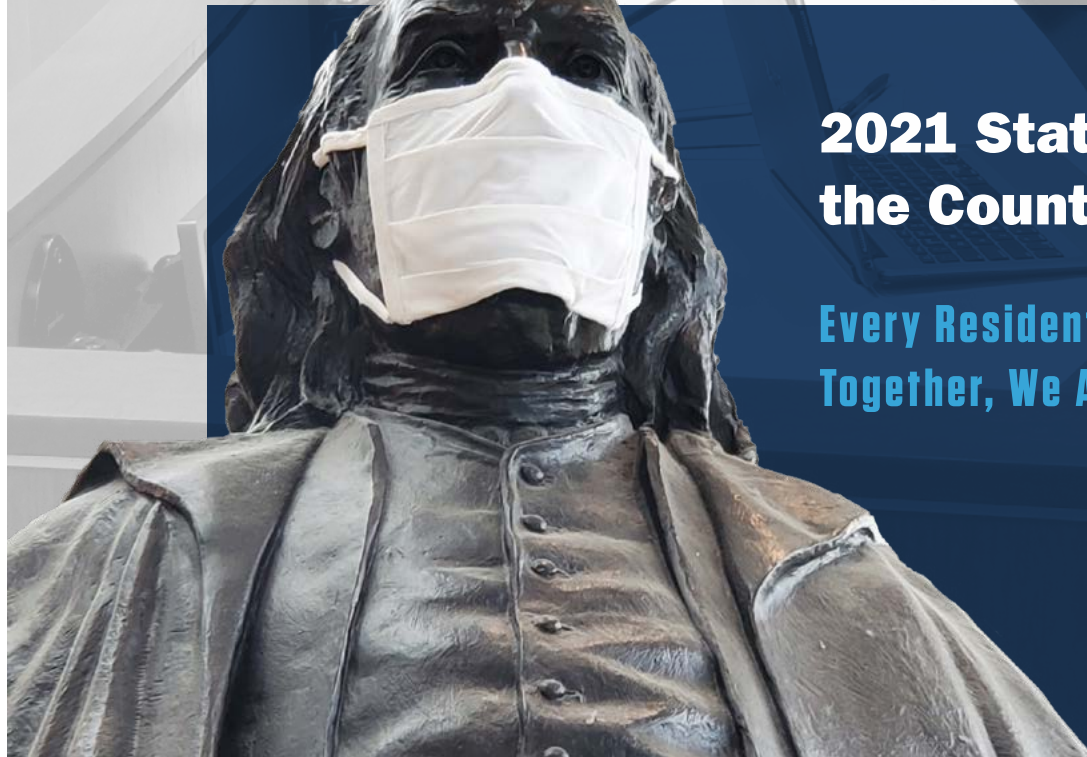




Franklin County
**BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS**



**2021 State of
the County Report**

**Every Resident, Every Day.
Together, We Are Strong.**

Welcome

Dear Franklin County Residents,



Kevin L. Boyce
COMMISSIONER

Welcome to the 2021 State of the County report for Franklin County. We want to thank you for giving us a few minutes of your time. The county always provides a large variety of vital services and programs for residents in its role as the primary provider of social services; but that role took on historic proportions throughout 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This annual report not only captures and highlights the key services and assistance that were critical to many residents during these troubling times, it also showcases some of our plans and hopes for a better tomorrow. We operate under the mantra of helping “Every Resident, Every Day” because we know that for Franklin County to succeed, we must all succeed together. The year 2020 was monumentally challenging due to the pandemic, the subsequent economic struggles and social unrest.



Marilyn Brown
COMMISSIONER

COVID-19 was detected in Ohio on March 9, and by the end of the year, more than 90,000 residents were diagnosed with the virus in Franklin County. More than 1,250 of those patients would die from it in 2020 alone. Vaccines for the virus became available in early 2021, while the number of new cases continued at a high level. Of course, statistics even as alarming as these don’t begin to reflect the difficulties many families faced.

This report will not only provide an overview of county services, it also records a few ways in which this microscopic virus altered daily life, created hardships and forced substantial changes in government. In addition, we also share a few of the stories of sacrifice and compassion witnessed as we came together as a community.



John G. Gentry
COMMISSIONER

The virus forced government services to move almost entirely online in a matter of days or weeks. The state experienced record unemployment as businesses were forced to close. To assist, we, your Franklin County Commissioners, began a massive re-shifting of funds to help residents and providing about \$76 million in CARES Act funding. Millions were moved to help residents avoid evictions, as well as additional millions to help nonprofits cope with extraordinary demand. The structure of some county programs was altered, including allowing all senior citizens to receive free meals sent to their home so more people could safely shelter in place. We also created workforce training programs to help thousands of low-income residents who were out of work or under-employed, move into high-demand careers that offered stable benefits and middle-class pay.

We made sure businesses were also assisted, with tailored approaches for the various needs. The county approved new revolving loans, special aid for small and minority-owned businesses, especially those that had been denied federal help, and financial assistance to assist with the high, unexpected costs of personal protection equipment needed to remain operational.

And we are proud to say the county accomplished this and more without faltering; no residents were ever denied service, staff were not furloughed or laid off, and all services were maintained.

During this difficult year, the county also led the push for racial equity. Franklin County declared racism a public health crisis and made racial equity one of our core principles of governance. Also in 2020, numerous recommendations were carried out from the Rise



Together, a Blueprint for Reducing Poverty report, which the commissioners published in 2019 in consultation with a consortium of public and private leaders. That report led in 2020 to the creation of a leadership council which will oversee short- and long-range equity goals that had been recommended in the report.

Furthermore, Franklin County maintained its status as one of the most fiscally responsible counties in America and one of Franklin County's healthiest employers.

Despite all the struggles we faced and continue to battle, we are excited for the future. We know this unified, fiscally-conservative, yet socially-progressive approach will allow us all to see greater growth in the future.

Stay safe and well,

Kevin L. Boyce

Marilyn Brown

John O'Grady

Table of Contents

Welcome Letter	2
Contact Us	3
Community, Safety, Security and Effective Justice	4
Job Creation, Strategic Economic Development & Fiscal Security	8
Supportive Health & Human Services	13
Good Stewardship of Natural Resources, Environmental Sustainability and Civic Engagement	18
Efficient, Responsive & Fiscally Sustainable Government Operations	20
Racial Equity	22

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Community, Safety, Security and Effective Justice

Franklin County Adds New Facilities Amid 2020's Pandemic

Franklin County welcomed a new state-of-the-art forensic science center in 2020 when the coroner's staff moved into the new facility at 2090 Frank Road. The center tripled the amount of space from their previous location at 520 King Ave. on The Ohio State University campus. In this challenging year as we all faced the difficulties of COVID-19, the coroner's team has also had to cope with a significant rise in opioid-related overdose deaths.

The coroner's office also added new tools including the addition of designated counseling space, space for eight autopsies to be performed at once, an expanded toxicology lab, two new imaging systems - a CT machine and Lodox, and other amenities. The building includes electric vehicle plug-in spots and solar-ready rooftops and is projected to receive a LEED-Silver energy rating.

The county also moved closer to finishing and opening a new corrections center this year, on the west side of Franklin County. The county's two existing jail facilities are quite aged, and the new jail will provide a host of improvements from its size, amenities, and philosophies in inmate management. Detainees here will have the ability and tools to concentrate on self-improvement, while receiving treatment for mental

health and addiction. These changes and many others are hoped to help reduce recidivism and make our community safer.

Forensic Science Center by The Numbers

UNEXPECTED DEATHS REPORTED TO THE CORONER*

5,823 reported deaths — **↑ 23.2%**

DEATH SCENES STAFFED BY FORENSIC INVESTIGATORS

1,625 death scenes — **↑ 11.3%**

AUTOPSIES AND EXAMINATIONS

1,538 full autopsies performed and **701** external examinations — **↑ 26%**

OVERDOSE DEATHS

614 overdose deaths between Jan. 1 – Sept. 30, 2020
↑ 45.2% in deaths for the same time period of 2019

*all comparisons are from 2019 unless otherwise noted



Forensic Science Center

Open Date: May 2020
Size: 56,654 square feet
Budget: \$37 Million



Franklin County James A. Karnes Correction Center

Opening date: Late 2021
Size: 430,000 square feet
Budget \$360 million



Commissioner John O'Grady gets a tour of the overflow center from area hospital leaders.

Ensuring Care for Residents During the Pandemic

Perhaps one of the most visible commissioner projects in 2020 was the managing of a special overflow center for COVID-19. The Board of Commissioners and Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security spearheaded many of the preparations to convert the Columbus Convention Center into a 1,000-bed overflow facility to be used in case area hospitals became overwhelmed with COVID-19 patients. The county offices partnered with OhioHealth, Mount Carmel Medical Systems, Nationwide Children's Hospital and The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center for preparations, including medical equipment, generators, beds and other necessities so that the convention center could be activated

as a hospital if the need arose. Thankfully, it hasn't needed to be utilized, but the commissioners stand ready to ensure that all of their residents are able to get the care they require should the need ever arise in the future.

COVID-19's 2020 Impact on Franklin County

Cases – **90,122**

Deaths – **1,266**

Justice Policy and Programs

The Office of Justice Policy and Programs helps many Franklin County residents in great need and added two significant programs in 2020. First, the agency merged with the nonprofit, [Court Appointed Special Advocates of Franklin County \(CASA\)](#) which provides volunteer guardian ad litem services to abused or neglected children in Domestic and Juvenile Court. CASA assisted 767 children and trained 62 new volunteers in 2020.

The office also offered new hope through the Pathways program for repeat offenders at considerable risk of overdose and death due to opioid use, mental health issues, or who may have unstable housing upon release.

The program, previously available to women, was also offered to men in 2020. Together the programs helped a total of 95 people

last year by linking them to much needed services which will help them become independent. The program not only helps reduce recidivism, it also saves hundreds of thousands of dollars in jail costs.

In addition to Pathways, Justice Policy and Programs also:

- Helped **43** people who had mental health issues or disorders get into long-term housing and helped reduce their recidivism rates.
- Distributed **1,960** Narcan kits to at-risk individuals released from jail.
- Assisted **1,616** survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and other crimes.



Justice Policy and Programs staff adjust to 2020's plethora of Zoom meetings.

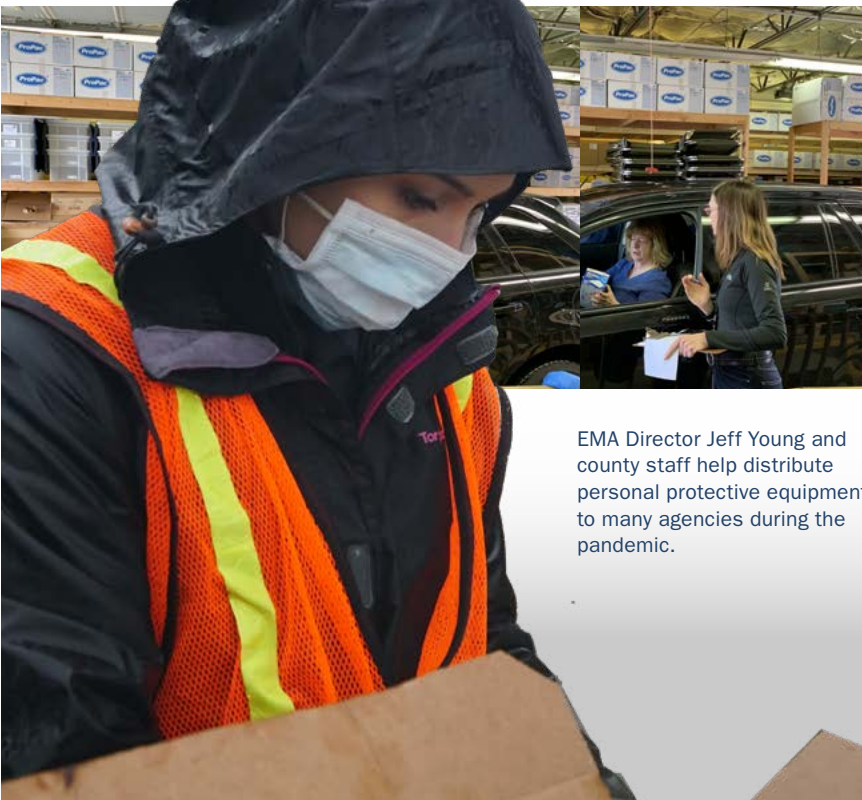
Emergency Management and Homeland Security

The Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security made significant improvements in 2020 while handling many historic demands. Franklin County became the first county in the nation to be granted “super-user” status by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security allowing local agencies to receive information & intelligence from the federal agency 24 hours a day.

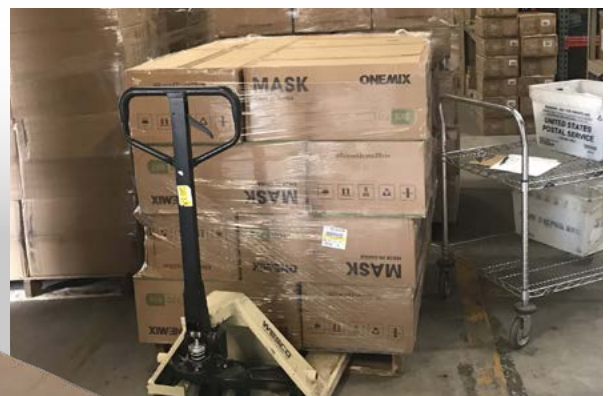
The Emergency Management team also managed the county’s emergency operations center for COVID-19. This center, which was activated on March 12, 2020, facilitated more than 100 briefings with partner agencies and provided a host of other services for the collective response to the pandemic.

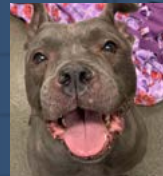
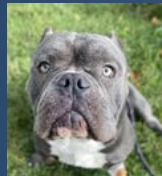
The agency also assisted with help acquiring and distributing millions of pieces of personal protective equipment including:

- More than **1.5 million** pieces for residents, nonprofits and governmental agencies.
- Assistance to the Educational Service Center of Central Ohio for the distribution of more than **2.6 million** masks to schools around Central Ohio.
- Nearly **1,000** citizen aid kits, which could be used in mass trauma events where public help is needed.



EMA Director Jeff Young and county staff help distribute personal protective equipment to many agencies during the pandemic.





Top row: Shelter staff work with abandoned dogs. Lower row: A few of the dogs that came into the shelter this year. Background: A happy Franklin County family after adopting a dog from the shelter

Animal Care and Control

The Franklin County Dog Shelter & Adoption Center paired a record number of families with fur-ever friends last year which were especially important during the pandemic. Families sought new pets in record numbers as they sheltered in place for much of the year.

Franklin County residents also showed their continued generosity by keeping the Community Pet Food Pantry filled throughout 2020. The pantry not only offers food, but toys, blankets and more. Needy families accessed the pantry 1,179 times for 2,372 bags of food.

5,305

Dogs impounded

711

Volunteers

2,478

Dogs adopted

289

Transferred to rescue

92.2%

Live release rate

21,518

Volunteer Hours

1,671

Reunited with family

Franklin County Emergency Communications Radio System Expansion

Emergency Management and Homeland Security owns and operates the digital radio system used by first responders across the county, but it hadn't been updated since 2013. Last year, EMA was able to secure a grant from the state of Ohio to upgrade the system by adding more channel capacity and signal strength. Franklin County's radio system is being transferred onto the state's which will eliminate radio system redundancy and is projected to provide long-term savings. The transition is expected to be completed in July 2021.





Job Creation, Strategic Economic Development & Fiscal Security

Commissioners Make Investments in Affordable Housing

Facilitating more affordable housing has been a goal of the Franklin County Commissioners for many years. The commissioners' *Rise Together Blueprint for Reducing Poverty in Franklin County* identified that drastically increasing the availability of affordable housing is critical to reducing poverty.

In May 2019, Franklin County Economic Development and Planning published the [*Affordable Housing Implementation*](#)

Framework to guide the county's affordable housing initiative. Franklin County has made significant progress most notably in activating new funding for the construction of new affordable housing units. Through its newly created Magnet Fund, the commissioners awarded four letters of intent for the creation of 305 new units of affordable housing in Franklin County.



Dunberry Green (above)



Mulby Place (above)

Salem Village (left)

HOME Program

The County's HOME program currently ranks among the tops in the nation in terms of leveraging its annual allocation.

We leverage \$23.55 for every qualifying HOME dollar compared to the state average of \$8.76 and the national average of \$5.93.

In the 2019-2020 cycle, this leverage resulted in \$16.9 million compared to the national average, which would yield \$4.2 million – an additional \$12.7 million in annual affordable housing benefit for Franklin County.

Franklin County leveraged

\$23.55

for every qualifying HOME dollar allocated.

Leverage resulted in

\$16.9 M

annual affordable housing benefit for Franklin County.

Average US County leveraged

\$5.93

for every qualifying HOME dollar allocated.

Leverage resulted in

\$4.2 M

for every qualifying HOME dollar allocated.

Targeted Help for Businesses

The pandemic created historic challenges for businesses as customers sheltered in place or limited contact. Many businesses were forced to permanently close their doors while others had to close their doors for weeks or months, leading to historic unemployment claims. Without fast and innovative help, thousands more unemployed were feared to follow.

Officials from the commissioners' Economic Development and Planning Department recognized the urgency of the situation and deployed resources to help businesses ride out the pandemic with targeted loans and grants. These included forgivable loans to help them stay open, grants to cover the costs of modifying their facilities to be compliant with safety guidelines, grants to cover personal protective equipment or lost wages and more.

The commissioners also made sure the grants were awarded equitably so that recipients reflected Franklin County's diversity. Unfortunately, while the federal government offered support via the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), analysis later showed that much of that funding went to big businesses and only 3% of PPP loans issued in Ohio went to African-American-owned businesses. The commissioners

set out to find and assist, those businesses that were falling through the cracks. Franklin County's programs for businesses and nonprofits included:

- **The Columbus-Franklin County Small Business Response & Recovery Fund** – [The county and the City of Columbus partnered with Rev1 Ventures to distribute a combined \\$9.3 million to help 986 small businesses respond to the pandemic.](#)
- **Franklin County Community Equity Fund** – [The county partnered with One Columbus and the Columbus Urban League to distribute \\$2.46 million to 104 local minority-owned businesses.](#)
- **COVID-19 Resilience Initiative Grants** – [Franklin County and the City of Columbus partnered to distribute more than \\$20 million to help stabilize the nonprofit sector, which was seeing record demand and diminished donations.](#)

Dozens of additional programs were also implemented to address other key areas of need.

Franklin County Infrastructure Bank

Since the program began in 2015, the Franklin County Infrastructure Bank has been a revolving loan fund for municipalities to provide below market rate financing for infrastructure programs like transportation, energy, water, telecom and more. Thus far the bank has made 8 loans to 7 municipalities:

\$7,675,000 FCIB Funds Committed

\$23,700,270 Funds Leveraged

3 to 1 Leverage Ratio

\$1,129,898 Program Income to Date

1,007 Job Creation Commitment

\$7,621 Cost per Job

2,370 Job Creation to Date

Franklin County Magnet Fund

- The commissioners approved **\$4.5 million** for these projects and private companies are investing \$51.6 million.
- Will create **305** projected new affordable housing units.
- For every **\$1** of cash equity the county is contributing to these projects, **\$11** of private investment is being generated.

COVID-19 Response Efforts for the Business Community and Housing Assistance

How Economic Development and Planning put CARES Act funding to work in Franklin County



\$2.17 MILLION to create a revolving loan program and business assistance - Economic Community Development Institute



\$2.9 MILLION invested to assist the homeless and those on the verge of homelessness - Community Shelter Board



\$1 MILLION in foreclosure and eviction prevention - IMPACT Community Action



\$3.2 MILLION for small business assistance - Columbus Urban League



\$250,000 for a housing stabilization project - YMCA



\$200,000 for eviction and foreclosure prevention - Homes on the Hill



\$500,000 to increase broadband access for low-income families - Central Ohio Broadband Access Pilot Program



\$500,000 for job development training - Franklin County Skill Boost



\$40,000 to assist business entrepreneurs - Ohio Small Business Development



\$500,000 for skills boosting program - Workforce Development Board of Central Ohio



\$329,000 in fashion entrepreneurial incubation - Columbus Fashion Initiative



\$3 MILLION for relief from losses during the pandemic - Franklin County Stadium Inc.



\$2.6 MILLION for emergency assistance grants - Housing Assistance Grants (issued through the Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services)

TOTAL - \$17 MILLION OR MORE THAN ONE-FIFTH OF THE \$76 MILLION IN CARES ACT FUNDS INVESTED IN FRANKLIN COUNTY BY THE COMMISSIONERS

Affordable Housing Plan Implementation – Year 1

Launching the Franklin County Magnet Fund

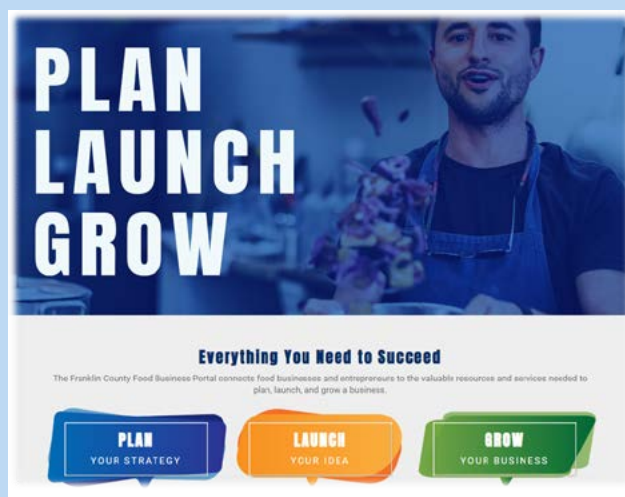
\$46,000,000	..... in total affordable housing investment
\$4,000,000	..... in total county equity funding inducement
305	..... projected new affordable housing units provided
\$1.1 million	..... average county equity per project
11:1	..... leverage of county funding per total project investment
\$14,652	..... of county investment per affordable housing unit

Establishing the Community Land Trust

The Central Ohio Community Land Trust (COCLT) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established in 2018 in partnership with the City of Columbus and Franklin County.

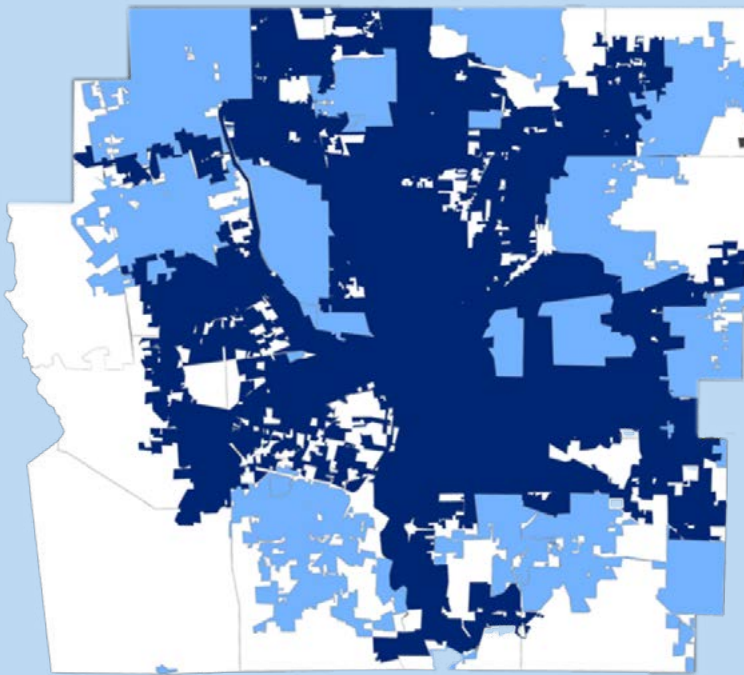
In 2020, the Commissioners made their first investment of **\$2,375,000 to COCLT.**

Food Business Portal: Plan, Launch, and Grow



The commissioners provided businesses with new connections last year to restaurants, food warehouses and deliveries, and local growers via a *Food Business Portal*. The portal is a tool offering valuable online resources and services needed to plan, launch and grow a food business in Franklin County. This portal provides free advice, government contract information, help with marketing, sales, financial guides and more. The portal has additional benefits in that its entrepreneurial resources can be helpful for a variety of small businesses.

Breakdown of Economic Development and Planning Service Areas



Unincorporated (white)

- Zoning Administration for 10 of 17 townships
- New County Affordable Housing Tax Incentives
- Floodplain Administration
- Subdivision Regulations

Balance of the County (White & Light Blue)

- Current HUD Housing Funds
- CARES Act Response and Recovery Funds

County-Wide

- Residential Building (plus 6 contracted villages)
- Infrastructure Bank
- Partnerships
- Land Trust
- Magnet Fund

To be the best county community, planning, and economic development organization in the State of Ohio through the use of innovative public policy and programs which make significant and lasting contributions to enhance the quality of life for the residents of Franklin County. EDP implements resident-centric economic development and planning policies that strive to improve access to opportunity, quality of work, and quality of place. EDP works in collaboration with departments across Franklin County and across the region in pursuit of this mission.

Building Department Online Options



Apply Online

Apply online with our quick and easy process

[APPLY »](#)



Pay Online

Pay your applications quickly and securely

[PAY »](#)



My Inspections

Request an inspection when you are ready

[REQUEST »](#)



My Applications

Review your applications and inspection results

[VIEW »](#)



Supportive Health and Human Services

Pandemic Assistance

The pandemic reached Ohio on March 9, 2020, causing many Franklin County residents to begin isolating at home and others to lose their jobs— so that thousands were no longer earning a paycheck. Historic demand was met by the commissioners' team with assistance, compassion, and tireless effort for families.

One critical area of support was emergency grant assistance aimed at preventing thousands of families from being evicted. The commissioners provided \$2.4 million in rental assistance through [Prevention, Retention and Contingency grants](#). The grants, which averaged about \$1,100, helped 2,200 families. In addition, Franklin County partnered with the City of Columbus to provide broad support for social services including \$8 million in Small Business Response and Recovery Fund and then another \$20 million in Resiliency Grants as demand continued to grow. (See more about these efforts on page 10.)

The commissioners provided many additional forms of assistance including:

- Make a Safer Community Events** – More than 18,000 mask kits were distributed through a partnership with the African American Male Wellness Agency, as well as help from the National Center for Urban Solutions.
- Community Partnership Program** – Franklin County's nonprofit social service partners were awarded \$6.3 million in grants through an annual program that promotes the creation of well-paying jobs, access to affordable healthcare, and stabilizing families.
- Social Service Agencies** – Nonprofits were offered protective equipment through a partnership with the Human Services Chamber of Franklin County. More than 250,000 masks (cloth, disposable, or KN95), 13,000 bottles of hand sanitizer, 200,000 bottles of soap, and more were given based on need.

Job and Family Services also added a Family Stabilization Unit (FSU) to provide a comprehensive family approach to helping Black boys and their families. Unit staff determine the unique needs of each family and work directly with that family and with partners like the courts and other government agencies to ensure that their wholistic needs are met.

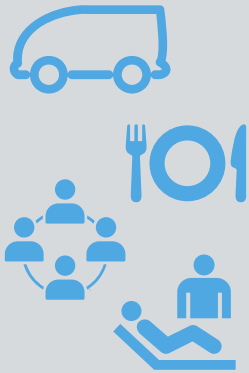
In addition, a new initiative, "Calling All Dads" was launched to enlist fathers' help in promoting high-quality childcare and early learning. More than 230 fathers became ambassadors and then assisted with Job and Family Service's Step Up to Quality efforts. (Link to Step Up to Quality graphic on page 17.)



Commissioner Marilyn Brown hosts social service leaders in early 2020 as the county was administering the 2020 Census.

Assistance for the Elderly

One segment of our population that faced the most risk during the pandemic is the elderly. To help protect them, Franklin County's Office on Aging made changes to help seniors shelter at home, including expanding eligibility for home-delivered meals, providing personal protective equipment, and other assistance.



- **1,237,120** .. Miles of transportation
- **4,789** Hours of escorted transportation
- **922,055** ... Home-delivered meals
- **10,007** Seniors enrolled in our home and community based programs
- **85,726** Hours of light housekeeping
- **93,525** Hours of personal care and respite

Direct Assistance to Families

Food assistant or Supplemental Nutrition Program enrollees:

- Number of Recipients:

163,338
↑13.15%

Medicaid enrollees (including 169,495 children):

- Number of Recipients:

373,077
↑15.31%

Ohio Works First enrollees:

- Number of Recipients:

11,409
↑17.7%

Publicly-Funded Child Care Enrollees:

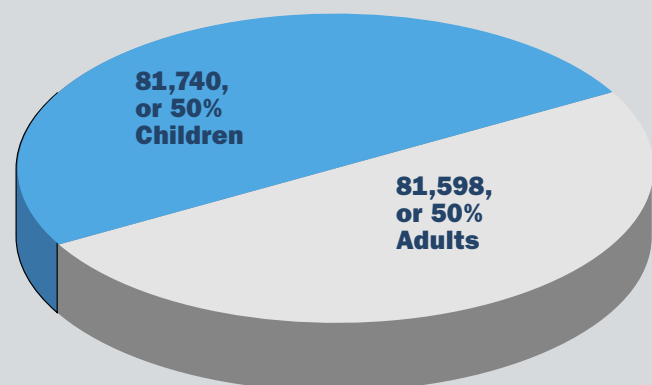
- Number of Children:

19,644
as of Sept. 2020

Food Assistance aka SNAP

(Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)

163,338 Total



Child Support Enforcement Agency

Child support from non-custodial parents is critical to ensuring that Franklin County children have the resources they need to thrive. That is because child support is one of the largest sources of income for many families who have child support orders. Research shows regular child support payments reduce child poverty, promote parental responsibility and involvement, and improve children's educational outcomes.

The Franklin County Child Support Enforcement Agency has been an innovator in government policy development using cutting-edge projects that have been shown to keep both parents more engaged and in ways that have improved the quality of services for the children. The agency has used this approach for continuous evaluation and improvement of processes, development of new policy, and direction for new initiatives.



Top: Child Support Enforcement Agency staff attend local events to help educate families about their work. Below: Agency staff at a department meeting.

- **73,430**
Open cases
- **84,445**
Children Supported
- **106,765**
Parents Involved
- **3,783**
Caretakers Involved
- **\$173,252,251.07** 2020 Collections –
up over \$13.4 million compared to 2019
 - Paternity Establishment: **↑96.73%**
 - Support Establishment: **↑85.44%**
 - Current Collections: **↑66.88%**
 - Collections on Past Due Support: **↑75.08%**



COSI Partnership Distance Learning Initiative

12,000 Learning Lunchboxes

16,828 Website users

Because of pandemic closures about **73 percent** of all program participants were reached at community centers, libraries, parks and near their homes.



Franklin County Commissioner Marilyn Brown helps distribute the Learning Lunchboxes to families.

County-Sponsored Specialized Work Training

The commissioners' agencies provide specialized workforce programs that give low-income workers weeks of job training and a weekly stipend. The vast majority of graduates have gone on to private industry jobs with wages and benefits that will allow them to join the middle class.

You can earn a stipend while receiving training:



for more than **15 different building trades**.
(Click here to link to website)



while earning your **certified driver's license**.
(Click here to link to website)



while earning basic **Information Technology training** so you can work on the cloud for major companies like Amazon.

Thus far, approximately **225** people have gone through the three types of training.



Helping Childcare Providers Avoid Closure

Ohio's new mandates for publicly-funded childcare could have meant massive childcare closures, had it not been for the commissioners' Job and Family Services Department's efforts. Since 2017, the agency devised and provided training, managed a massive outreach strategy for parents and providers, and provided hands-on assistance to hundreds of centers. The efforts were a proven success when the mandates went into effect Sept. 1, 2020:



- Childcare providers trained in 2020 – **147**
- Childcare centers trained to date – **549**
- Number of programs negatively effected when the Step Up to Quality regulations took effect Sept. 1, 2020 – **3**
- Only **3** programs in the entire county hadn't been star-rated or qualified for any exemptions.
- Number of childcare providers trained to date: more than **1,000**

Below: Commissioner Marilyn Brown and Deputy County Administrator Joy Bivens visit a childcare center which was given guidance by the county.





Good Stewardship of Natural Resources, Environmental Sustainability and Civic Engagement

A fast-spreading virus that could live for hours in the air presented a host of new challenges for governments, which must remain open. [Public Facilities Management \(PFM\)](#) provides maintenance and cleaning at more than 40 county facilities and strives to be eco-friendly and cost-efficient; in 2020, the agency also had to work out how county government could operate safely during a pandemic.

Wherever possible, county services were moved online. Additional measures had to be adopted so the county could have face-to-face dealings with the public when necessary. That meant enhanced cleaning in high-traffic areas several times a day, deep cleanings on nights and weekends, installing a substantial number of plexiglass barriers in all areas where residents may need to interact with county officials, and ongoing communication to explain the new building policies.

All commissioner agencies felt the additional challenges of operating in a pandemic. The commissioners' Fleet Management Department oversees a fleet of 500 vehicles,

an essential job that can't be done from home and yet which still must be done safely. Fleet's staff of a dozen workers procure, repair and maintain the county's fleet which consists of gas, electric, hybrid, propane-powered and other types of vehicles—all while masked up and socially distanced from one another.

[Fleet Management](#) even assists other local governments around Ohio by offering to donate Franklin County's older vehicles for free when they are no longer of useful service here. Fleet officials have contacts with more than 40 different Ohio agencies who have expressed interest. Franklin County donated three vehicles in 2020, including one car to the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office, which needed a vehicle for a K-9 officer.

[Franklin County's Department of Sanitary Engineering](#) provides safe water and sewer services to county residents not served by other water systems. It's a vital service offered in unincorporated areas.



Left above: Donated car to Ottawa County.

Right above: PFM installed protective plexiglass barriers in county offices where staff and residents interact, to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Left: Members of the Dublin Jerome High School girls' tennis team and coach are recognized by the Franklin County Commissioners John O'Grady and Kevin L. Boyce.



SWACO Recycling

130.015	..... Tons of Fiber Recycled
34.17	..... Tons of Metal Recycled
24.81	..... Tons of E-waste Recycled
17.28	..... Tons of Mixed Recyclables
1,059.44	.. Tons of Miscellaneous Items Recycled
1,265.71	..... Total Tons of Recycled Material



Sanitary Engineering

4,503	..... Water customers
6,502	..... Sewer customers
346,976	..... CCF water delivered
754,367.4	... CCF water purchased/treated
105,776.70	. CCF sewer treated via four waste treatment centers
418,752	..... CCF sewage sent to Columbus for treatment



Green Fleet

481	..... Vehicles maintained
339,060	..... Gallons of fuel
4,665,699	..... Miles driven
1,054	..... Oil changes
1,465,311.55	..... Parts and labor to maintain the fleet
32	..... Alternative fueled vehicles
36	..... Alternative fueling stations



Solid Waste Authority

76%	..... Of the material in the landfill has the potential to be reused, recycling or composted
50%	..... Franklin County's current rate of recycling
34%	..... National rate of recycling
4-5	..... Pounds per person per day – The amount of waste created and sent to the landfill
75%	..... Total diversion by 2032 (goal)
50%	..... Food waste reduction by 2030 (goal)

MORPC

One of the area's leaders in sustainability is the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) which supports regional growth and vitality. MORPC has led the effort to keep Franklin County at Platinum- the highest standard in the Sustainable 2050 program which educates and assists communities that want to be greener.

MORPC also provides online content and virtual programs to help others who want to do better. And in 2020, MORPC launched a Regional Sustainability Dashboard so that residents can track sustainability efforts in the region. The agency also unveiled the Central Ohio Employer Telework Policy Guide in 2020, which focuses on the needs and expectations of telework for a changing business landscape.



sustainable
2050

A Platinum-Rated Community
Working Toward a Better Future



SWACO

Another local agency heavily involved with sustainability is the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio, or SWACO, which manages the county's solid waste stream, the Franklin County Sanitary Landfill, and offers programs and services designed to help central Ohio residents and businesses reduce their reliance on the landfill.

Yes, the pandemic has even had an effect on the landfill. With more residents working from home last year, there was an increase in the amount of waste material being set at the curb each week. Some hauling partners saw as much as a 30% increase in the waste material left at the curb.

Studies have shown that about three-fourths of the material arriving at the landfill has the potential to be diverted. SWACO responded in 2020 with the launch of new programs like Save More Than Food and contact-free mobile collection events in order to help divert even more of the material away from the landfill and reach the agency's goal of 75% diversion by 2032.



Efficient, Responsive & Fiscally Sustainable Government Operations

As the pandemic swept across the nation, the commissioners began to plan for a new reality with three large objectives in mind. They wanted to:

- **Support the ailing local economy, which continued to weaken.**
- **Assist the growing number of residents in need.**
- **Find ways to continue to provide the necessary day-to-day operations of county government in a safe manner.**



County health workers help distribute free personal protective equipment for agencies across Franklin County

A significant source of help came when the federal government issued the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, a stimulus package more commonly called the CARES Act. Franklin County received \$76 million in assistance that the commissioners used to help residents and businesses in need throughout 2020.

All Board of Commissioner employees eligible to work from home were assisted with equipment and connectivity so they could operate smoothly away from the office. Human Resources moved training online. And changes were also made to county buildings to ensure the safety of those who still needed to conduct transactions in person.

\$76 million — Total amount of CARES Act dollars distributed by Franklin County in 2020

Franklin County Board of Commissioners - an Award-Winning Healthy Employer



Healthy Business Council of Ohio Gold Level Award Winner for Healthiest Worksites in 2020. The Healthy Worksite Award program recognizes Ohio employers that have demonstrated a commitment to their employees' health by providing comprehensive worksite health promotion and wellness programs.

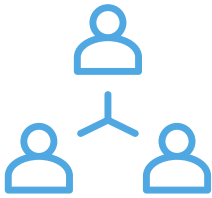


The county was recognized as a top Healthiest Employer in Ohio. Healthiest Employers recognizes organizations across the country that are taking a proactive approach to employee health. Organizations are assessed on a broad spectrum of wellness and worksite health initiatives, spanning cultural and leadership support to analytics and program effectiveness.



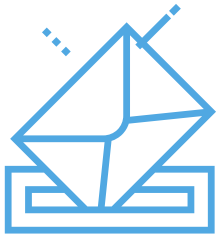
Doing Business with the County in 2020:

6,645	..... Total number of purchase orders (PO)
\$270,632,303.49	..... Total dollar amount of POs
4,555	..... Vendors registered to do business with the county
821	..... POs with Small & Emerging Business Enterprises (SEBE) totaling \$24,192,086.39



Human Resources:

5,670	..... Applications Received
263	..... Job postings (including 29 positions that were newly created)
117	..... Hires



Commissioners' Print Shop:

15,231,047	..... Items copied or printed
2,633,179	..... Election ballots
\$1,172,153.65	..... Savings by using the county print shop for these and other printings



County Mailroom:

2,031,634	..... Pieces of mail processed
\$239,843.38	..... Savings by using the County Mailroom



Surplus Auction:

\$4,213,403.60 Worth of obsolete County property items sold via internet auction from 2003-2020
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Racial Equity

The Franklin County Commissioners have long fought for “Every Resident Every Day” by promoting [racial equity](#), inclusion and diversity in every aspect of county government; but that motto proved especially meaningful in 2020. The Board of Commissioners instituted bold initiatives, with several that were recognized by other leaders across the country.

Not only do one in five kids in Franklin County live in poverty, but the rate is nearly double for African-American children. Alarming disparities like this led the board to commission the **Rise Together: A Blueprint for Reducing Poverty in Franklin County**, which recognizes racial inequities as a root cause of poverty in our community.

Franklin County officials increased their efforts in 2020 by:

- [Declaring racism to be a public health crisis.](#)
- Adopting “Racial equity” as a core county principle.
- [Discarding historic recognition of Columbus Day and acknowledging commemorations of Juneteenth instead.](#)
- Creating a Racial Equity Council for their office, which reviews personnel policies and organizational structures, identifies biases and inequities, and works with leadership to correct them.
- Creating a Chief Economic Equity and Inclusion Officer to lead these efforts.
- Creating the Rise Together Innovation Center, which will study big ideas for reducing poverty.
- Addressing health inequities with Franklin County Public Health and providing targeted communications to those adversely impacted by the pandemic.
- Developing job training which links graduates to middle class jobs in the building trades, information technology, professional truck driving, and other occupations.
- [Creating the Franklin County Small Business Growth and Equity Alliance](#) with the Columbus Urban League and One Columbus to provide grants and loans, which are targeted to minority-owned businesses.
- The commissioners have also put the weight of the county checkbook behind efforts to ensure equity in new jobs created, evident in two legacy construction projects - the new Forensic Science Center and James A. Karnes Correction Center. Local civic and business leaders worked with county officials to ensure diversity among the construction workforce, helping the county to nearly double its participation goals.
- Bringing a new level to diversity training, by offering implicit bias training to more than 550 people through a partnership with Raising The Bar Consulting Group. The training brings greater awareness by examining institutional barriers and the damage they caused.



Photo Reprint Courtesy of the Columbus Dispatch. Commissioner Kevin L. Boyce and Columbus City Council President Shannon Hardin assist U.S. Congresswoman Joyce Beatty as Columbus police pepper spray protest participants

Small and Emerging Business Enterprise

The Franklin County Commissioners recognize the benefit of competing business opportunities and recognize that there is a greater number of minority, female and disadvantaged businesses that are classified as Small and Emerging Business Enterprise (SEBE). To increase involvement of these groups, the commissioners have set goals for their participation in Franklin County construction projects.

Franklin County Corrections Center

12%Aspirational Goal of Small and Emerging Business participation (SEBE)

23%SEBE representation to date

\$39,556,324.....SEBE spending

Franklin County Forensic Science Center

12%Aspirational Goal of SEBE

22.11%SEBE representation to date

\$5.7 million.....SEBE spending





Directory

Animal Care & Control

(614) 525-3400

Dog Shelter & Adoption Center

(614) 525-3647

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 & Homeland Security

(614) 794-0213

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

Justice Policy & Programs

(614) 525-5577

Jpp.franklincountyohio.gov

Law Library

(614) 525-4971

Lawlibrary.franklincountyohio.gov

Office on Aging

(614) 525-5230

Officeonaging.org

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

(614) 228-2663

Morpc.org

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

