

STATE *of* **2025** *the* COUNTY



Franklin County
**BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS**

Service. Progress. Excellence.



About the Cover: The John F. Wolfe Palm House

The John F. Wolfe Palm House is a grand Victorian-style glass greenhouse inspired by the City Beautiful movement. Opened in 1895 as part of the Franklin Park Conservatory, it has served as a cherished landmark in Columbus for over a century. The structure celebrated its 125th anniversary in 2020 and continues to welcome visitors to explore its historic beauty.

~ Photograph courtesy of Eric D Lipschutz



Service. Progress. Excellence.

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Franklin County

**BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS**

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Table of Contents

- 3 Welcome Letter**
- 4 Community Safety, Security, & Effective Justice**
- 13 Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion**
- 19 Efficient, Responsive, & Fiscally Sustainable Government Operations**
- 27 Good Stewardship of Natural Resources, Environmental Sustainability, & Civic Engagement**
- 35 Job Creation, Strategic Economic Development, & Fiscal Security**
- 41 Supportive Health & Human Services**
- 48 Directory**



Erica C. Crawley
Board President



John O'Grady
Commissioner



Kevin L. Boyce
Commissioner

Welcome Letter

To the remarkable residents who make up Franklin County,

Welcome to the 2025 State of the County Report, an opportunity to see how bold ideas, dedicated leadership, and community partnerships are shaping a brighter future for Franklin County. Thank you for joining us as we reflect on a transformative year in Franklin County and share the work your county government is doing to serve, support, and uplift every resident. As Franklin County continues to grow and evolve, this report highlights the intentional steps we're taking to ensure that progress reaches every corner of our community.

This report reflects the unwavering commitment of our employees, partners, and community stakeholders. It not only outlines the ongoing challenges we face but also highlights the proactive, innovative approaches we are implementing to address them head-on.

Throughout 2024, we continued to make impactful investments in affordable housing, public health, food security, and workforce development. With an annual operating budget exceeding \$2 billion, Franklin County remains deeply committed to responsible stewardship and strategic initiatives that uplift our residents and strengthen the fabric of our community.

We also launched new efforts to bring county government closer to the people we serve, introducing the Board of Commissioners' mobile units, hosting informational meetings, and organizing community fairs that offer direct access to vital services. From health screenings and housing support to job training and small business resources, we are working to meet residents where they are, ensuring that help is not only available but also accessible.

Our work is rooted in a belief that government should be responsive, accessible, and accountable to all. Throughout this report, you'll find stories of impact, innovation, and resilience, from infrastructure improvements and public safety enhancements to our continuing focus on equity and community wellness. As always, our guiding values remain the same: to serve Every Resident, Every Day.

Thank you for your interest in the work of your county government. For more in-depth information, including budget details, policy initiatives, and the Board's guiding principles of good governance, please visit commissioners.franklincountyohio.gov.

As always, we welcome your thoughts, questions, and feedback.

With sincere appreciation,

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners



Erica C. Crawley
Board President



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Commissioner

Community Safety, Security, & Effective Justice



Ensuring the safety and security of Franklin County residents remains one of the Board of Commissioners' highest priorities. Nearly two-thirds of the General Fund budget is dedicated to programs that promote public safety, justice, and community well-being, including the Sheriff's Office, county courts, Animal Care and Control, and the county jail. Alongside their commitment to public protection, the commissioners continue to champion smart justice initiatives that support individuals involved in the justice system, help reduce recidivism, and promote long-term success within the community.

Agency Partner: Franklin County Justice Policy and Programs

The Franklin County [Office of Justice Policy and Programs](#) (OJPP) works to improve public safety and justice in our community. The office helps plan and oversee programs that promote fair and effective justice practices, support crime prevention, and provide resources for treatment and rehabilitation. OJPP also ensures that federal, state, and local funds are used wisely to create programs that serve the people of Franklin County, with a focus on equity, inclusion, and smart justice solutions.

OJPP also manages [CASA](#) (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Franklin County, which trains and supports volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children in the child welfare system. CASA volunteers serve as court-appointed guardians, ensuring that children have a voice in legal proceedings and are placed in safe, loving homes. Through their work, CASA helps break cycles of trauma and create brighter futures for vulnerable children.

2024 Justice Policy and Programs Stats:

- **Rapid Resource Center Services:** In calendar year 2024, 9,980 residents received services through the Rapid Resource Center(s).
- **Justice-Involved Support Programs:** A total of 221 justice-involved individuals participated in the Pathways to Healthy Living programs – both pre- and post-release – receiving case management, peer support, cognitive behavioral treatment, and referrals to services.
- **Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT):** 455 individuals booked into the Correctional Center and identified as at risk for overdose were inducted on MAT (including Vivitrol and Sublocade), a 60% increase over calendar year 2023.
- **Bridge Respite Program:** Provided 551 emergency bed nights for 59 individuals exiting jail who indicated homelessness at the time of booking.
- **Tap In Center:** Since launching in September 2024, the Tap In Center helped lift 57 outstanding misdemeanor warrants and provided services to a total of 122 residents.
- **Grants Administration Portfolio:** OJPP's 2024 portfolio includes nine large-scale discretionary state and federal grants and eight formula grant programs, supporting 50 to 70 sub-awards and contracts for services annually.
- **Community Access and Co-Location:** OJPP and CASA are now co-located in six physical locations across Franklin County, increasing accessibility to services.
- **Staffing Growth:** Since 2021, OJPP staffing (excluding CASA) has grown by 119%, including both full-time employees and contracted staff.



Community Partner: Emergency Management and Homeland Security

The county's [Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency](#) (FCEM&HS) plays a vital role in coordinating preparedness efforts for natural disasters and man-made hazards to enhance community safety and resilience. The agency focuses on public education, first-responder coordination, and securing grant funding to support emergency preparedness initiatives.

In 2024, FCEM&HS helped secure \$1.5 million in Urban Area Security funding for Columbus and Franklin County, prioritizing projects in communication security, bomb squad sustainment, and large crowd event management.

Program Highlight: Emergency Communication Efforts

Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security (FCEM&HS) utilizes multiple communication systems to keep residents informed and safe during emergencies. Key efforts include:

- **Outdoor Warning Siren System** – 198 strategically placed sirens that broadcast alerts countywide, tested weekly and activated during tornado warnings.
- **ALERT Franklin County** – A mass notification system that sends emergency alerts to registered users' electronic devices.
- **FCReady** – A text alert system providing real-time updates; residents can subscribe by texting "FCReady" to 888777.
- **Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS)** – A partnership with FEMA that delivers automatic alerts to mobile phones and local broadcasters.



Community Partner: Franklin County Public Health

[Franklin County Public Health](#) (FCPH) is dedicated to protecting and improving community health across 41 municipalities by preventing disease, promoting wellness, and responding to public health threats. Through education, policies, and partnerships, FCPH continues to provide valuable services to residents and stakeholders. In 2024, the department reaffirmed its commitment to excellence by achieving reaccreditation from the Public Health Accreditation Board, meeting nationally recognized standards in quality improvement, operations, and fiscal responsibility. This milestone reflects FCPH's ongoing dedication to ensuring a healthier, safer Franklin County. **Find out more in the FCPH Annual Report.**



The Coroner's Office provides vital services for the public health and safety of our community. While our main purpose is to determine cause and manner of death, it is our hope to work with people of good will and appropriate agencies to prevent certain deaths. We want the residents of Franklin County to live their full natural lives.

~ Dr. Nathaniel Overmire, Franklin County Coroner

Agency Partner: Franklin County Coroner's Office

The [Franklin County Coroner's Office](#) is committed to serving the community with professionalism, compassion, and integrity. In 2024, the office investigated nearly 2,794 cases, helping law enforcement, prosecutors, and public health officials understand the causes of death in our county. By working with community partners, the office plays a key role in efforts to prevent overdoses, reduce violence, and improve maternal and infant health. These partnerships help make Franklin County a safer and healthier place to live.

In addition to investigations, the Coroner's Office is focused on education and outreach, working with local schools to introduce students to careers in forensic science. While determining the cause of death is its primary responsibility, the office also works to prevent unnecessary deaths and improve public health. By sharing important data and collaborating with others, the Coroner's Office helps protect and support the well-being of Franklin County residents.

Agency Partner: Franklin County Data Center

As Franklin County reflects on recent progress and achievements in technology operations, the Data Center stands out as a key part of that success. Guided by the idea of being The Hub of It All, the Data Center plays a central role in keeping the county's technology systems reliable, secure, and running smoothly.

In today's world, where staying connected and protecting information are more important than ever, the Data Center provides essential support for county operations. Whether it's powering everyday tasks, helping departments serve the public, or keeping data safe, the Data Center remains a steady presence behind the scenes. The team is dedicated to making sure systems work properly and securely every day.

The work being done isn't just about avoiding problems. It's about building strong, dependable systems that the county can rely on now and in the future. By improving performance, strengthening security, and making systems more flexible, the Data Center helps ensure that county services continue without interruption and are ready to grow with the community's needs.



Program Highlight: One Franklin County

The relaunch of franklincountyohio.gov in 2024 was a big step in the One Franklin County initiative, empowering the county to drive meaningful change across public services and internal operations. The One Franklin County team introduced a feedback loop that crosses agency borders with the public by adding feedback submission forms on every website page. This allowed the web team to gather meaningful insights into how the public uses the site and share actionable trends with agencies across the county. Additionally, the county has invested in building internal capacity and equipping county employees with the tools and knowledge needed to meet the needs of our diverse audiences through training in human-centered design, user journey mapping, and best practices in digital service delivery.



Agency Partner: Franklin County Animal Care and Control

Franklin County Animal Care and Control is dedicated to creating a safer, healthier community by promoting responsible pet ownership and ensuring the well-being of both people and animals. The department responds to concerns about stray or aggressive dogs, assists law enforcement, and provides compassionate care for lost and impounded pets, helping them find their way home or into loving new families.

Beyond enforcement, Animal Care & Control takes a proactive approach to public health by addressing diseases like rabies, ensuring vaccinations, and offering low-cost spay and neuter clinics. A commitment to inclusivity ensures that all residents have access to services, fostering trust and engagement in every neighborhood. Through education, outreach, and compassionate care, the agency works to build a stronger, more connected community where pets and people thrive together.



2024 Animal Care and Control Stats:

500+

Franklin County families
received dog food
since April 2024.

4,706

service requests
responded to in 2024.

2,448

dogs impounded
in 2024.

1,000+

dogs placed in
temporary foster homes
in 2024.

3,054

dog adoptions
in 2024.

3,000+

lost dogs helped
off the streets in 2024.

Franklin County Animal Care and Control is the largest Government Animal Control facility in the Midwest and is visited by other agencies across the U.S. who are seeking guidance on operations and advancement within their own shelters.



Agency Partner: Franklin County Sheriff's Office

The [Franklin County Sheriff's Office](#) works diligently to protect and serve the community with a focus on safety, integrity, and public trust. As one of Ohio's largest law enforcement agencies, it provides a wide range of services, including patrol operations, corrections, investigations, and specialized units that address complex public safety concerns. Deputies work proactively to prevent crime, respond to emergencies, and build strong partnerships with residents and local organizations.

Beyond enforcement, the Sheriff's Office prioritizes community engagement through programs such as DARE youth outreach, crime prevention education, and mental health and wellness initiatives. Deputies are committed to serving with professionalism and compassion, fostering a culture of trust and accountability. By upholding the law with integrity and prioritizing public safety, the Franklin County Sheriff's Office strives to create a community where all individuals feel safe, valued, and respected.



Special Investigative Unit – Narcotics:

- Seized significant amounts of illegal drugs, including fentanyl, methamphetamine, heroin, and cocaine.
- Confiscated 196 firearms valued at \$98,000, disrupting criminal activity.
- Executed 327 search warrants and made 212 narcotics-related arrests.

HOPE Task Force:

- Conducted 203 overdose follow-ups and 159 overdose contacts.
- Connected 69 individuals to treatment services.

Recruitment, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (RDEI) Division:

- Launched a successful marketing campaign, generating over 3.2 million social media clicks and nearly 1 million completed TV ad views.
- Featured in Buckeye Sheriff's magazine for recruitment success.
- Achieved historic hiring numbers with 125 deputies and 64 civilian employees.

Community Safety, Security, & Effective Justice

Our new jail is designed to allow us to support its residents with programming, as well as to be safer for both the people who are incarcerated and the staff, and the Rapid Resource Center is an extension of that. It'll be staffed largely with people who have experiences facing the same challenges as those who are being released, and who can help with everything from a phone charger and a warm coat to a referral for a substance abuse treatment program.

~ Commissioner Kevin L. Boyce

Program Highlight: Rapid Resource Center

In 2024, the Franklin County Commissioners expanded their efforts to support individuals returning to the community after incarceration by opening a new Rapid Resource Center at the James A. Karnes Corrections Center on the county's west side. The center is designed to help people and their families as they leave jail, connecting them with essential services and support to reduce the chances of returning to the justice system.

The Rapid Resource Center provides a wide range of help – everything from a warm coat or phone charger to referrals for health care, mental health or addiction treatment, housing assistance, job training, and more. Visitors can also get help with things like applying for public benefits, getting a birth certificate, or reinstating a driver's license. The space is welcoming, stigma-free, and designed to be easy to access for those in need.

The new center builds on the success of the first Rapid Resource Center, which has already served more than 18,000 people since opening in 2021. That original site also offers temporary housing for recently released individuals who don't have a place to go.

County partners such as Primary One Health, COTA, Basecamp Recovery, and others play a key role in helping make these services possible. Together, they ensure people leaving jail have a strong foundation to rebuild their lives, which benefits the entire community.



Agency Partner: Franklin County Engineer

The [Franklin County Engineer's Office](#) (FCEO) is responsible for maintaining and improving the county's roads, bridges, and drainage systems to ensure safe and efficient travel for everyone. They provide important services like road repairs, engineering, construction oversight, and snow removal, all while staying within budget and meeting deadlines to get the most value for taxpayer dollars.



FCEO's goal is to deliver high-quality, sustainable infrastructure solutions through teamwork and smart planning. They focus on managing projects efficiently and ensuring the best use of resources. By doing this, FCEO works to keep Franklin County's roads and bridges safe, reliable, and well-maintained for the long term.

2024 Engineer Stats:

635

vehicles and equipment
in our fleet.

2,981

acres mowed.

763

lane miles of roadway
maintained.

281,896

square yards of
cracks sealed.

64

traffic signals
maintained.

42 of 356

bridges are over
100 years old.

Program Highlight: Tap in Center

Launched in 2024, the Tap in Center is a community initiative designed to help Franklin County residents resolve outstanding low-level, non-violent misdemeanor warrants without the risk of arrest. This effort promotes public safety and smart justice by preventing unnecessary entanglement in the criminal justice system. Held monthly at various public libraries, the Tap in Center offers a welcoming space where individuals can recall and reschedule cases, often tied to missed court dates or unpaid fines. By partnering with libraries, the program provides free legal services in a less intimidating setting, making justice more accessible. Additionally, on-site service providers, including Child Support Enforcement, the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, and Job and Family Services, connect residents with valuable resources. Appointments are required – to schedule, call the Tap in Center hotline at 614-525-4488.



Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion



The Franklin County Board of Commissioners remains deeply committed to advancing equity throughout our community. This commitment is rooted in the understanding that too many residents still face barriers to opportunity based on factors like zip code, race, religion, or family income. In Franklin County, a child's future should not be predetermined by where they live or the resources of their household but by their potential, determination, and ideas. The commissioners recognize that closing long-standing gaps in health, education, housing, and economic opportunity requires more than good intentions. It takes deliberate, data-driven, and sustained action to remove systemic barriers and ensure that all residents have a fair shot at success.

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

Agency Partner: Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The [Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#) (ODEI) strengthens communities and businesses by fostering economic growth and prosperity through strategic partnerships and targeted development initiatives. Rooted in the Franklin County Board of Commissioners' (FCBOC) commitment to equity, ODEI operates on the principle that success should be shaped by a person's character, determination, and ideas – not limited by their background, race, or socioeconomic status. Recognizing that good intentions alone cannot eliminate disparities, ODEI focuses on intentional, systematic, and forward-thinking action. This approach empowers communities to drive inclusive economic growth and create meaningful opportunities through transformative innovation.

Program Highlight: Transformative Programs & Initiatives

The Board of Commissioners' investments extended to a variety of transformative programs in 2024, including:

- **Real Situations Teen Violence Prevention Program (May 2024)** - Supported a 6-week summer basketball program for 14,000+ youth, providing furniture, shoes, school supplies, diapers, personal care items, transportation, scholarships, and essential household goods.
- **Buckeye Tigers Aerospace Career Education Academy (June 2024)** - Funded a weeklong program for 27 minority students, offering hands-on experiences with partners such as The National Veterans Memorial and Museum, Flight Safety International, The Ohio National Guard, Capital City Aviation, and The Boeing Company to introduce careers in aviation and aerospace.
- **Columbus Council on World Affairs Global Scholars Diploma (June 2024)** - Approved funding for a 3-year program serving 1,400 Franklin County high school students through cultural awareness workshops, global careers and issues training, and take-action projects with scholarship opportunities.
- **Columbus Fashion Council's Ready to Werk Program (2024)** - Supported 28 retail-ready entrepreneurs, enhancing Franklin County's reputation as the third-largest fashion industry hub in the United States.
- **Freedom Equity Microloan Program (April 2024)** - Approved up to \$50,000 in total microloans for 80 minority-owned businesses with fewer than 50 employees, promoting small business growth and economic inclusion.



Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

It is important that we as a community work to serve historically under resourced areas, those who are underrepresented, and continue to learn about and from one another. We are unable to change what makes us diverse, but we do have a choice of who we include in our lives and work to provide rights to those who have had none.

~ **Damika Withers, Chief Economic Equity and Inclusion Officer**

Despite being a small but mighty team, ODEI supports FCBOC's 1,600+ employees through training, policy guidance, and best practices. The office actively participates in community partner events that celebrate Franklin County's cultural diversity, champion economic impact, and strive to build a workforce that reflects the community it serves. ODEI remains dedicated to ensuring all residents have access to opportunities and that every voice is amplified.

In November 2020, the Board of Commissioners adopted Racial Equity as a core principle, reinforcing their commitment to fostering an inclusive organizational culture. This initiative focuses on addressing disparities in hiring, promotion, and contracting, while expanding funding opportunities for minority businesses. As a result, the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ODEI) and the Racial Equity Council were established, with the Council now advancing into its fifth cohort.

The [Racial Equity Council](#) has played a critical role in driving ODEI initiatives by organizing impactful trainings, webinars, and community events such as the Pride March, the DEI Conference, and Soul Talks. In 2024, ODEI hosted training sessions on Implicit Bias, Cultural Fluency, and Inclusive Language – equipping staff with tools to create safe work environments and deliver inclusive services to Franklin County residents. Additionally, Civil Rights Tours to the South and New York provided immersive experiences in civil rights history, inspiring staff to take informed action and strengthen their leadership.

In 2024, ODEI expanded its educational outreach through bi-monthly Lunch & Learns, addressing crucial topics like Suicide Awareness, Black Business Month, and Refugee Week. These sessions garnered 9,433 views – reflecting a remarkable 558% increase from 2023. The momentum continued with ODEI's 2nd Annual Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Conference, held on October 22-23, 2024. Themed "Serving Through the Lens of Inclusion: Celebrating Differences and Building Inclusive Futures," the event welcomed over 230 attendees and brought together 30 community partners. Keynote speakers included Ukeme Awakessien Jeter, Mayor of Upper Arlington, and Eva Millona, Chief Officer of the U.S. Office of Citizenship, Partnership, and Engagement. The conference focused on addressing the unique challenges faced by marginalized communities – including individuals with disabilities, immigrants, refugees, and people of color – while highlighting practical strategies to foster greater inclusion and equity across Franklin County.

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion



The Board of Commissioners demonstrated their unwavering commitment to equity by approving over \$6 million in grant funding through ODEI. These funds support nonprofit organizations that assist small businesses with growth, entrepreneurship, education, and technical assistance. Separate from direct spending with Franklin County small businesses, this investment created opportunities in construction, helped businesses obtain certifications, and supported job creation and economic development. In 2024, the Board partnered with 63 community nonprofits focused on youth education, minority health, mental wellness, and specialized programs in Aerospace, Medical, and Tech education. Special recognition was given to Franklin County's growing Latino community, celebrating their contributions and cultural impact.

Additionally, ODEI had a visible presence at numerous cultural events throughout Franklin County, including the Somali Cultural Festival, Asian Festival, Ohio Black Expo, UpLift Her, Black Men's Wellness Day, Ghana Festival, Juneteenth, Pride, Black Food Truck Festival, Passport to Fashion, and National Pan-Hellenic Council of Columbus events. With ODEI's support, these events reached over 1 million residents, connecting them with county resources, health education, and economic opportunities.



Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

Agency Partner: Purchasing Department

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners remains steadfast in supporting small and minority-owned businesses through intentional supplier diversity efforts. The [Purchasing Department](#), in partnership with ODEI, works to create an equitable economic environment where local businesses have the tools and resources to succeed.

In 2024, these efforts included targeted outreach events – such as Coffee & Conversation meetings, MBE Procurement Fairs, Ohio Minority Business panel discussions, and the annual ODEI conference – aimed at helping vendors navigate county partnership pathways, access small business loans, and obtain business certifications.

The Purchasing Team actively reviews contract scopes and requirements with an equity lens to remove unnecessary barriers for small and minority-owned businesses. Advertising has expanded beyond county and state websites to minority-owned media outlets, broadening the reach of bid and non-bid opportunities.

As a result, 536 Purchase Orders were awarded to small and emerging businesses in 2024, totaling \$56,408,350 in direct payments from the Board of Commissioners – marking a 74% increase in direct spending with small businesses compared to 2023. Increasing supplier diversity utilization remains a top priority for all Board of Commissioners’ agencies, reinforcing Franklin County’s commitment to building a thriving, inclusive business community.

2024 Purchase Order Summary:

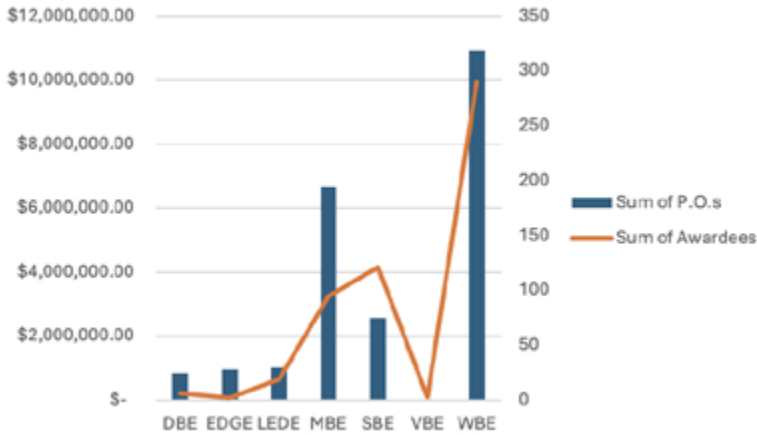
Total P.O.s	SEBE P.O.s
6618 awarded	536 awarded
\$516,262,234	\$22,990,406

2023 / 2024 Comparison:

SEBE Expenditure	2023	2024	YoY Expenditure
Invoices	\$32,483,755	\$56,408,350	74% Increase
P.O.s	\$22,691,555	\$22,990,406	1% Increase

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

2024 SEBE P.O.s by Certification

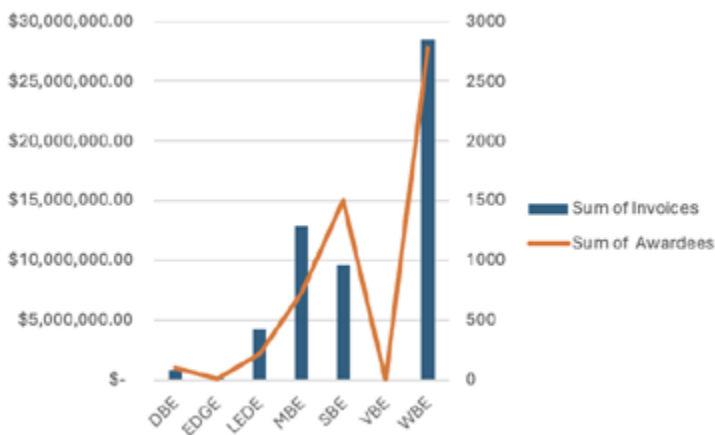


Grand Total:
\$22,990,406
 P.O.s.

536
 Awardees.



2024 SEBE Invoices by Certification



Grand Total:
\$56,408,350
 P.O.s.

5348
 Awardees.

We're working every day in Franklin County to ensure that DEI is part of our DNA so that we can best serve all of our residents in every part of our community.

~ Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator

Efficient, Responsive, & Fiscally Sustainable Government Operations



Efficient, responsive, and fiscally sustainable government operations are the foundation of a thriving, accountable local government. The commissioners put this principle into action by carefully managing the county's \$2 billion budget and by making sure we have the best, most dedicated local government team in Ohio, always focused on serving our community.

Agency Partner: Office of Management and Budget

The Franklin County [Office of Management and Budget](#) (OMB) provides expert financial guidance to help county leaders make informed decisions. Working closely with County Administration, OMB prepares the annual budget, which is submitted to the Board of Commissioners for approval. The office reviews budget requests from various agencies, ensuring resources are used efficiently and in alignment with each agency's goals. OMB also tracks the progress of budgets throughout the year and assists in preparing any necessary adjustments for Board approval.

The office's primary responsibility is to create the annual budget, which ensures the county has the necessary funds to deliver essential services to residents. This process requires careful planning to meet the needs of the community and address any emerging challenges by focusing on efficient, responsible, and sustainable resource use. OMB helps maintain the county's long-term financial health. The office also prioritizes transparency with clear communication about the county's operations and finances, ensuring residents understand how resources are being allocated to support high-quality services.

2024 Office of Management and Budget Stats:

59.3%

General Fund budget
devoted to safety
and security.

41%

All-Funds Budget
devoted to
human services.

\$92 Million

Franklin County's
rainy-day fund.

Program Highlight: Residents' Guide to the Approved Budget

The Residents' Guide to the Approved Budget serves as a vital tool for anyone looking to understand how Franklin County's budget supports community needs and priorities. Topics explored include the county's budget process, organizational structure, revenue sources, and key investments planned for the upcoming year. Franklin County provides this guide as part of its commitment to transparency and to encourage residents to engage in informed discussions about investments in the community.



Agency Partner: Human Resources

The commissioners recognize that the foundation of county government is its dedicated team members, who work tirelessly to keep operations running smoothly and ensure residents can access vital services and support. The [Department of Human Resources](#) plays a key role in this effort by providing quality employment services, effective training, and technical human resources assistance to the Franklin County Board of Commissioners and other designated agencies. Additionally, it oversees benefits and wellness programming for approximately 1,600 employees and the 14,000 individuals covered by the county's cooperative health plan. Through ThriveOn, the county's wellness program, the [Benefits and Wellness](#) division promotes whole-person well-being, ensuring employees and their families have the resources to stay healthy and thrive.



The Human Resources Department ensures responsible stewardship of the health fund, risk fund, and all department-managed funds by continuously improving contracts and pricing. HR promotes healthy behaviors that positively impact fund operations, supports employee growth through the UMatteer training and professional development program, and has expanded tuition reimbursement to include certificate programs aligned with county positions. Additionally, HR regularly reviews operations to identify process improvement opportunities and enhances cost efficiency by centralizing key functions such as payroll, training, risk management, and HR operations.

2024 Human Resources Stats:

- **Employee Wellness Participation:** Gym membership reimbursement participation increased by 26%, reflecting strong employee engagement in wellness initiatives.
- **Biometric Health Improvements:** Positive changes were recorded in 5 out of 7 biometric risk factors, including key health indicators such as BMI and A1C levels.
- **Primary Care Engagement:** A 1% increase was noted in employees establishing a relationship with a Primary Care Physician, supporting long-term health and prevention.
- **Employee Wellness Event:** Achieved the largest-ever turnout for the county's 5K event, signaling growing participation in wellness and community-building activities.
- **Hiring and Workforce Development:** Hired 338 new employees and promoted 111 team members in 2024, demonstrating a strong commitment to recruitment, retention, and career growth.
- **Recruitment Volume:** Reviewed 8,319 job applications, highlighting the continued interest in county employment opportunities and the demand for public service roles.
- **Combined Charitable Campaign:** Raised \$277,308 through the 2024 campaign, showcasing the generosity and civic spirit of county employees.
- **Countywide Employment Representation:** Employed at least one resident from every ZIP code in Franklin County, ensuring broad geographic representation in the workforce.



Program Highlight: Coffee Careers & More

Launched in March 2024, Coffee, Careers, and More with Administrator Wilson is an initiative designed to engage directly with Franklin County residents. In collaboration with the HR Recruitment Team, Franklin County Administrator Kenneth Wilson has created an open forum to discuss county developments, future plans, and career opportunities within the Board of Commissioners' agencies.

A key feature of each event is the opportunity for attendees to not only learn about job openings but also secure at least one interview for potential employment within county agencies. In 2024 the initiative hosted nine events, welcoming 101 attendees, conducting 24 interviews, and leading to four new hires.



Agency Partner: Purchasing Department

The Franklin County [Purchasing Department](#) plays a critical role in ensuring county agencies receive the goods and services they need efficiently and cost-effectively. By managing procurement, compliance, mail services, printing, and surplus property disposal, the department supports the seamless operation of government functions while maximizing taxpayer dollars. With a focus on innovation and strategic sourcing, it enhances operational efficiency and ensures responsible stewardship of public resources.

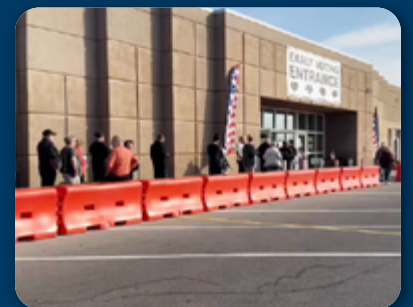
Committed to transparency and fiscal responsibility, the department operates in alignment with the county's Every Resident. Every Day. initiative. It not only streamlines purchasing and administrative processes but also fosters economic growth by promoting equitable access to contracting opportunities. Through collaboration with community partners and businesses, the department helps sustain a procurement environment that is fair, inclusive, and beneficial to all stakeholders.



Program Highlight: Successful Election Cycle

In 2024, the Print Shop played a crucial role in ensuring a smooth and transparent election by partnering with the Franklin County Board of Elections. Through months of meticulous preparation, the team provided essential materials such as ballots, envelopes, and training documents, helping uphold the integrity of the election process. This collaboration ensures that residents can confidently participate in an efficient and accessible voting experience, reinforcing trust in the democratic system.

- The total impression count for the 2024 General Election was 2,962,594.
- Provisional Ballots – 789,746.
- Absentee Ballots – 579,084.
- Training Material – 356,012/sheet count.
- Total envelopes for 2024 General Election – 258,000.
- Estimated cost savings of \$216,000.



Efficient, Responsive, & Fiscally Sustainable Government Operations

Purchasing goods and services for Franklin County is not simply a transactional endeavor... it's a commitment to public service, shared values, and collaborative efforts to secure resources that will bring meaningful change to our community.

~ Purchasing Director Megan Perry-Balonier

The department consists of five key business units that support essential county operations:

- **Procurement Services:** Facilitates purchasing for county agencies while ensuring compliance with the Ohio Revised Code and County policies. Actively promotes supplier diversity through outreach to Small and Emerging Business Enterprises (SEBEs) in collaboration with the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.
- **Compliance:** Oversees purchasing and contract administration to ensure adherence to statutory and policy requirements. Manages records retention, contract documentation, P-Card administration, and fiscal analysis.
- **Mail Services:** Handles interoffice and outgoing mail processing for county agencies, reducing costs through discounted rates, shared postage equipment, and centralized processing.
- **Graphic Arts/Print Services:** Provides custom design, printing, and copying services at reduced rates to county agencies and local municipalities, ensuring cost-effective and timely production of materials.
- **Surplus Property Online Auction Services:** Enables county agencies and local governments to dispose of surplus items via internet auctions, minimizing storage costs and generating revenue through GovDeals.



Beyond purchasing, the department creates opportunities by applying innovative sourcing strategies and working closely with the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. These efforts help Small and Emerging Business Enterprises access county contracts, ensuring that Franklin County's supplier network reflects the diversity of the community it serves.

Through education, outreach, and modern procurement practices, the Franklin County Purchasing Department continues to enhance efficiency, promote economic inclusion, and support the county's mission of serving its residents effectively.

Purchasing: Procurement Services

The Procurement team led critical competitive procurements and contract activities for agencies, boards, courts and commissions across the county. Additionally, the team collaboratively participated in process mapping and other activities in support of our eProcurement project. And the team developed a formal training manual and program that will ensure new team members have all the tools necessary to learn, grow, and be successful.

Purchasing: Compliance

Compliance continues to enhance the review of the weekly PO batching process and finalized a SOP of related processes. Additionally, the P-Card program continues to grow, with enhanced training and security monitoring. Our compliance team supports agency education via the quarterly Fiscal Summit and direct agency engagement to ensure that county operations function efficiently.



Purchasing: Mail Services

Mail Services, along with Graphic Arts/Print Shop, initiated Agency Partnership meetings in 2024. These valuable engagements serve to provide education and inspire cost-saving collaborations between the agencies. As these meetings continue, we will be well positioned to meet the county's growing needs.

Purchasing: Graphic Arts/Print Shop

At the Print Shop, modernization is embedded within our business plan. We continually seek to provide our customers with the latest innovative production offerings. In 2025, we're looking forward to implementing a new work order processing system through JIRA which will promote a user-friendly experience, making it easier for our agency partners to place and track printing orders.

We're also collaborating with partners on a Print Shop expansion project that will result in a professional environment that can accommodate production growth in terms of modern machinery, restructured workflows, and safety enhancements.

2024 Purchasing Department Stats:

Compliance:

6,879	Total number of P.O.s processed
\$509,907,827	Total dollar value of P.O.s processed
4,218	Total number of P-Card transactions
\$1,371,764	Total spend through county P-Cards

Mail Services:

1,863,580	Total pieces of outgoing mail processed
\$241,470.22	Total savings

This savings was accomplished by using our Criterion Elevate Sorter and Send Pro Enterprise solution for E-Certified mail.

Graphic Arts/Print Shop:

14,508,582	Total # of Impressions
2,141,360	Total # of Envelopes
185,523	Total # of Tax Statements
1,480,194	Total # of Ballots produced
6,087,689	Total # of FCCC E-file documents
\$1,272,275	Total cost savings

Surplus Auction:

5,941 items sold on GovDeals totaling \$5,266,987 from 2003-2024

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



Preserving the natural resources that make our community vibrant is just as vital as fostering economic growth and maintaining an effective local government. The commissioners are dedicated to responsible environmental stewardship and sustainable management practices to ensure our community remains beautiful and thriving for generations to come.

Agency Partner: Public Facilities Management

Public Facilities Management (PFM) is dedicated to managing and caring for 40 county buildings, from correctional facilities and the dog shelter to administrative offices. PFM plays an essential role in supporting the daily functions of all Franklin County offices, agencies, and the public they serve.

PFM's operations division provides top-notch services that positively impact county staff and visitors every day. The division includes a hardworking team of AFSCME trades staff, such as Custodial Workers, Maintenance Workers, Electricians, Painters, Carpenters, Safety and Security Technicians, Landscapers, and Environmental Technicians, who respond to important work requests and maintain county properties. PFM's construction division also handles new construction, renovations, and facility preservation projects.

PFM's mission is to offer centralized, cost-effective, efficient, and professional building services, ensuring county employees and visitors enjoy a safe, comfortable, functional, and environmentally friendly space. The agency is committed to outstanding customer service and responsiveness in fulfilling its mission.

Program Highlight: Construction Completion / Support Projects

- **Facility Expansion and Renovation for the Franklin County Board of Elections:** Includes the development of the Early Vote Center.
- **James A. Karnes Corrections Center – Continuation Phase:** This 167,000-square-foot expansion focuses on female inmates, featuring gender-responsive, trauma-informed design with flexible housing units, group therapy spaces, and personalized details such as hair-washing sinks and larger mirrors. The design incorporates murals and calming colors to create a supportive environment.
- **One Door Space Renovation:** A meeting room in the Michael J. Dorrian Building was renovated to create a One Door location for easier access to county services, with Public Facilities Management overseeing planning, design, and renovation in collaboration with Health and Human Services.
- **Support for ADAMH's New Crisis Care Center:** Ongoing assistance in the construction of the new Franklin County Crisis Care Center, slated for completion in 2025.
- **New Franklin County Downtown Development:** Initial work has begun on the design, engineering, and construction management for the new Early Learning Center and other Master Plan projects, set to advance.



Agency Partner: Public Facilities Management

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.



- **Countywide Property Management:** Public Facilities Management (PFM) oversees approximately 4 million square feet of space, managing facilities located throughout Franklin County.
- **Workforce Presence:** PFM employs the largest number of AFSCME-represented staff and has team members working in nearly every county facility.
- **Sustainability Leadership:** Franklin County boasts five LEED-certified buildings, including two at the Gold level and three at the Silver level, reflecting a strong commitment to sustainable design and operations.
- **Franklin County Office Tower Stats:** The Office Tower features 25,000 cubic yards of concrete, over 6,000 tons of steel, nearly 200,000 square feet of granite chipped precast, and 47,000 additional square feet of conventional granite—highlighting the scale and strength of county infrastructure.



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

Reliable water and wastewater services are the foundation of a healthy, thriving community. At the Franklin County Department of Sanitary Engineering, we are committed to delivering sustainable, resilient, and equitable infrastructure that protects public health, supports economic growth, and safeguards our environment. Through smart governance and forward-thinking solutions, we ensure that our water systems remain strong, adaptive, and prepared for the challenges of the future.

~ Director Stephen Renner



Agency Partner: Franklin County Department of Sanitary Engineering

The [Franklin County Department of Sanitary Engineering](#) plays a crucial role in providing clean water and wastewater services to residents in unincorporated areas of Franklin County. By ensuring safe, reliable, and environmentally responsible water management, the department helps protect public health, support economic growth, and preserve natural resources.

The department is responsible for delivering clean drinking water, maintaining wastewater systems, and overseeing infrastructure improvements to enhance service efficiency. It also provides guidance on sewage alternatives, particularly in environmentally sensitive areas, while ensuring compliance with state and federal environmental regulations.

Through its efforts, the department protects the county's water quality, reduces the risk of waterborne diseases, and supports sustainable community development, working closely with local, state, and federal agencies to implement best practices in water management and environmental stewardship.

Agency Partner: Fleet Management

From the moment the [Fleet Management](#) agency opens at 5 AM until it closes at 4 PM, its team is focused on keeping Franklin County moving. The agency’s mission is to ensure county employees who serve on the front lines daily have safe, reliable vehicles to perform their essential work. It supports 34 county departments, from Adult Probation to Weights & Measures, each with unique vehicle needs.

With a fleet of 600 vehicles and numerous pieces of equipment to manage, the agency is responsible for procurement, maintenance, fueling, and disposal to keep these employees on the road. Whether it’s law enforcement patrol cars, Board of Commissioners’ mobile units, or Public Facilities Management work trucks, Fleet Management plays a critical role in sustaining the services that directly impact the residents of Franklin County.

2024 Fleet Management Stats:

600

vehicles in the Fleet.

5,099,203

miles driven by county vehicles.

344,465

gallons of fuel.

1,022

oil changes.

481

tires replaced.

36

alternative fuel stations.

Program Highlight: Board of Commissioners’ Mobile Units

The Franklin County Commissioners’ Mobile Units, unveiled in July 2024, bring essential health and human services directly to residents across the county. Developed from a partnership between Franklin County Fleet Management and the Health and Human Services, these units include two 38-foot mobile offices and a Sprinter van for locations with limited access. Hosting 10 to 20 events per month, they provide vital services such as food and housing assistance, job training, legal aid, and healthcare. More than just offices on wheels, they create a welcoming space, remove barriers to access, and quickly respond to evolving community needs. Their mobility and adaptability also support broader efforts to improve social equity and accessibility, aligning with the goals outlined in the Poverty Blueprint, known as the People’s Plan.



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

83 - Flex fuel or E85

78 - Hybrid

20 - Plug in Hybrid

3 - All electric

3 - Biodiesel

2 - Propane



Community Partner: Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio

The [Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio](#) (SWACO), one of Ohio's 52 solid waste districts, serves all of Franklin County and uniquely operates its own landfill as a public service. Beyond managing the Franklin County Sanitary Landfill, SWACO partners with 41 local communities to boost recycling and reduce landfill reliance. Funded primarily through disposal fees, it also offers educational programs and landfill tours to promote sustainability.

In 2024, SWACO expanded its impact by opening a 41,700 sq. ft. Operations Building, sealing off an old landfill section, and welcoming nearly 9,000 visitors for tours. It introduced prescription pill bottle recycling, extended hazardous waste drop-off hours, and supported composting pilots in schools and businesses. With over \$240,000 in grants awarded and 54 illegal dumping cases investigated, SWACO continues to drive community engagement. Looking ahead, plans include a new education center, the Fresh Takes food waste campaign, and expanded recycling and composting initiatives – all working toward a greener, more sustainable Franklin County.

Community Partner: Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

The [Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission](#) (MORPC) is Central Ohio's go-to resource for regional planning and community growth. With 90 local governments and partners, MORPC helps shape the future by providing data, resources, and long-term planning for transportation, housing, sustainability, and land use. A big part of its work is ensuring Central Ohio's transportation network runs smoothly while also supporting smart development and environmental efforts that improve everyday life.



At its core, MORPC is about building a stronger, more connected, and more sustainable region. Whether it's guiding investments in roads and infrastructure or ensuring people have access to jobs, healthcare, education, and recreation, MORPC works to make Central Ohio a great place to live. Committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion, MORPC strives to create opportunities for everyone, making sure its plans and programs benefit the entire community fairly and effectively.

- **Franklin County Programs for Housing:** Provided home repairs and lead mitigation services for a total of 63 homes across the county.
- **Home Repair Program:** Allocated \$481,500 to support home repairs, benefiting 31 homes in Franklin County.
- **Ohio LEAD Safe Program:** Invested \$686,000 to mitigate lead hazards, serving 32 homes in Franklin County.
- **Weatherization Program with Columbia Gas:** Implemented energy efficiency measures in 300 homes across the county, helping residents save energy and reduce utility costs.



Program Highlight: LinkUs

With Central Ohio expected to grow to 3.15 million residents by 2050, nearly a million more people in the next 25 years, strong partnerships are key to planning for the future. COTA, alongside the City of Columbus, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), and the Columbus Partnership, is leading the way through LinkUS. This collaborative initiative will expand transit services and invest in sidewalks, bikeways, and trails, ensuring the region remains connected, accessible, and ready for growth. By working together, these partners are shaping a more walkable, inclusive, and opportunity-rich future for all Central Ohio residents.



Community Partner: Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District

The [Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District](#), founded in 1946, helps residents protect local natural resources by promoting responsible land use and preventing water pollution.

Instead of pollution coming from a single source, everyday activities like construction, lawn care, and fallen leaves can wash into storm drains, affecting water quality and wildlife.

The District educates over 20,000 students each year, inspects construction sites, and maps stormwater systems to keep pollution out of rivers and streams. It also provides funding for

projects like rain gardens, native plants, and compost bins, helping communities improve soil, water, and the environment for everyone.



- **Conservation Efforts:** Franklin Soil and Water manages 34 conservation easements and one fee simple conservation area (Hellbranch Meadows), protecting more than 750 acres of riparian corridor throughout Franklin County.
- **Environmental Education:** Franklin Soil and Water manages 34 conservation easements and one fee simple conservation area (Hellbranch Meadows), protecting more than 750 acres of riparian corridor throughout Franklin County.
- **Community Backyards Program:** Issued 1,991 rebates totaling over \$113,000 in 2024 for rain barrels, compost bins, and native plants, an increase from 1,238 rebates in 2019.
- **Stormwater Compliance:** 1,685 stormwater compliance inspections performed. In 2019 we performed 823 inspections.
- **Conservation Efforts:** Conducted 1,685 inspections in 2024, more than doubling the 823 inspections completed in 2019.
- **Tree and Plant Sale:** Sold 10,360 native trees and shrubs in 2024, a slight decrease from 10,467 sold in 2019.
- **Community Engagement:** Participated in 75 community events across Franklin County in 2024, up from 45 events in 2019.



Job Creation, Strategic Economic Development, & Fiscal Security



The Board of Commissioners is dedicated to fostering ongoing growth and success in Franklin County's economy. However, they understand that true prosperity is only possible when every resident has the chance to share in this growth. A significant portion of the commissioners' work is focused on creating valuable job opportunities, ensuring access to top-tier education, supporting workforce development, providing affordable housing, and meeting the critical needs that empower families to thrive and create a brighter future.

Agency Partner: Franklin County Economic Development and Planning

Franklin County [Economic Development and Planning](#) (EDP) plays a key role in shaping the county's economic future by promoting sustainable growth, equitable development, and effective land use. EDP manages zoning and land use regulations to ensure orderly development while preserving community character. The agency also supports economic growth through business development, workforce programs, and initiatives to attract and retain companies, with a strong focus on fostering opportunities for minority-owned businesses.

EDP aligns with the Franklin County Board of Commissioners' broader goal of improving quality of life, increasing access to affordable housing, and creating pathways to upward mobility. Through strategic planning and collaboration, EDP works to create inclusive growth, address infrastructure needs, and revitalize communities, ensuring Franklin County remains a vibrant, prosperous place for all residents.



Program Highlight: Magnet Fund

The Board of Commissioners knows that finding affordable housing is one of the biggest challenges for families in Franklin County. In 2019, they created the Magnet Fund to help build more affordable homes by raising money through a small increase in the fee paid when property is sold. The goal was to support 2,000 new affordable units in 10 years – but that goal was reached in less than four. Now, the Commissioners are continuing to invest in affordable housing to help more families live in safe, stable homes close to jobs, schools, and transportation.

2024 Magnet Fund Highlights:

- Over \$5.5 million invested in 2024.
- 364 new affordable housing units.
- Projects represent \$103.3 million in total capital investment.

Cumulative Impact Since 2020:

- Nearly \$21 million invested.
- 1,650 affordable housing units created across 20 projects.
- Leveraged \$493 million in total capital investment.



Community Partner: One Columbus

The Board of Commissioners continues to lead regional economic development through intentional investment and strong partnerships, including ongoing support of [One Columbus](#) – the economic

development organization for the 11-county Central Ohio region. One Columbus works with local and state partners to attract and retain businesses, helping them grow and compete globally. In 2024, this partnership helped drive job creation and investment across the region, reinforcing the Board's role as an economic engine for Central Ohio.

One Columbus

2024 Economic Development Impact:

40

regional projects in collaboration with One Columbus.

6,469

new jobs.

709.6 Million

in committed payroll.



Franklin County directly benefited from 25 projects, delivering:

1,896

new jobs.

\$77,401

average salary.

146.8 Million

in committed payroll.

2,467

retained jobs.

Community Partner: Experience Columbus

In 2024, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners continued to make strategic investments in tourism and sports to grow our local economy and showcase everything that makes Franklin County a

vibrant and welcoming place to visit and live. These efforts are led by trusted community partners like [Experience Columbus](#) and the [Greater Columbus Sports Commission](#).



Experience Columbus promotes Franklin County as a top destination for conventions, meetings, festivals, and leisure travel. By attracting visitors from across the country, they help drive business to our restaurants, shops, hotels, and entertainment venues—supporting nearly 75,000 local jobs and helping our hospitality industry thrive.

The Greater Columbus Sports Commission, which operates as part of Experience Columbus, plays a key role in bringing exciting sporting events to our region. In 2024, the Board invested \$200,000 to support the



Commission's efforts to attract, promote, and retain sports tourism. From youth tournaments to major national championships, these events fill hotel rooms, energize neighborhoods, and boost our local economy. Together, these investments strengthen Franklin County's reputation, bring people together, and create lasting opportunities for residents and businesses alike.

2024 Experience Columbus Stats:

51.2 Million

visitors make annual trips to Greater Columbus.

8.2 Billion

directly spent by visitors at local businesses.

\$13.60

returned to the community for every \$1 invested by Experience Columbus.

1 in every 13

jobs are supported by the travel economy in the City of Columbus and Franklin County.

344 Million

in city and county tax revenue generated by travel economy.

Program Highlight: Local Food Action Plan

In 2024, Franklin County strengthened its commitment to a fair and sustainable local food system through targeted investments, stronger partnerships, and a renewed focus on equity. Guided by the Columbus & Franklin County Local Food Action Plan (LFAP), the County supported urban farming, expanded community garden programs, and helped young people explore careers in agriculture. By working closely with local organizations, schools, and public agencies, these efforts are making healthy, local food more accessible while creating long-term change. As LFAP approaches its 10-year anniversary, Franklin County is also taking steps to measure progress, listen to more voices, and build a food system that works for everyone.



Highlights from 2024:

- Invested \$500,000 in OSU Extension's Agriculture in the Classroom to teach kids about farming and food careers.
- Supported the Mid-Ohio Farm at NBC4 to fight food insecurity and help New American communities.
- Doubled funding for community gardens and youth programs through Franklin Park Conservatory.
- Helped rescue over 780 lbs of food at a local festival to reduce waste and feed more people.
- Created new "Equity Seats" on the Local Food Board to include more diverse community voices.
- Launched a public dashboard to track progress and ensure accountability across all 27 LFAP action items.



Program Highlight: Central Ohio Community Land Trust

The Board of Commissioners continues to invest in long-term, community-rooted solutions to the affordable housing crisis by supporting the Central Ohio Community Land Trust (COCLT). COCLT is a nonprofit organization that creates affordable homeownership opportunities for working families by using the community land trust model. By owning the land beneath the homes, COCLT reduces the cost of purchasing a home while ensuring it remains affordable for future generations, promoting long-term stability and protecting against displacement in neighborhoods.



In 2024, the Commissioners awarded COCLT a \$2.87 million grant, helping complete 13 new affordable homes – bringing the total to 27 homes built since 2020. These homes offer income-eligible families a chance at stable homeownership while helping neighborhoods stay strong and affordable for years to come.

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners takes great pride in the significant investments made in 2024 to enhance our local food system. The Franklin County Urban Agriculture Critical Infrastructure Grant and the Mid-Ohio Farm at NBC4 highlight our commitment, in partnership with the City of Columbus, to advancing food access, fostering a resilient local food economy, promoting racial and health equity, and creating meaningful opportunities for those who are most in need.

~ Commissioner John O'Grady

Program Highlight: Columbus Region Green Fund

The Columbus Region Green Fund is a Columbus-based non-profit focused on creating jobs and promoting equity by using innovative financing to support clean energy projects. By connecting these projects with low-cost capital, the Green Fund helps address challenges in the clean energy sector, particularly for projects that struggle to secure funding.

With a \$2M grant from the county, the Green Fund has developed a unique financing system to support energy efficiency and alternative energy projects throughout Franklin County, reducing reliance on fossil fuels. This investment has led to over \$7.5M in active projects and enabled the launch of the Region Green Energy Loan Fund. The Green Fund is also helping create an equitable clean energy future by offering affordable financing for solar power installations and other clean technologies, making them accessible to all residents and organizations in the county.



Supportive Health & Human Services



Supporting the health and well-being of Franklin County residents is a core responsibility of the Board of Commissioners and central to their mission of building a thriving, resilient community. The county's health and human services agencies provide vital support to families, children, seniors, and individuals facing economic, physical, or behavioral health challenges. Whether through access to nutritious food, safe housing, quality healthcare, or community-based support programs, the commissioners are committed to meeting people where they are and ensuring that every resident has the opportunity to live a healthy and stable life. This work is rooted in compassion, equity, and a belief that strong communities begin with strong people.

Agency Partner: Franklin County Department of Job & Family Services

Franklin County Department of Job & Family Services (JFS) envisions a community where every resident has access to opportunities for success and well-being. As the county's primary social safety net, JFS administers key public assistance programs, including Medicaid, SNAP food assistance, childcare support, and emergency rental assistance. By providing these essential services, JFS helps create pathways to stability and long-term success for residents in need.

In 2024, nearly one-third of Franklin County residents engaged with JFS, making a significant impact on the community. The department operates three Community Opportunity Centers and a call center, serving as vital resources for residents. Beyond public assistance, JFS also funds a range of programs that support early childhood education, youth mentorship, family stability, and workforce development. Through its partnerships with local organizations, JFS is dedicated to ensuring every resident has the support needed to achieve their full potential.

2024 Department of Job and Family Services Stats:

406,000 • (1 in 4)

residents covered by Medicaid.

177,000 • (1 in 7)

residents served by SNAP food assistance.

Program Highlight: Franklin County RISE

Franklin County RISE continued to be a vital program in 2024, helping families afford child care, improving early learning quality, and supporting child care workers. Originally launched in 2022 with \$23 million in federal relief funds, RISE was created to ease the strain on child care systems after the pandemic and make sure working families had the support they needed.

- More than 650 scholarships were awarded to families in 2024 – with over 2,000 total since the program began.
- \$3.26 million went to 237 child care programs, helping providers improve services and earn higher quality ratings.
- 143 early learning teachers received rental assistance, supporting a workforce that is often underpaid but essential to families.
- In November, the Board of Commissioners approved an additional \$18 million, bringing the county's total investment in RISE to over \$40 million through 2026.

Franklin County RISE is a cornerstone of the county's early childhood strategy – strengthening families, supporting child care providers, and building a better future for young children.



Program Highlight: Mission Pawsible

Mission Pawsible is a Franklin County initiative designed to pair older adults with pets to help reduce isolation and loneliness. The partnership with the Franklin County Office on Aging and the Franklin County Dog Shelter and Adoption Centers aims to improve the lives of both senior dogs and senior citizens by facilitating meaningful connections and companionship.



Agency Partner: Franklin County Office on Aging

The [Franklin County Office on Aging](#) is a cornerstone of the community, dedicated to enriching the lives of older and dependent adults. FCOA offers a range of services, including home-delivered meals, personal care, respite care, and minor home repairs, to support the health and independence of older adults in Franklin County.

Through a holistic approach, the agency empowers individuals to maintain their independence and navigate the challenges of aging. By prioritizing the well-being of its senior population, the Office on Aging fosters a community where older residents can thrive, remain engaged, and continue to contribute to the vibrancy of their neighborhoods.



One Door isn't an ordinary transactional resource, it's a philosophy rooted in equity and designed to empower every resident. This initiative is a game changer, meeting residents where they are with dignity, compassion, and opportunities to thrive.

~ Commissioner Erica C. Crawley

Supportive Health & Human Services

2024 Office on Aging Stats:

99,178

seniors served.

17,809

clients enrolled in
Senior Options Program.

1,200

COVID kits provided
to seniors.

2.7 Million

home meals delivered.

1.4 Million

miles of transportation
provided.

2,343

cases investigated by Adult
Protective Services.

112,862

hours of respite care
provided.

554

community events
attended.

1,335

box fans provided to
senior residents during
the summer.

Access to quality, affordable mental health and addiction services, regardless of insurance status and ability to pay, is essential and non-negotiable. The services ADAMH funds through its network providers are critical to the community's social safety net. They help ensure that individuals with behavioral health challenges receive the most appropriate care for their needs, are stabilized in the community and ultimately live more productive and healthier lives.

~ Erika Clark Jones, ADAMH CEO

Program Highlight: One Door

The One Door initiative, a new health and human services project by the Franklin County Commissioners, has been developed throughout 2024 and will officially open in 2025. This initiative combines services from five key county agencies – Office on Aging, Child Support Enforcement, Job and Family Services, Justice Policy and Programs, and Veterans Services – into a single, streamlined system. It aims to make it easier for residents to access essential health and human services, such as housing, family support, and healthcare, all under one roof. By simplifying the process, One Door ensures that residents can receive the support they need quickly and efficiently without navigating multiple agencies and locations. The unified approach promotes better coordination between services, helping meet families where they are at.



Community Partner: ADAMH

The Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board of Franklin County (ADAMH) helps residents access critical mental health and addiction services by funding more than 30 nonprofit providers across the community. While ADAMH doesn't offer direct care, it makes sure services are available where people need them most – including treatment, crisis help, housing, prevention, recovery, and family support.

In 2023, nearly 96,000 people received help through ADAMH's network. That includes over 20,000 individuals who received clinical or supportive services, and 75,000 youth reached through prevention efforts in all 16 public school districts. Services are especially focused in neighborhoods with higher poverty and health disparities.



Program Highlight: NACo

In 2024, Franklin County received three national Achievement Awards from the National Association of Counties (NACo) for outstanding health and human service programs led by the Franklin County Board of Commissioners. These awards recognize programs that are making a real difference in the lives of local residents by improving access to services and strengthening support systems.

One award went to Franklin County RISE, an initiative from Job and Family Services focused on improving childcare. The program helps close gaps in access and affordability, making it easier for families to find quality care so parents can work and children can thrive.

The second award recognized the Office on Aging's Bridge Team program, which brings services directly to older adults, caregivers, and kinship families. This team helps residents navigate available support, making it faster and easier to get the help they need.

The third award honored the SAFER Station (Stop Addiction for Everyone Resource), created by the Office of Justice Policy and Programs. Located in an area with high overdose rates, SAFER Station connects people struggling with addiction to treatment and recovery services, helping them get support in a safe, welcoming environment.

These programs are all part of the Franklin County Commissioners' efforts to create healthier, stronger communities. By focusing on real needs and removing barriers to services, the County is being recognized nationally as a leader in effective, people-first government.



Agency Partner: Franklin County Child Support Enforcement Agency

The Franklin County Child Support Program helps build stronger, healthier families by ensuring children receive consistent financial, medical, and emotional support from both parents. Serving over 100,000 parents and 75,000 children, the program plays a critical role in family stability – especially for low-income households – by helping cover essentials like rent, food, and school supplies. For some families living below the poverty line, child support can make up as much as 65% of their income.



In addition to managing child support orders and payments, the program connects families with resources through community outreach, partnerships, and grants that focus on engaging fathers, promoting economic stability, and supporting survivors of family violence. Child Support is more than a financial service – it's a key part of Franklin County's Health and Human Services system, working to improve outcomes for children and reduce long-term hardship.

- **Child Support Payments:** Disbursed \$139.3 million in child support payments to families, helping ensure financial stability.
- **Service to Parents and Children:** Served 102,196 parents and 75,295 children through active child support caseloads.
- **Paternity Connection:** Connected 487 children to their fathers, fostering stronger family relationships.
- **Impact on Low-Income Families:** For families living below the poverty line, child support accounted for an average of 41% of household income.
- **Support for Families in Extreme Poverty:** For families living below 50% of the poverty line, child support made up 65% of household income, providing vital financial support.
- **Staff Training and Policy Review:** Enhanced staff training and policy reviews through the Safe Access for Victims' Economic Security grant to improve services and support.



Agency Partner: Franklin County Veterans Service Commission

The [Franklin County Veterans Service Commission](#) (FCVSC) delivers needs-based services to Veterans, their families, and surviving spouses, helping to meet fundamental needs like housing, nutrition, transportation, and healthcare. The agency also supports veterans in accessing benefits through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) – many of which go unclaimed due to lack of awareness. Founded in 1861 during the Civil War, FCVSC continues its legacy of care through a veteran-centered approach rooted in empathy and service.



In 2024, FCVSC provided financial aid, food assistance, and access to vital services for thousands of Franklin County Veterans. With a team composed entirely of veterans or their immediate family members, the agency goes beyond temporary financial relief by partnering with county Health and Human Services agencies, the VA, and local nonprofits to connect veterans to physical and mental health care, employment resources, and other long-term supports. This holistic model supports the well-being, dignity, and independence of those who have served.

2024 Franklin County Veterans Service Commission Stats:

6,902

applications submitted
for financial assistance.

98%

received full or
partial funding.

1.8 Million

food cards provided to
over 5,500 Veterans.

\$1,455,000

rent and mortgage
assistance.

1,000

VA benefits
applications filed.

1,294

applicants received \$200
Holiday Meal food cards.

\$308,000

dental services.

250

financial coaching
sessions completed.

16,000

transportation trips to and
from medical appointments.

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 Appointed Special Advocates
- CASA of Franklin County**
(614) 525-7450
casa.franklincountyohio.gov

Domestic Relations/Juvenile Branch
(614) 525- 3628
drj.fccourts.org

Engineer
(614) 525-3030
franklincountyengineer.org

Job & Family Services
(614) 233-2000
jfs.franklincountyohio.gov

**Mid-Ohio Regional Planning
Commission**
(614) 228-2663
morpc.org

Probate Court
(614) 525-3894
probate.franklincountyohio.gov

Recorder
(614) 525-3930
recorder.franklincountyohio.gov

Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio
(614) 871-5100
swaco.org

Auditor
(614) 525-4663
franklincountyauditor.com

Child Support Enforcement
(614) 525-3275
support.franklincountyohio.gov

**Columbus Partnership/
One Columbus**
(614) 225-0500
columbusregion.com

Court of Appeals
(614) 525-3580
tenthdistrictcourt.org

Economic Development & Planning
(614) 525-3095
development.franklincountyohio.gov

**Franklin Soil and Water
Conservation District**
(614) 486-9613
franklinswcd.org

Justice Policy & Programs
(614) 525-5577
jpp.franklincountyohio.gov

Municipal Court
(614) 645-8214
municipalcourt.franklincountyohio.gov
Municipal Court (Clerk's Division)
(614) 645-8346
fcmcclerk.com

Prosecuting Attorney
(614) 525-3555
prosecutor.franklincountyohio.gov

Sanitary Engineering
(614) 525-3940
cleanwater.franklincountyohio.gov

Treasurer
(614) 525-3438
treasurer.franklincountyohio.gov

Board of Developmental Disabilities
(614) 475-6440
fcbdd.org

Children Services
(614) 275-2571
childrenservices.franklincountyohio.gov

Coroner
(614) 525-5290
coroner.franklincountyohio.gov

Court of Common Pleas
(614) 525-3453
fccourts.org

**Emergency Management &
Homeland Security**
(614) 794-0213
fcmhs.org

Guardianship Services Board
(614) 525-2279
guardian.franklincountyohio.gov

Law Library
(614) 525-4971
lawlibrary.franklincountyohio.gov

Office on Aging
(614) 525-5230
officeonaging.org

Public Health
(614) 525-3160
myfcph.org

Purchasing Department
(614) 525-3750
purchasing.franklincountyohio.gov

Sheriff
(614) 525-3333
sheriff.franklincountyohio.gov

Veterans Service Commission
(614) 525-2500
vets.franklincountyohio.gov

