



FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO 2012 ADOPTED BUDGET

CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO THE BUDGET

Board of County Commissioners

Paula Brooks , Commissioner

Marilyn Brown, Commissioner

John O'Grady, Commissioner

FRANKLIN COUNTY 2012 ADOPTED BUDGET

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COUNTY PROFILE

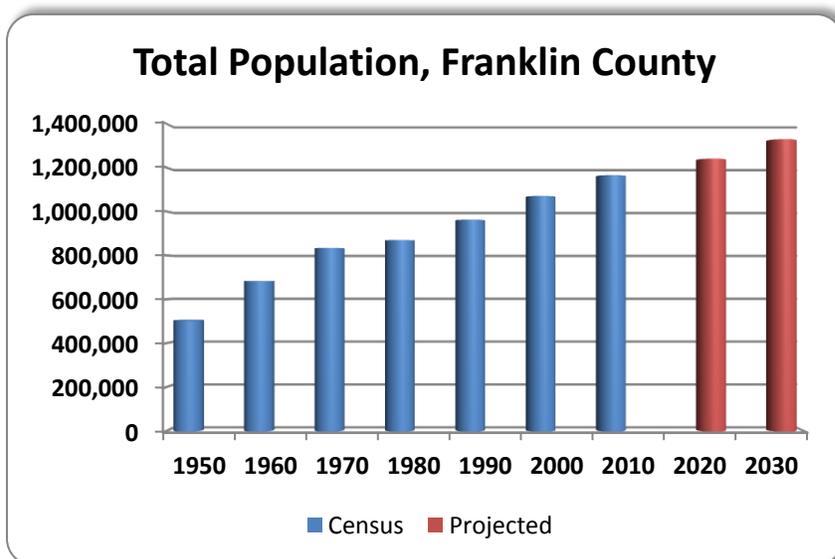
GEOGRAPHICAL SETTING

Franklin County is located in Central Ohio. Columbus, the largest city in the county, serves as the state capital and the county seat. The county encompasses 540 square miles, 13 cities, 17 townships, and 12 villages. The urbanized area constitutes 61% of the total land, with 22.7% of the total as cropland, and 13.6% forest.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Franklin County is the second largest county in Ohio, with a population of 1,163,414 in 2010. The Columbus Metropolitan Statistical Area, which includes Franklin and the six contiguous counties, plus Morrow County, had a population of 1,836,536 in 2010.

Franklin County is the most diverse county in the region, and has “emerging” Hispanic and Somali populations. The 2010 U.S. Census count reported the following composition of Franklin County residents:



Franklin County 2010 Population Count by Race and Hispanic Status

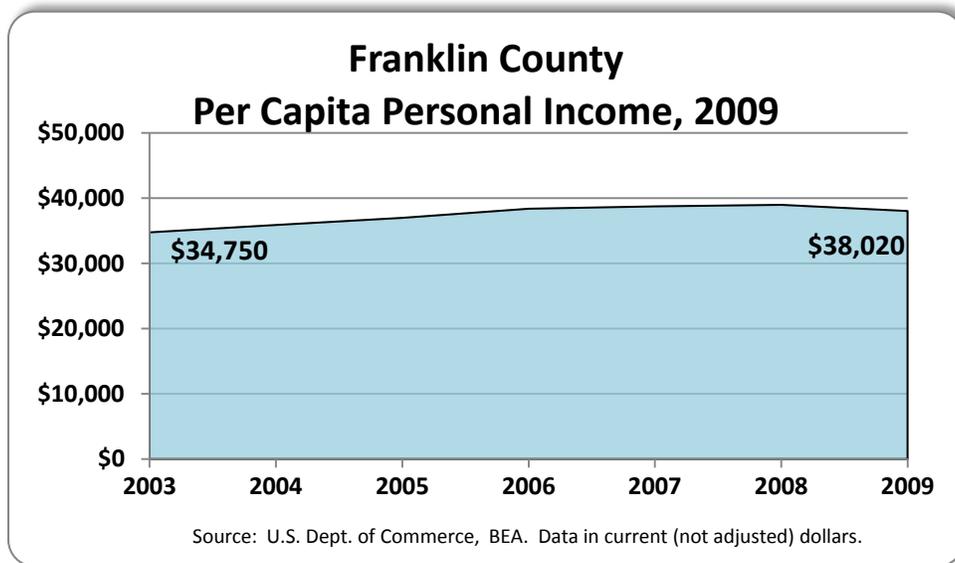
White (Non Hispanic or Latino)	805,617	69.2%
African American	247,225	21.2%
Native American or Alaskan Native	2,852	0.2%
Asian	44,996	3.9%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	746	0.1%
Some Other Race	27,272	2.3%
Multi-Racial	34,706	3.0%
TOTAL	1,163,414	100.0%
Hispanic (may be of any race and are included above)	55,718	4.8%

Citizen's Guide to the 2012 Franklin County Budget

Based on 2010 educational attainment data published by the U.S. Census Bureau, 88.6% of the county's residents ages 25 and older have graduated from high school, and 35.0% have earned a Bachelor's degree or higher.

Educational Attainment	Number	Percent
Persons 25 years and over	739,305	100.0%
No high school diploma	84,465	11.4%
High school graduate	200,030	27.1%
Some college, no degree	150,024	20.3%
Associate degree	45,377	6.1%
Bachelor's degree	170,350	23.0%
Graduate or professional degree	89,059	12.0%

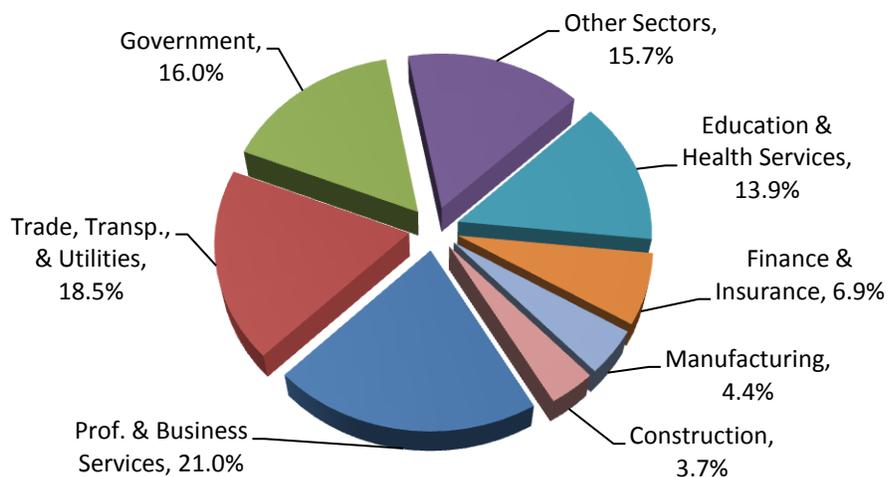
The per capita personal income of Franklin County residents in 2009 was \$38,020, which ranked 6th in the state. Neighboring Delaware County ranked 1st in Ohio at \$51,479. Franklin County residents have had a \$945 decrease from 2008 to 2009 in per capita personal income. National per capita income decreased by \$1,039 during this same period.



ECONOMY

The Central Ohio region is one of the more economically stable metropolitan areas in the United States. The economy is broad-based with no single industry dominating it. In particular, the Franklin County economy provides a diverse and stable employment base of trade, transportation, state and federal government, professional and business services, and university and health-related jobs, and a lack of dependence on the manufacturing and construction sectors. In 2009, manufacturing was 4.4% of total county employment, the 7th lowest in the state, while the statewide average was 10.1%. The diversity of Franklin County's economy helps it weather economic fluctuations.

Franklin County Employment by Sector, 2009

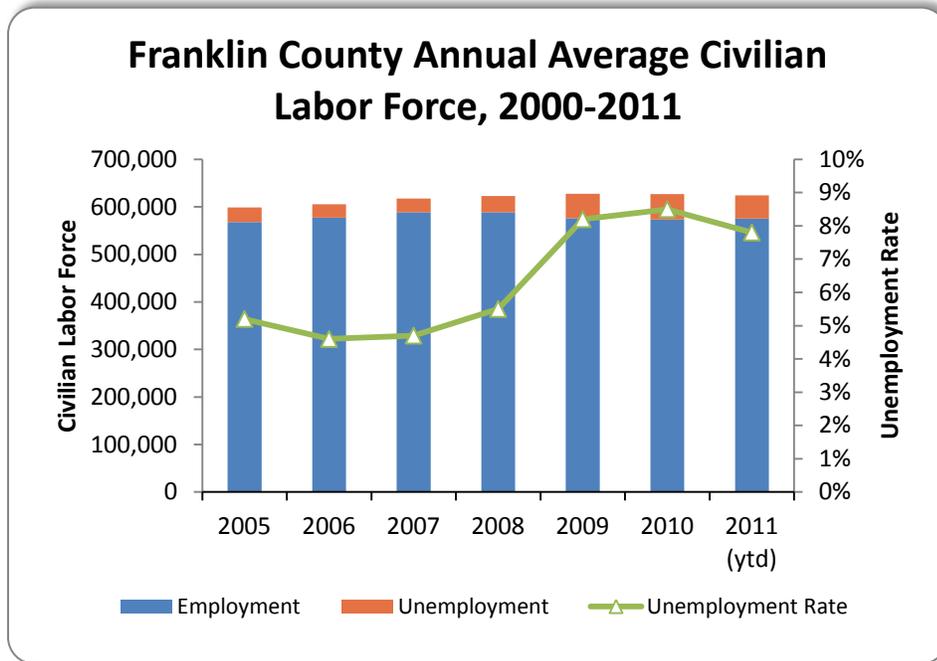


SHARE OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT BY SECTOR, 2009

	Franklin Co.	Ohio	U.S.
Construction	3.7%	4.8%	6.4%
Manufacturing	4.4%	10.1%	8.1%
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	18.5%	17.9%	17.2%
<i>Retail Trade</i>	9.5%	10.5%	10.2%
<i>Wholesale Trade</i>	3.8%	3.8%	3.5%
<i>Transportation</i>	4.8%	3.4%	3.2%
Finance & Insurance Services	6.9%	4.9%	5.2%
Professional & Business Services	21.0%	16.8%	18.0%
Education & Health Services	13.9%	14.8%	12.9%
Government	16.0%	13.0%	14.1%
Other Sectors*	15.7%	17.5%	18.0%
Total Employment	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

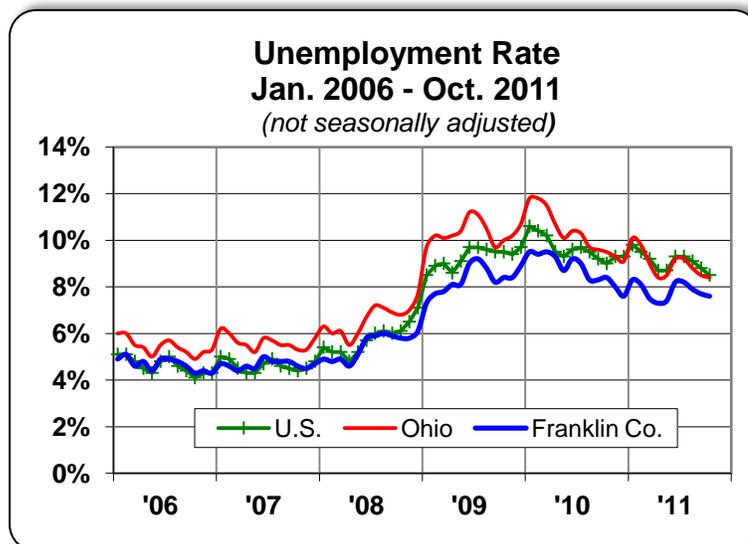
Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System, Table CA25N.

*Other sectors include: Farm, Forestry, Mining, Information, Leisure & Hospitality, and Other Services.



Major employers include the following:

Major Employers	Sector	Major Employers	Sector
Abbott Laboratories/Ross Products	Mfg	Nationwide Mutual Insurance Co	Ins
American Electric Power Co	Utility	Ohio State University	Govt
Battelle Memorial Institute	R&D	OhioHealth	Serv
Cardinal Health Inc	Trade	PNC Financial Services Group	Fin
Huntington Bancshares Inc	Fin	Schottenstein Stores Corp	Trade
JP Morgan Chase & Co	Fin	State of Ohio	Govt
Limited Brands Inc	Trade	Wendy's/Arby's Group	Trade



COUNTY GOVERNMENT

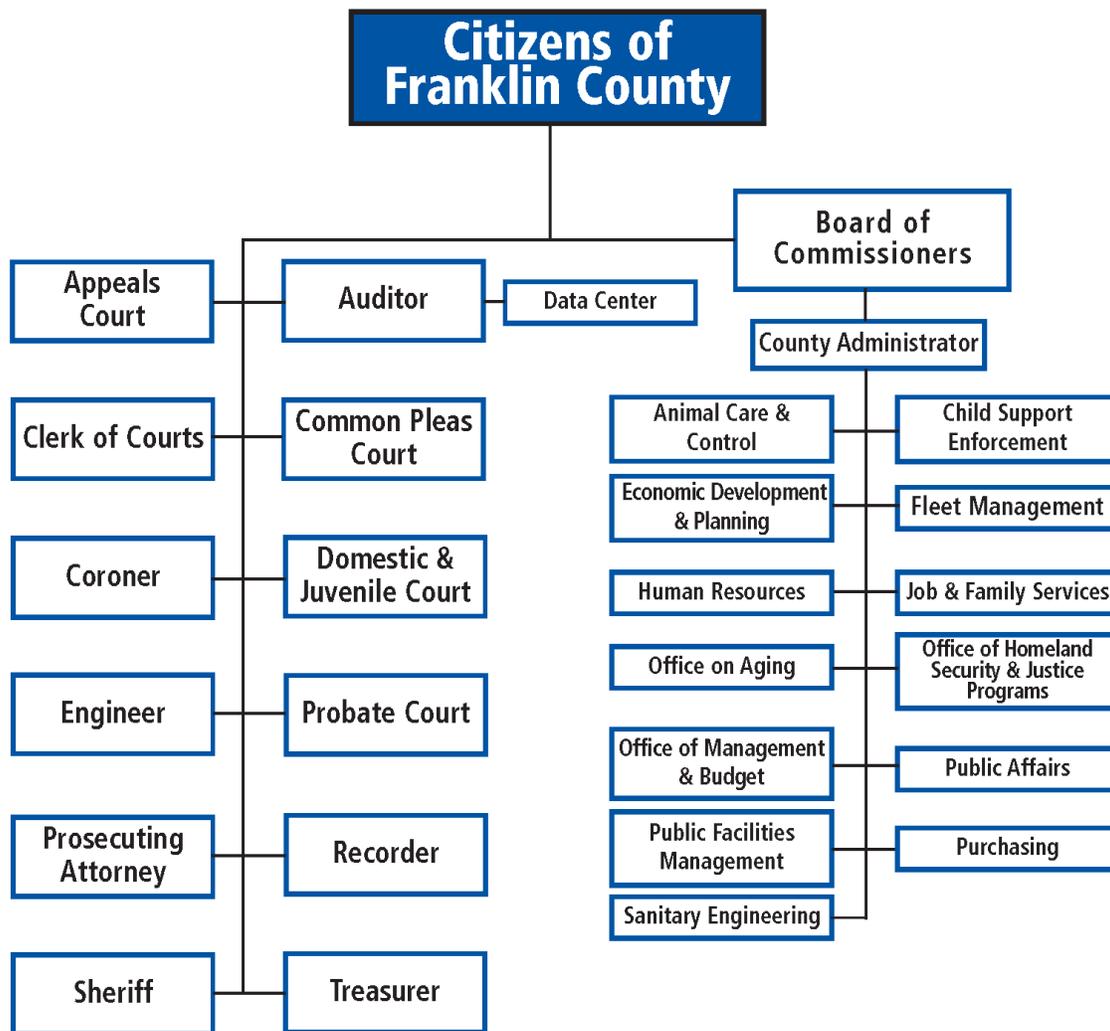
The county seat is located in the City of Columbus. The county is governed by a complex organization of elected officials. Administrative powers rest with a three-member Board of County Commissioners and eight other elected officials who function as the independent heads of their departments. In addition, there are a number of elected members of the judiciary, and various independently appointed boards and commissions. An appointed County Administrator administers board policies and prepares the county's budget with the assistance of the Office of Management and Budget.

The Board of County Commissioners is the county's taxing, budgeting, and purchasing authority, and every county agency relies on the Commissioners for funding. While the Commission establishes the county budget, the independent agencies largely determine how they will spend it.

The Board of County Commissioners has direct oversight of departments that provide building and zoning, human services, employment services, economic development and planning, water and sewer services, and environmental services.



Commissioners Brown, Brooks, and O'Grady with artist Brian Tolle (second from left). The work of art (titled: "Man of Characters") depicts Benjamin Franklin as printed on the one hundred dollar bill. Upon inspection, the lines comprising this giant drawing emerge as writing: aphorisms by Franklin himself. The work of art was donated by Ann and Ron Pizzuti.



Commissioner Appointed Authorities, Boards, Committees and Commissions			
Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services Board Appointed Board of the Columbus Zoo Board of Trustees of the Columbus Metropolitan Library Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) Columbus Downtown Development Corporation Board of Directors Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority Board Columbus Regional Airport Authority Columbus/Franklin County Affordable Housing Trust Corporation Community Reinvestment Area Housing Council #1 Community Reinvestment Area Housing Council #2 Community Shelter Board of Trustees County Hospital Commission of Franklin County, Ohio Franklin County Board of Elections Franklin County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Franklin County Board of Parks and Recreation Franklin County Board of Zoning Appeals Franklin County Children Services Board Franklin County Community Corrections Planning Board Franklin County Community Improvement Corporation Franklin County Convention Facilities Authority (CFA) Franklin County Criminal Justice Planning Board Franklin County Development Advisory Committee		Franklin County Planning Commission Franklin County Public Defender Commission Franklin County Rural Zoning Commission Franklin County Veterans Memorial Board of Trustees Franklin County Workforce Policy Board Franklin Park Conservatory Joint Recreation District Board of Trustees Human Services Levy Review Committee Intergovernmental Placement Oversight Committee Joint Columbus and Franklin County Housing Authority Board Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio Board of Trustee (SWACO) Tax Incentive Review Council of the City of Grandview Heights Tax Incentive Review Council of the City of Hilliard Enterprise Zone Tax Incentive Review Council of the City of Upper Arlington Tax Incentive Review Council of the Franklin/Prairie Townships Enterprise Zone Tax Incentive Review Council of the Hamilton Twp. CRA Housing Council Tax Incentive Review Council of the Jefferson Township Enterprise Zone Tax Incentive Review Council of the Village of Groveport Enterprise Zone Tax Incentive Review Council of the Village of New Albany Enterprise Zone Tax Incentive Review Council of the Village of Obetz The New Albany Community Authority District	
Probate Court Appointed Metro Parks Board	Auditor Appointed Automatic Data Processing Board Board of Revision Budget Commission	Recorder Appointed Microfilming Board	

Franklin County 2010 Population by Jurisdiction

Cities

Bexley	13,057	Pickerington (pt.)	86
Columbus (pt.)	770,122	Reynoldsburg (pt.)	26,157
Dublin (pt.)	35,367	Upper Arlington	33,771
Gahanna	33,248	Westerville (pt.)	28,328
Grandview Heights	6,536	Whitehall	18,062
Grove City	35,575	Worthington	13,575
Hilliard	28,435		

Villages

Brice	114	Minerva Park	1,272
Canal Winchester (pt.)	6,286	New Albany (pt.)	7,701
Groveport	5,363	Obetz	4,532
Harrisburg (pt.)	320	Riverlea	545
Lockbourne	237	Urbancrest	960
Lithopolis (pt.)	32	Valleyview	620
Marble Cliff	573		

Townships (excluding village populations), all est. 2009

Blendon	7,797	Norwich	3,982
Brown	2,249	Perry	3,637
Clinton	4,109	Plain	2,128
Franklin	9,651	Pleasant	6,351
Hamilton	4,438	Prairie	16,498
Jackson	4,073	Sharon	1,849
Jefferson	10,234	Truro	1,304
Madison	10,795	Washington	983
Mifflin	2,462		

MISSION

The mission of the Board of Commissioners' Office is to provide leadership and fiscal stewardship for our community so that Franklin County remains among the best managed counties in the nation. In order to accomplish this, the Board of Commissioners' Office will maintain Franklin County's fiscal security, stability, and sustainability; maintain Franklin County's ability to meet critical needs in difficult economic times; maintain Franklin County's excellent credit ratings; and maintain necessary and essential programs and service delivery capacity.

COMMISSIONERS' CORE PRINCIPLES

In April 2011, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners revised their "core principles" and created "county-level goals" as a first step in an initiative to provide more clarity about why the programs the County offers exist, what value they offer to citizens, how they benefit the community, what price we pay for them, and what objectives and citizen demands they are achieving. The result of this initiative will also enhance the capabilities of the Board of Commissioners to address current fiscal realities while adhering to these core principles, and to meet the expectations of Franklin County residents. These core principles are to:

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

FUND STRUCTURE

A fund is a grouping of related accounts that is used to maintain control over resources by segregating them according to their intended purpose. Financial statements are prepared for each fund to demonstrate compliance with legal and contractual requirements. Franklin County has over 110 appropriated funds. The county *General Fund* is the chief operating fund of the county; it is used to account for all resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund. The General Fund receives revenue from various sources including sales and property taxes, service fees and charges, intergovernmental sources, investment earnings, and other sources such as licenses and permits. The non-general funds cover various purposes. There are special revenue funds that receive revenue from tax levies, grants, federal and state social service programs, and other sources. Included among the major special revenue funds are Board of Developmental Disability Fund, the Public Assistance Fund, the Children Services Board Fund, and the ADAMH Board Fund. There are also debt service funds, enterprise funds, internal service funds, and fiduciary funds.

BUDGET PROCESS

The county adopts a budget resolution annually. The budget is a planning document, created to provide agreement over how funds will be spent. Ohio's counties, municipal corporations, and townships are required to provide for proper financial accounting, budgeting, and taxing practices as part of a larger requirement of maintaining their fiscal integrity. Following those standards, the county's budget must demonstrate structural integrity. That is, operating revenues and expenditures must

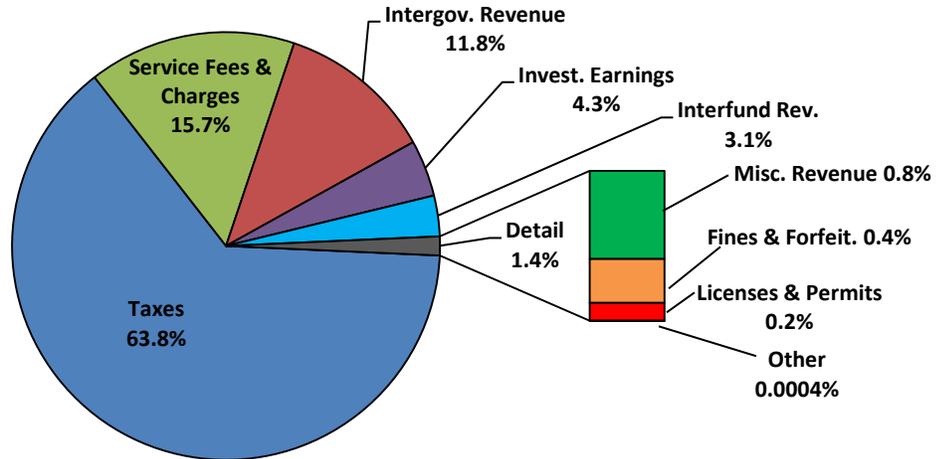
balance each year. Franklin County has adopted fiscal sustainability policy standards that are guided by a performance-based approach that support agencies to make informed resource allocation decisions and achieve performance targets established in strategic business plans. The County's performance based budgeting process includes four components:

1. Strategic business planning is the process where county organizations identify strategic objectives, the programs designed to achieve those objectives, and operational performance measures for each program. Franklin County agencies and offices participate in the strategic business planning process annually. Through this endeavor, agencies are asked to identify up to four performance measures for each program that are tied to the program's goals. These measures provide the basis for developing a performance budget for each program. Agencies are also asked to identify how each program is linked to Franklin County's core principles and goals.
2. Budget requests for each program are submitted to the Office of Management and Budget. These requests identify the projected 2011 costs and performance for each program, and the resources needed to achieve 2012 performance targets.
3. The County Administrator and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) develop budget recommendations for each program. Each program budget request is reviewed on a performance basis to ensure that budget recommendations reflect the most cost-effective use of resources to achieve agency performance targets and align with the county's core principles and goals. OMB staff meets with staff from other county organizations to discuss each budget, and then briefs the County Administrator on each program budget. In light of overall available county resources and priorities, the County Administrator and OMB deliver a recommended budget to the Board of Commissioners.
4. Budget adoption occurs in December when the Board of County Commissioners votes on the 2012 Budget Resolution. This vote is preceded by a series of public budget hearings occurring in the month of November, during which county agencies present program budgets to the Board of Commissioners. These hearings provide further opportunities for the Commissioners to review budget requests, to review the recommendations, and for the public to provide input on the budget.

BUDGET SUMMARY

GENERAL FUND BUDGET

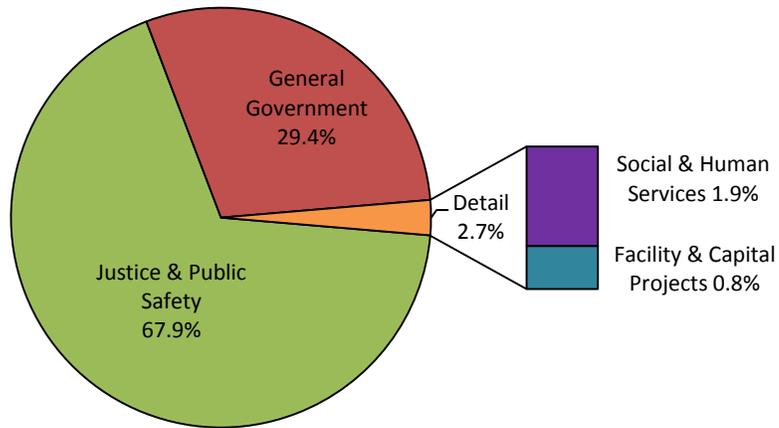
2012 Estimated General Fund Revenues by Source (\$275.4 million)



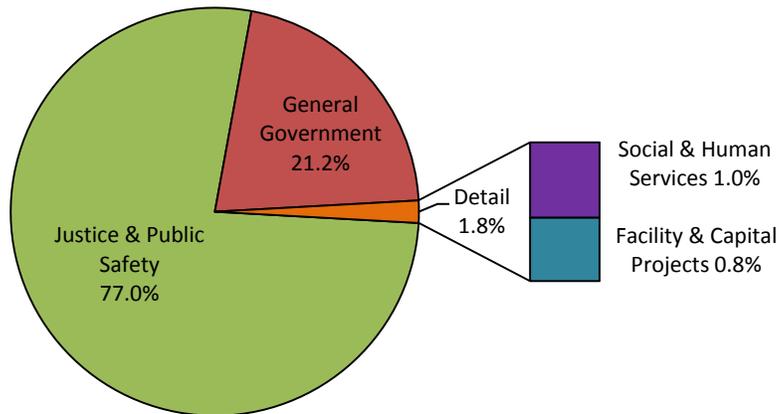
Estimated General Fund Revenues

Revenue Source	2012
Taxes	\$ 175,596,277
Service Fees & Charges	\$ 43,211,895
Intergovernmental Revenue	\$ 32,432,563
Investment Earnings	\$ 11,778,025
Interfund Revenue	\$ 8,475,374
Misc. Revenue	\$ 2,305,375
Fines & Forfeitures	\$ 1,155,900
Licenses & Permits	\$ 462,000
Other	\$ 1,000
Total	\$ 275,418,410

**2012 General Fund Operating Expenditures*
by Function (\$253.4 million)**



**2012 General Fund FTEs
by Function (2,593.06)**



2012 General Fund Operating Expenditures* and FTEs

Function	Expenditures	FTEs
Justice & Public Safety	\$ 171,984,755	1,996.63
General Government	\$ 74,596,291	550.71
Social & Human Services	\$ 4,776,575	20.88
Facility & Capital Projects	\$ 2,051,231	24.84
Total	\$ 253,408,853	2,593.06

* The 2012 Approved Budget includes \$47.3 million in Reserves and Debt, which is excluded from this table.

2012 General Fund Budget

<i>Function/Department</i> (*entries in more than 1 category)	Estimated Revenues	Budgeted Expenses	FTEs ¹
General Government			
Auditor	70,055,612	3,122,218	28.00
Benefits and Risk Management	0	694,694	4.20
Board of County Commissioners	142,640,845	3,155,271	29.00
Board of Elections	1,607,250	11,373,246	48.75
Community Partnerships Administration	164,300	11,581,739	1.00
Data Center	1,006,322	7,367,085	67.65
Economic Development & Planning Dept.	510,250	4,016,981	17.69
Engineer's Office	0	535,084	8.21
General Services Dept.	1,124,400	4,990,185	26.00
Human Resources Dept.	0	807,994	14.64
Public Facilities Management Dept.*	2,445,695	22,354,635	230.08
Recorder's Office	3,728,591	2,849,681	54.19
Treasurer's Office	17,036,775	1,747,478	21.30
Sub Total	240,320,040	74,596,291	550.71
Justice & Public Safety			
Clerk of Courts	3,283,500	8,052,784	151.61
Common Pleas Court	1,055,941	18,742,947	213.86
Coroner's Office	334,968	3,255,403	29.75
Court of Appeals ²	71,200	722,685	37.00
Domestic and Juvenile Court	2,831,348	26,289,229	356.00
Municipal Court	113,090	1,783,169	20.00
Municipal Court Clerk	489,455	51,060	1.00
Probate Court	848,150	3,006,171	53.55
Prosecuting Attorney's Office	636,400	13,767,074	193.93
Public Defender Commission	4,999,032	11,029,809	140.93
Sheriff's Office	11,110,310	85,284,424	799.00
Sub Total	25,773,394	171,984,755	1,996.63
Social & Human Services			
Veterans Services Commission	0	4,776,575	20.88
Sub Total	0	4,776,575	20.88
Facility & Capital Projects			
Public Facilities Management Dept.*	0	2,051,231	24.84
Sub Total	0	2,051,231	24.84
Reserves and Debt			
Reserves Program	9,324,976	47,333,587	--
Sub Total	9,324,976	47,333,587	--
Available Cash Balance³	26,625,098		
TOTAL	302,043,508	300,742,440	2,593.06

Notes:

1. An FTE is the equivalent of one full-time employee (2,080 hours/year).
2. Court of Appeals staff are employees of the State of Ohio, benefits are paid by the county.
3. This balance excludes the General Fund Cash Reserve.

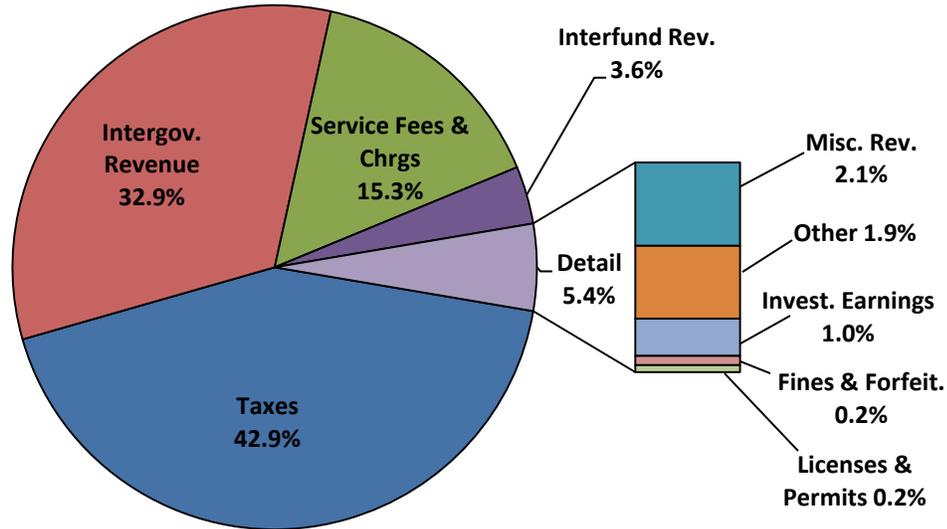
Citizen's Guide to the 2012 Franklin County Budget

General Fund Expenditures 2010 -- 2012

<i>Function/Department</i> (*entries in more than 1 functional category)	2010 Actual	2011 Approved Budget	2010-2011		2012 Budget	2011-2012	
			\$ Change	% Change		\$ Change	% Change
General Government							
Auditor	3,275,332	3,262,612	(12,720)	-0.39%	3,122,218	(140,394)	-4.30%
Benefits and Risk Management	694,550	730,134	35,584	5.12%	694,694	(35,440)	-4.85%
Board of County Commissioners	4,459,849	3,277,570	(1,182,279)	-26.51%	3,155,271	(122,299)	-3.73%
Board of Elections	9,223,911	8,524,485	(699,426)	-7.58%	11,373,246	2,848,761	33.42%
Community Partnerships Admin.	22,498,808	16,063,151	(6,435,657)	-28.60%	11,581,739	(4,481,412)	-27.90%
Data Center	7,950,461	7,796,309	(154,151)	-1.94%	7,367,085	(429,224)	-5.51%
Economic Dev. & Planning Dept.	2,499,791	3,799,324	1,299,533	51.99%	4,016,981	217,657	5.73%
Engineer's Office	514,789	551,144	36,355	7.06%	535,084	(16,060)	-2.91%
General Services Dept.	4,930,654	5,246,390	315,736	6.40%	4,990,185	(256,205)	-4.88%
Human Resources Dept.	921,205	855,137	(66,068)	-7.17%	807,994	(47,143)	-5.51%
Public Facilities Management Dept.*	24,576,212	23,399,189	(1,177,023)	-4.79%	22,354,635	(1,044,554)	-4.46%
Recorder's Office	3,060,562	3,011,876	(48,686)	-1.59%	2,849,681	(162,195)	-5.39%
Treasurer's Office	1,628,801	1,688,118	59,317	3.64%	1,747,478	59,360	3.52%
Sub Total	86,234,925	78,205,439	(8,029,486)	-9.31%	74,596,291	(3,609,148)	-4.61%
Justice & Public Safety							
Clerk of Courts	7,921,131	8,057,867	136,736	1.73%	8,052,784	(5,084)	-0.06%
Common Pleas Court	19,469,527	19,530,532	61,005	0.31%	18,742,947	(787,585)	-4.03%
Coroner's Office	3,611,498	3,414,866	(196,632)	-5.44%	3,255,403	(159,462)	-4.67%
Court of Appeals	702,272	763,316	61,044	8.69%	722,685	(40,631)	-5.32%
Domestic and Juvenile Court	27,029,647	27,367,707	338,060	1.25%	26,289,229	(1,078,478)	-3.94%
Municipal Court	1,780,097	1,877,182	97,085	5.45%	1,783,169	(94,013)	-5.01%
Municipal Court Clerk	49,636	55,987	6,350	12.79%	51,060	(4,927)	-8.80%
Probate Court	3,158,587	3,131,507	(27,080)	-0.86%	3,006,171	(125,336)	-4.00%
Prosecuting Attorney's Office	14,065,541	14,162,653	97,112	0.69%	13,767,074	(395,579)	-2.79%
Public Defender Commission	11,401,717	11,487,398	85,681	0.75%	11,029,809	(457,588)	-3.98%
Sheriff's Office	90,776,053	85,068,967	(5,707,086)	-6.29%	85,284,424	215,457	0.25%
Sub Total	179,965,708	174,917,982	(5,047,726)	-2.80%	171,984,755	(2,933,226)	-1.68%
Social & Human Services							
Veterans Services Commission	4,744,125	5,027,974	283,849	5.98%	4,776,575	(251,399)	-5.00%
Sub Total	4,744,125	5,027,974	283,849	5.98%	4,776,575	(251,399)	-5.00%
Facility & Capital Projects							
Public Facilities Management Dept.*	3,397,747	2,226,009	(1,171,737)	-34.49%	2,051,231	(174,778)	-7.85%
Sub Total	3,397,747	2,226,009	(1,171,737)	-34.49%	2,051,231	(174,778)	-7.85%
Reserves and Debt							
Reserves Program	34,121,589	47,746,688	13,625,099	39.93%	47,333,587	(413,101)	-0.87%
Sub Total	34,121,589	47,746,688	13,625,099	39.93%	47,333,587	(413,101)	-0.87%
TOTAL	308,464,093	308,124,092	-340,001	-0.11%	300,742,440	(7,381,652)	-2.40%

ALL FUNDS BUDGET

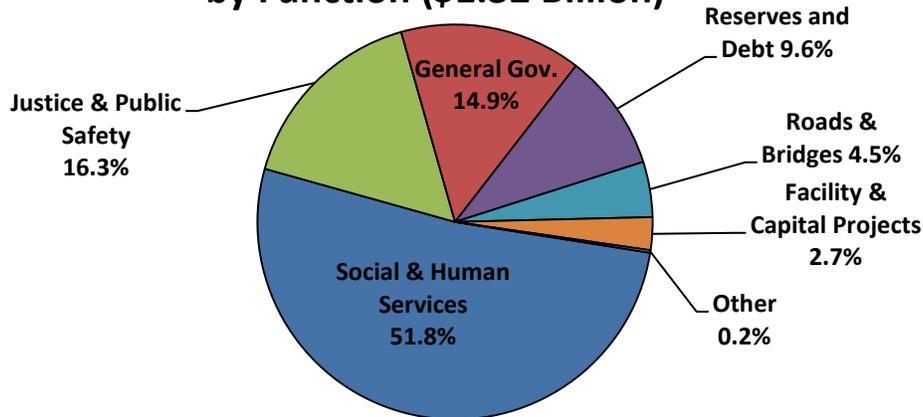
**2012 Estimated All Funds Revenues
by Source (\$1.25 billion)**



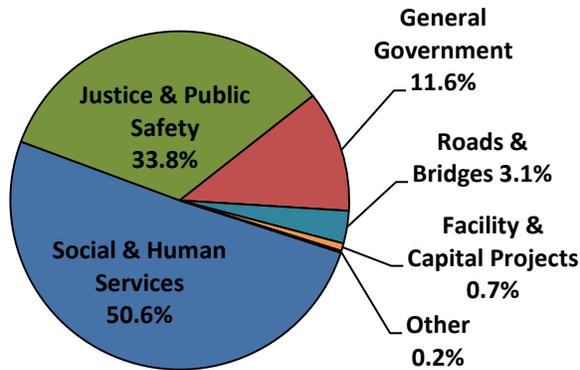
All Funds Estimated Revenues

Revenue Source	2012
Taxes	\$ 537,255,215
Intergovernmental Revenue	\$ 411,861,211
Service Fees & Charges	\$ 191,920,881
Interfund Revenue	\$ 44,550,284
Misc. Revenue	\$ 26,649,481
Other	\$ 23,321,344
Investment Earnings	\$ 11,917,025
Fines & Forfeitures	\$ 2,939,400
Licenses & Permits	\$ 2,247,000
Total	\$ 1,252,661,842

2012 All Funds Budget Expenditures by Function (\$1.32 Billion)



2012 All Funds FTEs by Function (6,553.26)



2012 All Funds Budgeted Expenditures and FTEs

Function	Expenditures	FTEs
Social & Human Services	\$ 682,820,293	3,318.90
Justice & Public Safety	\$ 214,232,912	2,211.75
General Gov.	\$ 195,973,136	759.56
Reserves and Debt	\$ 126,432,574	--
Roads & Bridges	\$ 59,654,648	204.00
Facility & Capital Projects	\$ 35,327,172	47.84
Other	\$ 2,737,678	11.21
Total	\$ 1,317,178,413	6,553.26

Citizen's Guide to the 2012 Franklin County Budget

2012 All Funds Budget

<i>Function/Department (*entries in more than 1 category)</i>	Est. Revenues	Bud. Expenses	FTEs¹
General Government			
Auditor	89,275,112	19,608,459	125.60
Benefits and Risk Management	92,237,882	92,848,260	14.36
Board of County Commissioners	142,640,845	3,155,271	29.00
Board of Elections	1,607,250	11,373,246	48.75
Clerk of Courts*	5,800,750	5,285,125	79.89
Community Partnerships Administration	164,300	11,581,739	1.00
Data Center	1,006,322	7,367,085	67.65
Economic Development & Planning Dept.*	4,726,020	7,875,175	19.99
General Services Dept.	1,124,400	4,990,185	26.00
Human Resources Dept.	0	802,994	14.64
Public Facilities Management Dept.*	2,573,695	22,953,604	230.08
Recorder's Office	4,184,618	3,248,240	56.19
Treasurer's Office	19,581,775	4,883,752	46.41
Sub Total	364,922,969	195,973,136	759.56
Justice & Public Safety			
Animal Care and Control Dept.	2,681,369	4,234,902	64.75
Clerk of Courts*	4,217,214	9,297,845	151.61
Common Pleas Court	4,682,000	22,912,124	248.31
Coroner's Office	334,968	3,255,403	29.75
Court of Appeals	71,200	722,685	37.00
Domestic and Juvenile Court	6,405,947	30,373,902	377.00
Economic Development & Planning Dept.*	5,749,150	3,838,630	1.75
Emergency Management Agency	3,348,758	3,447,345	10.50
Law Library ²	921,000	934,671	6.60
Municipal Court	113,090	1,783,169	20.00
Municipal Court Clerk	489,455	51,060	1.00
Office of Homeland Security and Justice	9,815,795	11,481,739	9.50
Probate Court	1,007,267	3,218,295	53.55
Prosecuting Attorney's Office	2,421,400	16,281,932	217.00
Public Defender Commission	4,999,032	11,029,809	140.93
Sheriff's Office	15,944,979	91,369,401	842.50
Sub Total	63,202,624	214,232,912	2,211.75
Social & Human Services			
ADAMH Board	141,456,489	138,070,856	56.81
Board of Developmental Disabilities	225,654,460	240,680,111	1,423.00
Child Support Enforcement Agency	18,554,407	19,258,036	268.00
Children Services Board	186,893,270	177,485,456	740.65
Job and Family Services Dept.	70,637,977	70,312,512	720.56
Office on Aging	28,776,382	32,236,747	89.00
Veterans Services Commission	--	4,776,575	20.88
Sub Total	671,972,985	682,820,293	3,318.90
Facility & Capital Projects			
Engineer's Office*	1,417,107	3,643,412	2.00
Public Facilities Management Dept.*	3,300,000	16,471,231	24.84
Sanitary Engineering Dept.	12,169,874	15,212,529	21.00
Sub Total	16,886,981	35,327,172	47.84
Roads & Bridges			
Engineer's Office*	53,828,374	59,654,648	204.00
Sub Total	53,828,374	59,654,648	204.00
Reserves and Debt			
Debt Services	46,455,511	46,855,511	--
Reserves Program	32,737,872	79,577,064	--
Sub Total	79,193,382	126,432,574	--
Other: Parking Facilities Program	2,654,527	2,737,678	11.21
Sub Total	2,654,527	2,737,678	11.21
Available Cash Balance³	581,952,878		
TOTAL	1,834,614,719	1,317,178,413	6,553.26

Notes:

1. An FTE is the equivalent of one full-time employee (2,080 hours/year).
2. The Law Library operated outside County authority prior to 2010.

3. Excludes the General Fund (GF) Cash Reserve, GF Economic Stabilization, Workers Comp. Reserve, Risk Mgmt. Reserve, 27th Pay Reserve, and Stadium Pledge Fund.

2012 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Budgeting for Policy Results and Outcomes

In accordance with Franklin County's fiscal sustainability policy standards in Commissioner Resolution 928-08, the Approved Budget incorporates new developments with the "Budgeting for Policy Results and Outcomes" initiative, which builds on previous performance budgeting practices and offers leadership and management services to county agencies so they can make informed resource allocation decisions and achieve performance targets established in their strategic business plans. The county continues to apply the standards of outcome-based budgeting and policy goal-centered management to both its operating and capital budgets.

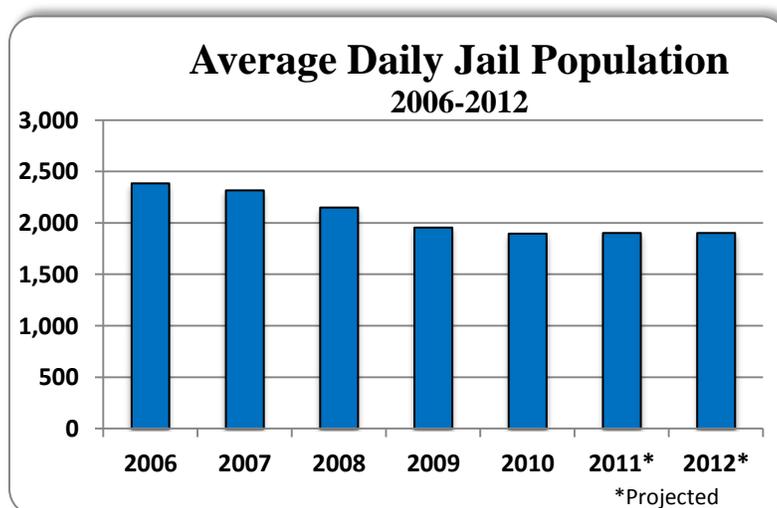
During 2011, in light of the new economic challenges confronting the county and the need for strategic thinking to keep pace, the county revised its core strategic principles and goals, refined strategies to attain these goals, and revised the strategic business plan and performance measurements systems for county programs. These important steps are part of a multi-year effort that is designed to better link program outcomes to county goals.

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND EFFECTIVE JUSTICE

As noted earlier, nearly 68% of the county's General Fund operating budget is spent to prosecute crimes, deliver justice, detain inmates, and provide public safety for the residents of Franklin County. The following sections summarize some of the developments in this area.

Jail Population

The average daily population of the Franklin County Jail has declined in the last few years due partly to fewer prisoners being housed for municipalities in Franklin County, and also due to the increased use of diversion programs in specialty dockets, as well as other factors leading to fewer arrests.



Court Specialty Dockets

One of the most significant developments in this area is the development of two specialty dockets in the Municipal Court. The Approved Budget assumes a set-aside of a contingency reserve to continue support of the county-city and justice partnership related to the operation of these specialty dockets. The specialty dockets deal with cases involving solicitation and addiction, and have been established through a collaborative partnership with the City of Columbus, the Common Pleas and Municipal Courts, the Franklin County Prosecutor's Office, the Public Defender's Office, the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, and ADAMH. These specialty dockets help ensure that an adequate treatment response is accessible to non-violent defendants exhibiting histories of alcohol, chemical dependence, or solicitation. These dockets are proving successful in reducing the number of individual who are confined in the jail by reducing recidivism.

- The average number of jail nights for persons with mental illness has been reduced by 76%. Participants are repeat offenders who averaged 5.3 arrests before entering this program. The recidivism rate for this group has dropped to 0.2%.
- The average number of jail nights has been reduced by 80% for people whose felonies have been reduced to misdemeanors. The recidivism rate for this group has fallen to 1.6%.
- The average number of jail nights for persons with heroin addiction has been reduced by 57%. Although these individuals had an average of 4.6 prior arrests, their recidivism rate in the program is just 23%.
- The average number of jail nights for the long term program has been reduced by 62%. Where these individuals had an average of 2.9 prior arrests, this program's recidivism rate is less than 1%
- The number of jail nights for prostitution has been reduced by 94%.

Urban Area Security, Homeland Safety, & Emergency Management Initiatives

Franklin County has primary responsibility for system-wide, comprehensive justice planning and oversight. It also directs the application of federal grant resources towards justice services to enhance our community's health, safety, and welfare. The 2012 Approved Budget includes the allocation of \$9.1 million in federal grants, which will be used for urban area security initiatives, justice assistance, law enforcement terrorism prevention, state homeland security, juvenile justice and delinquency prevention, and adult female victim assistance services. These grants will be awarded

to local government and community-based agencies within Franklin County's urban area.

Residents rely upon Franklin County's system of outdoor warning sirens to protect them in severe weather conditions. Area coverage will be broadened in 2011 by increasing the number of warning sirens from 172 to 181 across the county. The 2012 Approved Budget also includes \$564,339 to maintain Franklin County's warning siren system. Grant coordination and cost-recovery services for emergency situations will also be provided to safety forces and local governments.

Improved Public Records Access and Information

The Approved Budget includes support for the implementation of an electronic filing system for the county's common pleas and appellate court systems. The Franklin County Court of Common Pleas Division of Domestic Relations and Juvenile branch will be working alongside the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas General Division, the Court of Appeals, and the Probate Court in order to implement an *e-Filing* solution. *E-Filing* will provide a case management program that will allow attorneys to file petitions and other documents electronically through the Internet, using a web browser. This initiative is supported by the computerization budgets of the different courts according to each court's share of the total number of cases filed. The *e-Filing* system began to be rolled out in late September 2011 and rollouts continue in the several court branches based on a schedule approved by the *e-Governance* Committee. For 2012, \$1,245,061 is included in the Approved Budget.

JOBS CREATION AND STRATEGIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In addition to the programs in the Economic Development and Planning Department that were mentioned earlier, another important lever of job creation and strategic economic development is the county's support for the operations of the Columbus-Franklin County Finance Authority (CFCFA). The CFCFA is a political subdivision created under state law by the City of Columbus and Franklin County. The CFCFA provides long term, fixed rate financing incentives for qualified industrial, commercial, and public projects, and works with traditional lending institutions. Credit worthy small and medium sized companies and non-profit agencies can also apply for financial assistance. To date, the CFCFA has issued \$302 million in bond financing on 22 projects that will invest more than \$376 million and create more than 1,518 jobs in Central Ohio. The 2012 Approved Budget includes \$150,000 in operating support for the CFCFA.

Additional job creation and economic development projects are discussed later in the Community Partnership Contract section.

Capital Improvements

The 2012 Approved Budget contains a significant reduction for capital improvements from the 2011 budget. This is due to the completion of the Common Pleas courthouse, completion of the new dog shelter and adoption center, and completion of tunnel and pedestrian concourse improvements within the Government Center. The 2012 budget supports the commencement of the Hall of Justice hazard abatement and building rehabilitation project. As in 2011, the purchase of new vehicles in 2012 has been limited to non-discretionary purchases. The 2012 Approved Budget supports fewer vehicle purchases by providing for an excellent service and maintenance program to keep vehicles road worthy.

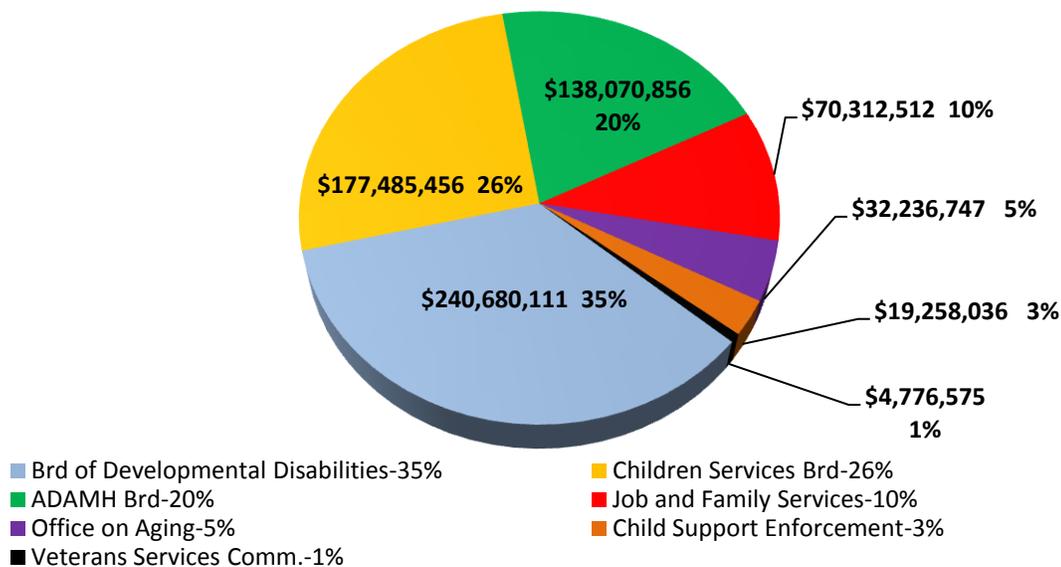
As noted, one of the highlights of 2011 was the completion of the Franklin County Dog Shelter and Adoption Center. The new center provides a safe, healthy environment for the dogs, visitors, and employees. It features bright, open areas for the public to meet dogs available for adoption, including several "real life" rooms, and a large community room for education, training, and civic meetings. The facility is energy efficient and environmentally-friendly.



HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

As noted earlier, the health and human services category comprises 51.8% of expenditures in the all funds Approved Budget (a small portion of health and human services expenditures are recorded outside this category: the Community Partnership Contract Services program contains \$4.0 million for health and human services contracts). The following chart breaks out these expenditures by agency. Additional program developments in the category are discussed below the chart.

2012 Approved All Funds Budget Social and Human Services, \$682.8 million



Job and Family Services

This past year, there have been three initiatives started to improve operating efficiencies of the Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services (JFS); namely, the Northland Building Project, the Ohio Works First Center, and the Customer Access Center. JFS strives to meet the daily needs of individuals and families by providing basic financial, medical, and social service programs while working within the backdrop of a recovering economy and constrained public resources. In order to effectively meet the increased demands of its constituency, JFS has committed to embracing innovation, collaboration, and technology to overcome these challenges.

These strategic initiatives rest upon four overarching strategies that provide a balanced approach to enhancing JFS' service delivery and setting forth the priorities and initiatives regarding customers, community partners, staff and internal operations. JFS is focused on empowering customers with improved communication and access to service delivery. JFS recognizes the need for teamwork and will rely on business and community partners. JFS staff are valued and the organization is committed to their development. JFS must meet the increased demands, as well as federal and state performance measures.

Northland Village Complex

JFS is in the process of consolidating and co-locating its North Community Opportunity Center (NCOC), Northeast Community Opportunity Center (NECOC),

Workforce Development (WFD) division, and the Fulton Street administrative offices into the Northland Village complex. This location will be the prime center where JFS' service delivery will utilize technology-streamlined processes and focused activities to meet increasing demands. The Northland Village building was designed to enhance customer service delivery, and increase staff availability and case coverage.

The building will have two floors with the upper level being the central area for hands-on customer service. Both the combined NCOC and NECOC center and Ohio Works First Center will provide in-person services to customers. The lower level will house the Administrative Office and the Customer Access Center, which will only offer telephonic and computer-based services but will support all JFS locations. These changes align with the organizational goal of providing customers with a variety of internal and external access points to FCDJFS programs and services. It should be noted that through the consolidation of these four locations, the county should realize a cost savings of approximately \$5 million dollars over the next 5 years.

Ohio Works First Center

JFS must meet the mandated work activity participation rates for the all-families (50%) and two-parent families (90%) categories. On September 30, JFS was notified by Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) to submit a Work Participation Corrective Compliance Plan for federal fiscal year (FFY) 2012 as defined by the state's corrective compliance plan with the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families' (ACF). These actions by the state are necessary as the state failed to meet both the two-parent and all-family work participation rates for FFY 2007. These plans are in an effort to prevent imposition of a potential \$32,758,572 penalty and reduction to the State Family Assistance Grant (TANF). The Franklin County all family rate was 21.91%, and the two-parent rate was 21.29% for SFY 2011.

The issues that the OWF Center will focus on include the unassigned, under-assigned, and currently employed participants. Additionally, there will be more attention to tracking and updates to cases which will aid in identifying customers who are non-compliant and initiating sanctions of benefits. Internal policies and procedures will also be created, with guidance from ODFJS, specifying that an OWF applicant must comply with a work activity prior to a cash benefit being issued (Pay for Performance). The new model makes one caseworker responsible for the eligibility determination and the assignment to a work activity. This change, along with adding a vendor to focus on work sites, work participation activities, placement of participants, and tracking of participation aids in streamlining the process. Other staff will focus on intervention activities for those in danger of not meeting the required hours, or on entering the hours more frequently into the eligibility system to document non-compliance, and allowing for quicker sanctioning of benefits. One unit will also monitor the vendor to validate

performance measures. The targeted timeframe for full implementation of the center is February 2012. All of these efforts should aid in JFS meeting the required rates.

Lastly, a small portion of the caseload is assigned to alternative participation activities as they are not able to participate in work activities due to physical or mental limitations. However, while these customers remain in the work participation denominator, alternative activities are not counted toward participation. JFS will continue to monitor alternative participation activity assignments to ensure accuracy and reintegration into countable work activities.

Customer Access Center

JFS' call center has been run as a pilot for over five years. The call center was structured to only support the North and South Opportunity Centers during this pilot. This created an inequity in work volume across all five centers. The Call Center became ineffective and limited in nature. A recent review was conducted to aid in creation of an improved approach utilizing updated technology, identifying organizational challenges and the need to support all five centers.

ODJFS has created a web-based application and changed several rules to support changes to the service delivery model. Franklin County can capitalize on these changes by providing customers with opportunities to apply on-line through the state's web portal, either through their own home computer or through the numerous Ohio Benefit Bank sites throughout the county. Additionally, Franklin County's portal allows various community providers to access customer information without intervention by a case manager. Both of these systems are foundational lynchpins for a successful transition to expanded web based and telephonic applications and reapplications.

The majority of JFS' interactions with customers still occur through costly, labor intensive face-to-face interactions. However, many of the functions performed at the Opportunity Centers can be handled by alternative means. The Customer Access Center (CAC) concept was developed to meet the need for a call center that responds to all customer telephonic inquiries; is timely on all customer reported changes to assure case accuracy; and an application and reapplication center that supports on-line application activities.

As more customers utilize this new service delivery method, this center will be staffed to support a successful transition. Staff in the CAC must be responsive to build a new level of trust by the customer base. The CAC will be launched in phases. The first phase will expand the call center inquiry function to all five centers. This phase will begin in January 2012 after the move to the Northland facility. Phase two, targeted for February 2012, will incorporate the change center. Effective April 2012, all web-based telephonic applications and reapplications will be assigned to the center as staff is

added to support these additional functions. These service delivery changes shall reduce lobby traffic and aid in federal timeliness and accuracy measure attainment.

With cuts to the SFY 2012-13 funding, JFS must take extensive measures to improve operational efficiencies. The establishment of the CAC will allow JFS to focus on modernizing case management and support streamlined efficiencies by focusing on specific case activities.

Child Support Enforcement Agency

The Franklin County Child Support Enforcement Agency (FCCSEA) experienced a challenging year in 2011. The enduring aftermath of the recession of 2007-2009 has had a significant impact on an agency responsible for insuring the financial support of children. A struggling economy, budget reductions and a reduction of 36 staff positions have taken a toll on agency operations and collection performance. However, overcoming these challenges has given the agency an opportunity to evolve both internally and through its outreach programs. By re-defining goals, streamlining processes, implementing time management strategies, developing automated processes, prioritizing staff work lists, and creating healthy competition amongst staff, the agency not only endured, but prospered. In a year of economic recovery, the agency had an all time monthly collection record of over \$17.6 million; established more paternity and support orders than any other time in agency history; and, collected around \$11.00 in child support payments for every administrative dollar spent. However, child support is so much more than statistics – it's about people. The idea that has slowly taken root within the child support community over the past decade is focused around family centered strategies that turn non-payers into paying parents. The new philosophy in the child support program is to intervene early to address the underlying reasons for nonsupport—whether it is unemployment, parental conflict, or paternal disengagement. By broadening our strategies and partnering with other programs, we can do more to assure that parents provide their children with financial and emotional support throughout childhood.

In 2012, the agency will eliminate all hard-copy case files and automate all child support business processes. By creating electronic workflows that route tasks to assigned staff, processing time will dramatically decrease and agency oversight will increase. FCCSEA manages more than 88,000 child support cases and receives about 40,000 pieces of mail each week. Not having to route these documents will be a significant cost and time savings. Other benefits include instant access to cases, faster response to complaints, and time savings for employees to better serve customers. The agency will also explore an interactive web portal which will allow clients the opportunity to participate in the management of their cases. Community outreach efforts will also be expanded in 2012. For example, the agency is partnering with Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services and the Columbus Urban

League to provide intensive case management services so that child support obligors, who are food stamp recipients, can find jobs. Though the program has fewer resources in which to operate, it is constantly striving to find innovative ways to get lifeline child support payments into the households of Franklin County.

Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health (ADAMH) Board

The \$21.3 million decrease in the 2012 Approved Budget expenditures for ADAMH stems from the state's Medicaid Elevation Program, which started July 1, 2011. This program shifts Medicaid expenses to the State, and the transition is expected to be completed by September 30, 2012. Providers, however, will have 365 days after the date of service to submit claims.

ADAMH is also partnering with neighboring counties to improve information technology. The Multi-Agency Community Services Information System (MACSIS) system will automate payment and management information for mental health, alcohol and other drug services. The MACSIS system is a collaborative effort of Ohio Drug and Mental Health (ODMH), the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS), Franklin County ADAMH, Hamilton County ADAMH, and Cuyahoga ADAMH. The combined ODMH/ODADAS outpatient payment information system compiles behavioral health care services for both Medicaid paid and non-Medicaid paid services.

STEWARDSHIP OF NATURAL RESOURCES, THE ENVIRONMENT, AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Green Building and Fleet Initiatives

The new Common Pleas courthouse opened in 2011 and has been awarded *LEED* Gold certification. The county has adopted green building policies and is applying Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (*LEED*) certification standards and sustainable design concepts to all new construction. Energy conservation measures improve the efficiency of county facilities through building retrofit measures, including upgrades to the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems. Blue-bag programs are available in all buildings to recycle paper, cans, plastics, ink and toner cartridges, and Styrofoam materials. Recycled-content office paper will be purchased, and two-sided copies will be strongly encouraged. The Departments of Public Facilities Management and General Services continue to implement the Board of Commissioners Environmental Sustainability policy set forth in Resolution 683-06 which include the following standards:

- promote the use of products and services that enhance environmental, social, and economic health;
- practice responsible growth when establishing policy on land use, infrastructure development, green space preservation and preservation of natural resources;
- develop waste management policies that reduce environmental impact of solid waste and lessen the burden on landfills;
- reduce the demand for natural resources through energy efficiency, water conservation and sustainable land use by promoting the construction of high performance green buildings and improving the air quality through vehicular controls and alternative fuels.

Reducing fuel consumption was a major goal for Fleet Management this year. The county needed to find ways to reduce usage and develop workable plans. In 2011 Fleet investigated outside options to obtain fuel that would allow county vehicles to remain in their districts. Fleet began collaboration with the Road Engineer's office to give county agencies the ability to obtain fuel at two additional fueling sites. This pilot effort showed that allowing cruisers to stay in their patrol districts reduced usage and eliminated some coverage issues for the Sheriff's Office. Fleet Management seeks to establish a plan to utilize some City of Columbus existing facilities for other divisions of our fleet to reduce travel time and fuel consumption just to obtain fuel.

Fleet will continue efforts to establish collaborative agreements with other governmental agencies to obtain fuel from multiple sources. With minimal replacement vehicles on the horizon, the county needs to continue to provide safe vehicles to our drivers but maintenance on them will increase and down time will be longer.

Storm Water Management Investments

The Approved Budget includes continued support for the county's Storm Water Management Control Program, including development and implementation of a storm water discharge control plan.

The Approved Budget includes \$1.3 million to continue General Fund support for a comprehensive storm water management program that will strategically benefit water quality, drainage management, stream corridor protection, and wetlands and floodplain protection. This is a partnership program that includes the County Commissioners, the County Drainage Engineer, the Economic Development and Planning Department, the Sanitary Engineer, the District Board of Health, and the Soil and Water Conservation District. This program also administers illicit discharge testing and sampling efforts, conservation easements, storm-water mapping, and support of the MORPC Greenways

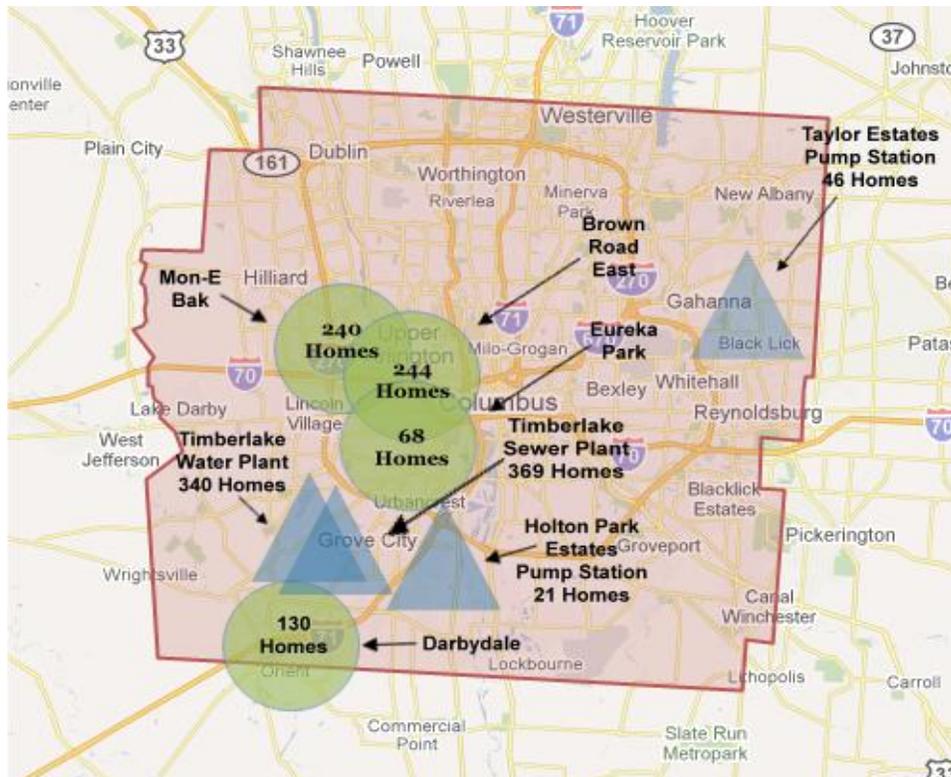
program. The Approved Budget increases support for the District Board of Health's illicit discharge detection and elimination program.

Water Quality Partnerships

The Water Quality Partnership program addresses health concerns caused by raw or inadequately treated sewage entering waterways. The major contributor of this pollution comes from homes built 50 to 60 years ago that rely on failing on-lot home sewage disposal systems. This program targets 21 unincorporated areas of Franklin County that have on-lot septic and aeration systems that have failed or have the potential to fail.

Water Quality Partnership program initiatives will provide 484 homes with unsanitary conditions access to sanitary sewers in 2011, and an additional 364 will gain access in 2012. By the end of 2012, a total of 3,273 homes will have been provided access to sanitary sewers through this county initiative. The county's 2012 program plans are illustrated in the graphic below.

2012 Approved Budget Water Quality Partnership Projects

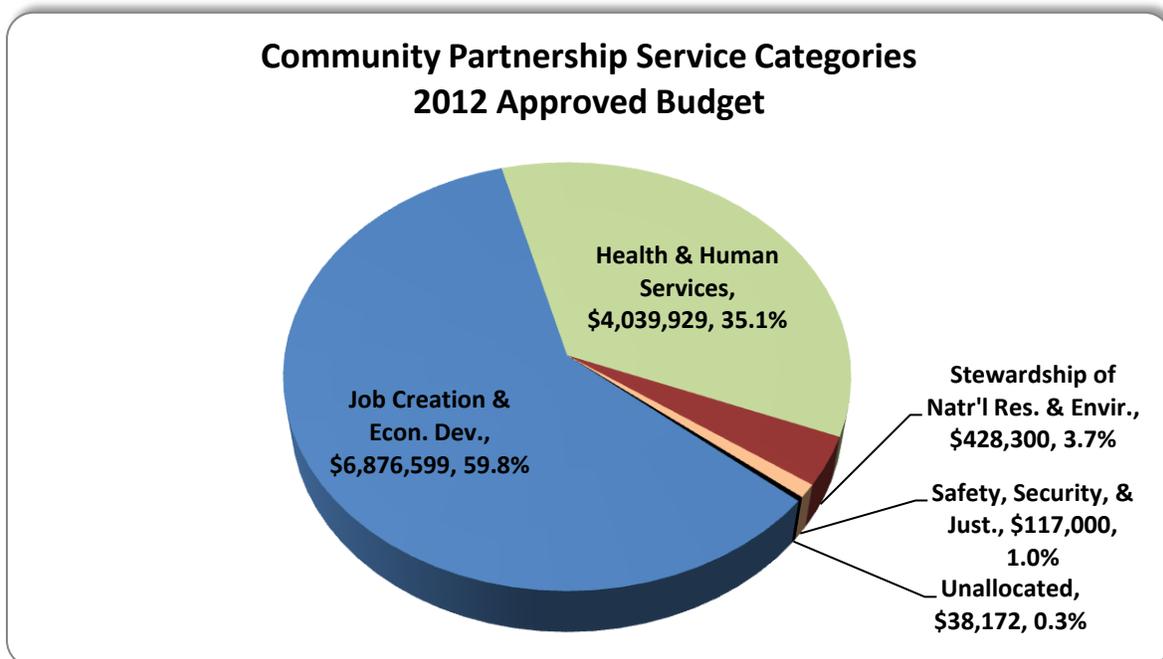


Board of Elections

The Approved Budget includes \$11.4 million to address Franklin County's voting requirements for the 2012 elections. This is an increase of \$2.8 million over the amount in the 2011 Approved Budget to cover the additional costs associated with the 2012 presidential election. However, the Approved Budget does not include appropriations for conducting a second primary election to be held in June that was included in legislation recently enacted by the Ohio General Assembly. If a second primary is to be held in 2012, it will require an additional budgetary obligation of at least \$1.0 million.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP CONTRACT SERVICES

To promote complete transparency, the Approved Budget presents all of the county's community partnership service contracts in a single accounting unit. These contracts establish service delivery partnerships with both public and not-for-profit organizations, which are focused on county strategic priorities in this area, including affordable housing and emergency shelter, access to health care services, childhood development and family learning, community safety and security, environmental quality and sustainability, and economic development and job creation, along with support for the arts and the cultural life of the community. The following chart summarizes expenditures in community partnership contract services by priority area:



Job Creation and Strategic Economic Development

Understanding that the key to economic recovery is investment in county economic development and job creation initiatives, within the Community Partnership Services, the Approved Budget also provides \$6.9 million for measures targeted at creating and retaining jobs, economic development, and housing programs. One of the largest economic development programs within Community Partnership Services is the county's continued support of the Columbus Airport Authority's operational costs at Rickenbacker Airport (\$2.2 million).

Emergency Shelter & Supportive Housing

The Approved Budget continues support for the Community Shelter Board (CSB), which remains a national model of success. The CSB assists our county by providing homeless prevention programs, emergency shelter, and supportive housing programs, the need for which continues to rise to record levels due to the impact of the recession. A portion of the real estate transfer fee (RETF) collections is dedicated to pay for the programs and supportive housing services provided by CSB. In 2012, the CSB's contract with the county (\$3,250,000) will support more than 6,734 persons (men, women, and children) requiring emergency shelter and an estimated 1,158 persons in supportive housing. Under CSB's Rebuilding Lives Program, designed to maintain permanent housing for previously homeless persons, 990 units per month of supportive housing have become operational; another 60 units are under development.

Affordable Housing

The Approved Budget continues support for the Columbus/Franklin County Affordable Housing Trust Corporation (AHT) which remains a national model program. The AHT is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the production of affordable homes and apartments, investment in affordable residential development, and construction in older and overlooked areas throughout Franklin County. The AHT facilitates the development and rehabilitation of affordable housing by making loans which enable builders and developers to construct housing with much less financial risk. Over the last five years of operation, the AHT has partnered in financing and generating 4,094 affordable units, 1,253 of which were created in 2010-11.

The Approved Budget includes \$1.4 million, drawn from real estate transfer fees. In 2012, AHT anticipates production of at least 650 additional units. AHT will continue its commitment to environmentally sensitive measures by including "green" building features in its project award conditions.

Access to Health Care

The ability of Franklin County residents to receive care and treatment for their health needs remains a high priority of the Board of Commissioners, especially regarding the care and health of our community's children. To that end, in 2010 the Commissioners entered into a five-year collaboration with Nationwide Children's Hospital to reduce the rate of infant mortality in Franklin County. Entitled the *Ohio Better Birth Outcomes* (OBBO), this local health initiative will aggressively seek to reduce the rate and number of premature births in Franklin County. With a preterm birth rate of 13%, almost double the U.S. public health goal of 6.9%, infant mortality as well as the potential of suffering immediate and long term medical conditions associated with preterm birth are a significant issue facing Franklin County.

A reduced infant mortality will also lead to cost savings for business and government. Costs associated with preterm births average over \$100,000, with care exceeding \$1 million for some. Therefore, improved access to prenatal care provided under the OBBO Initiative will lead to a reduced preterm birth rate as well as decrease health care costs. Franklin County's \$7 million investment in OBBO, including a \$500,000 installment in 2012, is projected to realize long-term corporate and government savings in excess of \$25 million. In total, the Approved Budget includes \$4.0 million dollars for Access to Health Care initiatives. As a November 1, 2011 Columbus Dispatch editorial states:

The results are in: The program has enrolled 165 women who previously miscarried or had a baby born too soon. Of the 126 who already had given birth, the average length of pregnancy stretched to more than 35 weeks. That's an average of six weeks and two days longer than before. ... The program began with grim statistics: About 13 percent of the births in Franklin County were premature and the average bill for an infant's stay in a neo-natal intensive-care unit was \$66,000. ... This was a smart investment by Franklin County. ... Statewide, eight out of every 1,000 babies die before their first birthday. Among blacks, 15 of every one thousand don't make it. ... Avoiding lengthy, expensive hospital stays and preventing an array of special education services or lifelong medical treatment is worth the expense. As the Better Birth Outcomes collaborative continues to thrive, so will more babies.

Community Gardens

In 2009, with Community Partnership Services funding, the Gantz Road Community Garden was created by the Franklin County Board of Commissioners on Franklin County-owned land in order to support the ever growing community garden movement. The garden area was expanded in 2010. Specifically, the Board of Commissioners' goal is to increase access to fresh produce grown by community gardeners for their own consumption and donation to local food pantries. Doing so means healthier diets for families, especially those increasingly dependent on food pantries for produce because of dwindling incomes. Further, the Commissioners have ensured that the garden is environmentally sustainable in that produce must be organically grown and installation of a solar-powered rain harvest watering system.

In response to rising interest and in demonstration of their commitment that County residents – especially children – have access to fresh and nutritious foods, the Board of Commissioners supported creation of a third garden at the Gantz Road site. As shown in the accompanying photo, the new garden will be cultivated by Burmese refugee families. The new garden was funded through a competitive grant program using Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) monies.

