history, and approximately 200,000 new residents have come to call our region home in that time. Franklin County is now the largest and fastest growing large county in Ohio. Ours is also the fastest growing region in the Midwest, and for good reason, as it's one of the best places in the nation for young families, fashion, food, and startup companies. All of that success, however comes with tradeoffs, including a roaring real estate market that can make it very hard for working families to find housing that they can afford. Worse still, finding affordable housing in desirable neighborhoods, near job centers and good schools, and on public transportation lines can feel nearly impossible.

For years, Franklin County has invested millions and millions of dollars each year in affordable housing efforts, including with the Community Shelter Board and the Affordable Housing Trust. The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission estimates that as many as one million more new residents will be coming to Central Ohio in the next 30 years, however, so the problem and need for affordable housing isn't going away anytime soon.

So, when the commissioner's Economic Development and Planning department began creating a new five-year strategic plan earlier this year, the commissioners asked that it include plans for how the county can continue and expand its support for affordable housing. The result is a comprehensive plan that includes a new investment of an additional \$65 million to build more than 2,000 new affordable housing units over the next ten years.

The new initiative includes a yearly investment of \$4.125 million for a County Housing Magnet Fund to help fund affordable housing development near employment centers and public transportation, and \$2.375 million to the new Central Ohio Community Land Trust, which will be used to acquire and hold land in developing areas to ensure that its housing remains affordable for the long-term. In all, the approximately \$6.5 million annual investment is expected to result in 205 new affordable housing units each year.

3,321
Permits

5,292
Inspections

279
New Home Builds

To download a copy of the full Economic Development and Planning Five-Year plan, and the Affordable Housing framework, visit: development.franklincountyohio.gov/edsp.

Building

The Economic Development and Planning Department, in addition to economic and community development programming and land-use planning, also administers building permitting and zoning compliance for most of the unincorporated parts of Franklin County. Each year, county staff examines and inspects thousands of zoning and building permits and plans to ensure compliance with state and local laws and regulation, and to ensure public safety.

Community Development

In 2019 Franklin County received just over \$2.9 million dollars in funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Community Development Advisory Board (a transparent board comprised of Franklin County residents) provided recommendations for funding to the Franklin County Commissioners consistent with the community needs, priorities and strategies stated in the county's 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan.

The three Consolidated Plan programs for which the county received grant allocations are the:

- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program which primarily benefits low-income individuals.
- HOME Partnership (HOME) program which funds affordable housing opportunities.
- Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program which provides homelessness assistance.

Allocations



With these dollars, Franklin County was able to accomplish several housing initiatives such as providing \$800,000 to the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission for urgent home repair grants to low-income families to address failing household systems that threatened the occupants immediate health and safety; working with the Community Housing Network to create 400 units of permanent subsidized housing for individuals disabled by mental illness; in addition, public service projects including housing retention and counseling services, meal distribution to low income residents and a unique program known as Stepping off to College which provided college entry readiness skills to high school students preparing to enter college by providing a lap top computer upon successful completion of the program; and small business development loans through the Economic Community Development Institute's Microenterprise Program.

With solid program management, Franklin County was able to leverage \$23.55 dollars for every HOME dollar of grant money it received. No other county in America leveraged more.

In 2019, the department also facilitated the construction of one hundred and two units of affordable housing through the Parsons Place and Marshbrook Place projects – benefitting formerly homeless individuals and transitioned aged youth and their children.



SUPPORTIVE HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES



RISE TOGETHER

A BLUEPRINT FOR REDUCING
POVERTY IN FRANKLIN COUNTY

Rise Together

In the fall of 2018, the commissioners began a new initiative to explore the causes of poverty that are particular to Central Ohio and the resources that are available locally, and to put together a comprehensive plan to begin to address poverty in a systematic way, marshalling all of the community's resources to make life better for all Franklin County families.

The commissioners hired a consultant to help lead the effort, then assembled a steering committee of local non-profit, government, business, community, and religious leaders, many of whom have experienced poverty in their own lives. They led dozens of meetings with hundreds of local residents who are struggling to get ahead, and engaged the Ohio State University Kirwan Institute to collect and analyze data. The result is the Franklin County Rise Together Blueprint, which includes 120 goals and action steps to begin to address poverty more effectively.

The first thing that became apparent through this process is that the issue of poverty cannot be separated from issues of race, so the commissioners have begun to initiate a community conversation on race, beginning with racial equity training for county staff and key partners in the non-profit and business communities. They've also undertaken a series of immediate action steps that they've identified as things they can do right away to start to move the needle on poverty, including new community grants, funding the Future Cities program, expanding the Building Futures job-training initiative, and raising their own employees' minimum wage to at least \$15 per hour.

The next step involves the creation of an Innovation Center to be led by a committee co-chaired by Trudy Bartley of The Ohio State University and Matt Habash of the Mid-Ohio Foodbank. The Innovation Center will begin immediately to take on three of the goals identified in the blueprint and to study the big idea of piloting universal childcare and early childhood education for Franklin County residents. In 12 to 18 months, the commissioners envision the Innovation Center spinning off into a stand-alone organization to which they have committed up to \$2.5 million in annual funding as well as to soliciting a similar amount from other sources.

The commissioners know that they've only just begun what is to be a long and difficult process, but they also understand that while our community is thriving in many ways, it cannot be successful until every family has an opportunity to get ahead. To download a copy of the Rise Together Blueprint, visit commissioners.franklincountyohio.gov/poverty.



Community Partnership Program

Franklin County is committed to improving the lives of residents. Through collaboration and in partnership with local vendors, business owners, non-profit organizations and national, state and local governments, we strive to ensure that county agencies provide services efficiently and effectively. Equally important, the Commissioners partner directly with community agencies that seek to create well-paying jobs for residents and economic development opportunities for businesses, protect the environment, further the community's access to affordable healthcare, stabilize families and children and keep our neighborhoods safe. The Community Partnerships Program is a competitive grant process whereby the Commissioners support local community-based organizations that serve county residents. Twenty-six local agencies were funded with 2019 Partnership Grants by demonstrating how effectively and efficiently the initiative or program will help the Board of Commissioners achieve its strategic goals of:

- Community Safety, Security and Effective Justice
- Job Creation, Strategic Economic Development, and Fiscal Security
- Supportive Health and Human Services
- Good Stewardship of Natural Resources, Environmental Sustainability, and Civic Engagement
- Efficient, Responsive and Fiscally Sustainable Government Operations

Catalyst Grants

The Catalyst Grant Program was created in 2019 as an immediate action of the commissioners as part of the Rise Together Blueprint to spark meaningful change for Franklin County residents in the following priority areas:

- Emerging and Basic Needs
- Economic Security/Crisis Stabilization
- Personal and Family Empowerment and Community Enrichment.

Thirteen stellar local agencies were funded under this new program in 2019.

budget.franklincountyohio.gov/grants/community-partnership-program

Heart of Ohio

The Rise Together Blueprint for addressing poverty called for more community and school-based healthcare options for residents. One of the inaugural recipients of the commissioners' new Catalyst Grants is Heart of Ohio Family Health, which has opened a new health center right in Whitehall-Yearling High School and thought to be the first school-based health center of its kind in Franklin County. The center is staffed by a certified nurse practitioner, two medical assistants, a behavioral health counselor, and registration staff, and will serve adults and children in the community with primary care and behavioral health services regardless of their ability to pay. The clinic can treat for acute illnesses such as the flu, but also chronic conditions such as asthma and diabetes, and teenagers who might otherwise be resistant to visiting a doctor may be more likely to seek medical help for problems like depression or obesity at a resource right in their school.





SUPPORTIVE HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

JOB & FAMILY SERVICES

The Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services is a county, state and federally-supported agency responsible for basic financial, medical and social service programs. The agency's programs ensure no Franklin County resident is forced to go without life's basic essentials due to a lack of resources including food, clothing, shelter, medical care, and other life sustaining services.

313,355
Medicaid Enrollees

144,349
SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) Enrollees

9,947
Ohio Works First enrollees

148,479
Children enrolled in Medicaid

72,655
Children enrolled in SNAP

9,282
Children in Ohio Works First

28,469
Publicly Funded Child Care Enrollees

Roads to Work

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners is committed to serving, supporting, and uplifting all county residents. We continue to work to reduce poverty through the Rise Together Blueprint, which includes increasing access to relevant training for credentials that meet local demand with employer commitments to hire and promote -- and the TANF funding purpose of promoting job preparation and work. The county's support and funding of Job and Family Services' new Roads 2 Work training program aligns with those efforts. The program is a partnership with Impact Community Action and the Capital Transportation Academy to provide Commercial Drivers' License (CDL) training and transportation industry employment for low-to-moderate income, underemployed, or restored citizens.

The program consists of one week of soft skills and four weeks of CDL-specific training. Graduates of the program receive assistance with employment in the transportation industry and coaching during the first 12 months following placement.

In two classes so far, 36 residents have graduated from Roads 2 Work. Future classes are planned for another 75 residents to participate.

Jobs as commercial drivers are in-demand and projected to grow by 6% over the next several years. Through Roads 2 Work, individuals who complete the required training and obtain their CDL can start out earning wages of \$45-\$50k per year plus benefits. As we increase access to relevant training for credentials that meet local demand, we look forward to the continued success of the Roads 2 Work training program and prosperous futures for Franklin County residents.

Step Up to Quality

The Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services has worked since 2017 to help prepare childcare providers for the new state-mandated Step Up to Quality (SUTQ) standards. The star-rated standards indicate a level of training and preparedness in the overall care and education of children and are expected to go into effect in September of 2020. The county has advanced communication and outreach strategies among child care providers and parents to increase awareness about the importance of high-quality preschool and to encourage participation in SUTQ. In 2018 and 2019, Franklin County established and launched free trainings to help providers attain and maintain their star ratings and that work is continuing in 2020.



Franklin County is the first county in the state to offer free training to help center- or home-based providers become or stay star rated. The training includes in-person and online hands-on technical assistance to help providers understand SUTQ requirements. All providers in Franklin County are eligible. The training is approved by the Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Agency, and providers can earn up to 32 hours credit toward their SUTQ star rating.

- Since launching free training in the summer of 2018, more than 800 individual professionals from 407 child care providers (298 centers, 109 homes) have completed SUTQ training.
- As of December 2019, Franklin County has trained 227 providers – exceeding the contract target of 215.
- In spring 2020, 54% of providers that have completed SUTQ training have also earned a star rating.
- The star-rated providers represent about 45% of all rated Publicly Funded Child Care providers in Franklin County, serving nearly 16,000 children.

Increasing awareness of the SUTQ mandates through research and targeted outreach, as well as providing free training to help providers become star rated aligns with the county's efforts to increase the number of students at or near the poverty level experiencing academic success (Goal #11 of the Rise Together Blueprint to reduce poverty in Franklin County). Learn more about SUTQ at www.StepUp2StarRating.com.



SUPPORTIVE HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

OFFICE ON AGING

In 2018, the Franklin County Office on Aging began utilizing community collaborations to make a collective impact on societal issues that are affecting the aging population such as the Opiate Epidemic, Affordable Housing and Mental Health. A designed combination of roundtable discussions with community partners and Senior Chats events with older adults has resulted in the following outcomes thus far:

- Collaboration with Central Community House to fund its Senior Housing & Health Resources Navigator who provides a system of individualized support to assist seniors aging in place that meets their basic needs, ensuring health & wellness and providing advocacy.
- Collaboration with The Legal Aid Society of Columbus to fund their full-time Social Worker in Eviction Court who provides support to older adults and other members of the community who are involved in the eviction process.
- Collaboration with the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging, Clintonville-Beechwood Community Resources Center, The Ohio State University College of Social Work and the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation to fund and support the GRAND-cares kinship program that empowers grandparents and other kinship providers through educational workshops.
- Collaboration with ADAMH of Franklin County to create an Emotional Wellness Matters campaign for older adults encouraging awareness and access to mental health services.

Franklin County Office on Aging will focus its efforts on the Home Care Worker Shortage by collectively identifying the needs and challenges older adults and local home care providers are facing as it relates to their personal and operational home care needs.

To meet the growing needs of our residents over 60 who strive to remain independent, the agency continues to provide in-home community-based services through the levy funded Senior Options program with these results:



CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

One Agency, One Goal

The child support program of today is not the one of decades ago. The program's original charge was to ensure that taxpayers did not bear the cost of raising children through public benefits and that all children, regardless of marital status of their parents, enjoyed the financial benefit of both parents. As such, the program reflected traditional collection efforts.

Through decades of program refinement and advanced program technology, Ohio now collects \$1.77 billion dollars in payments that go into single parent households. Franklin County collects \$167 million. In collecting these amounts, the program is finding that those parents who can pay, generally do so. Those who do not pay, have deep social and personal barriers. It's these low-income parents who carry most of the child support debt. As such, the program has turned toward a family-centered model that focuses on supports to families which will ultimately help them to become engaged parents for their children, both financially and emotionally.

So that the program develops data-driven policies and procedures which are in line with the program's current philosophy, in 2019, the Franklin County Child Support implemented significant organizational change including the restructuring of the administrative team and several departments. The administrative team has expanded to include an additional deputy director over planning, programing, research, and evaluation. The agency expanded community outreach capability through the addition of a Social Programming and Community Outreach Unit, and also expanded the IT department, merged the Financial and Legal departments, and added new managers for Enforcement and Establishment. These organizational changes support the Agency's realignment and direction toward a common goal- to provide the best customer service to every resident, every day.



93,920
Children supported

\$7.64
Collected for every dollar spent

\$167 MILLION
Collected and disbursed to the families

50,787
Paternities established

GOOD STEWARDSHIP OF NATURAL RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



PUBLIC FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Public Facilities Management provides efficient, cost-effective, and eco-friendly building maintenance at more than 40 county facilities and construction administration and management for the county.

LEED-certified Buildings



LEED Gold
Common Pleas Courthouse



LEED Silver
Sheriff's Training Academy



LEED Gold
Dog Shelter & Adoption Center



Aiming for LEED certification
New Corrections Center and
Forensic Science Center

Renewable Energy

71
Locations

100%
Renewable energy



Recycling Totals

242

Tons of fiber recycled

70

Tons of metal recycled

24

Tons of mixed recyclables

7

Tons of food waste diverted to compost

1,563

Total tons of recycled material

1,220

Tons of miscellaneous items recycled

GOOD STEWARDSHIP OF NATURAL RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

FLEET MANAGEMENT

If you see a Franklin County vehicle on the road, and there are more than 500 of them, you can be sure that vehicle is well taken care of thanks to the professionals at the commissioners' Franklin County Fleet Management agency. This department procures, maintains, repairs, and eventually disposes of all of the county's vehicles, including some pretty unusual ones at a 17,000 square-foot facility east of downtown, and all with a staff of just 12 employees.

509

Vehicles maintained

6,386,537

Miles driven

\$929,387

Parts and labor to maintain the fleet

369,200

Gallons of fuel

1,105

Oil changes

Electric/Alternative Fuel Vehicles

28

Alternatively fueled vehicles

72.19

Average miles per gallon

30

Charging stations

SANITARY ENGINEERING

4,506

Water customers

6,505

Sewer customers

350,178

CCF water delivered
(1 CCF = 748 gallons)

667,046.79

CCF water purchased/treated

99,319.67

CCF sewage treated via four
wastewater treatment centers

414,083

CCF sewage sent to the City of
Columbus for treatment

The Department of Sanitary Engineering provides safe water and sewer services to county residents not served by another water system in order to protect both our environment and our standard of living.

COUNTY PARTNERS

For the first time this year, the commissioners' State of the County report includes updates from our county partners at the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO) and the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), both of which are focused on responsible, sustainable planning and governance for our region's long-term growth.



SWACO

The Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio operates the Franklin County Sanitary Landfill and offers programs and services to help Central Ohio residents and businesses reduce their waste.

In 2018, 2.5 million tons of material was sent to the landfill, the highest in recent years. Fortunately, the rate at which we're diverting material from the landfill through recycling, composting and other waste-reduction efforts is also increasing. In 2019, SWACO announced that Franklin County reached a 50% diversion rate, which is well above the national average of 34%. But there's room for improvement.

Our goal is to divert 75% of all waste from the landfill by 2032. Based on the results of our 2019 Waste Characterization Study, we know that 76% of the material being sent to the landfill could be recycled or composted, so we know the goal is attainable.

These are just some of SWACO's programs and services that will help us get there:

- **Residential Recycling Cart Initiative** – SWACO helps communities purchase recycling carts at a 50% discount.
- **Community Consortium Programs** –SWACO helps communities get better rates on their curbside trash, recycling and yard waste services.
- **Recycle Right, Make a Difference** – This education campaign teaches residents what can and cannot be recycled.
- **Food Waste Initiative** – SWACO convened more than 150 businesses, nonprofits and public entities to work together to come up with ways to cut food waste in half by 2030.
- **Household Hazardous Waste Disposal** – SWACO provides free household hazardous waste disposal services for all Franklin County residents.
- **Recycling Drop-Off Program** – SWACO has more than 150 recycling containers at over 70 drop-off sites across the county.
- **Environmental Crimes Task Force** – The Franklin County Sheriff's Office, Prosecutor, Public Health, and the City of Columbus have representatives on this task force, which is funded by SWACO and investigates reports of illegal dumping and other environmental crimes.

41%

Amount of material in landfill that could be recycled today

35%

Amount of material in landfill that could be recycled with new programs or infrastructure

10 POUNDS

Per person per day sent to landfill each year

75%

Diversion goal by 2032

GOOD STEWARDSHIP OF NATURAL RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Franklin County and its communities continue to partner with the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission to strengthen sustainability efforts, which are key to supporting regional growth and vitality. Chief among the efforts is Sustainable2050, an initiative comprised of more than 30 local communities and organizations working toward more sustainable practices.

Sustainable2050 supports sustainability actions through direct technical assistance, collaboration, and recognition. Participant communities are rated according to the number of eligible activities they carry out in five categories corresponding to MORPC's Regional Sustainability Agenda.

Sustainable2050 members support the region's goals through their own unique projects and programs. Franklin County achieved Platinum status, which is the highest-tier status certification that members can earn.

- Under the guidance of the county engineer, Franklin is the first county in the region to adopt a Complete Streets policy, directing staff to accommodate all modes of travel, including by pedestrians, cyclists, motorists, and transit.
- Franklin County, through its Soil & Water Conservation District, is leading the way to improve water quality in the watersheds across our region. The Community Backyards program provides education and rebates on rain barrels, compost bins, and native plants. Franklin County Soil & Water also consults with local municipalities on research projects to highlight local examples of innovative technologies and stormwater solutions.
- Energy Works is a program of the commissioners' in partnership with the Columbus-Franklin County Finance Authority, which provides loans and access to financing tools to Franklin County businesses and nonprofits for cost-effective energy efficiency improvements. Energy Works is designed to increase the energy efficiency of both existing and new facilities, resulting in lower energy costs, fewer emissions, and economic growth in Franklin County.
- Franklin County is the first local government in Ohio to receive a SolSmart designation. SolSmart is a national program of the Solar Foundation to help governments make it easier and more affordable to go solar. To receive this designation, cities and counties must take steps to reduce the barriers to installing a solar system. The commissioners updated the permitting process for solar energy systems, reviewed local zoning codes, and identified restrictions that prohibit solar development, provided additional online resources and Property Assessed Clean Energy financing for eligible properties.

Sustainable 2050

Sustainable2050 members are certified by MORPC's Sustainability Advisory Committee, a regional committee chaired by Franklin County Economic Development & Planning Director James Schimmer. Additional local communities have committed to work toward more sustainable practices through the initiative, meaning more communities will be certified in the near future.



29 OUT OF 34

Communities participating are in Franklin County

16

Franklin county communities have already been certified

SILVER

Blendon Township, Gahanna, Lockbourne, Whitehall

GOLD

Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks, Grove City

PLATINUM

Franklin County Board of Commissioners, Franklin County Engineer's Office, Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District, Bexley, Columbus, Dublin, MORPC, Upper Arlington, Westerville, Worthington



EFFICIENT, RESPONSIVE & FISCALLY SUSTAINABLE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

HUMAN RESOURCES

The commissioners' Human Resources Department continually looks for ways to attract the best possible candidates for open positions. Franklin County has always offered its employees a competitive benefits package. In 2019, the commissioner made permanent two important pilot programs, the Paid Family Leave program and Volunteers in Public Service. The first provides paid time off for employees to care for a new child following birth or adoption, or to care for another covered family member with a serious medical condition. The second gives employees a certain amount of paid time to volunteer with a qualifying nonprofit. The Human Resources Department continues to look for ways to improve benefits and ensure Franklin County remains an employer of choice in Central Ohio.

8,841

Applications received

327

Persons hired

32

Approximate applications for each job posting

1,291

Board of Commissioners employees

10

Regional job fairs

1,500

Job fair engagements

BENEFITS & WELLNESS

The Board of Commissioners administers the Franklin County Cooperative Health Improvement Program which provides a comprehensive benefits program including, medical, behavioral health, pharmacy, dental, vision and life insurance in addition to disability and flexible spending account options to nearly 6,000 employees from Franklin County, and other governmental agencies. Total enrollment is over 14,000 member lives.

Healthiest Large Employer in Central Ohio

The Franklin County Cooperative Health Improvement Program has long been recognized as one of the most progressive and effective health and wellness programs in the region. For 2019, however, the county has taken things to a new level, and been recognized by the Healthy Business Council of Ohio with a gold award and also as the healthiest large employer in Central Ohio.

The Franklin County Cooperative Health Improvement Program supports more than 6,000 employees across 46 separate agencies to promote health and wellness, and to reduce healthcare costs. The program, administered by the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, understands that a strong workforce benefits a strong public, and includes members from other local governments such as Pickaway County and Grandview Heights.

In addition to overseeing its members' health insurance benefits, the Cooperative oversees an extensive wellness initiative called ThriveOn that was key in the Healthiest Employer designation. Wellness describes positive individual health, quality of life, and well-being, and the commissioners understand that being healthy requires that one also is well. ThriveOn focuses on physical health, but also on improving the intellectual and emotional, social and community, and material aspects of employees' lives. It's a multidimensional approach to helping employees live healthy and stay well.

ThriveOn provides opportunities for members to have biometric screenings and get vaccines at work, reimburses for gym memberships, and even provides monetary incentives for completing healthy activities. ThriveOn can also connect members to benefits such as a weight loss program with interactive coaching, and the ThriveOn team also organizes healthy activities at work, and the new annual Franklin County 5K.



EFFICIENT, RESPONSIVE & FISCALLY SUSTAINABLE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

The Purchasing Department oversees county procurement, surplus auction, printing and mail services.

Doing Business with the County

7,071
Purchase orders

\$417,366,415.44
Total dollar amount of purchase orders

8,318
Vendors registered to do business with Franklin County

SMALL AND EMERGING BUSINESS ENTERPRISE UTILIZATION

Franklin County Corrections Center

12%
Aspirational Goal

23.34%
Actual SEBE representation to-date

\$20,914,713
Actual SEBE spending

Franklin County Forensic Science Center

12%
Aspirational Goal

37.47%
Actual SEBE representation to-date

\$2,315,910
Actual SEBE spending

For Board of Commissioners Agencies

25%
SEBE utilization

3,168
Eligible POs

\$7 MILLION
Approximate contract value

40%
Of eligible dollar volume



Print Shop

10,221,627
Items copied or printed

261,930
Election ballots

\$806,182
Savings by using the county's
in-house print shop

Mailroom

2,162,021
Pieces of mail processed

\$291,536
Savings by using the county mail room

Surplus Auction

\$4,119,654

Worth of excess or obsolete county property items
sold via internet auction from 2003-2018

See what we are selling at GovDeals.com/FCOH



Franklin County
**BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS**

ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL

(614) 525-3400
DOGS.FRANKLINCOUNTYOHIO.GOV

AUDITOR

(614) 525-4663
FRANKLINCOUNTYAUDITOR.COM

BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

(614) 475-6440
FCBDD.ORG

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

(614) 525-3100
VOTE.FRANKLINCOUNTYOHIO.GOV

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT

(614) 525-3275
SUPPORT.FRANKLINCOUNTYOHIO.GOV

CHILDREN SERVICES

(614) 229-7100
CHILDRENSERVICES.FRANKLINCOUNTYOHIO.GOV

CLERK OF COURTS

(614) 525-3600
CLERK.FRANKLINCOUNTYOHIO.GOV

CORONER

(614) 525-5290
CORONER.FRANKLINCOUNTYOHIO.GOV

COURT OF APPEALS

(614) 525-3580
TENTHDISTRICTCOURT.ORG

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

(614) 525-3453
FCCOURTS.ORG

DOMESTIC RELATIONS/JUVENILE BRANCH

(614) 525-3628
DRJ.FCCOURTS.ORG

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING

(614) 525-3095
DEVELOPMENT.FRANKLINCOUNTYOHIO.GOV

Emergency Management Agency

(614) 791-0213
FCEMHS.ORG

ENGINEER

(614) 525-3030
FRANKLINCOUNTYENGINEER.ORG

GUARDIANSHIP SERVICES BOARD

(614) 525-2279
GUARDIAN.FRANKLINCOUNTYOHIO.GOV

JOB & FAMILY SERVICES

(614) 233-2000
JFS.FRANKLINCOUNTYOHIO.GOV

LAW LIBRARY

(614) 525-4971
LAWLIBRARY.FRANKLINCOUNTYOHIO.GOV

MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

(614) 228-2663
MORPC.ORG

OFFICE ON AGING

(614) 525-5230
OFFICEONAGING.ORG

OFFICE OF JUSTICE POLICY & PROGRAMS

(614) 525-5577
JPP.FRANKLINCOUNTYOHIO.GOV

PROBATE COURT

(614) 525-3894
PROBATE.FRANKLINCOUNTYOHIO.GOV

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

(614) 525-3555
PROSECUTOR.FRANKLINCOUNTYOHIO.GOV

PUBLIC HEALTH

(614) 525-3160
MYFCPH.ORG

PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

(614) 525-3750
PURCHASING.FRANKLINCOUNTYOHIO.GOV

RECORDER

(614) 525-3930
RECORDER.FRANKLINCOUNTYOHIO.GOV

SANITARY ENGINEERING

(614) 525-3940
CLEANWATER.FRANKLINCOUNTYOHIO.GOV

SHERIFF

(614) 525-3333
SHERIFF.FRANKLINCOUNTYOHIO.GOV

SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY OF CENTRAL OHIO

(614) 871-5100
SWACO.ORG

TREASURER

(614) 525-3438
TREASURER.FRANKLINCOUNTYOHIO.GOV

VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION

(614) 525-2500
VETS.FRANKLINCOUNTYOHIO.GOV