



Franklin County
**BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS**

Service. Progress. Excellence.



2023 State
of the
County

Report.FranklinCountyOhio.Gov

Service. Progress. Excellence.

Franklin County Board of Commissioners

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2023 State of the County



Franklin County

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Welcome Letter

To our Franklin County neighbors,

Hello and thank you for taking the time to learn more about Franklin County and how the Board of Commissioners are working for our residents every day. The annual State of the County Report is our chance to update you on the challenges faced by our community, and the opportunities we see before us, and your chance to learn more about how county government works and what role you might play in it.

Many people don't know much about what their county government does, but we're confident that we touch the lives of every Franklin County resident in some way each year. As you'll see in this report, we have a dedicated team of more than 1,600 employees who work hard every day to support local families and businesses.

In 2022, we created a historic new program to make high-quality childcare more affordable for Franklin County families while also supporting the wonderful teachers and childcare centers that our community relies on. We also allocated more than \$50 million to affordable housing, support for the homeless, and to keep families in their homes, and granted millions to the Mid-Ohio Food Collective to help meet unprecedented nutritional need. We opened a cafeteria in the county courthouse that operates as a workforce development program to help justice-involved residents get experience in the hospitality industry, and opened a new shop that provides clothes for men to wear at work and in job interviews. We were the first local government to join Justice Counts, a national program to provide criminal justice statistics quickly and accurately and to improve public safety, and we made a grant to Ronald McDonald House to help support families at their time of greatest need. We also raised the minimum wage for county employees and started a new program to help get more women of color into the technology industry. There are so many exciting things going on in Franklin County, and we've got so much more planned for 2023.

Thank you again for your interest in your Franklin County government. You can find more detailed information, including about the county budget and the commissioners' core principles of good governance on the commissioners' website, and please don't ever hesitate to reach out to our offices with any question or concern you may have.



John O'Grady
President



Kevin L. Boyce
Commissioner



Erica C. Crawley
Commissioner

Community Safety, Security, & Effective Justice



Ensuring the safety and security of Franklin County residents is among the commissioners' most important duties and one they take very seriously. Almost 60% of the commissioners' General Fund budget supports safety, security, and justice programs such as the Sheriff's Office, the county court system, Animal Care and Control, and the jail. In addition to protecting residents, the commissioners are also committed to the ideals of smart justice and a justice system that supports the people with whom it is in contact so that they can be successful in the community and to reduce recidivism.

Justice Policy and Programs

The commissioners' **Office of Justice Policy and Programs** (JPP) coordinates with the county's Criminal Justice Planning Board and oversees reentry planning for incarcerated residents returning to the community. This team also oversees intimate partner violence prevention efforts, smart justice initiatives such as Stepping Up, and incorporates CASA of Franklin County, the Court Appointed Special Advocates who look out for the best interests for vulnerable Franklin County children.

A few of the services provided by the JPP team in 2022 include:

1,123

Narcan kits were distributed to at-risk individuals being released from Franklin County jails.

256

CASA volunteers were trained to serve as Guardians ad Litem for abused and neglected children.

3,249

Domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking victims were helped with services.

171

Men and women were provided case management services through JPP's Pathways Program, prior to release.

2,004

People are linked to benefits, clothing and more at JPP's Rapid Resource Center.

690

Justice practitioners were taught the dynamics of domestic violence.

696

The number of vulnerable abused or neglected youth represented by CASA volunteers in Franklin County courts.

\$1 Million

The amount commissioners gave to LSS Choices for Victims of Domestic Violence, to help expand its emergency shelter.

Scan to find out more about
Justice Policy and Programs
on the Commissioners  **YouTube** channel.



This year, Franklin County was the first local government in the country to join the national Justice Counts initiative, which will provide quick, modern analysis of criminal justice data in order to give decision-makers the best, most up-to-date information.



Justice Policy and Programs also operates the Rapid Resource Center at our county's jail facilities. The walk-in center is a welcoming space near where detainees are released and can provide various services to newly-released inmates and the families of those who are leaving the jail, including planning for transitioning back to the community, referrals for workforce training or other services, and essential services such as renewing a drivers' license or finding nutritional support. They can also connect people with emergency shelter or clothing, addiction or other mental health treatment options, Narcan, and other supportive services.

Franklin County Coroner's Office

Last year marked the **Franklin County Coroner's Office's** first full year in the new state-of-the-art Forensic Science Center on the southwest side of Franklin County. The new facility increased the coroner's capacity and capabilities, including with a full toxicology lab, additional autopsy suites, CT scanners, and counseling and care spaces for families.

Total Reported Cases to the Coroner's Office by Year:

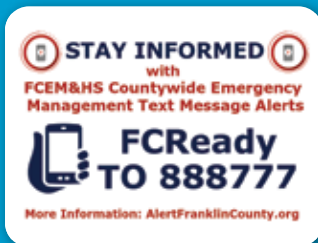


Public Health

In 2022, the COVID-19 pandemic was in its third year, yet Franklin County reached and maintained a low threat level. The commissioners allocated more than \$5 million for vaccines and prevention, distributing personal protective equipment, and continuing to provide meals to seniors living at home.

Emergency Management and Homeland Security

Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security (EMHS) works hand-in-hand with the commissioners to help keep our community safe from natural and man-made disasters and coordinates planning, education, warning, response, and recovery efforts to prepare and protect the residents of Franklin County.



In 2022, EMA began a new mass notification program to provide text alerts to Franklin County residents during a disaster or other critical incident. The new initiative is called FCReady. It's a free service and signing up doesn't require residents to create an account or submit personal information to get disaster and weather alerts.

Last fall, the Emergency Management Agency hosted a workshop to review snow emergency levels and how government agencies and schools make decisions about whether to close or delay services.

Here, Franklin County Administrator Kenneth N. Wilson and Sheriff Dallas Baldwin met with EMA and team members from the Franklin County Engineer's Office, City of Columbus, the Ohio Department of Transportation, and American Electric Power.



Franklin County Sheriff's Office

Last year, the **Franklin County Sheriff's Office** began the process of equipping all deputies with body-worn cameras, and a pilot program for the cameras is now underway. The commissioners spent more than \$2.5 million in 2022 to purchase the cameras and worked very closely with the sheriff and county prosecutor to develop the policies that will govern their use and determine how body-camera video will be stored, redacted, and released to the public.



The first two phases of the county's new jail on Fisher Road will open in 2023, replacing the downtown jail that was built more than 50 years ago. The new corrections center was built with safety in mind and has extensive spaces dedicated for treatment and programs to help inmates be successful both inside and outside of the jail.



Department of Animal Care and Control

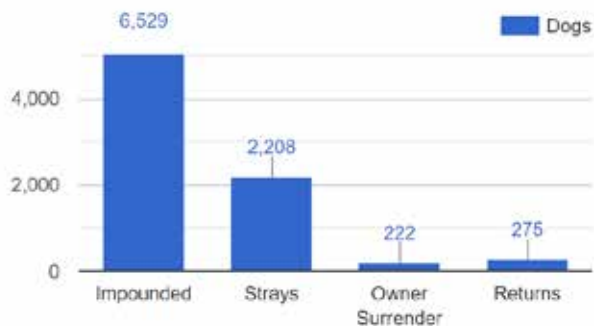
The commissioners' **Department of Animal Care and Control** operates Franklin County's dog shelter and enforces the laws related to dog ownership to keep the public safe and provide compassionate care and adoption services for the animals in our shelter.



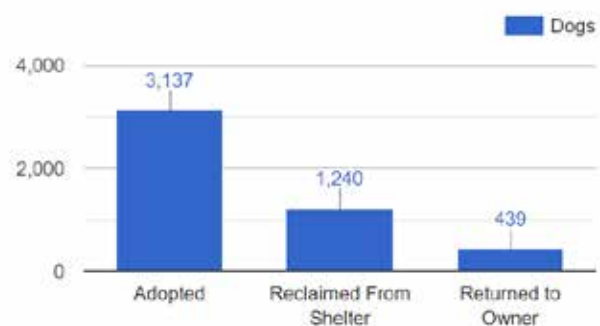
County residents provided more than 19,000 volunteer hours at the shelter last year, walking and caring for the dogs and even bringing much-needed bags of ice to help keep the pups cool during a power outage in a heat wave. Meanwhile, the law enforcement officers at Animal Care and Control responded to nearly 10,000 calls for service.



Incoming:



Outgoing:



Efficient, Responsive, & Fiscally Sustainable Government Operations



The commissioners' commitment to Efficient, Responsive, and Fiscally Sustainable government can be found in all that they do. It's the hallmark of a strong and accountable local government and is reflected in everything from the way that the commissioners manage our county's \$2 billion budget, to the way that they recruit, retain, and take care of the best local government workforce in Ohio.

Office of Management and Budget

The commissioners are responsible for the entire county budget, including those of other elected county officials, and it's all managed and balanced by their **Office of Management and Budget** (OMB). Overseeing these funds requires careful planning to ensure that the commissioners and their agencies can provide the level of service that our residents expect and that they are prepared to respond to any issues that may arise. The Office of Management and Budget also safeguards our county's Double Triple-A bond rating which, like a credit score, allows the county to borrow money at lower interest rates. During the pandemic, OMB has also been tasked with overseeing the expenditure of \$256 million in American Rescue Plan funding to help get our community and residents back on track.

County Budget at a Glance:

3%

Local governments with
Double Triple-A credit

40+%

Funds budget is devoted to
human services

57.4%

General Fund budget is devoted to
safety and security

43.5%


End-of-year General Fund cash balance
as a percentage of expenditures

\$212+ million

American Rescue Plan funds
have been allocated

\$85 million

Franklin County's Rainy Day Fund

Scan to find out more about
Efficient, Responsive & Fiscally Sustainable Government
on the Commissioners  **YouTube** channel.



Efficient, Responsive, & Fiscally Sustainable Government Operations

American Rescue Plan Selected Allocations:

\$2 million

Infrastructure

\$8.14 million

Housing

\$19.24 million

Health

\$26.7 million

Jobs & Economic Development

\$42.7 million

Social Services

Full federal reporting is available at
recovery.franklincountyohio.gov.

Human Resources

The commissioners recognize that their greatest asset is their more-than 1,600 employees who work to serve our residents, and they rely on their **Human Resources department** to help them recruit and retain the best possible workforce to serve our community.

In addition to retirement and excellent health insurance, the county offers a wide range of other benefits that offer the best possible work/life balance, including:

- Disability programs.
- Domestic partner benefits.
- Employee assistance program.
- Adoption assistance.
- Paid family leave to care for a new child or sick loved one.
- Minimum wage of \$17 an hour.

Pillars of Our Work



ThriveOn

One of the great benefits of working for Franklin County is the commissioners' continued focus on wellness. The county's wellness program, **ThriveOn**, encourages employees to make the changes they need in order to live and be well. It recognizes that wellness is a lifestyle, not just physical activity and nutrition, but also emotional and environmental health, and that it is a journey.

ThriveOn offers a variety of supports to county employees, including:

- Gym membership reimbursement.
- Tobacco cessation programming.
- Financial incentives.
- Health coaching.
- Nutrition counseling.
- Maternity support.
- Access to comprehensive cancer resources.
- Dedicated on-call nurses for both physical and emotional health support and more.

ThriveOn introduced new **Wellness Your Way** programming this year with a thoughtful menu of health activities and incentives focusing on physical, emotional, and financial well-being and, as usual, sponsored the annual **Franklin County 5K and ThriveOn Challenge**.

In addition to retirement and excellent health insurance, the county offers a wide range of other benefits that offer the best possible work/life balance, including:

- Employees received more than 200 virtual training sessions last year, attended by 2,200 employees.
- More than 1,000 of the more than 1,600 employees who work for the commissioners earned a retention bonus in 2022.
- More than 840 employees and family members participated in the 2022 Franklin County 5k.

Award-Winning Teams

In fact, this investment the commissioners make in their team is award-winning. In 2022, the county was named the **Sixth Healthiest Employer in Ohio** for its size and achieved a **gold-level award from the Healthy Business Council of Ohio** for the healthiest worksites.



Human Resources by the Numbers:

288

Jobs posted

5,688

Applications received

44

New positions created

Combined Charitable Campaign

Each year Franklin County employees can contribute a portion of their salaries as a donation to charitable organizations that impact our local community. Franklin County was the only public sector campaign in our region that met its fundraising goal this year, raising more than \$289,000.

Café Overlook

In 2022, the commissioners opened Café Overlook in partnership with established restaurateurs to create a workforce development initiative for justice-involved residents wanting to get a start in the restaurant industry. Café Overlook provides livable wages and benefits for its employees, located on the 16th floor of 373 S. High St. The menu offers delicious, fresh food at reasonable prices for county employees and guests to the county building. Daily food choices include sandwiches, coffee, salads, pastries, and more.



Doing Business with the County

It takes a lot of people working hard to ensure that the county is as efficient as it can be in its spending and, including teams in the county Purchasing Department, Print Shop, and Mail Room.

Here is a look at all purchase orders passed by resolution:

6,547	Total number of purchase orders
\$442,349,789.60	Total dollar amount of purchase orders
3,073	Vendors registered to do business with the county

Print Shop:

14,591,435	Total number of impressions
839,564	Total number of printed ballots
\$1,221,596.33	Savings by using the county print shop

Mail Services:

1,761,162	Pieces of mail processed
\$227,673.62	Savings by using the county mailroom

Surplus Auction:

3,888 items sold on GovDeals totaling **\$4,811,458.77** from 2003-2023

Good Stewardship of Natural Resources, Environmental Sustainability, & Civic Engagement



Safeguarding the natural resources that make our community beautiful is just as important as things like promoting economic growth and operating a responsive and sustainable local government. The commissioners are committed to providing good stewardship of the environment as well as management practices that will help preserve our world for future generations.

Public Facilities Management

The commissioners' **Public Facilities Management** (PFM) staff oversees the administration and management of 40 county buildings, including the county jails, dog shelter, and more. These buildings and 31 other county facilities utilize 100% renewable energy sources.

PFM is also responsible for overseeing the management of new construction. Five county buildings are LEED certified, which is a recognition that they were constructed using methods and materials that help save money, improve efficiency, lower carbon emissions, and create healthier places for people to live and work.



The county has two LEED Gold-certified buildings and three LEED Silver-certified buildings, including the two most recently constructed buildings, our state-of-the-art Forensic Science Center and the new James A. Karnes Corrections Center.

Fleet Management

Another way you can see the county’s commitment to environmental sustainability is by looking at its fleet of more than 500 vehicles. The commissioners’ **Fleet Management** agency maintains 128 alternative fuel vehicles, including hybrids, electric, propane, and biodiesel.

Utilizing Alternative Energy – a look at the county’s fleet:

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 57 - Flex fuel or E85 | 2 - All electric |
| 44 - Hybrid* | 3 - Biodiesel |
| 20 - Plug in Hybrid | 2 - Propane |

*These vehicles are E85 capable. However, they use regular gasoline most of the time.

Fleet at a Glance:

5,166,196

Miles driven by county vehicles

927

Oil changes

318,894.577

Gallons of fuel provided by Fleet Management

518

Tires replaced

36

Alternative fuel stations

SWACO

Nearly ten years ago, the commissioners, the City of Columbus, and the **Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO)** launched the **Columbus & Franklin County Local Food Action Plan**, and one of the plan's goals was to create a more robust, sustainable local food system with less food going to landfill. When the food from our dinner plates is thrown away instead of eaten, all of the resources that went into producing that food are lost. The amount of food wasted in central Ohio every year is equivalent to wasting billions of gallons of water, millions of gallons of gasoline, and millions of potential meals.



51%

Franklin County's current rate of recycling

34%

National rate of recycling

1 million pounds

Food waste arriving at the landfill every day

50%

2030 Franklin County food waste reduction goal

75%

2032 Franklin County total diversion goal

Fortunately, less and less food goes into the landfill every year, and SWACO continues to work to:

- Create composting programs at schools, colleges, and universities.
- Fund the Food Waste Drop-Off programs in ten central Ohio communities that diverted nearly 1 million pounds of food waste last year.
- Support Grocers and restaurants like Cameron Mitchell's The Barn and food rescue organizations like Food Rescue US – Columbus, and the Mid-Ohio Food Collective to redirect prepared but unserved food into the hands of residents and families at risk of hunger.

Sanitary Engineering

Franklin County's Sanitary Engineering department provides clean water and sewer services in more than 30 separate neighborhoods around the county, operating a water treatment plant and four sewage treatment plants.

4,431 households

Franklin County water customers

6,403 households


Franklin County sewer customers

253,003,139

Gallons of clean water delivered to customers

538,417 CCF

Sewage Treated

Scan to find out more about
Franklin County Sanitary Engineering
on the Commissioners  **YouTube** channel.



MORPC

The commissioners also partner very closely with the **Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission** (MORPC), which works with the county and more than 80 other local governments to plan for regional growth and to build solutions to regional transportation, development, and energy challenges.



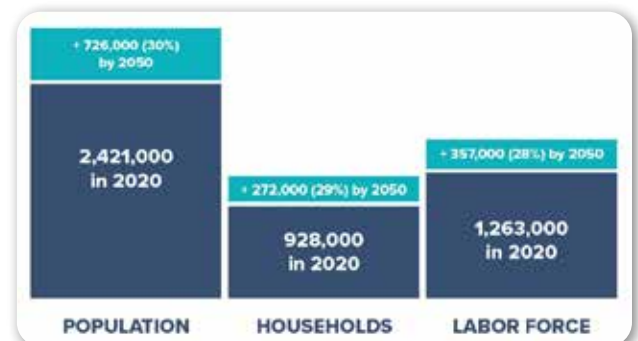
2024-25 Population Growth Forecasts

Recent growth in Central Ohio is among the fastest-growing metros in the country.

Franklin County is expected to absorb half of the regional growth and will welcome more than twice as many newcomers as the next highest county (Delaware).



To learn more about MORPC's programs and initiatives, visit www.morpc.org



Job Creation, Strategic Economic Development, & Fiscal Security



Ensuring that the Franklin County economy continues to thrive is one of the commissioners' top priorities, but they also recognize that we'll only be successful as a community when every Franklin County resident has the opportunity to benefit from that prosperity. Much of the work that the commissioners' team focuses on is aimed at ensuring plentiful opportunities for work, high quality education, affordable housing, and the other things families need to get ahead.

Economic Development and Planning Department

The commissioners' **Economic Development and Planning Department** (EDP) is responsible for providing funding and technical assistance to support community development, city planning, zoning, code enforcement, and more. One of the widely used EDP programs in 2022 was the Columbus-Franklin County Small Business Recovery Fund, through which the commissioners issued more than \$4 million in grants to small businesses that had been hurt by the pandemic and its effects on the economy.



75%

of the grants went to businesses in low-income areas of the county.

87%

of the recipients were minority-owned businesses.

\$2.91

in economic value to the community for every \$1 granted.

48%

recipient businesses were owned by women.

87%

had five or fewer employees.

Job Creation, Strategic Economic Development, & Fiscal Security

EDP also works with other county agencies like the **Department of Job and Family Services** to keep families in their homes and expand the amount of available affordable housing. Franklin County, like most metropolitan cities in America, does not have enough affordable housing to meet demand.

Franklin County spent more than \$50 million in 2022 to develop affordable housing, help families with mortgage and rental assistance, support the homeless, and more. Home Stabilization grants were one of the most widely used affordable housing programs in 2022, with more than 6,500 households participating.

To be eligible, households must be:

- Experiencing a financial hardship.
- At or below 80 percent of the area's medium income.
- At risk of becoming homeless or having housing instability.



Creekside



Hamilton Annex


Franklin County is one of the most successful communities in the nation to leverage HOME dollars. The federal HOME Investment Partnership Program helps local governments assist with affordable home ownership and apartments for low-income homes. In 2022, the county used this funding on projects including the construction of 63 one-bedroom units at the Creekside Apartments and 32 affordable housing units for seniors at the Hamilton Annex Housing Project.

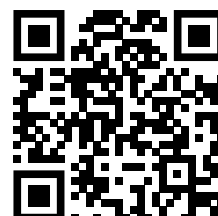


Rentful614

Along with the City of Columbus and other local partners, the commissioners launched a new resource for residents who are struggling to pay their rent last year, a simple, reliable, and easy-to-access website that links renters with Central Ohio programs aimed at keeping people in their homes. The site also dispels common myths, provides eviction resources customized to Franklin County, and highlights some of the other places that you can go to find even more help.

In 2021, 1-in-3 Ohio renters said that they had little or no confidence in their ability to pay the next month's rent. If those households were evicted, it would represent an almost 700% increase in eviction filings, impeding our economic recovery, and pushing vulnerable families over the edge. Residents seeking information on rental assistance—or landlords looking for help replacing lost rent—can visit [Rentful614.com](https://rentful614.com) to get the help they need today.

Scan to find out more about
Economic Development and Planning
on the Commissioners  YouTube channel.



Otto Beatty Jr. Men's Shop

Otto Beatty was a fixture in Central Ohio and served for nearly 20 years in the Ohio legislature. He was a community leader and a quiet mentor to many. When he passed away last year, Mr. Beatty left behind several closets' worth of stylish business attire.



Mr. Beatty always felt that looking good made a person feel good and gave them confidence. He wanted everyone to have the opportunity to feel that way even if they couldn't afford stylish clothes. When he passed away, his wife, U.S. Representative Joyce Beatty, donated his clothes to Impact Community Action, which put together a proposal to create a community closet for men who need nice clothes to wear to job interviews and at work. The commissioners funded that proposal, which not only provides clothes, but also wrap around services including workforce development, support for entrepreneurs, and more to address other employment barriers that Franklin County men may be facing.

Economic Development and Planning By the Numbers:

549

Zoning Applications

6,641

Building Inspections

\$876,673.06

Building Receipts

3,710

Building Permits

260

New Home Permits

Another important function of the commissioners' Economic Development and Planning Department is to provide community development, building permits, zoning and code enforcement in unincorporated areas of the county.

Travel and Tourism

Another way that the commissioners support economic development in Central Ohio is by supporting our region's travel and tourism industry. Did you know that travel and tourism account for nearly **76,000 jobs** and about **\$7.6 billion** in local spending each year?

Franklin County supports industry growth in many different ways including funding \$3 million to Experience Columbus and the Greater Columbus Sports Commission, which has helped attract the Final Four, Women's Final Four, the Presidents Cup golf tournament and the upcoming National Figure Skating Championship.



In addition, the commissioners also sponsor events like the HBCU Classic for Columbus College Basketball All-Star Game & Celebrity Extravaganza. This annual event lasts five days and has an estimated \$10 million economic impact on Central Ohio, with popular attractions including a game that features top seniors from Historically Black Colleges & Universities vs. top players from Ohio's traditional universities.

Franklin County is also the only county in America that owns a baseball team and the stadium it plays in. The Columbus Clippers are a triple-A affiliate of the Cleveland Guardians baseball team.



Racial Equity



The commissioners' commitment to racial equity is rooted in the need for nondiscriminatory justice and the understanding that our country is not yet living up to some of its highest ideals, such as that people's chances of success in the world should be based on their character, their work ethic, and their big ideas. A child's future should not be determined by their zip code, skin color or religion, or by how much money their parents have, and good intentions aren't enough to make the change. Equity work is about erasing disparities, and requires affirmative, systematic, and forward-thinking action.

Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The commissioners' **Office of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion** (ODEI) leads the effort for equity in their office, coordinating trainings for more than 1,100 attendees in 2022, and the commissioners' participation in our community's annual Pride Parade and Juneteenth celebrations.

Community Partnerships

Last year, the commissioners partnered with the Columbus Urban League to create the County Futures program to help low-income Franklin County residents move into middle class jobs in county government. Modeled around their ground-breaking Building Futures program, County Futures provides training and support services for job seekers to prepare them for joining the county workforce including: **Five career fairs throughout the community, on-the-spot interviews, and 33 new county employees in 2022!**

The commissioners' Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion also partners regularly with other community organizations to provide opportunities and support for underserved residents:

- The commissioners' office partnered with the Columbus Fashion Alliance (CFA) to provide workforce development and education programs for young people last year. The programs are designed to expose the participants to a variety of career paths as well as giving them access to the CFA's design and production labs.
- ODEI also funded a program through the Ohio Business Development Center that provides legal assistance and clinics for women-owned and minority-owned small businesses. Clinic topics included Contracts 101, The Language of Business, Understanding Mechanics' Liens, and 10.5 Things You Need To Know About LLC Operating Agreements.
- And the commissioners' partnership with the Ohio Business Development Center also provided technical and administrative advice to small contractor businesses through a program called Construction Academy. More than 40 participating businesses received training and mentorship as well as networking opportunities with a number of large, well-established local construction companies that are looking for new partnerships.

Racial Equity




Racial Equity Council

The commissioners' **Racial Equity Council** is made up of 16 passionate and knowledgeable BOC employees who work to implement best practices for county agencies. The council is divided into subgroups that focus on priority areas:



- **Communications:** Telling the story of how Franklin County is working toward equity.
- **Operations:** Connecting directly with employees throughout the commissioners' 15 agencies.
- **Engagement:** Implementing and maintaining Diversity, Equity & Inclusion standards in commissioner agencies.

Scan to find out more about
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
on the Commissioners  YouTube channel.



Racial Equity

Small and Emerging Business Enterprises

In an effort to promote **Small and Emerging Business Enterprises** (SEBE), the commissioners' Purchasing Department works closely with the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion to increase the diversity of the companies with which the county does business and to ensure that they reflect the community we represent.

All purchasing orders approved by the Commissioners:

6,547

Total number of Purchase Orders

3,073

Vendors registered to do business
with the county

\$442,349,789.60

Total dollar amount of Purchase Orders

Purchase Orders awarded to Small & Emerging Business Enterprises:

398

Total number of Purchase Orders
with SEBEs

\$9,009,269.25

Total dollar amount of Purchase Orders
with SEBEs



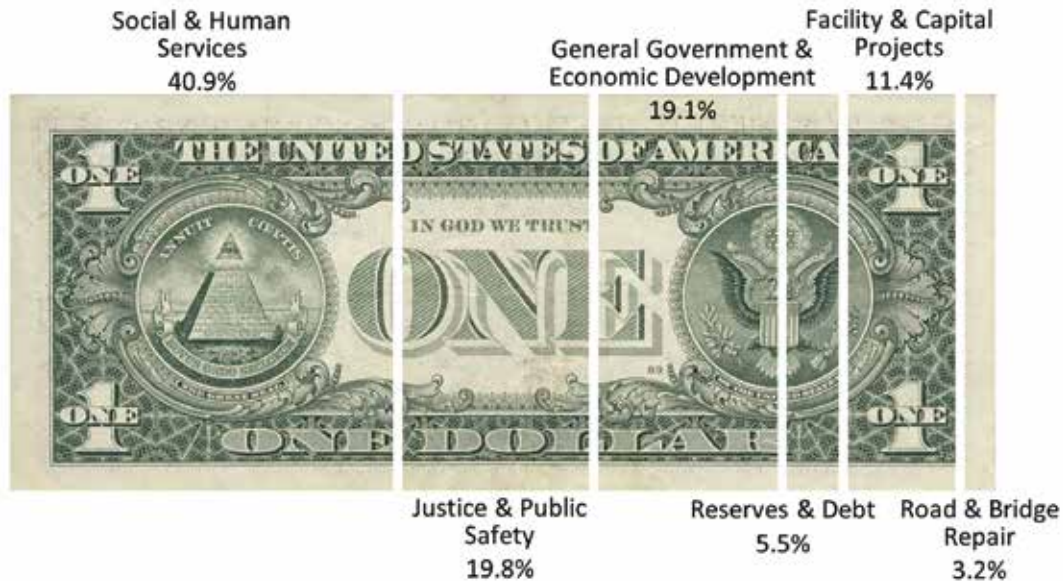
Supportive Health & Human Services



At the core of the commissioners' philosophy is an earnest effort to ensure that no one goes without essentials like food, clothing, shelter, and medical care, and that every Franklin County family has an opportunity to thrive. Health and human services encompass a wide range of services that are available to a resident's unborn baby and throughout that resident's lifetime. The commissioners motto of "Every Resident, Every Day" encompasses a wide range of services including efforts to reduce infant mortality rates to support allowing senior citizens to maintain their independence. Health and Human Services are largely provided by Franklin County's Department of Job and Family Services, the Office on Aging, and the Child Support Enforcement Agency.

2023 All Funds Expenditures (\$2.02 Billion)

More than 40% of all the county's expenditures support social and human services.



American Rescue Plan

Thanks to American Rescue Plan funding provided in 2022, the county made some of the most significant investments in its history, including:

- More than \$22 million to assist families who fall off the “benefits cliff” – earning too much money for government assistance, yet not enough to afford basic needs such as childcare.
- Investments in developing the county workforce to meet a growing demand for technology jobs, including Women in Tech.
- More than \$29 million for Affordable Housing and to prevent evictions.
- Funding a new Stop Addiction for Everyone Resource (SAFER) Station in Franklinton as a first stop for residents in need of substance abuse treatment.



Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services

The **Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services** (JFS) is the county's primary social services safety net and is the largest agency overseen by the Board of Commissioners. JFS offers a continuum of support, from public assistance programs to a wide array of contracted services to uplift and empower residents from cradle through career.

Nearly a third of Franklin County's 1.3 million residents interact with JFS each year, including:

450,000+

Medicaid recipients.

9,000+

Residents who receive Ohio Works First cash assistance.

163,000+

Residents who receive SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

24,000+

Children in Publicly Funded Childcare and another 450-plus plus receiving scholarships through Franklin County RISE.

1,200

Young people in paid summer employment through the Ready 2 Earn and Achieve More and Prosper programs.

2,600

Families receiving emergency rental assistance.

3,700+


Kids attending free after-school programs and summer camps.

Franklin County RISE

In 2022, the commissioners made a historic \$23 million investment to strengthen the local early learning system. Nearly one-in-six of the childcare centers in Central Ohio that closed during the pandemic have yet to reopen, and when parents can find it, quality childcare can cost more than sending a student to college. **Find out more:** [RISE.franklincountyohio.gov](https://rise.franklincountyohio.gov)



Franklin County RISE takes a whole-system approach, offering affordability scholarships to families and grants for both the teachers of young children and for childcare centers so they can improve the services offered to Franklin County children. In all, 500 students are expected to be eligible for the scholarships with last year's funding, and as many as 750 providers will benefit.

Scan to find out more about
Franklin County RISE
on the Commissioners  YouTube channel.



Franklin County Office on Aging

The **Franklin County Office on Aging** provides critical, and individualized services for older adults, dependent adults, and their families to help seniors preserve their independence. These services have been provided for 30 years thanks to the passage of the first Senior Services levy in November 1992, which voters must renew every five years. In November of 2022, voters showed their overwhelming appreciation for these services, passing the levy renewal with 78% of the vote.

Franklin County Office on Aging Overview:

11,769

Seniors were enrolled in Office on Aging programming.

65,995

Hours of personal and respite care were provided to seniors.

266

Caregivers were engaged through the Office on Aging.

56,839

Hours of housekeeping were provided to seniors.

2,186,167

Times residents were reached through the Office on Aging.

148

Kinship families were engaged through the Office on Aging.

329

Community events were attended by the Office on Aging.

1,281,135

Free meals delivered to seniors at home.

1,227,141

Miles of transportation were provided to seniors.

Supportive Health & Human Services

In 2022, the **Office on Aging** provided more than 1.2 million free home-delivered meals for seniors and updated its Sliding Fee Scale, which allows free services for older residents who fall below 150% of the poverty line and have less than \$7,500 in liquid assets.



The agency also helps seniors stay healthy and manage their everyday lives, including by providing fans during the heat of summer, home repair services, and vaccines for homebound residents and their families. Veterans are connected to the agency's emergency response systems at no cost through a partnership with the Veterans Service Commission, and the agency is piloting an Elder Abuse Prevention & Protection Forensic Center, which provides services and training, and protects some of our most vulnerable older residents from abuse.

The Office on Aging hosted its annual day for seniors with the Columbus Clippers last summer. Hundreds of local seniors were welcomed into Huntington Park with a discounted admission, received a boxed meal, and were given information about Aging's array of services.

Tech Women of Color

Nationwide, Black women only comprise 3 percent of the technology workforce, while Latina women account for only 1 percent. Last year, the commissioners dedicated \$4.5 million to a new program that trains women from underserved communities for new careers in the tech industry. The program provides 15 weeks of training and 200 women are expected to complete the course and move toward self-sufficiency. In its inaugural class, graduates earned CISCO IT Essentials and CISCO Networking certifications, and were helped to find paid internships and job placements.



Franklin County Child Support Enforcement Agency

The **Franklin County Child Support Enforcement Agency** ensures that child support orders are followed so that children have the resources they need to thrive. Regular child support payments reduce child poverty, promote parental responsibility and involvement, and improve children's educational outcomes. The agency uses innovative policies and programs to keep both parents engaged.



68,297

Open child support cases

78,814

Children supported

\$147,101,563.25

2022 collections

Learning Lunchbox

The commissioners have supported COSI's Learning Lunchbox program throughout the pandemic, providing Franklin County youth with educational resources in a lunchbox. The board's funding was \$500,000 in 2022, which provided 15,000 boxes on several themed projects, including: **Virgin Hyperloop, Her Royal Scientist, Snow, and Energy.**



The Harvard Business School reviewed the Learning Lunchbox program and found that it increases science literacy among youth and helps parents with justice system interactions to reconnect with their children while being rehabilitated.

Community Partnerships Grant Program

The **Community Partnerships Grant Program** provides competitive grants to local nonprofits and other agencies that serve Franklin County residents. In 2022, Community Partnerships offered nearly \$20 million in grants to more than 110 agencies, including COSI, the Mid-Ohio Food Collective, Future Ready Columbus, the Charitable Pharmacy of Central Ohio, Girls on The Run, and Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services. This year, grant opportunities included:

COVID-19 Recovery Grants: \$2.7 million

More than 85 nonprofit organizations received grants of up to \$50,000 as they were recovering from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Health Equity Grants: \$1.4 million

This grant that will provide more equitable access to healthcare and positive health outcomes for Franklin County residents.

Community Partnerships: \$3.5 million

Community Partnership grants are awarded yearly to Franklin County community agencies that encourage economic development, further the community's access to affordable healthcare, embrace racial equity, help to stabilize families and children in crisis and protect the environment.



Mid-Ohio Food Collective: \$2.5 million

The commissioners' Community Partnerships team also provided \$2.5 million to the Mid-Ohio Food Collective in 2022 to help address historic demand, serving 426,190 unduplicated individuals in Franklin County, enough food for 106,000 meals a day.



Directory

Animal Care & Control

(614) 525-3400

Dog Shelter & Adoption Center

(614) 525-3647

dogs.franklincountyohio.gov

Board of Elections

(614) 525-3100

vote.franklincountyohio.gov

Clerk of Courts

(614) 525-3600

clerk.franklincountyohio.gov

Court of Common Pleas

(614) 525-3453

fccourts.org

Emergency Management & Homeland Security

(614) 794-0213

fcmhs.org

Job & Family Services

(614) 233-2000

jfs.franklincountyohio.gov

Office on Aging

(614) 525-5230

officeonaging.org

Probate Court

(614) 525-3894

probate.franklincountyohio.gov

Purchasing Department

(614) 525-3750

purchasing.franklincountyohio.gov

Sheriff

(614) 525-3333

sheriff.franklincountyohio.gov

Veterans Service Commission

(614) 525-2500

vets.franklincountyohio.gov

Auditor

(614) 525-4663

franklincountyauditor.com

Child Support Enforcement

(614) 525-3275

support.franklincountyohio.gov

Coroner

(614) 525-5290

coroner.franklincountyohio.gov

Domestic Relations/Juvenile Branch

(614) 525- 3628

drj.fccourts.org

Engineer

(614) 525-3030

franklincountyengineer.org

Justice Policy & Programs

(614) 525-5577

jpp.franklincountyohio.gov

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

(614) 228-2663

morpc.org

Prosecuting Attorney

(614) 525-3555

prosecutor.franklincountyohio.gov

Recorder

(614) 525-3930

recorder.franklincountyohio.gov

Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio

(614) 871-5100

swaco.org

Board of Developmental Disabilities

(614) 475-6440

fcbdd.org

Children Services

(614) 275-2571

childrenservices.franklincountyohio.gov

Court of Appeals

(614) 525-3580

tenthdistrictcourt.org

Economic Development & Planning

(614) 525-3095

development.franklincountyohio.gov

Guardianship Services Board

(614) 525- 2279

guardian.franklincountyohio.gov

Law Library

(614) 525-4971

lawlibrary.franklincountyohio.gov

Municipal Court

(614) 645-8214

municipalcourt.franklincountyohio.gov

Municipal Court (Clerk's Division)

(614) 645-8346

fcmcclerk.com

Public Health

(614) 525-3160

myfcph.org

Sanitary Engineering

(614) 525-3940

cleanwater.franklincountyohio.gov

Treasurer

(614) 525-3438

treasurer.franklincountyohio.gov



2023 **State of the County**

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