



Franklin County

**BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS**

American Rescue Plan
Public Hearing

Thursday, July 15th, 2021

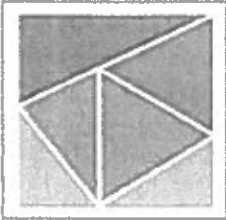
Public Testimony

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Franklin County Board of Commissioners
American Rescue Plan Public Hearing
July 15, 2021
William Murdock, MORPC Executive Director
Public Testimony

President Boyce, Commissioner Crawley, and Commissioner O'Grady thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on how Franklin County can best use the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. These dollars provide us with a needed infusion of resources to help turn the tide on the pandemic, address its economic fallout and lay the foundation for a strong, equitable and inclusive recovery.

My name is William Murdock, and I am the Executive Director of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission better known as MORPC. We serve as the regional council for more than 75 members, for the 15-County Central Ohio region. Our members are comprised of counties, cities, villages, townships, and regional organizations. We provide programs, services, and funding related to transportation, community development, data, sustainability, and economic prosperity to ensure the future growth and sustainability of our region.

In response to the pandemic and through the leadership of MORPC Vice-Chair and Deputy County Administrator Erik Janas, MORPC convened two weekly virtual meetings to support and serve our members. The meetings provided communities the opportunity to hear regional updates from peers related to obstacles, best practices, and other insights. And what we heard from big cities like Columbus to smaller townships such as Clinton, is how the COVID-19 public health crisis and resulting economic crisis have devastated the health and economic wellbeing of communities from all across Franklin County.

The pandemic quickly illustrated gross inequities that have been long present in historically marginalized communities and left unaddressed for far too long. None more obvious than the extent of the digital divide. The Census' most recent American Community Survey found that one out of five households in Franklin County did not have a cable modem, digital subscriber line (DSL), or fiber Internet accounts. Nearly 10% of all households in the county obtain internet access only through a cellular data plan and 48,000 County households have no home broadband subscriptions of any kind. These unconnected households are disproportionately in marginalized communities with lower income and greater diversity, which further compounds racial disparities. Simply put, this is unacceptable.

In response to these broadband challenges, a group of Franklin County organizations began participating in informal, virtual meetings to examine the status of broadband issues more closely for area residents. Over time, this organic gathering grew to include business, government, education,

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Karen J. Angelou
Chair

Erik J. Janas
Vice Chair

Chris Amorose Groomes
Secretary

nonprofit and social sector representatives now known as the Franklin County Digital Equity Coalition. The goal of the coalition is to achieve digital equity through universal residential broadband adoption which includes affordability, devices, and digital life skills training and technical support, to ensure Franklin County residents have the tools necessary to support education, health, well-being, economy.

Last year, the coalition started its work with the Central Ohio Broadband Access Pilot Program. The program, which was in partnership with PC's for People and the Educational Service Center of Ohio, worked to provide hotspot devices and computers for low-income students. We also targeted as many as 700 households in two poorly connected neighborhoods, offering 30 Mbps wireless connections to low-income neighborhoods on the South Side and the Near East Side for \$15 to \$25 a month.

In closing, as you deliberate over how to best utilize these critical relief dollars, I strongly encourage you to allocate these dollars to broadband affordability and accessibility programs and projects. Broadband is an essential utility for 21st-century commerce, education, and healthcare. Every resident, business, and school deserve access to affordable high-quality broadband. Lastly, I want to inform you that MORPC is currently surveying its members on how they plan to utilize ARP relief dollars. We will be sure to share the results once the survey has concluded to assist you as you decide how to best allocate these funds.

Thank you for your leadership and partnership, and for the opportunity for MORPC to highlight the critical need for broadband investment in Franklin County. I am happy to answer any questions that you may have.



TO: Franklin County Board of Commissioners
FROM: Patrick Losinski, CEO, Columbus Metropolitan Library
RE: Written Testimony concerning American Rescue Plan Funds
DATE: July 15, 2021

President Boyce, Commissioner Crawley and Commissioner O'Grady, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on how Franklin County can best use its allocation of the American Rescue Plan recovery funds. My name is Patrick Losinski, and I am CEO of Columbus Metropolitan Library (CML). I apologize that I am unable to attend the hearing in-person due to a library board meeting, and appreciate your consideration of this written testimony.

Columbus Metropolitan Library has served residents in Franklin County since 1873. At our Main Library and 22 branches, we take pride in meeting community needs through our signature services and programs, such as Homework Help Centers, Reading Buddies, Summer Reading Challenge and Ready for Kindergarten. Our vision of "a thriving community where wisdom prevails" is at the forefront of our work as we respond to areas of urgent need: kids unprepared for kindergarten, third grade reading proficiency, high school graduation, college and career readiness, employment resource needs, and access to broadband, technology devices, and digital life skills training, all of which are even more critical as the community recovers from the pandemic.

In recent years, many Franklin County residents have effortlessly accessed the internet at home, work, school, and libraries throughout our communities. Yet, for a surprising percentage of our population, broadband access is elusive and not readily available in homes, apartments, shelters, and other residential locations. The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic quickly laid bare the extent of the disparity and, specifically, the digital divide that exists between the "haves" and "have nots." As schools closed for in-person instruction and businesses moved employees to work-at-home models in March 2020, the awareness and consequences of this disparity became evident, even though it was prevalent long before the pandemic. Along with heat, electricity, and water, in-home broadband access is the fourth utility that must be available for students to learn and thrive, businesses to remain nimble and competitive, seniors to take advantage of telehealth options, and a host of endless useful applications.

The Census' most recent American Community Survey (ACS) found that 108,000 of Franklin County's 522,000 households - one out of five - did not have a cable modem, digital subscriber line, or fiber Internet accounts in 2019. About 50,000 households - nearly 10% of all households in the county - had internet access only through a cellular data plan, and more than 48,000 Franklin County households had no home broadband subscriptions of any kind in 2019, including a cellular data plan. Along with broadband adoption, many residents need devices, technical support and technology training to fully access internet services, educational resources, employment, and the social aspects of the digital world.

In April 2020, CML began convening a number of Franklin County organizations to more closely examine the status of broadband-related challenges for county residents. Over time, this organic gathering has grown to include more than 30 business, government, education, non-profit and social sector entities now known as the Franklin County Digital Equity Coalition.

It is co-chaired by CML and the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, and we are fortunate to have participation from several county government leaders, including Erik Janas, Deputy County Administrator, and Adam Frumkin, Chief Information Officer for the County Data Center.

Last year, the Coalition launched the Central Ohio Broadband Access Pilot Program in partnership with PC's for People and the Educational Service Center of Ohio, in order to provide hotspot devices and computers for low-income students. The Coalition is also piloting two new broadband technologies with the capability to serve as many as 700 households in two poorly connected neighborhoods, offering free 30 Mbps wireless connections to low-income households on the South Side and the Near East Side for the duration of the pilot phase. Additionally, Columbus Metropolitan Library is working to create a Digital Navigator program to help people throughout Franklin County access affordable broadband solutions and low- or no-cost devices; trouble shoot connectivity issues; and connect to digital life skills resources. The Digital Navigator program is intended to be expanded broadly in partnership with other Coalition members. Each of these pilot programs requires significant funding, staffing and expertise in broadband technology.

The Coalition recognizes and appreciates the financial support the County has provided thus far to help address the digital divide, particularly for the PACT Connected Communities project on the Near East Side of Columbus. As you thoughtfully consider how to best utilize the American Rescue Plan relief funds, I strongly encourage you to allocate funding to broadband affordability and accessibility programs and projects. As you know, this is a highly complex challenge that plagued our community long before the pandemic. Funds for digital equity initiatives will help advance the efforts taking place throughout the community, but addressing the challenge will require continued collaboration and dedicated work to build trust and meet the multifaceted needs of our most vulnerable community members.

The Coalition strongly believes that funding and expanding the aforementioned pilots and other broadband related programs will help us collectively achieve digital equity and reduce racial, economic, and educational disparities by ensuring Franklin County residents have affordable broadband and the tools necessary to fully participate in society. Thank you for your consideration.

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Funding Testimony
Joe Mazzola, Health Commissioner
Franklin County Public Health
July 15, 2021

President Boyce, Commissioner O'Grady, Commissioner Crawley, Administrator Wilson, and county colleagues, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding the use of the funding Franklin County is expecting to receive from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021.

I want to start by remembering the 1,485 Franklin County residents who have died from COVID-19. The impact of the pandemic has stretched across our community with still suffering. Whether related to employment, education, technology, housing, food, childcare, healthcare, public safety or transportation, FCPH is supportive of the idea to utilize a significant amount of ARPA funding to help bridge the gap for our residents and invest in transformational projects in these areas. In addition, and in alignment with the federal relief principles outlined in the legislation, respectfully, FCPH suggests a short (2021) and long-term (2022-2026) strategy for public health funding with a collective impact approach to serve our community.

Short-Term 2021

Franklin County Public Health

First, the short-term or remainder of 2021. Franklin County Public Health is grateful of the support from the Board of Commissioners during the pandemic. However, there are significant infrastructure and programmatic expenses that have not been previously accounted for by other COVID-19 funding needed for us to meet our strategic objectives, deliver essential public health services, and improve our emergency response capabilities in the amount of \$2,325,000.

2018-2020 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)¹

Our current Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) is a collective impact initiative with dozens of partners working to address our community's public health priorities and achieve health equity in alignment with the social determinants of health. Funding is needed to accelerate initiatives in the CHIP which have stalled or regressed due to the pandemic. In alignment with existing community initiatives (e.g. Celebrate One, Columbus and Franklin County Addiction Plan, Hypertension Network of Franklin County) we would request \$1,800,000 to complete the work of this community plan by early 2022.

Long-Term 2022-2026

Franklin County Public Health

More longer-term, as we begin think ahead, our focus is to continue to modernize and transform Franklin County Public Health into a robust 21st century public health agency. Based on a statewide assessment, it is estimated a 20% increase in funding is needed for

¹ <https://myfcph.org/health-systems-planning/chip/>

our health department to meet this goal². Based on our current annual budget, serving almost a half million residents in 17 townships, 10 villages and 14 cities, FCPH would request a \$2,400,000 annual investment of ARPA funds from 2022-2026. The funds will be used to make sustainable investments in foundational public health capabilities and program areas with a specific focus to enhance data, surveillance, communications, information technology and core public health services to those residents most at-risk.

Public Health System Innovation Fund

To maximize and leverage the impact of our broader public health system, FCPH proposes the creation of a \$10,000,000 special public health systems fund at Franklin County Public Health. In partnership with the Board of Commissioners, Franklin County Public Health would utilize these funds as a 1:1 matching opportunity for public and private entities to address the priorities of our next Community Health Improvement Plan from 2022-2025 in alignment with the Commissioners' strategic priorities such as Rise Together, Future Ready Columbus and our Declaration of Racism as a Public Health Crisis.

Community Information Exchange

As a partner of the Economic Mobility Coalition (EMC), FCPH supports the county utilizing ARPA funds to advance the development of a Community Information Exchange (CIE). A CIE is a community platform powered by advanced analytics that sources, integrates, and enables community insights and action. Through a shared language, resource database, and integrated technologies, CIEs allow communities to move towards predictive, holistic, and person-centered care. The EMC believes the CIE will take 3-5 years to build, from design to launch and estimated to cost between \$15-20 million.

One Roof: Healing Homes Pilot

Finally, in addition to bringing resources together virtually via the CIE, there is also a need to increase access to resources in the community. Community advocate, Crystal Turner, has developed a concept called One Roof: Healing Homes. This project would identify Land Bank properties be refurbished into locations for residents to access resources (e.g. counseling, job training, health). Healing Homes would offer a gathering place connecting families with community health workers, non-profits, and government. We encourage the county to consider investing in a pilot location in our health jurisdiction.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding the use of ARPA funds for Franklin County. We appreciate the challenges in prioritizing how best to utilize this generational investment and look forward to contributing to future conversations. I would be happy to try and answer any questions you may have.

² https://b45c268e-335b-4048-9aa5-46203cd441bb.filesusr.com/ugd/7ddb5_663a71fc48434b3b3145eb2a5e590d5f.pdf

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Public Hearing Remarks – ARP Funding

Thank you to the Board of Commissioners – Commissioner Boyce and Commissioner Crawley - for the opportunity to share my thoughts today.

My name is Toni Cunningham, and I am a workforce development professional who most recently served as the Managing Director for Per Scholas Columbus – a nonprofit IT training organization.

Disruption...that is the word that comes to mind when I think of what the pandemic has done to the workforce development sector. One of the definitions of disruption is “to drastically alter or destroy the structure of something.” I would say this accurately describes what the pandemic has done to the individuals working hard to change their economic situation through training and employment, as well as the system that was designed to support them in that process.

As cited in a recent concept paper that we shared with your leadership team, *“...The COVID-19 Pandemic has not only highlighted, but has also exacerbated, the racial and gender inequality in our country - the loss of jobs, a lack of access to technology, broadband, healthcare, and the loss of school/childcare/support systems. Many business leaders continue to center the problem with labor markets on “unqualified” individuals without the right skills. Millions of Americans lack not only the employer-required prerequisites but also the opportunity to access and attain life/family-sustaining careers; the affected populations being disproportionately Black and Hispanic, women, and young adults. Additionally, for those consigned to low-wage jobs, primarily in the service industries, the COVID-19 economic shock has made the skills and opportunity gaps broader and the need to close much more urgent.”*

Many of our workforce providers, who were already struggling to meet the need, saw a significant increase in the number of people that were in need of support after job loss or a reduction in hours. In addition to the need being greater, we found ourselves needing to totally reimagine what service delivery looks like. Our inability to serve individuals onsite tested all that we thought we knew about effective training strategies. The pandemic brought to light our antiquated infrastructures and the lack of resources

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to pivot our programming to serve individuals in a remote environment. For those of us who did find a way to offer services online, we were then faced with the fact that our clients lacked access to in-home internet access – at a time when everything from applying for benefits to signing up for immediate support required access to the internet. Thus, our new fundraising efforts began to include the need to provide tools such as laptops or tablets and internet access in order to continue our work.

When thinking about the opportunity that the ARP funding presents, I think of how disruption often inspires innovation! I often tell people that we cannot expect to solve 21st century problems with 20th century strategies. I believe that my workforce colleagues would tell you that many of our challenges in the past were as a result of the lack of available funding that could be invested at a level that would present the opportunity for us to have deep and sustained impact. While I do believe that we have been able to achieve a level of success prior to now, this new funding represents an opportunity for us to totally reimagine our approach to creating economic mobility for our residents through innovative workforce development models.

The ARP funding will allow us to rethink how we offer workforce services, using a human-centered approach to ensure that we are including our residents in the design of these services. We need to reinvest in our teams so that we have the ability to attract and retain the talent needed to achieve impact through high-quality engagement. We need to rebuild our internal infrastructure to include streamlined systems and processes that are designed with our residents in mind. And finally, we need to partner with our business community to develop relevant training strategies that align with the business needs, while creating greater access and opportunities for those who have taken the non-traditional pathway to their doors. The need is great and the time is now!

In developing our people strategy, we need to make it easy for job seekers to connect, with a level of support and encouragement that inspires them to achieve economic mobility and self-sufficiency over the long term. We must offer training opportunities focused on both technical and essential skills development with the goal being not just to get a job, but to keep that job and grow it into a solid career that moves you from livable to thriving wage.

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Investing in new and innovative strategies such as the Tech Woman of Color Alliance (TWOC) powered by Per Scholas would allow us to use the best practices gleaned from the work of Building Futures and Driving Futures, Per Scholas proposes to build an alliance of partners who will focus intently on diversifying the tech industry with women; with an emphasis on women of color. Our model will include wrap-around support with technical skills training and certifications, executive coaching, and career navigation. In addition, we will partner with local employers to develop talent pipelines, with the intention of seeing everyone who completes training have an opportunity to land a financially sustainable career in tech/IT with a pathway to a thriving wage - 50-75% above AMI within two-years post-graduation.

An investment of ARP funds will make a way for us to “lean test” a wrap around workforce development strategy where the design is focused on meeting the unique needs of women, which will include family friendly training schedules, opportunity for in-person and asynchronous learning, executive coaching, and intentional support to mitigate attrition while ensuring that “she” has everything she needs to complete the training and enter into the workforce. Our work will be designed to create transformational and sustainable change as we move our women to not just a livable wage, but to have her continue on to a thriving wage that positions her and her family for success.

Per Scholas is the right organization to lead this work. We are the only national technology workforce development organization whose impacts have twice been proven through gold-standard evaluation research. The most recent study by MDRC showed that five years after enrollment, graduates earned a remarkable \$6,300/year more than equally qualified control group members. The direct economic return—including higher after-tax incomes, increased government tax revenues and benefits savings, and financial gains experienced by society as a whole—has been found to be at least 8x the training cost.

We have the ability to change the perception of “disruption”. In the technology sector, disruption is seen as a positive as it often brings new innovations and change for the better. Investing these dollars in evidence-based programs that have a proven track record for success, increasing their capacity to not only recover but also to scale their

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efforts, is the best way to honor all that has been lost during the pandemic and to come out of this better than we were before.

I believe that the ARP funds, if leveraged well, have the ability to set us up for success for years to come. Proving that disruption can have a silver lining, as it often leads you to a greater destiny. Thank you.

Rummel, Lauren M.

From: Sean Grant [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 2:16 AM
To: Janas, Erik J.; American Rescue Plan
Cc: Ross, Robin; Lowry, Tyler W.; Kenny McDonald
Subject: Written Testimony

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Greetings Board of Commissioners,

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the community and to my respective organizations, One Columbus, the Columbus Partnership and Smart Columbus. I wish that I could be there in person to testify on the needs of struggling small and minority-owned businesses in Franklin County and how through the use of American Rescue Plan dollars, we can continue to build on the work that Franklin County and the Board has undertaken in addressing the needs of small minority businesses in the region. Programs created such as The Franklin County Recovery Grant Program, the Franklin County Small Business Revolving Loan fund, the Franklin County Quick Strike fund geared for women and minority owned business and the associated Technical Assistance support were vital tools in addressing the needs of small and minority businesses impacted by COVID-19.

COVID shed light on the challenges and obstacles women and businesses owned by people of color face everyday. It also laid bare the inequities in access and opportunity far to well known by this community. There is no historical parallel for the economic collapse the coronavirus had on small businesses in Franklin County and around the country. Ninety-six percent of US small businesses report being impacted by the outbreak with no real contingency on how to manage the crisis. It is clear that The life of any small business is tenuous, that of women and minority owned business is especially fragile and fraught with challenges. It is my hope that as we reimagine what a thriving small business ecosystem can look like, that we provide/create programs, policies and funding mechanism that provide the ability of women and minority owned businesses to thrive in our community. This isn't only a Franklin County issue, it's a community issue and will require the leveraging of the public and private sectors to address the issues faced by the minority business community in particular.

The needs of the minority business community are well known and have been highlighted in previous studies and work done by both the City of Columbus and Franklin County. Small businesses are reeling, and their owners are wondering whether there will be anything to return to once the crisis subsides and where will they go to find information, guidance, opportunity, capital and strategies that will help their business recover and grow.

COVID and its vestiges has provided Franklin County an unprecedented opportunity with the utilization of American Rescue Plan dollars to address some of the concerns and answer some of the question posed by these business owners. Standing with these small businesses and partnering with them will create an expanded pathway for business growth and create a long-term relationship that will benefit both the County and our community.

Franklin County Board of Commissioners could leverage it convening powers, by working to create and leverage new collaborations between organizations, such as the Franklin County Business Growth and Equity Alliance, which brought together Franklin County, One Columbus and the Columbus Urban League to work together to disseminate CARES act funding dollars to businesses that desperately needed it, while also developing the blueprint for the creation of a Franklin County focused Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) with a focus on black and brown businesses. The work of the Equity Alliance will create a community asset that is needed and sustainable long after federal government dollars have been expended. Continuing to support and create these kinds of community assets are

the best use of one time funding, as it has the potential to develop community assets that are long-standing. Franklin County once again leveraged its convening power in the work done with Forward Cities, where it brought together, the Columbus Partnership, Rev1 Ventures, the Columbus Foundation and itself to fund the collaborative assessment, research, and pilot programs associated with building an inclusive entrepreneurial ecosystem. This 2 year effort informed the founders of the barriers faced by entrepreneurs of colors and possible solutions to address these barriers.

The continued support of high-growth businesses and new business starts help to drive innovation and wealth potential in our community. Ongoing support of organizations like Rev1, support of Blk_Hack and other Entrepreneurial support organizations that provide support, technical assistance and funding are vital in driving business creation in our community. The African-American community makes up approximately 21% of the total population in Franklin County, however represents approximately 2.5-3% of small businesses in the County. A community goal of achieving business parity by demographic means that an opportunity exist to promote the creation of businesses by African-Americans in our community, which would provide wealth creation opportunities and the ancillary other benefits that comes from better neighborhoods, an improved tax base and participation in the levers of prosperity.

Further, developing a framework for mentoring from non-minority vendors of County projects to develop qualified minority vendors would ensure broader participation of minority businesses in County RFP opportunities. Other ways that the leveraging of ARP dollars could benefit the minority business community would be to develop partnerships with minority business owners or aspiring business owners on commercial assets reclaimed by the county for place making and ownership opportunities to capture and create wealth.

Finally, become laser focus on empowering minority women that are head of households by removing obstacles to certification, qualification and participation in business both with the County directly but in the community as a whole. Includes supporting efforts providing access to capital, child care, mentorship and access. (a wealth and growth strategy in and of itself).

The support and fostering of these kinds of efforts are often perceived as different from economic development. However they are building blocks of economic development and represent a real opportunity to grow our economic base in an unprecedented way.

Looking at tangible targets for example - parity of demographic 20% population (3% of all businesses currently). Increase banked minority population by 10%. Increase access to financial services and leveraging funding to lower the risk profile of lending to women and minority businesses that lack collateral, net worth and/or liquid assets. Mentorship, business creation and business growth are tangible measures of success and overall progress.

As you can see based on some of the recommendations noted above there is no silver bullet that will address all of the needs of the minority business community. However, if we become intentional in these efforts, have qualitative and quantitative targets we will see progress in our community. My organization and others stand with the Board of Commissioners in this work. With the collective efforts of all, we can achieve our aspiration to become the most prosperous region in the country, focused on growth, equity and inclusiveness.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

Sean

Sean Grant
Chief Administrative & Financial Officer
Columbus Partnership
One Columbus
150 S. Front Street, Suite 200



Franklin County Commissioners
373 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

July 15, 2021

RE: AHACO Comments on ARPA Public Hearing

Over 15,000 Franklin County residents received an eviction summons since the pandemic began. Many of these families had been living on the cliff of housing instability for years and many will return to that ledge if we do not address our escalating housing shortage. Pandemic-fueled inflation that created extreme building supply scarcities, social distancing requirements that slowed the construction process, and continued population growth will aggravate rising scarcity; from 2017 to 2019 alone, Franklin County lost 19,000 homes that rented for under \$900. That's an affordability loss larger than the City of Reynoldsburg.

Yet, a deliberative and decisive investment in housing spurs economic recovery, lifts up our residents and permanently insulates us against future economic shocks, and moves us a momentous step closer to the more equitable community we all envision. Housing experts have long recommended spending 30% of one's income on housing, if we apply that same rule to this opportunity and commit 30% of these flexible ARPA dollars to housing initiatives, we will have the swiftest most sustainable recovery in American history.

Good morning, my name is Carlie Boos and I am the Executive Director of the Affordable Housing Alliance of Central Ohio, a nonprofit, non-partisan research and advocacy organization.

You know the statistic as well as I do: before COVID, 54,000 Franklin County households spent more than half their income on housing. That meant that more than one-in-ten of our neighbors were making life and death decisions every day: Do I buy my insulin, or do I pay my rent? Do I help my kids with homework and cook them a healthy meal, or do I pull an extra shift to cover the mortgage? This wasn't a "single metric" kind of problem, either, every data point and every study pointed to a crisis that was getting further and further out of control. Over 18,000 evictions were filed in 2019, double the national filing rate and making us the eviction capital of Ohio. The wage a person needed to afford a modest apartment was \$19.08 per hour, but only one of Ohio's ten most common jobs paid that rate.

That kind of deep, fundamental fragility was never going to stay just a family problem. Even before COVID, we knew that the consequences of failing to take action would lead us down the paths of Austin or Denver or Seattle, with unsheltered homelessness crises and runaway housing costs that feel unsolvable. Those are the kind of challenges that hamper economic growth, overwhelm local institutions, and eat away at public coffers. And then COVID happened. And hundreds of thousands of Ohioans were pushed off that housing cliff. At the end of June, a quarter of a million Ohio families were still behind in their rent.

- COLUMBUS METROPOLITAN HOUSING AUTHORITY
- COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOR ALL PEOPLE
- COMMUNITY HOUSING NETWORK
- COMMUNITY SHELTER BOARD
- CREATIVE HOUSING
- HABITAT FOR HUMANITY MIDOHIO
- HOMEPORT
- HOMES ON THE HILL
- HUCKLEBERRY HOUSE
- IMPACT COMMUNITY ACTION
- NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
- NATIONAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST
- NATIONAL CHURCH RESIDENCES
- NRP GROUP
- OHIO CAPITAL CORPORATION FOR HOUSING
- PRESERVATION OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING
- THE COLUMBUS FOUNDATION
- THE COMMUNITY BUILDERS
- THE FINANCE FUND CAPITAL CORPORATION
- THE REFUGE
- UNITED WAY OF CENTRAL OHIO
- WALLICK COMMUNITIES
- WODA COOPER COMPANIES
- YMCA OF CENTRAL OHIO
- YWCA COLUMBUS



Thankfully, your swift actions have so far prevented mass housing loss. These herculean response efforts continue to evolve and remain a top priority. But we must also turn our attention to preventing the next wave. Housing has played a major role in the recoveries from virtually every downturn for good reason: because housing is a hyper-local stimulus; homes are built with local labor, sourced with local supplies, and ultimately fulfill a wholly local need. ARPA funding lets us permanently close housing gaps and serves as a down payment on a more resilient future.

The Alliance developed a comprehensive plan that has the unanimous support of our members and key stakeholders from the community, including the Columbus Urban League, the Ohio CDC Association, and the BIA of Central Ohio. The proposal builds on an ongoing effort to cut our housing cost burden rate in half by 2027, while capitalizing off the strength of Franklin County's Rise Together Blueprint. The recommendation applies three proven housing strategies that can be scaled through existing county programs:

1. **Activate & Deploy.** The first prong uses housing as the foundation for economic mobility, ensuring that our young people and career learners have the housing stability needed to further their education and escape poverty.
2. **Stabilize.** The second ensures low- and fixed-income homeowners can make the critical housing repairs necessary to age in place, promote neighborhood stability, and protect the transfer of intergenerational wealth.
3. **Build Back.** The final component is a commitment to the bricks-and-sticks housing infrastructure needed to meet our growth needs. Creating just 1,000 newly affordable homes can leverage over \$167 mil in private and state funds, generating more than half a billion dollars in economic return for the county. This construction boom can spur design innovation, especially in our transit corridors, and serve some of our hardest to reach populations including multi-generational families and pregnant women.

When paired with essential reinforcements to our human services sector, no other response can serve such a comprehensive set of community objectives. In cultivating a strong and supported workforce, accessible housing caters to the needs of both employees and employers. In activating our knowledge of the social determinants of health, affordable housing advances public wellbeing and minimizes community spread. It provides the home-base from which to achieve education and digital connectivity goals. Providing safe, decent housing is the first step to meeting all our other aspirations.

The Alliance respectfully requests and recommends that Franklin County seize on the opportunity presented by ARAP's State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to achieve permanent housing stability for thousands of local families. Thank you for your time and consideration.

AHACO's full proposal for Franklin County that mobilizes housing for economic recovery is attached.

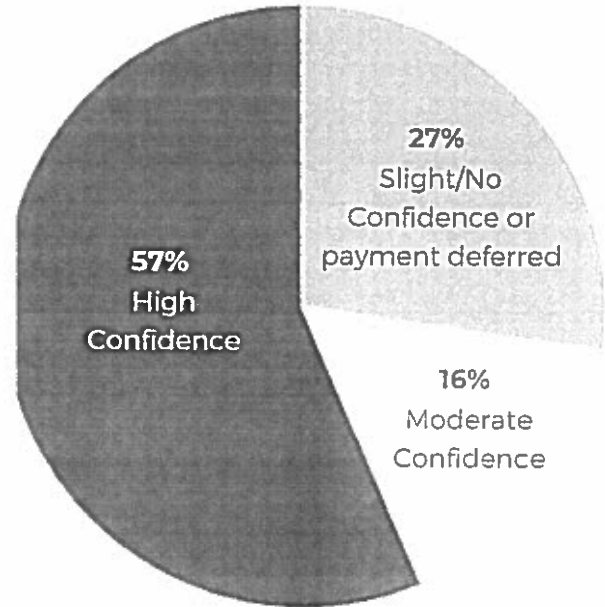
MOBILIZING AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR RECOVERY & RESILIENCY



RECOVERY STARTS AT HOME

Housing played a central role in every major economic recovery in American history because it is the truest of local stimuluses fueled by locally-produced materials, built by locally-sourced labor, and lived in by local taxpayers. Dedicating 30% of APRA's State & Local Fiscal Recovery funds (\$76.6 million) to housing provides Franklin County an unparalleled opportunity to unleash this restorative power and put into motion an economic resurgence that is both swift and equitable. AHACO members are unified with our peers in supporting this proposal that uses affordable housing as the backbone for COVID-19 recovery.

OHIOANS CONFIDENCE IN ABILITY TO PAY RENT



1,532

LMI home repair projects complete preserving wealth and promoting neighborhood stability

2,481

Families served over ten years in new affordable homes generating \$523 mil in economic return

\$2M

Transformational investments activate housing as a platform for economic mobility

FEATURED SUPPORTERS & MEMBERS



Columbus Urban League



NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S



BIA BUILDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL OHIO



OHIO URBAN RESOURCES SYSTEM



MICHAEL STINZIANO
Franklin County Auditor



OHIO CDC
association



United Way
of Central Ohio

Executive Summary

AFFORDABLE HOUSING ALLIANCE OF CENTRAL OHIO

HOUSING RECOVERY

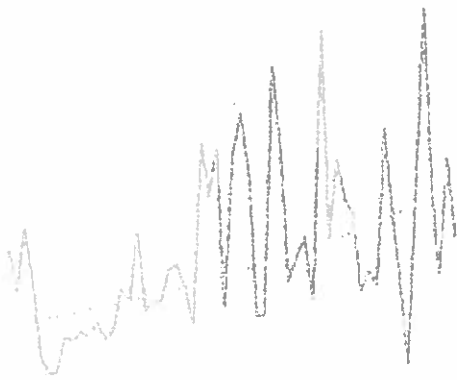


FRANKLIN CO.

A CUSTOMIZED SOLUTION

The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund ("Recovery Fund") provides an unparalleled opportunity to stimulate Central Ohio's economic recovery, support households as they regain their financial footing, and invest in the long-term housing infrastructure of our region. An aggressive intervention in housing affordability and accessibility is necessary to respond to coronavirus conditions that left renters facing extreme cost burdens and housing loss, homeowners without the resources to maintain the integrity and safety of their homes, and the affordable housing construction industry stunned by steep cost escalations and workforce impediments.

Curing these problems doesn't just assist households and industries, it is also a significant boost to our regional economy through increased localized spending and job creation. The Recovery Fund poses an unmatched opportunity to remedy these COVID hardships while also tapping into a long-term plan for stability and growth that will position Central Ohio for a strong and resilient future. Advancing the objectives identified in the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission's Regional Housing Strategy and Franklin County's Rise Together Blueprint further ensures that our recovery is well-planned and well-aligned across our cities and jurisdictions.

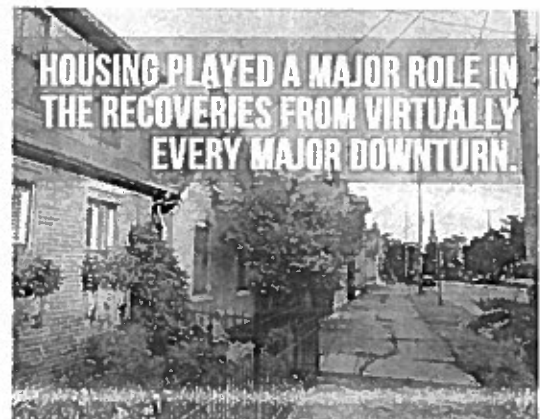


National experts have long recommended that families spend 30% of their income on housing costs. That advice is equally applicable to the opportunity before us today. The Affordable Housing Alliance recommends Columbus and Franklin County each set aside 30% of their Recovery Fund to help to address housing challenges created or aggravated by COVID-19. For Franklin County that represents a \$76.614,000 total commitment. That investment should be trifurcated to address three unique pillars of our housing need as identified by the Affordable Housing Alliance’s plan to cut the severely housing cost burden rate in half by 2027.

- 1. **Stabilize** Invest 15% of these resources in community stabilization programs that help low- and moderate-income homeowners make critical housing repairs.
- 2. **Deploy & Activate.** Invest 7% to fund two existing pilot programs (Success Bridge and Resiliency Bridge) that are designed to stabilize at-risk households through short-term housing assistance to help them achieve long-term economic mobility, and
- 3. **Build Back.** Invest the balance of resources, 78%, in affordable construction programs that expand the pool of high-quality rental housing for residents.

Additional details on each of these three programs, including projected leverage amounts and economic and social returns, is provided below. Each of these three initiatives responds to COVID-19’s negative economic impacts via assistance to households, small businesses, nonprofits, and/or aid to the affordable housing development industry. As such, all conform to the statutory intent and legal requirements of the American Rescue Plan Act.

Further benefits of this strategy include the ability to deploy funding into capital intensive, shovel-ready projects that do not have a reoccurring budget impact; the ability to create a local stimulus effect through local spending and workforce mobilization; the high leveragability of these investments for multiplier benefits; the existence of mature investment vehicles and deep local capacity; and the permanent stabilizing impact of these funds for greater regional resiliency.



AT-RISK HOMEOWNERS THROUGH AFFORDABLE HOME REPAIR

Total Investments: \$11,492,100

Outcomes: 1,532 Franklin Co. owners make critical repairs to their owner-occupied home

Time-to-Market: Homeowners can apply immediately, with construction beginning in summer 2021

Local Impact: Creates 152 jobs, \$9,662,553 in local income, and \$612,491 in tax revenue

Preserves ownership and intergenerational wealth, activates strong nonprofit distribution network, and promotes community stability and neighborhood beautification

Can distribute via local nonprofits and Community Development Corporations, some or all of the funds may be aggregated for countywide distribution through MORPC



According to a new report from Harvard, "if lower-income households as a group do not recover from the pandemic's setbacks, their remodeling [and repair] spending will undoubtedly fall. This decline, in turn, would not only change the mix of home improvement activities and increase industry volatility, but also widen the already large gap between the housing conditions of highest- and lowest income households." Moreover, substandard housing exposes occupants to serious health hazards, particularly for youth and seniors, and exacerbates chronic medical issues. In fact, McKinsey researchers found that presence of Severe Housing Problems was the leading socioeconomic indicator of COVID-19 mortality, a more reliable indicator of COVID lethality than unemployment, incarceration, or poverty. Finally, preventing blight and abandonment, as we experienced during the last recession, provides neighborhood-level benefits and regional cost savings.

HOUSING AS A PLATFORM FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH & WORKFORCE READINESS

Total Investment: \$1,000,000

Outcome: 45 households are resituated in high-demand, high-paying sectors

Time-to-Market: Resiliency Bridge launches in Fall 2021

Key Alignment: New investments are leveraged approx. 3:1 with private, public, and in-kind contributions

Key Features: Built on a systems approach model for efficiency, projected to be self-sustaining after the initial investment round

Investment Structure: Existing funds administered by the Community Shelter Board



For low-wage workers to build a stable career and achieve financial independence, they need employment credentials in high-mobility fields. But too many families lack the housing security needed to access those training programs. Resiliency Bridge closes that divide by blending affordable housing, worker development, and wrap-around supports to help motivated workers gain entry to high-demand, downturn-resistant sectors. By aligning multiple human services systems, we maximize the impact of this short-term intervention to provide long-term financial autonomy. Individuals are expected to grow their hourly wage rate by 75% upon program completion and reduce household usage of unemployment and other public benefits by 75% three-years after program completion.

The collaborative project was designed by a public-private partnership of ten organizations representing a broad spectrum of the Central Ohio community: the Affordable Housing Alliance of Central Ohio, Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority, Columbus State Community College, Community Shelter Board, Habitat for Humanity Mid-Ohio, Homeless Families Foundation, Homeport, Impact Community Action, Mid-Ohio Food Collective, and the Workforce Development Board of Central Ohio.

HOUSING AS A PLATFORM FOR COLLEGE COMPLETION FOR LOW-INCOME YOUTH

Total investment: \$1,000,000

Outcome: 33 at-risk individuals can complete college

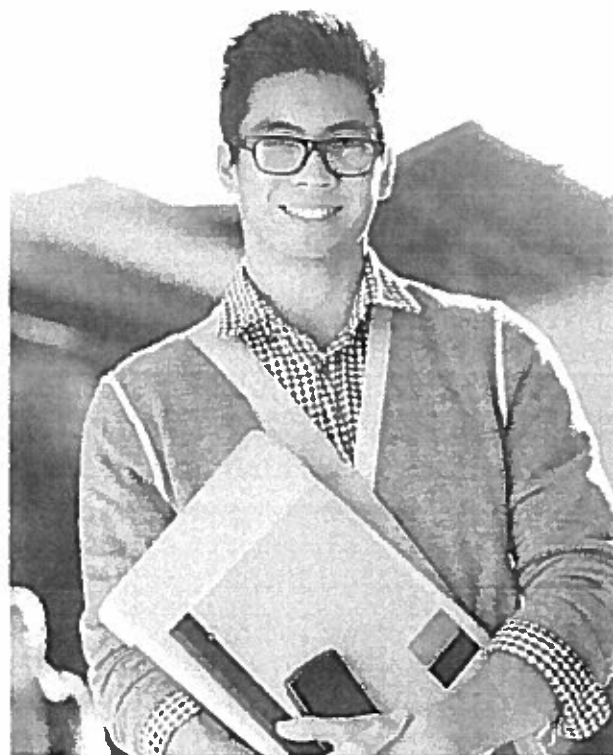
Timeline/Milestones: Success Bridge is in the first year of its pilot phase and continues through 2023

Investor/Partners: Investment is matched by \$5 million contribution from Columbus Metro Housing Authority

Workforce: Staffing for youth and young adults affected by COVID-19, is currently operational for immediate impact

Implementation/Service Delivery: Existing funds administered by Columbus State Community College

Success Bridge is an innovative partnership that supports college completion by low-income, housing-unstable CSCC students who are making progress toward a degree. The initiative has two components: One-Time/Short-Term Assistance to address an urgent housing crisis and Medium-Term Assistance to holistically stabilize students through college completion. Students also access Housing Case Managers, wraparound support services, and connections to career development and employment counseling at CSCC's new Advocacy and Resource Center.



"Homelessness does not define you. Every journey is unique... it is just a piece of a picture from your life that has yet to be painted fully. So, stay focused and know you're not alone. There are people out there that want to help. Never give up on yourself."



**MEET
ANDREW**

Andrew is working toward his Associate of Arts degree and is hoping to earn a bachelor's degree in Architecture after he graduates from CSCC. After 'couch surfing' in unsafe conditions, he found himself homeless. He lived in shelters and studied at night by hiding under his blankets. In September, Andrew received stable housing through Success Bridge. "Having my own place has been great. I can focus more on my studies, and I have time to think and be able to build myself up again."

TO ENSURE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IS OPTIMIZED TO MEET COMMUNITY NEEDS

Total Investment: \$65,121,900

Outcome: 1,052 affordable units created, serving 2,481 households over ten years

Time-to-Market: AHACO members alone have 40 projects in the development pipeline that need gap resources, representing over 3,300 units ready for immediate creation

Leveraging \$5.70B: \$39,422,692 private debt and \$78,902,375 public funds, creating \$523,911,770 economic return when paired with the AHACO program

Key Features: Public-private partnership, immediate stimulus to local workforce and supply chain, triple-bottom line benefit that achieves environmentally-friendly housing stock

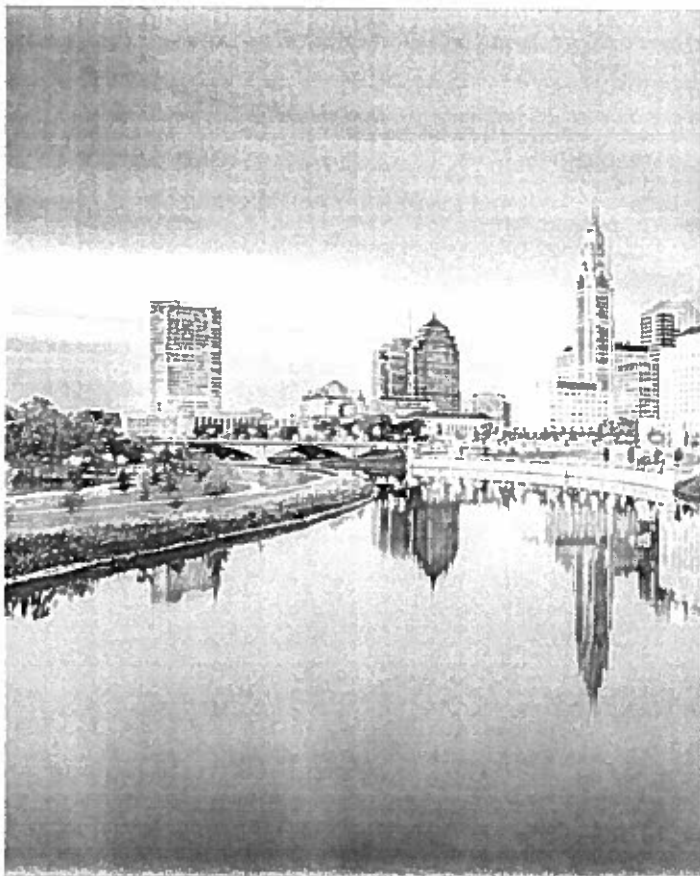
Investment Vehicle Options: Distribute via existing funding programs to minimize launch time and promote predictability. Some existing programs include the Franklin Co. Magnet Fund and the City's gap funding programs



Before coronavirus, 54,000 low- and moderate-income Franklin County residents were severely cost burdened, paying more than half of their income towards housing. The pandemic proved the vulnerability of those households and the region at large. Looking forward, this housing shortage compromises the ability of our residents to achieve economic stability and recover and the community's ability to attract new employers. By investing in affordable housing construction, we can seize the opportunity created by changes in tax law that unlock federal tax credits to support affordable construction. While leaning on established distribution networks, this funding also provides flexibility to develop new public-private partnerships, invest in innovative development finance (like land trusts), expand new building models that can reduce construction costs, and set geographic and equity targets for fund distribution.

DISTRIBUTION SUCCESS & SUPPORT FOR IN-NEED HOUSEHOLDS

The Alliance further supports tactical investments that bolster our community's capacity to administer these funds. This may include expanding city or county personnel to facilitate speedy "green tape" project reviews and approvals, investments in outreach and marketing to raise awareness of relief funds in an equitable fashion, and support for the human services sector so that residents have access to qualified and trusted assistance in meeting their housing and wrap-around needs.



AHACO is a nonprofit organization with members representing the continuum of housing experts including homeless advocates, developers, property owners, home-ownership proponents, lenders, and the philanthropic community. We use data and grounded research to make feasible housing recommendations that are customized for Central Ohio and catalyze partnerships with the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to achieve meaningful solutions that will close the housing gap.

We do this because we understand that affordability is the key to unlocking security and prosperity for our people and our region.

AHACO UNANIMOUS IN SUPPORT FOR PLAN

The Affordable Housing Alliance of Central Ohio requests that the City of Columbus and Franklin County, Ohio, adopt the enclosed plan for an equitable recovery that prioritizes housing stability and resiliency by setting aside 30% of State & Local Coronavirus Funds for affordable housing activities. Representing a broad spectrum of neighborhoods, service populations, industry sectors, and community leaders, all AHACO members endorse this approach as evidenced by the organization names below.

Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority

Community Development for All People

Community Housing Network

Community Shelter Board

Creative Housing

Finance Fund Capital Corporation

Habitat for Humanity - MidOhio

Homeport

Homes on the Hill

Huckleberry House

Impact Community Action

Nationwide Children's Hospital

National Affordable Housing Trust

National Church Residences

NRP Group

Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing

Preservation of Affordable Housing

The Columbus Foundation

The Community Builders

The Refuge

United Way of Central Ohio

Wallick Communities

Woda Cooper Companies

YMCA of Central Ohio

YWCA Columbus



Franklin County Commissioner's Hearing on the Use of American Rescue Plan Funds-7/14/21 Testimony of Franklin County Auditor Michael Stinziano

- I support allocating \$80,000 to bolster the Property Tax Assistance Program and provide emergency property tax payments to low income older residents in Franklin County
- Join and support the request spearheaded from the Affordable Housing Alliance of Central Ohio that 30% of American Rescue Plan funds be dedicated to housing needs.

PTAP

- The Franklin County Property Tax Assistance Program (PTAP) is established to provide emergency one-time payment of property taxes to eligible older residents (60 years and older) with low to moderate income (150% federal poverty level).
- Though a small program, the emergency funding can be the difference between someone maintaining their home versus facing foreclosure or foregoing other essentials.
- A 2017 analysis found that housing burden for older residents was that an all-time high including in the Columbus, Ohio Metropolitan Area with 24% of homeowners experiencing housing cost burden.
- This request for \$80,000 would allow reimbursement of up to \$20,000 of PTAP awards for each of the next four property tax billing cycles.
- This is an appropriate use of American Rescue Plan Act funds which include in their purposes support to households impacted by COVID-19 and an assumption that addressing poor-quality housing or low-income or minority zones are eligible uses.
- Administered through the Columbus Foundation, historically only private funds with minimal awards have occurred.
- The most recent cycle saw a nearly ten-fold increase in applicants to more than 200 showing the importance of short-term support and long-term planning to align resources with need.
 - The Franklin County Auditor's Office is working with the PTAP volunteer board to develop a long-term plan to align services with need.
- A single award that prevents a homeowner from entering delinquency contributes to housing stability.
- Applicants who are not rewarded can still be referred to other social services and supports which contribute to aging in place or making needed housing plans.

Broader Housing Need

- I also recognize the broader need to invest in equitable, affordable, and accessible housing for those at all levels of the income spectrum with varied housing needs.
- Central Ohio will see massive growth in the coming decades this requires conscientious planning of housing and services in a sustainable people-centered way.
- Stable housing is foundational to health, safety, and being able to support oneself and one's family.
- I join the call of the Affordable Housing Alliance of Central Ohio to commit 30% of American Rescue Plan Funds to housing initiatives.
- With that commitment, we would have an historic opportunity to recover more quickly and more equitably than at any time in our history.



FRANKLIN COUNTY AUDITOR MICHAEL STINZIANO

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To: Kevin L. Boyce, President
John O'Grady, Commissioner
Erica C. Crawley, Commissioner

Cc: Kevin Wilson, County Administrator
Lauren Rummel, Government Affairs and Ethics Director

From: Michael Stinziano, Franklin County Auditor

Re: Request for American Rescue Plan Act Funds to support Franklin County's Property Tax Assistance Program

Date: July 13, 2021

Introduction

The Franklin County Property Tax Assistance Program (PTAP) is established to provide emergency one-time payment of property taxes to eligible older residents (60 years and older) with low to moderate income (150% federal poverty level). The funds are historically private and minimal awards have been issued. Continuing ripple effects of the Covid-19 pandemic arriving at the same time as the triennial update in property values and related tax bill changes have placed an additional burden on these homeowners. At the same time, funds from the American Rescue Plan Act are available to assist with the burdens of the pandemic and helping maintain housing stability.

Proposal: Allocate up to \$80,000 ARPA funds to reimburse the PTAP fund for awards up to \$20,000 for each half of tax collection in 2022 and 2023.

Process

- Applicants apply through the Franklin County Auditor's office followed by an intake interview and then decision on an award from the entire PTAP board.
- Funds flow from the Property Tax Assistance Program fund directly to the Franklin County Treasurer to be credited to payee property tax bills.
- Under this proposal, Franklin County would reimburse the PTAP fund for awards for the next two years to allow the program to meet emergency property tax needs of older low-income residents.



FRANKLIN COUNTY AUDITOR MICHAEL STINZIANO

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Purpose

- The PTAP program is an important lifeline for those needing emergency property tax assistance, but given available resources and structure, historically is awarded to minimal recipients each cycle.
- Eligible homeowners must be at or below 150% of the federal poverty level, live in an owner-occupied home, be 60 years old or older, and own no other property.
- Additional funding would bring available resources closer to the current need of the eligible population.
 - The PTAP fund is currently at approximately \$30,000 after a large one-time gift several years ago.
 - Housed within the Columbus Foundation the fund is eligible for charitable donations and has started receiving some regular payments through the combined charitable campaign and other donors.
 - The Franklin County Auditor's Office is working with the PTAP volunteer board to develop a long-term plan to align services with need.
- Minimal additional advertising resulted in an approximately tenfold increase in applicants for the June 2021 cycle-more than 200 applicants.
- Many PTAP board members are hesitant to act within their discretion to increase recipients or change award practices in part due to concerns about program longevity.
- In a typical cycle 2-4 applicants are awarded a total of approximately \$1500.
- Recent award information follows the historical trend:
 - January 2020: Two awards totaling \$932.11
 - July 2020: Three awards totaling \$2049.36
 - January 2021: Three awards totaling \$2024.62
 - July 2021: Four awards totaling \$2898.92
- A single award that prevents a homeowner from entering delinquency contributes to housing stability.
- Applicants who are not rewarded can still be referred to other social services and supports which contribute to aging in place or making needed housing plans.

PTAP is an appropriate use of American Rescue Plan Act Funds

Using ARPA funds to provide direct household property tax assistance through the PTAP program is an eligible use. This is not a deposit to a fund rather than a program, but direct support of program costs. The provision of funds allows homeowners to avoid tax delinquency-including the related penalties and risk of foreclosure and prevents impossible choices between paying housing costs and other necessities.

Sections 602(c)(1) and 603(c)(1) provide that funds may be used:

a) To respond to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality . . .

- *Assistance to Households:*
 - Broadly speaking, the use of funds to assist households impacted by COVID-19 is an eligible use.

- Specific uses they identify: food assistance; rent, mortgage, or utility assistance; counseling and legal aid to prevent eviction or homelessness; cash assistance (discussed below); emergency assistance for burials, home repairs, weatherization, or other needs.
- Any use that addresses poor-quality housing is assumed to be an eligible use.
- Any use that addresses low-income or minority zones is assumed to be an eligible use.

Conclusion

Through allocating this small portion of APRA funds received by Franklin County to the PTAP program, the existing structure can be used to meet the needs of older low to moderate income residents. Using these one-time federal funds to support the current need will support better access without endangering the long-term availability of PTAP funds. Approval of this proposal will support more Franklin County residents maintaining stable housing of their choosing.

Rummel, Lauren M.

From: Joe Motil [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 1:26 PM
To: American Rescue Plan
Subject: Fw: Failure Notice
Attachments: Franklin Couny Public Hearing ARP Proposal; 7-15-2021.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Joe Motil
167 West Cooke Road
Columbus, Ohio 43214
[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "mailer-daemon@yahoo.com" <mailer-daemon@yahoo.com>
To: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021, 01:22:03 PM EDT
Subject: Failure Notice

Sorry, we were unable to deliver your message to the following address.

<ARP@FranklinCoutyOhio.gov>:
No mx record found for domain=FranklinCoutyOhio.gov

----- Forwarded message -----

* I have also attached my testimony in a Word document

Franklin County Commissioners Public Hearing

American Rescue Plan Funding Proposals

July 15, 2021

Joe Motil

As a lifelong 65-year resident of Columbus, I have been advocating and fighting for fairness, opportunity, and justice on nearly all fronts of what impacts our communities

economic and social quality of life for 35 years now. This share of ARP funding for both the county and city of Columbus can lend tremendous help especially to our underserved and low-income residents who have been impacted by COVID far more than others.


We all know the importance of decent affordable housing and a place one can call home. It's a basic human need that gives one a sense of security, pride, improves one's physical and mental health, helps to sustain employment, and to contribute to society. Decent affordable housing also helps to reduce taxpayer funding in those areas and others that I mentioned. I couldn't agree more with commissioner O'Grady's statement that, "We can't judge a community's success by how well the wealthy are doing. It's not meaningful success unless all of our residents have a chance to be successful and no one can fully participate in our growing community if they can't afford to live someplace decent."

I have recently suggested a proposal to Mayor Ginther and members of Columbus City Council that they consider allocating \$60 million of their remaining \$167 million ARP funds towards affordable housing that would be designated only towards those with incomes of 60% AMI and less. I have also written to and asked CEO and President of The Columbus Partnership Mr. Alex Fischer to propose to the 80-member organization that he represents to match that \$60 million. I am here today to suggest to you also to consider matching that \$60 million (24% of the ARP budget) and hope you would consider in joining in a conversation with the Columbus Partnership and City of Columbus elected officials on such a proposal. An immediate infusion of \$180 million would go a long way into helping to provide decent housing for our homeless, the thousands of people who have or are facing evictions, it would help to reduce the waiting line for those who are in need of housing vouchers, and of course help the thousands of others who spending 50% or more of their incomes on rent. If I were to use the county's estimate of its \$68 million to create over 2,000 affordable housing units over the next 10 years, \$180 million would create just over 6,235 affordable housing units.

I would also suggest funding for medical and mental health agencies perhaps through ADAMH but there should also be a mechanism created for other smaller non-profits who are not directly connected to ADAMH to apply for dollars. Additional dollars would be wisely spent towards the county's rental, eviction, and utility assistance programs.

Economic development for small businesses that should earmarked primarily in distressed and disadvantaged neighborhoods. Job placement agencies, food banks, childcare services, cultural arts, and possibly consider funds set aside for one time emergency cash payments with income restrictions from \$250 - \$500.

Joe Motil
167 West Cooke Road
Columbus, Ohio 43214



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This email originated from an email address that is outside of the county network. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

My name is Ellen Baumgartner, and I'm here representing the BREAD Organization.

With the American Rescue Plan, we have an incredible opportunity in our community to provide a place to call home for all our neighbors, friends, brothers and sisters.

We join with housing advocates in urging the Commissioners to allocate one-third of the American Rescue Plan dollars to affordable housing. This is about \$84 million that could be used to build affordable housing! That could help build housing for thousands of child care workers, restaurant workers, and adults with disabilities, and many other families who make less than \$30,000 a year. This funding could be sent to the Affordable Housing Trust to manage so that thousands of families can access housing over the next 3 years.

We are talking about families who make less than \$30,000. Before the pandemic, many of these households paid more than half of their income for housing, making them high risk for eviction and homelessness. Eviction filings in our community are 2.5 times higher right now than they were at the same time last year.

Over the last two years, our community has lost more than 19,000 units of housing that was under \$950 a month while at the same time 22,000 units costing over \$1250 a month were added. Let me put this on context. More than half of the families in shelters are working when they enter. Yet their average monthly income is only \$869. They are staying in shelter longer than ever because it's becoming more and more difficult to locate safe decent housing that they can afford. Stable housing is a basic essential for stability in all aspects of our lives - especially for children

Allocating one-third of the county's portion of the American Rescue Plan dollars to affordable housing is an aggressive solution in housing affordability is needed to respond to coronavirus conditions that have left renters facing extreme cost burdens and housing loss.

Thank you.

Rummel, Lauren M.

From: Ben Horne [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 1:12 PM
To: American Rescue Plan
Subject: Legal Aid Input on ARP Allocations
Attachments: Legal Aid Society of Columbus Input on ARP Allocations UPDATED 7-16-2021.docx;
Stout RTC Proposal_Columbus and Franklin County_2021.06.29.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Franklin County Board of Commissioners,
Please find the attached input from the Legal Aid Society of Columbus.
This is slightly different than the 3 minute testimony from Melissa Benson yesterday.
Specifically, we added some data to the section on eviction prevention.
Also we are attaching a proposal of a study that would show the cost savings to the county for every dollar invested in an eviction defense attorney.
Thank you again for the opportunity to share our thoughts on the allocation of ARP dollars, and for your kind consideration of our input.
Ben Horne



Benjamin D. Horne (he, his)
Advocacy Director
Columbus Office
1108 City Park Ave., First Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43206
[REDACTED]
Fax: 614-224-4514
bhorne@columbuslegalaid.org

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Testimony of Melissa Benson, Managing Attorney of the Legal Aid Society of Columbus Housing Team

Note: This is slightly updated from the spoken comments submitted at the meeting on Thursday, July 15th.

Thank you for holding this hearing to hear input from Franklin County Residents on how the county's American Rescue Plan funds should be spent.

I am here today to share some of the challenges faced by vulnerable members of our community who seek help from Legal Aid and to encourage the County to allocate funds to addressing these challenges.

Eviction Prevention

As you are well aware, Franklin County faced an affordable housing crisis prior to the pandemic. Covid-19 only exacerbated this crisis.

With the CDC Eviction Moratorium expiring at the end of this month and not expected to be renewed, thousands upon thousands of Franklin County Tenants will soon be facing eviction. The majority of these tenants will be women and people of color. Most of them will go to court unrepresented while their landlords overwhelmingly will have access to legal counsel. Any steps the county can take to help ensure fair and equitable representation of tenants in eviction court will help level the playing field and keep Franklin County Families from being displaced.

Studies have consistently shown that a tenant with an attorney has far better chance of avoiding an eviction judgment and remaining housed. Over the last four years the Legal Aid Society of Columbus has been working to increase the number of attorneys available to assist tenant families at the Franklin County Municipal Court's daily eviction court. In 2017 we started an on-site eviction clinic called the Tenant Advocacy Project (TAP), designed to provide same-day service to tenants who come to eviction court. Through funding from the City, the Columbus Foundation, the United Way, and others, the TAP clinic has grown and now has 6.5 full-time attorneys. However, demand for representation still far exceeds the supply of legal aid attorneys and every morning many tenant families are told that they will not get an attorney and must navigate the eviction court landscape on their own. Proceeding in an eviction case without legal representation greatly increases the chances that a family will end up displaced on a short timeline. A study funded by the Columbus Foundation after the first year of TAP yielded the statistics below which show the efficacy of Legal Aid when given the opportunity to legally represent a tenant.

- When tenants were assisted by TAP, only 1.1% of cases resulted in judgment against the tenant at a hearing, as opposed to approximately 60% of unrepresented tenants.

- In cases where TAP assisted, 41.1% of families negotiated an agreement that resolved the eviction without a judgment, compared to 15% of tenants not assisted by TAP.
- Tenants assisted by TAP negotiated agreements to stay in the property 240% more often than 2017 tenants not assisted by TAP.
- TAP tenants successfully negotiated an agreement to move and avoid an eviction judgment 745% more often than 2017 tenants not assisted by TAP.

Cost-benefit analysis studies have shown that cities, counties, and states all benefit financially from investing in attorneys at eviction court. Attached to this testimony is a proposal for a study that would show the cost savings to both the City of Columbus and to Franklin County if there was greater investment in attorneys at eviction court. Stout Risius Ross LLC would be conducting the study as they have for Philadelphia, Los Angeles, New York, and other cities. The study would be completed in 6-9 months.

Code Enforcement in Unincorporated Parts of the County

Another challenge faced by Franklin County tenants is a lack of safe, habitable rental properties for struggling families. While some of the municipalities in Franklin County have housing code enforcement officers who are able to inspect rental properties and order repairs, many parts of Franklin County are underserved in this regard. Tenants residing in unincorporated parts of the county do not have the same community resources to obtain independent third-party inspections of their home and the repairs that result from such inspections. Legal Aid has seen first hand how instrumental the work of code enforcement officers is in encouraging landlords to invest in the maintenance of their properties and make needed repairs.

UC Access Barriers

During the pandemic we were overwhelmed with calls from Unemployment Compensation claimants who were trying to apply for unemployment or who in general were struggling to navigate the online systems or phone systems set up for applicants. The only options were to use an online portal or to call ODJFS' main unemployment phone number and hope someone would eventually answer or take them off hold before their minutes ran out. There was no physical place in the county where someone could walk into an ODJFS building to apply for benefits or get assistance with understanding notices, filing appeals, uploading required documentation.

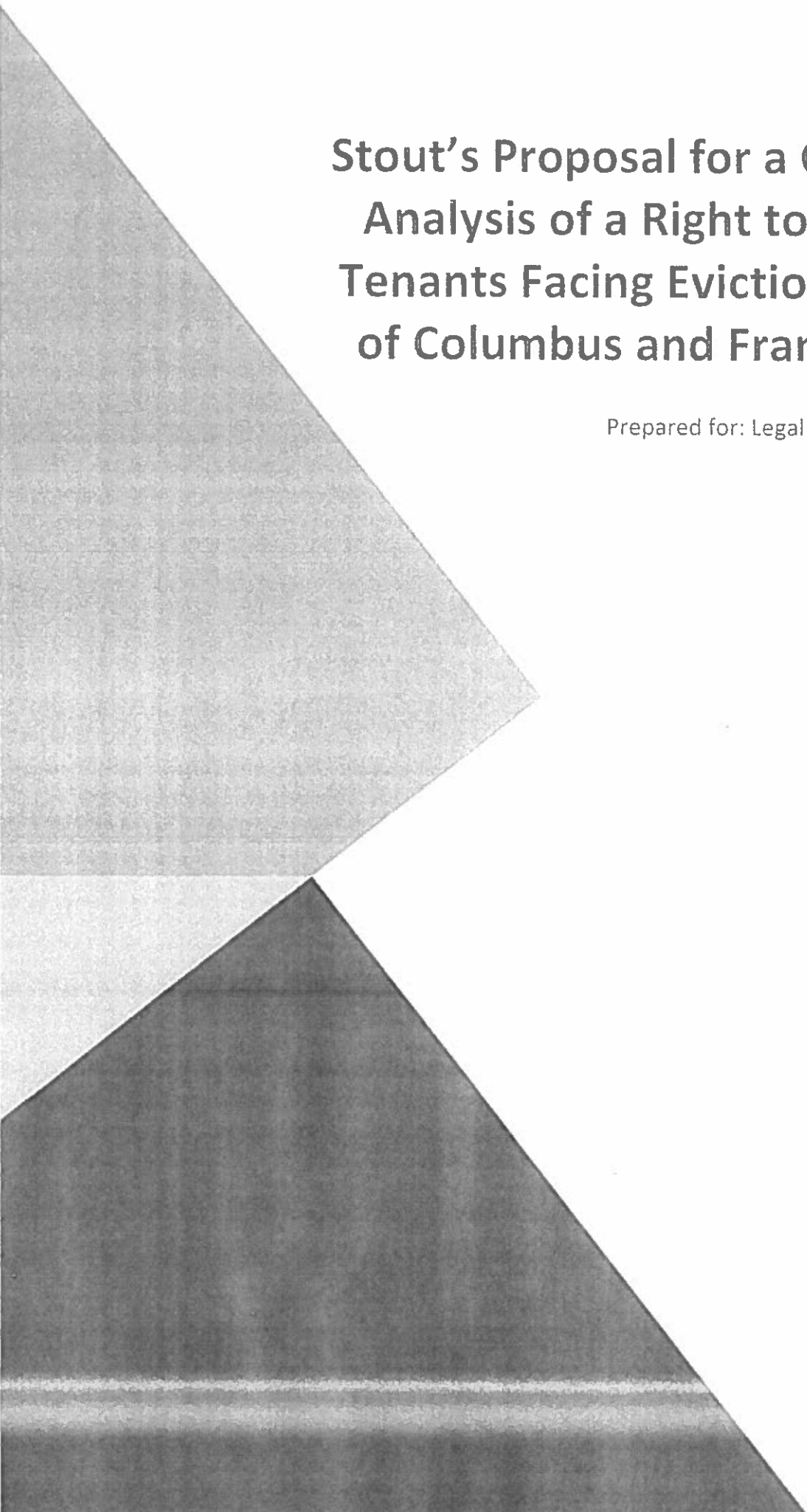
Some of these folks, often seniors and others lacking technical skills, struggled with the online application due to limited computer access and skills. Others, especially older refugees, had limited English proficiency and language barriers as an extra hurdle.

While unemployment is primarily a state issue, the residents of Franklin County would greatly benefit from having a physical location where they could go to get assistance in applying for benefits or getting other assistance necessary to overcome barriers. A place that had computers and was staffed with an ODJFS representative who could help with the application

process or help answer questions, including access to a language line would help resolve these barriers.

Thank you for your time this morning. I hope that these comments are helpful as you consider how to allocate these funds.

Melissa Benson



Stout's Proposal for a Cost-Benefit Analysis of a Right to Counsel for Tenants Facing Eviction in the City of Columbus and Franklin County

Prepared for: Legal Aid Society of Columbus

June 29, 2021

CONFIDENTIAL

Stout Background and Qualifications

1. Stout Risius Ross, LLC (Stout) is a premier global advisory firm specializing in Investment Banking; Valuation Advisory; Disputes, Compliance, & Investigations; and Management Consulting. In addition to these services, Stout's professionals have expertise in strategy consulting involving a variety of socio-economic issues, including issues of, or related to, access to justice and the needs of low-income individuals and at-risk communities.
2. Under the direction of Neil Steinkamp, who leads Stout's Transformative Change Consulting practice, Stout is a recognized leader in the civil legal aid community. Stout has served dozens of legal aid organizations across the United States in a wide variety of strategic, financial, economic and other matters. A comprehensive listing of current and former clients is available on request. Examples of our service offerings include, but are not limited to:
 - Economic impact assessments, evaluations, and policy research for civil legal aid programs;
 - Strategy consulting and action plan development for issues relating to access to justice and social change;
 - Operational and strategic consulting related to data systems and processes designed to effectuate iterative change toward aspirational objectives;
 - Non-profit budget development, review, and recommendations;
 - Cost-benefit and impact analyses for non-profit and public policy initiatives and activities; and
 - Dispute consulting and damages analyses for low-income individuals.

References (additional references available on request)

Colleen Cotter – Cleveland Legal Aid Society – colleen.cotter@lasclev.org

Andrew Katusin – Cleveland United Way - akatusin@unitedwaycleveland.org

Daniel Atkins – Delaware Community Legal Aid Society, Inc. - datkins@deciasi.org

John Pollock – National Coalition for a Civil Right to Counsel - jpollock@publicjustice.org

Rasheedah Phillips – Community Legal Services of Philadelphia - rphillips@clsphila.org

Helaine Barnett – NY Permanent Commission on Access to Justice - helainebarnett@aol.com

Adriene Holder – Legal Aid Society NYC - AHolder@legal-aid.org

Select Client Organizations

- The Legal Aid Society of New York City
- The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland
- New York State Permanent Commission on Access to Justice
- The U.S. Department of Justice
- Empire Justice Center
- Urban Justice Center
- Legal Services NYC
- New York Legal Assistance Group
- Right to Counsel NYC Coalition
- City Bar Justice Center
- Los Angeles Right to Counsel Coalition
- Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing
- The Public Justice Center
- The Vera Institute of Justice
- Georgetown Center for Poverty and Inequality
- Mobilization for Justice
- Neighborhood Legal Services
- Ohio State Legal Services Association
- LawHelp Interactive
- The Philadelphia Bar Association
- Oakland County Bar Association
- Chicago Bar Foundation
- Maryland Volunteer Lawyer Service
- Pro Bono Partnership
- Legal Assistance Foundation
- Massachusetts Committee for Public Counsel Services
- The Union Settlement Association
- The Osborne Association
- Coordinated Advice and Referral Program for Legal Services (CARPLS)
- Every Child Fed
- Too Young to Wed
- The Human Trafficking Pro Bono Legal Center
- Immigration Equality
- Domestic Violence Legal Clinic
- Her Justice
- D.C. Legal Services
- Legal Services of New Jersey
- inMotion, Inc.
- Start Small Think Big / Sunshine Bronx Business Incubator
- The Waterfront Project
- Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid
- The Human Trafficking Legal Center

- New York Immigration Coalition
- Delaware Community Legal Aid Society Inc. (CLASI)

Select Client Communities

- Low-income Detroit, Cleveland, Chicago, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Baltimore, Delaware, and New York City tenants facing eviction
- Public housing residents
- Low-income homeowners facing foreclosure
- People experiencing homelessness and rent burden
- Survivors of human trafficking
- Low-income unrepresented litigants
- Low-income workers
- Victims of domestic violence
- Low-income veterans
- Victims of human trafficking
- LGBTQ+ community
- Immigrants facing deportation
- Immigrants denied work authorization documents
- Children from low-income families

3. Neil Steinkamp is a Managing Director at Stout in the firm's New York City office. He has extensive experience providing a broad range of strategic, business, and financial advice to business and community leaders and their advisors. Mr. Steinkamp has nearly 20 years of experience covering many industries and matter types resulting in a comprehensive understanding of the application of strategic assessment, risk analysis, financial consulting, and other complex analyses. His work has involved complex problem solving involving large-scale industry and social issues.

Stout's Proposal and Preliminary Work Plan

4. **Introduction:** Stout understands that there is interest in funding analyses related to the costs and benefits of providing low-income tenants in Franklin County (the County) and the city of Columbus (the City) a right to counsel in eviction proceedings. Stout, in collaboration with the County and the City, local legal aid providers, and other interested parties, will conduct research and data gathering regarding the impacts of eviction on low-income tenants and the County and the City (separately) as well as the benefits that could be realized if low-income tenants were represented in eviction proceedings in the County and the City. The objective of the engagement is to quantify the costs and benefits, where possible, to calculate an expected return on investment, for both the County and the City, separately.
5. **Estimated Duration of Engagement:** Six to nine months commencing upon Stout's receipt of a signed engagement letter. Stout's engagement may extend beyond nine months based on the timeliness with which court data, legal services provider data, and other information can be collected. It is possible that the timeline could be expedited. If this is necessary, Stout would seek assistance from the Legal Aid Society of Columbus with expedited coordination of meeting and requests for information. If possible, upon request, Stout can prepare interim work product to assist with advocacy or other efforts.
6. **Work Plan:** Developing a cost-benefit analysis for providing low-income tenants representation in eviction proceedings in the County and the City will follow a three-phase process that includes research and data collection, analysis of court data and development of cost-benefit estimate, and report preparation.
 - **Phase I – Research and Data Collection.** Stout anticipates four primary research and data collection activities: (1) collecting and reviewing publicly available reports, studies, and research regarding the impacts of eviction; (2) collecting and analyzing court data; (3) collecting and analyzing legal services provider data; and (4) gathering insights from Franklin County and city of Columbus stakeholders.

To develop a cost-benefit analysis of providing a right to counsel to tenants facing eviction in Franklin County and the city of Columbus, Stout must rely on certain publicly available information. This research will include, but is not limited to, the costs associated with or the impacts on:

- Emergency shelter and alternative housing stability programs;
 - Usage of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families funding for emergency shelter
 - Physical and mental healthcare for people experiencing housing instability or homelessness;
 - Foster care for children experiencing housing instability or homelessness;
 - Educational impacts on, and costs associated with, children experiencing housing instability or homelessness;
 - School district funding impacts related to absenteeism, truancy, and transportation of children experiencing housing instability or homelessness; and
 - Criminalizing / policing people experiencing homelessness.
- Stout will seek input from local legal aid providers and other stakeholders regarding the availability county- and city-specific research related to these costs and impacts.
 - Stout will collaborate with local legal aid providers to determine which fields from the court records are critical to Stout's analyses and which could be analyzed to provide deeper insights into eviction proceedings in the County and the City. Should access to court records become unavailable or limited, Stout will work with the County and the City, legal aid providers, and other stakeholders to develop an alternative court data analysis plan.
 - Stout will also collaborate with Dr. Stephanie Casey Pierce of the John Glenn College of Public Affairs at the Ohio State University. Stout is hopeful that Dr. Pierce will be able to assist Stout in its analysis of eviction court records, in identifying relevant research to inform our conclusions, and in understanding the impact of the eviction process on low-income residents of Franklin County and the city of Columbus.
 - To quantify both the impact of representation and the cost to provide representation, Stout will seek to gather information from legal services providers representing tenants in Franklin County housing court. Measuring the impact of representation will include reviewing aggregated outcome data collected by the legal services providers. Estimating the cost of providing representation will include discussing a variety of factors with legal services providers including but not limited to: the average number of hours spent by attorneys on each case (or a range of hours); the average salary or hourly rate of legal services attorneys; differences in case types or fact patterns that may influence the number of hours per case; and the average number of hours spent by non-attorneys (e.g., paralegals, social workers, administrative staff) on each case. Local legal aid providers may also want to consider additional costs associated with providing representation that are not directly related to personnel such as, office space / rent, technology, communications, data collection, program evaluation, etc. Also impacting the cost of representation is the scope of the representation and the way(s) in which representation is provided. The County and the City will need to define the

scope of representation which should consider who will be provided representation, the number of people comprising this population, how the population will be served (e.g., public awareness campaigns, know your rights programs, limited scope representation, full representation), and intake mechanisms (e.g., court- or community-based).

- Through our work in other jurisdictions around the country, Stout has found that engaging various stakeholders during the research and data collection phase to be incredibly informative. Having stakeholders share their perspectives, concerns, and experiences provide helpful context for Stout's analyses. Stout, in coordination with local legal aid providers, would seek to host virtual meetings (individually or in group settings, as appropriate) to gather these local insights. The stakeholders Stout would be interested in meeting with include:
 - County and city elected officials;
 - Court judges and clerks;
 - Legal aid providers;
 - Rental assistance providers;
 - Low-income tenants facing eviction or who experienced eviction, displacement, disruption or housing instability;
 - Government agencies responsible for responding to resident needs or crises when they experience significant housing instability or disruption, such as services for people experiencing homelessness, foster care, policing, education disruption, etc.
 - Public housing authorities and agencies;
 - Landlords / landlord counsel; and
 - Other community stakeholders recommended by local legal aid providers.
- Phase II – Analysis of Court Data and Development of Cost-Benefit Estimate. Concurrent with Phase I, Stout will develop a cost-benefit estimate to demonstrate the cost effectiveness of providing effective assistance and representation to tenants facing eviction in Franklin County and the city of Columbus and the return on investment that could be reasonably expected by the County and the City, separately. A critical input for the cost-benefit calculation will be the number of disruptive displacements avoided by providing representation, which will be estimated using housing court data, if possible.

- Phase III – Report Preparation. Stout will prepare a formal report documenting the findings from its court data analysis and cost-benefit calculations. The report will include relevant research regarding the impacts of evictions and related disruptive displacement on tenants in Franklin County and the city of Columbus. The report will also include an estimate as to the cost of providing tenants, or a sub-set of tenants as determined by the County and the City, representation.

Estimated Professional Fees

7. Stout traditionally bills for its services based on time incurred plus out-of-pocket expenses. Hourly rates are based on experience, training, and level of professional achievement. Stout recognizes the importance of a right to counsel for tenants facing eviction in Franklin County and the City of Columbus, and in support of the County and City's pursuit of a right to counsel, Stout proposes the following budget, which incorporates significant discounts to its standard professional fees.
 - Phase I – Research and Data Collection
 - Estimated Professional Hours: 60-70
 - Estimated Professional Fees (Discounted): \$18,000 - \$21,000
 - Phase II – Analysis of Court Data and Development of Cost-Benefit Estimate
 - Estimated Professional Hours: 60-70
 - Estimated Professional Fees (Discounted): \$18,000 - \$21,000
 - Phase III – Report Preparation
 - Estimated Professional Hours: 50-60
 - Estimated Professional Fees (Discounted): \$14,000 - \$18,000
8. In total, Stout estimates a cost-benefit analysis of an eviction right to counsel in Franklin County and the City of Columbus to take between 170 and 200 hours at a discounted total cost of between \$50,000 and \$60,000. This estimate considers the expected access to information, assistance from Dr. Pierce and coordination and collaboration with Legal Aid Society of Columbus. The estimated professional hours and related costs are preliminary and subject to change.

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Creating Residential and Financial Stability through Rental Support and Life Coaching

Problem Statement

Columbus, Ohio, is ranked the second most economically segregated metro area in the US (Florida & Mellander, 2015), with neighborhoods in central city and inner ring suburbs that are completely isolated from community resources. Compared to the rest of the region, these neighborhoods have higher rates of crime and lower performing schools. This has resulted in neighborhoods where families experience toxic stress, reducing families' physical and mental health. The economic and housing instability faced by families living in neglected neighborhoods and disconnected from resources often results in multiple moves, negatively impacting education, employment, and health.

Central Ohio has a rental market in which it is difficult for those who have traditionally been cut off from resources to afford housing. Although the Columbus housing market was named among the most affordable in the nation in 2014 (Evans, 2014), by 2016, it had become one of the hottest markets in the country (Weiker, 2016). From 1980 to 2000, incomes and rents rose at the same pace, but from 2000 to 2010 rents rose faster than income (Hill, 2016). Today those without access to higher incomes have a difficult time finding safe, decent, healthy, affordable housing in Central Ohio. In the Columbus area, 2021 market conditions required a worker to earn \$51,200 annually to afford the market-rate rent and utilities of \$1,280 for a two-bedroom apartment (Zumper, 2021). This is more than 2½ times the income a single worker can earn working full-time on minimum wage¹. In addition, the vast majority of occupations in Central Ohio that are projected to have job openings in the coming years do not pay more than \$15.50 per hour.

Background

Housing location strongly determines educational opportunities and lifetime career pathways. While housing costs affect household independence, mobility and neighborhood selection is further limited by the pool of potential rental housing. In Central Ohio, areas of high opportunity are increasingly suburban with higher property values than their central city counterparts. In addition, most suburban locations also have access to school districts with more resources.

Research has shown that children who have access to household stability in higher resourced neighborhoods for even a few years before reaching age 13 have improved long-term life

¹ The State of Ohio's minimum wage in 2021 is \$8.80 per hour for non-tipped employees. For 2080 hours (40 hours per week for 52 weeks), an employee's gross income would be \$18,304.00.

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outcomes.² Boys and girls are 32% more likely to attend college, have 31% higher incomes in early adulthood, and have \$302,000 higher lifetime earnings (Chetty, Hendren, & Katz, 2016). According to Ludwig et al. (2011), women who moved from high- to low-level poverty neighborhoods also experienced positive changes, including reductions in diabetes and extreme obesity.

Housing and positive health outcomes are inextricably intertwined. Access to safe, quality, affordable homes – and the support necessary to maintain the home – constitutes one of the most basic and powerful social determinants of health (Corporation for Supportive Housing, 2014), the economic and social conditions that affect health outcomes and the underlying contributing factors of health inequities. A lot of literature discusses the positive health outcomes achieved when living in high opportunity neighborhoods (Rinzler, Tegeler, Cunningham, & Pollack, 2015). Mounting evidence points to the role that household wellness plays in child outcomes. The United Way of Central Ohio finds that household stress negatively impacts children claiming, "Childhood trauma and stress can be corrosive and damaging to childhood development and success for children in poverty. This can mean lives consumed by stress, anxiety and insecurity, passing from one generation to the next" (Davies et al. 2014, p.1). In addition, public health challenges, such as infant mortality and diabetes, are increasingly connected to neighborhood location in Central Ohio (Reece, 2014). A recent study in nearby Cleveland found children living in neglected houses and neighborhoods had estimated literacy scores 15% lower than "those living in the best housing conditions. Poor housing conditions were also linked to higher rates of child abuse and familial instability, which are known to hurt kindergarten performance" (Campbell, 2016).

Studies show that girls particularly benefit by living in highly resourced neighborhoods as evidenced by being 26% less likely to be teen mothers (Chetty et al. 2016); and having a 70% lower risk of severe anxiety disorders (Kling, Liebman, & Katz, 2007).

Solution / Move to PROSPER's Strategy

Move to PROSPER (MTP), an initiative of The Ohio State University's (OSU) City and Regional Planning program and community partners, is a new and innovative program to improve life outcomes for children and their mothers. The program connects families to necessary resources, creating residential and financial stability using a holistic approach. Temporary rental

² "Recent research shows that growing up in neighborhoods with lower levels of poverty improves children's academic achievement and long-term chances of success, and reduces intergenerational poverty (Chetty, Hendren, and Katz, 2016; Chetty & Hendren, 2018a, 2018b). Children who move to low-poverty neighborhoods have also been shown to experience lower rates of hospitalizations, lower hospital spending, and some changes in mental health over the long-term follow-up (Pollack et al., 2019; Kessler et al., 2014)." (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2020, p. 42891)

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support enables a move to a safer, higher resourced neighborhood with housing that is well maintained. Comprehensive life coaching empowers women to move forward in their life and as they are connected to resources that meet basic needs, they can then set goals, learn to navigate systems, and connect to more resources.

This initiative is a new solution that enables families to increase their social, economic and housing stability to foster economic mobility for their children. Fostering stability allows families to participate in the economic and social lives of their communities. Some housing programs locate affordable housing in a variety of neighborhoods throughout the region while others engage in comprehensive neighborhood revitalization. Both are effective and needed. However, these actions alone as of yet have not undone the impact of historic government actions that led to community disinvestment nor do they systematically address labor market dynamics that produce many jobs that do not pay enough to support a family. We believed that new ways of enhancing stability so families can achieve socioeconomic mobility are essential.

MTP's Strategy

MTP's strategy is to enable single women who have been disconnected from resources and are in low wage jobs, with children ages 13 and under, to have access to existing rental housing in higher resourced communities by providing three years of partial rental support with life coaching. Many organizations locally and nationally are advocating for increased funding of rental assistance as this is the most economical and efficient way to create the most affordable housing.

MTP is currently a 10-family Pilot Program providing temporary rental support, life coaching, and monthly programs to single-female headed families earning between \$23,000 - \$37,000 per year with 1 to 3 school age children. For the next phase, the income range will be \$23,000 - \$42,100 based on family size, for a family with 1-3 children.

Through the MTP Pilot Program, we are demonstrating the benefits of housing mobility and coaching for participants and the need to implement a community-wide program that connects families to necessary resources and opportunities. In addition, we are changing the policy conversation regarding the need to provide assistance to working, low-income single female headed households with children.

For Empower 100 Project

After a Pilot of 10 families, the Empower 100 project will provide affordable rental units to 100 families who have been disconnected from resources for three years. Following is a description of Empower 100:

1. Eviction Prevention and Housing Stability through Rental Support

For the Empower 100 Project, MTP's plan is to provide rental support for 100 families, each for three years, in the amount of \$400 per month, which assists eviction prevention. This temporary

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rental support connects families to and enables families to live in healthy, quality homes in a safe, higher resourced neighborhood. Living in a safe home, inside and out, allows families to not just survive but thrive. Our coaching program can also prevent eviction by supporting participants, including more instruction about how to save for an emergency fund, and understanding landlord and tenant responsibilities.

MTP offers a new way to address access and affordability issues by facilitating access to affordable housing in higher resourced communities, and thereby improving hard working, low wage earning households' chances of upward mobility by being able to access jobs that pay a higher wage. By providing rental support that enables families to live in market rate housing, MTP is creating affordable housing opportunities in regions where we cannot build enough affordable housing for very low-income households. MTP housing opportunities are located in higher resourced areas of our county as determined by opportunity mapping from the Ohio Housing Finance Agency. The women choose where they would like to live from a listing of private participating landlords. MTP coaching focuses on participants' strengths and supports them to make the right decision for their families. It also provides them with resources to understand the rights and responsibilities of landlords and tenants. The landlords participate in a MTP sponsored orientation that includes implicit bias training.

2. Prosperity through Coaching and Programs

Coaching and monthly programs are key components of MTP. Providing access to healthy, safe, affordable housing alone will not provide the pathway to economic independence to women and their children. For the Empower 100 Project, MTP will provide life coaching and monthly programs for 100 families for three years.

Current mobility coaching programs in other parts of the country focus on supporting families in the move to high opportunity communities. MTP's Pilot has taken this further, as long-term success may improve through continued support for the families through continued connection to resources and life coaching.

MTP has combined the practices developed for mobility counseling used in some communities for participants in the Housing Choice Voucher program³ with a comprehensive life coaching program. This life coaching component of MTP helps participating households navigate systems to achieve improved health and financial stability, and gain support to pursue new career goals, which will improve overall workforce quality in the medium and long term. They are given more

³ "The HCV program offers families with vouchers the opportunity to live in a neighborhood of their choice, including low-poverty, opportunity neighborhoods. Yet, families with HCVs may encounter barriers to using their vouchers in communities with expanded opportunities. Some barriers may be financial, such as saving enough money for a security deposit or maintaining a positive credit score. Other barriers may include inadequate time to find a unit, landlord unwillingness to rent to voucher holders, or limited awareness of neighborhood amenities, such as the location of high-performing schools." (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2020, p. 42891)

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opportunities to learn and then practice how to save money for an emergency fund through the MTP coaching and program model. After having access to resources that meet their basic needs, they can increase their education, get certifications, and focus on their jobs, all towards increasing their income.

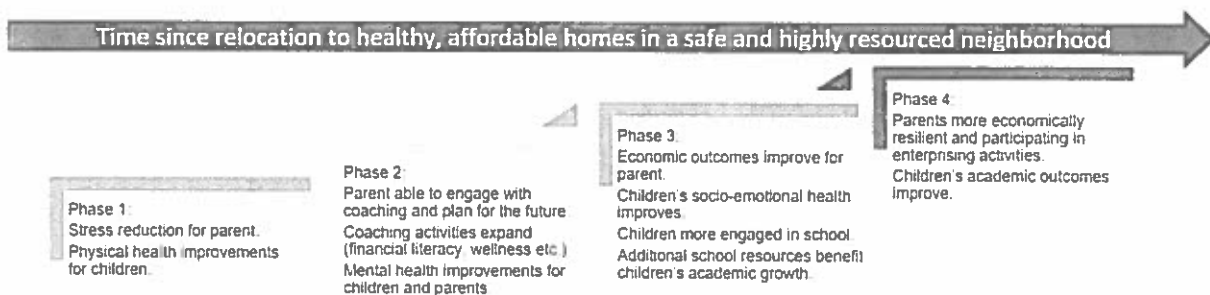
Importantly, our model is a unique two-generation approach to working with families. Each monthly program includes a section for the adult participants on teaching some of the concepts they are learning to their children before the pandemic.

Research has shown that coaching builds resiliency. MTP, with OSU's assistance, created a life coaching model which addresses trauma and helps people learn to navigate systems to solve problems and improve their lives. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, MTP participants were more financially stable and rebounded faster than people with similar incomes nationally. Based on our Pilot Project evaluation, most participants reported that financial literacy skills, coaching, MTP monthly programs, and mindfulness techniques had a helpful impact. Some participants not only survived the pandemic, but also flourished. Among nine participants, two started and one continued their own businesses, generating a second source of revenue and fulfilling their entrepreneurial interests.

The coaching revolves around four key pillars so families with children thrive and prosper:

- Housing stability (mobility, moving to a new neighborhood, and tenant responsibilities)
- Financial capability and stability
- Improved health outcomes (physical and mental health as many people suffer from toxic stress)
- Education/career goals (empowering women to navigate their child's school for positive outcomes and coaching for career pathways, if that is desired)

Longitudinal Impacts on MTP Parents and Children



3. Evaluation

Evaluation of MTP is critical as we have developed a new model for addressing generational poverty and this will assist us in measuring the impact of our work. The Empower 100 Project of

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100 families will evaluate the impact both on the families of the life coaching model with short term rental support and on the participating landlords and their rental property.

The evaluation will be conducted by a team from OSU. Currently, OSU is conducting the evaluation of the 10-family Pilot and has so far produced three Interim Program Evaluation Reports.

Key outcomes we expect and to be measured for 100 families include:

- **Housing stability:** We expect that families participating in MTP's rental support and coaching program will remain stable in their housing. This will be measured by how long they reside in their new homes.
- **Children's educational behavior:** We expect that their children's educational behavior will be improved, for example attendance rate. We will use survey data regarding children's behavior changes.
- **Physical and mental health:** We expect that the women and children experience improved physical and mental health. We will use survey data regarding health changes.
- **Women's financial position:** We expect that the women's financial position improves as evidenced by lower debt, savings, improved credit scores or increased earnings, depending on the individual person's financial situation.

Key Outcomes to Date and Return on Investment from MTP Pilot Program

The key outcomes after 30 months in the MTP Pilot Program are the following:

- Improved housing quality and neighborhood safety were the most important aspects of joining MTP
- Economic circumstances have improved for a majority of participants
- Physical and mental health improvements have continued for a majority of participants
- Mothers noted their children have experienced academic improvement and personal growth
- All participants either increased supplemental income or pursued additional job training

MTP is tracking real time return on investments including reduction in medical care expenses, improvements in educational outcomes for youth participants, and benefit of property.

- MTP families have drastically reduced their emergency room (ER) usage, particularly for asthma. MTP participants reported children's ER admissions for asthma have been reduced from 4 to 12 times a year to 1 or 0 incidence per year. According to the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, each avoided asthma ER visit saves approximately \$1,500.
- Utilizing existing research estimates the cumulative improvement in life time earnings for the 18 MTP children would be \$5.4 million.
- Participating landlords estimated savings of \$800-\$2,000 annually in turnover costs.

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Move to PROSPER'S Next Steps

Move to PROSPER is actively working towards building support for the Empower 100 project. The founding board of directors for our non-profit corporation, Families Flourish, Inc., dba Move to PROSPER is being formed. This entity has 501(C)(3) status. Although the entity is new, it has the history of MTP as an initiative of OSU.

Recently, Humana Inc., a leading health and wellbeing company, became an inaugural program partner for the Empower 100 Project, providing both funding and expertise in healthcare and research. Humana was recently named as a new managed care provider in Ohio. This relationship will continue to grow.

We are engaging in discussions with government leaders at the federal, state and local level to seek funding for Empower 100. We are exploring the submission of grants to national funders (e.g., NICHD, HUD, and Kresge). National funders and governmental leaders seek local support so funding would be used to leverage national funds. We are speaking with local foundations, corporations and individuals to expand our base of support. We continue to meet with local foundations and contributors who previously made commitments of support for our Pilot Program.

We continue to educate the public and private sectors about our model and why new solutions for addressing socioeconomic mobility and the shortage of affordable housing are needed.

Relevance to Funders and Potential Benefits

The Empower 100 Project is in line with funders who seek to improve lives through neighbors, education, and workforce. Our mission is to improve life outcomes for single mothers and their children by offering relocation opportunities that create access to 1) Safe neighborhoods that offer healthy and stable housing that is close to everyday conveniences and job opportunities; 2) Housing stability that reduces stress and supports improved health; 3) Schools that are higher resourced and provide children with a better learning environment; and 4) Coaching that provides tools for being financially stable and transforming lives.

MTP is developing a replicable model for creating new sources of affordable, stable housing through partnering with private sector owners of rental property in higher resourced neighborhoods. MTP provides 1) rental support, 2) coaching and programs, and 3) evaluation. Through these components, we expect housing stability, improved women's financial position, positive health/wellness and education/career outcomes, and many participants to engage in enterprising activities, including starting small businesses.

Aligned with the core value of addressing equity in our community, the Empower 100 Project creates equal access opportunities to quality education, healthcare, jobs, and resources for all people. Our regions' ability to flourish depends on increasing opportunities for everyone, which

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involves providing the opportunity to live near jobs, high performing schools, grocery stores, etc. MTP overcomes current obstacles to economic opportunity (e.g. zoning laws) by working with existing rental property owners.

We seek to launch the Empower 100 Project of 100 families as we know we have developed an impactful model and our evaluation results show optimistic results.

Impact of Funding

By supporting MTP's new, innovative model for creating opportunities for socioeconomic mobility, funders will be seen as a leader both locally and throughout the state.

Grant funds could be used in all or some of the following ways:

- o For rental support: by assisting MTP as it provides \$400 per month as rental support to each of the 100 families for three years.
- o To support coaching and programs: individual life coaching and monthly programs on MTP's four pillars focuses on financial literacy, career growth, family health and wellness and enables women to develop relationships for emotional support and family stability.
- o For evaluation of the program: analysis, evaluation, and modification of program design, coaching model, training programs.

These activities would leverage a funders' support for wider impact as this project will serve as a model both for Central Ohio and other communities as the model has been developed so that it can be replicated by other organizations.

To the extent possible, funding is requested as a multi-year commitment beginning in 2022. MTP seeks multi-year funding as families can not make the decision to move without knowing that the program has sufficient funding to fulfill its obligations.

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Empower 100 Project

May 26, 2021



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May 26, 2021



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FEATURES

Columbus candle maker growing business through relationships

Steve Wartenberg For Columbus CEO

Published 5:04 p.m. ET Jul. 3, 2021

Johnaka Young's new, entrepreneurial life began late at night, while she slept, perhaps dreaming of candles.

"I woke up one morning [in late 2019], and the first thing I started thinking about was making candles," Young says. "It must have been from a dream. Which is bizarre, because I wasn't a candle person."

Her dream quickly turned into an action plan. Young spent the next several hours on the internet watching how-to videos on the craft of candle making.

Now, almost two years after her awakening, Atmosphere Candles is a growing business. Young, 42, also has launched a line of lip balms and is forming a guild to help other women, especially single mothers and women of color, promote their homemade products.

Move to Prosper gives Young support to dream

Young, a single mother of two girls, Giada and Giselle (now 14 and 12), worked for Dublin Cleaners as a customer service manager in 2019. She was then accepted into the Move to Prosper pilot program, a collaboration between Ohio State University's City and Regional Planning program and community organizations, led by Amy Klaben.

Ten women, all single moms, were given financial assistance to help them afford apartments in one of four communities with high-ranking schools: Gahanna, Dublin, Olentangy and Hilliard. The women also received life coaching and help integrating their children into their new schools and neighborhoods.

It was a life and a career changer for Young and her daughters, who moved from Galloway to Dublin. "I was always stressed out [in Galloway]," she says. "I needed some help, [the girls]

were bullied on their way to school, it was a violent neighborhood.”

The girls began to thrive in Dublin. And so did Young.

“What we’ve found is that it all comes back to safety and feeling secure about your kids,” Klaben says. “Once you’re in a safe place, that opens up your ability to focus on yourself and taking risks that you otherwise never would have taken. Johnaka and her family have blossomed, and Johnaka worked really hard to create her new career path.”

Paraffin-free, Columbus-made candles

It took about a year and several waxy trials for Young to perfect her candle-making skills and turn her side hustle into a full-fledged business. “It was a lot of testing, learning about wax and over 100 different fragrances, dozens of wicks and different containers,” she says.

“Blending fragrances is a little bit of science and a little bit of art.”

The formula Young settled on uses vegetable-based waxes that don’t contain paraffin because “they burn much cleaner.” All her scents are created with essential oils, and the wicks are 100-percent cotton, which she says creates a cleaner flame.

Sales were slow at first, two or three orders a week. The tipping point came when Young set up a booth at the Westgate Farmers Market. “I ended up selling over \$400 worth of candles in three hours,” she says. “From there things skyrocketed.”

Kittie’s Cakes, which has shops in German Village and Bexley, wanted a candle that “captured the essence” of the bakeries, says Angela Edgemon, multimedia designer of Together & Co., which owns and operates the bakeries. “We searched [online] and talked to people, and that’s how I found Johnaka.”

Young created sample scents for Kittie’s to choose from, and the winner was smoked vanilla with cinnamon bread pudding. “She nailed it, people love them, they create the coziest, warmest feeling,” Edgemon says.

Other wholesale customers arrived via word of mouth, including Salon 12 and Fitness Loft of Columbus. She created two candles for the gym: a wet moss and fern blend, and a bergamot and cotton combination.

Young recently began a full-time job as a disability claims adjuster for the state. In her off hours, with the girls chipping in, she’s hard at work making and marketing candles.

“Every day I wake up excited,” Young says. Her line of lip balm has made its debut, and the Five Senses Guild, a collective for women crafters she founded, is coming together.

“From day one of Move to Prosper, I knew I had to do whatever I could to be successful so the program could continue. There are always people out there who are forgotten, and they get stuck there. They just need an opportunity.”

And a dream.

Steve Wartenberg is a freelance writer.

Atmosphere Candles

Atmocandles.com

Business: Maker of scented candles and lip balm.

Based: Dublin

Founder: Johnaka Young

Revenue: Would not disclose

Rummel, Lauren M.

From: Jen Bernsdorf [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 19, 2021 8:51 AM
To: American Rescue Plan
Subject: Move to Prosper

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Please consider the email below and supporting this incredible organization!

Warmest regards,
Jen Bernsdorf

Dear Commissioners:

My name is Melissa Kass, and I am proud to call New Albany my community and my address is: 14 New Albany Farms Road in New Albany, OH. I have two children who attended Columbus Academy and are now thriving college students. I have been incredibly fortunate to witness firsthand how an engaged, safe, and motivated educational community impacts a child's future success.

I am writing to express my support for **Move to PROSPER's Empower 100** campaign as part of your allocation of American Rescue Plan dollars. The MTP program allows single mothers in low-wage jobs to choose which neighborhood they'd like to raise their family in, and MTP provides temporary rent support and coaching to help them build their savings, careers and their children's educational attainment.

Central Ohio is the second most economically segregated metropolitan area in the US with many neighborhoods of concentrated poverty. As numerous studies show, a person's zip code profoundly affects their lives and potential, especially if they are a child. In our 10-family pilot program, there are 18 children. Our OSU research team estimates based on national research data that because of these kids' participation in the program, their cumulative life earnings will rise by \$5.4 million!

I know Franklin County can be an inclusive community for all who currently live here or who seek to come here and be part of our welcoming community. As you know, we can't build our way out of the affordable housing crisis, and Empower 100 is a tool we need in our economic mobility tool kit for Central Ohio.

National research which shows that children who live in stable households in higher resourced neighborhoods have:

- 31% higher incomes in early adulthood
- \$302,000 higher lifetime earnings
- 32% more likely to attend college
- Girls are 26% less likely to be teen mothers
- Girls have a 70% lower risk of severe anxiety disorders


MTP's own research, by OSU's Jason Reece, shows:

- Emergency room visits have been dramatically reduced - especially for asthma-related cases. Our parents report trips to the ER for asthma were 4-12 times a year before the program, and now that they're in the program it has been reduced to zero or one. Each ER visit avoided is at LEAST a \$1,500 savings per visit, totalling \$30,000 per year for the 10 families.
- Our moms learn to save. In fact, 6 in 10 of our pilot project moms lost full-time work during COVID, but they all had an emergency fund to tap. Almost all are re-employed and all have auxiliary income they create, too, such as one participant who started a business!
- Our families learn their responsibilities as a tenant;
- Which means the benefits of Move to PROSPER also flow to the landlords. The property owners who partnered with Move to PROSPER report savings between \$800 to \$2,000 each year per participant because they now have a stable tenant and they don't have to market and turn over the apartment as often.

I see only an upside to supporting this measure. I hope you will consider this investment, and I look forward to seeing a positive outcome for these families; and, I am ready to welcome them into our community.

Warm Regards,

Melissa Kass


Jen Bernsdorf
New Albany Aquatics Club


Sent from my iPhone

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This email originated from an email address that is outside of the county network. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Rummel, Lauren M.

From: Melissa Kass [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 18, 2021 10:20 PM
To: American Rescue Plan; Ryznar, Annie C.; Howard, Tamara M.; Sullivan, Jessica M.
Subject: Urgent need for new models for socioeconomic mobility

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Commissioners:

My name is Melissa Kass, and I am proud to call New Albany my community and my address is: 14 New Albany Farms Road in New Albany, OH. I have two children who attended Columbus Academy and are now thriving college students. I have been incredibly fortunate to witness firsthand how an engaged, safe, and motivated educational community impacts a child's future success.

I am writing to express my support for Move to PROSPER's Empower 100 campaign as part of your allocation of American Rescue Plan dollars. The MTP program allows single mothers in low-wage jobs to choose which neighborhood they'd like to raise their family in, and MTP provides temporary rent support and coaching to help them build their savings, careers and their children's educational attainment.

Central Ohio is the second most economically segregated metropolitan area in the US with many neighborhoods of concentrated poverty. As numerous studies show, a person's zip code profoundly affects their lives and potential, especially if they are a child. In our 10-family pilot program, there are 18 children. Our OSU research team estimates based on national research data that because of these kids' participation in the program, their cumulative life earnings will rise by \$5.4 million!

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- Our moms learn to save. In fact, 6 in 10 of our pilot project moms lost full-time work during COVID, but they all had an emergency fund to tap. Almost all are re-employed and all have auxiliary income they create, too, such as one participant who started a business!
- Our families learn their responsibilities as a tenant;
- Which means the benefits of Move to PROSPER also flow to the landlords. The property owners who partnered with Move to PROSPER report savings between \$800 to \$2,000 each year per participant because they now have a stable tenant and they don't have to market and turn over the apartment as often.

I see only an upside to supporting this measure. I hope you will consider this investment, and I look forward to seeing a positive outcome for these families; and, I am ready to welcome them into our community.

Warm Regards,

Melissa Kass



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Rummel, Lauren M.

From: Cynthia Kelley [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 18, 2021 5:26 PM
To: American Rescue Plan
Subject: I support new models for socioeconomic mobility

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Commissioners Boyce, Crawley and O'Grady:

My name is Cynthia Kelley, and I am proud to call Columbus my community for 30 years. My address is: 2715 Wexford Road Columbus, Ohio 43221. I have 5 adult children. Four of my children have chosen to live in Columbus also, in downtown Columbus, German Village and Westerville. We have been able to choose a safe neighborhood to live, to send our children to school of our choice and to be in a community near our work.

I am very concerned that Central Ohio is the second most economically segregated metropolitan area in the US with many neighborhoods of concentrated poverty. As numerous studies show, a person's zip code profoundly affects their lives and potential, especially if they are a child.

I have been on the board of Move to PROSPER for four years. Move to PROSPER is a carefully research designed 10-family pilot program with 18 children. The MTP program allows single mothers in low-wage jobs to choose which neighborhood they'd like to raise their family in, and MTP provides temporary rent support and coaching to help them build their savings, careers and their children's educational attainment. We have learned a lot during the pilot program and are ready to provide this program opportunity to 100 families. I am writing to express my support for Move to PROSPER's Empower 100 campaign as part of your allocation of American Rescue Plan dollars.

Empower 100 is a tool we need in our economic mobility tool kit for Central Ohio!

National research which shows that children who live in stable households in higher resourced neighborhoods have:

-
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- higher incomes in early adulthood
-
-
- \$302,000
- higher lifetime earnings
-
-
- 32%
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-
-
- Girls
- are 26% less likely to be teen mothers

-
-
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- have a 70% lower risk of severe anxiety disorders
-

Move To PROSPER's own research, by OSU's Jason Reece, shows:

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- The
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- the apartment as often.
-

I see only an upside to supporting this measure. I hope you will consider this investment, and I look forward to seeing a positive outcome for these families; and, I am ready to welcome them into our community.

Warm Regards,
Cynthia Kelley

Caution

Rummel, Lauren M.

From: Catherine Logsdon [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 7:03 PM
To: American Rescue Plan
Subject: ARP Allocations
Attachments: Move to PROSPER 07152021 co comm.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I submit this letter for you to consider the Move to PROSPER's Empower 100 demonstration project for funding through the American Rescue Plan.

--
Catherin (Kit) Logsdon

"Poverty is the worst form of violence" Mahatma Gandhi

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July 15, 2021

Commissioner Kevin Boyce
Commissioner John O'Grady
Commissioner Erica Crawley

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Catherine Logsdon. I am a former Director of Finance for the Ohio Housing Finance Agency and a recent Board Member of the Columbus Coalition for the Homeless. I am also a longtime volunteer with an international anti-poverty organization called RESULTS. Affordable Housing is my passion.

I have worked directly and indirectly with the organizations that Amy Klaben has successfully led to high-impact affordable housing institutions in Central Ohio. Amy and I both serve on the League of Women Voters' Land Use Committee.

The Move to PROSPER pilot program has proven to be another winning creation that narrows the focus on just one of the impediments to secure housing for families. The data is available to show the impact of insecure housing and poor educational opportunities in low-income neighborhoods. If 2020 did one good thing, it revealed how a ZIP code can determine the lifetime earning capacity of an individual. The OSU program facilitated by Amy Klaben is a practical response to that fact.

The small financial investment, combined with the public/private partnership for each working mother, is a solution that we wish would answer all our social and business needs. I urge Franklin County to take the lead in Ohio by providing support for Move to PROSPER's Empower 100 campaign as part of your allocation of American Rescue Plan dollars.

Respectfully,

Catherine S. Logsdon
2608 Trotterslane Dr.
Columbus, OH 43235



Rummel, Lauren M.

From: Ernie Sullivan [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 2:17 PM
Subject: I support people based revitalization

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Commissioners Boyce, Crawley and O'Grady:

My name is Ernie Sullivan. I live at 2258 Delavan Dr., Columbus, Ohio, 43219. I am a lifelong resident of Columbus, Ohio. I am a proud product of Columbus public schools graduating from Linden McKinley High School.

I am writing to express my support for Move to PROSPER's (MTP) Empower 100 campaign as part of your allocation of American Rescue Plan dollars. The MTP program allows single mothers in low-wage jobs to choose which neighborhood they'd like to raise their family in, and MTP provides temporary rent support and coaching to help them build their savings, careers and their children's educational attainment.

Central Ohio is the second most economically segregated metropolitan area in the US with many neighborhoods of concentrated poverty. As numerous studies show, a person's zip code profoundly affects their lives and potential, especially if they are a child. In our 10-family pilot program, there are 18 children. Our OSU research team estimates based on national research data that because of these kids' participation in the program, their cumulative life earnings will rise by \$5.4 million!

I know Franklin County can be an inclusive community for all who currently live here or who seek to come here and be part of our welcoming community. As you know, we can't build our way out of the affordable housing crisis, and Empower 100 is a tool we need in our economic mobility tool kit for Central Ohio.

National research which shows that children who live in stable households in higher resourced neighborhoods have:

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year before the program, and now that they're in the program it has been reduced to zero or one. Each ER visit avoided is at LEAST a \$1,500 savings per visit, totaling \$30,000 per year for the 10 families.

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I see only an upside to this measure. I hope you will consider this investment, and I look forward to seeing a positive outcome for these families which also leads to a better overall Franklin County community.

Warm Regards,

Ernest L. Sullivan
Sr. Executive Vice President
Who's Who Publishing Company


www.sullivanss.com

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Rummel, Lauren M.

From: Joe Graves [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 12:29 PM
To: American Rescue Plan; Ryznar, Annie C.; Howard, Tamara M.; Sullivan, Jessica M.
Subject: I support new models for socioeconomic mobility

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Commissioners Boyce, Crawley and O'Grady:

My name is Joe Graves. I live at 838 Campbell Ave in Columbus, OH. I have 1 child, who will attend Columbus City Schools this fall as a kindergartener. I am also the pastor of Central City Church and Little Bottoms Free Store. For our free store, we serve many children and families that struggle with adequate housing. In fact, 70% of the 1000 children we've served in the last two years live in families with a household income of less than 20,000 a year.

I am writing to express my support for Move to PROSPER's Empower 100 campaign as part of your allocation of American Rescue Plan dollars. The MTP program allows single mothers in low-wage jobs to choose which neighborhood they'd like to raise their family in, and MTP provides temporary rent support and coaching to help them build their savings, careers and their children's educational attainment.

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I see only an upside to supporting this measure. I hope you will consider this investment, and I look forward to seeing a positive outcome for these families; and, I am ready to welcome them into our community.

Warm Regards,

--

Joe Graves

Pastor

www.centralcity.co

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Rummel, Lauren M.

From: Michael Pires [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 9:33 AM
To: American Rescue Plan; Ryznar, Annie C.; Howard, Tamara M.; Sullivan, Jessica M.
Subject: I support new models for socioeconomic mobility

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Commissioners Boyce, Crawley and O'Grady:

My name is Michael Pires, and I am proud to call the greater Columbus area of Ohio my community and my address is: 6924 Greenspire Dr, Lewis Center, OH. I am writing to express my support for Move to PROSPER's Empower 100 campaign as part of your allocation of American Rescue Plan dollars. The MTP program allows single mothers in low-wage jobs to choose which neighborhood they'd like to raise their family in, and MTP provides temporary rent support and coaching to help them build their savings, careers and their children's educational attainment.

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- Girls have a 70% lower risk of severe anxiety disorders

MTP's own research, by OSU's Jason Reece, shows:

- Emergency room visits have been dramatically reduced - especially for asthma-related cases. Our parents report trips to the ER for asthma were 4-12 times a year before the program, and now that they're in the program it has been reduced to zero or one. Each ER visit avoided is at LEAST a \$1,500 savings per visit, totalling \$30,000 per year for the 10 families.
- Our moms learn to save. In fact, 6 in 10 of our pilot project moms lost full-time work during COVID, but they all had an emergency fund to tap. Almost all are re-employed and all have auxiliary income they create, too, such as one participant who started a business!
- Our families learn their responsibilities as a tenant:
- Which means the benefits of Move to PROSPER also flow to the landlords. The property owners who partnered with Move to PROSPER report savings between \$800 to \$2,000 each year per participant because they now have a stable tenant and they don't have to market and turn over the apartment as often.
-

I see only an upside to supporting this measure. I hope you will consider this investment, and I look forward to seeing a positive outcome for these families; and, I am ready to welcome them into our community.

Warm Regards,

Michael Pires



PUBLIC HEARING: JULY 15, 2021/FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

President Boyce, Commissioners O-Grady and Crawley, thank you for the opportunity to present today regarding the pandemic's impact on our Franklin County neighbors and how support from the American Rescue Act can help those who continue to struggle in our community.

For the record, my name is Matt Habash and I serve as the CEO for the Mid-Ohio Food Collective, the largest hunger relief organization in Ohio, one of the largest food banks in the country, and the only one serving Franklin County among its 20 county service area.

First – a quick overview of how the pandemic has impacted food insecurity:

Pre-COVID-19, food insecurity rates were estimated at one in six (1 in 6) Ohioans, including one in four children (1 in 4), which climbed sharply throughout the pandemic. Black and Latino populations in particular continued to experience significantly higher food insecurity rates. Then the pandemic hit and hunger soared.



Statewide -- throughout these confusing and unsettling times, about 270 million pounds of food and groceries were delivered to almost 3 million Ohioans; and, it was not just food -- as over two million pieces of PPE were distributed through the food bank network as well as toiletries and other necessities.

Through Mid-Ohio Food Collective, in 2020, we delivered 75 million pounds of food and groceries to over 700,000 households; during the “pandemic year” of March 2020 – June 2021, those numbers jumped to over 107 million pounds of food, with nearly 1.5 million visits to agencies in our network by those seeking food to put on their tables. Of significant note are the more than 73,700 new families who came to our network for food for the first time -- families asking for help, never dreaming that they would have to ask for the most basic of needs --- food/ displaced workers, kiddos who did not access to school breakfast or lunch due to remote learning, isolated seniors.

Of those numbers I just reported, two thirds of that service was right here; in Franklin County alone, we had just over 900,000 visits with 50,344 new families. And, because the shelters were de-concentrating to drive social distancing, we were asked to help connect the homeless to food – throughout the pandemic, we cooked, prepped, delivered, distributed and worked with partners to provide about 620,000 meals for the homeless and high-need after school sites.

I know I just presented you with a lot of numbers, but remember this: Hunger continues to show up in our communities. The pandemic has only exposed the need for more robust, innovative and customer-centric solutions to address hunger and its root causes (wages, income, healthcare, housing, childcare, racism) impacting our neighbors.

One more quick clarification around the food insecurity regulations to demonstrate how vulnerable so many of our neighbors are to sudden shift such as we saw with this pandemic. Foodbank eligibility is limited to households with gross incomes at

or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level; for one person, this is \$25,760 – well above what minimum wage earners take home in a year (\$18,300 pre-tax for someone making Ohio’s minimum wage). SNAP eligibility is 130 percent of the FPL and fluctuates based on the number of individuals in the household and assets. That gap between SNAP - the first line of defense against hunger in providing over 90 percent of hunger relief food in the nation - and accessing our services -- creates a cliff for many families: not qualifying for SNAP and still not able to afford or meet basic needs.

So – now what/where do we go from here? First, we need to ensure a continued supply of food for what is expected to remain elevated levels of need. In the first quarter of 2021, Ohio experienced a 10 million pound reduction in federal food from the Farmers to Families Food box program, a 14.6 percent loss. Retail and manufactured food donations are down 7.6 percent statewide from 2019 to 2020 and have not regained losses; meanwhile, food costs have increased 10 percent and fuel costs continue to rise. While we have been incredibly blessed to garner



and retain support for our work, and are very appreciative of continuing federal and state funding and food, we need to ensure this chain remains unbroken to meet increased food insecurity.

With that, many economists predict the economic recovery to resemble a K, where professional level sectors retain and expand jobs while lower-paying sectors will fail to recover jobs. Again, the most vulnerable among our neighbors are the most likely to continue to experience hardship.

The most recent national jobless claims data showed a slight increase to 373,000, well above the 200,000 mark generally reported prior to the pandemic. Continuing unemployment claims remain at historic highs, with the last report coming in at over 3.3 million nationally. This does not reflect those recently cut off by the end of special pandemic unemployment benefits, who may not be eligible for other unemployment benefits. As of June 19, 14.2 million Americans were still collecting some form of unemployment compensation.

While the eviction moratorium was extended through the end of July, as of June, 3.2 million people nationally were still facing eviction once it is lifted. In Ohio, nearly 250,000 Ohioans are concerned they will not be able to pay next month's rent and over 112,000 are concerned they will be evicted within the next two months. So, we are looking at not only food insecurity, but also real fears of homelessness and subsequent lack of access to health care and other necessities that contribute to ongoing poverty.

Looking at the last major economic crisis - In real dollars, it took a good five years following the end of the Great Recession for Ohio household median income to recover to pre-recession levels. However -- adjusting for inflation, it actually took almost 10 years for Ohio household median income to reach pre-recession spending power.

To combat ongoing food insecurity and to help lift our neighbors onto a path where they can truly thrive, we continue to evolve our work and shift our models to meet the changing needs in our community:

- Launching Mid-Ohio Markets – which mirrors a grocery store experience – that allows for greater choice of nutritious foods and avenues to additional, wraparound support services. We have about (10) Mid-Ohio Markets in various planning stages that we expect to launch in Franklin County alone to add to the two already operating and serving our customers – at Columbus State and in Reynoldsburg.
- Expanding our Mid-Ohio Farmacy network to further connect hunger and health – creating a low cost, high value health care solutions. Pre-pandemic, 60 – 65% of our distribution was fresh food; our continued ‘food is health’ strategy will be to acquire as much produce, meat, dairy, and bread as we possibly can for distribution to families.



- Providing healthy- prepared foods through our Mid-Ohio Kitchen, addressing the most valuable commodity – time and convenience – for families who are working multiple shifts/multiple jobs to make ends meet.

As our work continues to evolve, we understand that we must meet our customers where they are – that our work is anchored both by ‘food is health’ strategies and the data insights that are constantly informing our work.

As the impact of the pandemic continues, the investment of American Rescue dollars in initiatives that can be leveraged in direct service for those who are struggling most will allow us as a community to effectively and successfully transition to the other side of this stubborn pandemic. Initiatives like:

- Mid-Ohio Markets to ensure that we get the right food to the right place at the right time;



- Mid-Ohio Farmacy to help support food-based healthcare to improve health outcomes and mitigate healthcare costs;
- Mid-Ohio Kitchen to provide meals for those who continue to struggle with homelessness and for those families who continue to work hard trying to make ends meet, but just can't earn enough to support their families;
- Data Insights so that we can learn as a collaborative community, understanding that none of these social determinants exist in a vacuum. The deeper our insights, the more informed our work toward ending hunger, poverty and racism. We understand that foodbanking alone will not end hunger; by leveraging data insights however, we will be a better Food Collective, a better community meeting the needs of ALL.

- And, support for other basic-needs organizations that are trying to help our neighbors navigate this unprecedented journey. Support of Franklin County's human service sector will be critical to not only meet the immediate need facing us right now --- but to implement long term strategies that can be launched toward sustainability and growth.

We look forward to working with you and other community partners to co-create and implement approaches that will allow us to move beyond this pandemic toward a hunger-free, healthier, and thriving Franklin County. Thank you and I am happy to answer questions or provide additional information.

Good morning everyone. I'm Adam Simon, Managing Director for Actors' Theatre of Columbus. If our organization sounds vaguely familiar to you, but you can't quite place it, we're the Shakespeare in the Park people, now in our 40th year of presenting free, fully accessible theatre in Schiller Park. We're incredibly fortunate that in 1992 a group of community and business leaders elected to come together and construct an amphitheatre to be a permanent home for our summer productions, that allow us to host an average audience of 17,000 people each year. Beyond that, our educational programming serves hundreds of students and adults each year, through our camps and classes, and like our performances, is fully available to anyone who desires it, regardless of how much they're able to pay. If you want to see a show with Actors' Theatre, you can. If you want to take a class or send your child to camp, you can. This accessibility to the arts is the reality of who we are as an organization, but we, like every other theatre organization in Central Ohio faced a full and complete shutdown of our industry during the pandemic, and while we have been able to return to outdoor performances, many organizations have still not reopened. In addition to the lost revenue from performances, many of us rely on funding from the Greater Columbus Arts Council, and while they did an amazing job of continuing to provide funding to the arts throughout the pandemic, their funding sources include the hotel and ticket taxes, both of which were almost non-existent during the last year. At the most basic level, I would like to encourage an investment in our arts funding organizations to make up for their lost revenues during the pandemic.

Of course, recovery isn't about simply returning to the status quo; actual recovery requires an investment in growth. For our organization to grow, so we can provide free theatre access to even more people, we really need a roof. And maybe some walls. My next proposal would be to consider creating a fund for arts organizations like ours (and there are a lot of them in Central Ohio) who have the wherewithal to manage and maintain their own property in the long-term, but need a boost to make it a reality. This would not be an ongoing operating expense, but exactly the sort of one-time investment these funds are designed for. We're in the process of researching and beginning a capital campaign to purchase and renovate a building of our own, and while you're more than welcome to just cut me a check and cover the total cost, I'm happy to accept whatever we can get.

My larger proposal, which is directly connected to that, is perhaps more ambitious, but also more grand in the needs it would meet. I would like to suggest the creation and development of a theatre arts district. We have a rich and diverse theatre community within Central Ohio. There are at any given time no fewer than two dozen organizations such as ours, who do not have their own permanent indoor performance space, and who are seeking venues that can handle audiences of 99 people or less. Before COVID shuttered the theatre industry, those spaces were already at a minimum, and booking out more than a year in advance. The pandemic has only made the lack of venue space worse; in the last two years we've lost the Franklinton Playhouse, Columbus Civic Theatre in Clintonville, Columbus Children's Theatre downtown, and the Shedd Theatre at the Columbus Performing Arts Center. Those are four venues that between them served a dozen organizations in any given year, and those organizations are all now looking for homes. Every large city in our region: Cincinnati, Cleveland, Louisville, Pittsburgh, Indianapolis; all of them have established theatre districts

which allow smaller organizations the space to perform and grow, which in turn grows their audiences, which only expands the enrichment of those communities further and further. Great communities need and deserve great art, and great art needs the support of its community.



1855 E. Dublin Granville Rd. • Columbus, Ohio 43229 • (614) 267-7003 • Fax (614) 267-7013

Date: July 15, 2021

To the Franklin County Board of Commissioners,

NCCC is a non-profit community mental health agency that provides wrap around mental health and substance use treatment to folks that need it the most since 1968. We are an agency that prioritizes reaching marginalized communities that otherwise wouldn't have access to critical, quality care. During COVID we persevered and found new and creative ways to serve our community - through PPE giveaways to clients and community members, education on COVID protocols in multiple languages, and finding new ways to provide support from a distance. We are the people that are serving the community and navigating the new hurdles that the pandemic presented every day. We are the organization that provides the therapeutic environment and ongoing support that make other organizations more effective. We provide culturally humble, evidence-based services and collaborate with multiple organizations, many of which are represented in the room today.

- Our Women's Empowerment Program focuses on supporting women ages 12-64 to reach their true potential, who are at risk of Substance Use Disorders or destructive behaviors.
- Our Center for New Americans works with immigrant and refugee communities to overcome barriers when acculturating to the US - a program built by immigrants and refugees, for immigrants and refugees.



A program operated by North Community Counseling Centers, Inc.
Funded in part by the Franklin County Alcohol, Drug, Addiction and Mental Health Services Board

- Our Youth and Adolescent program works with children ages 5-up and their families across Franklin County to provide outpatient care and education to parents and families in a client-centered collaborative environment.

We are an example of a non-profit organization that is embedded in the community who develops our programming around the needs of our people as they arise. More funding would allow us to hire more culturally humble staff, to grow our programming and increase the number of community members that benefit from our services. I thank you for your time and am available for any additional questions or meetings with anyone that is interested in working with NCCC.

Sincerely,

Yolanda Hodge, MS, LPCC-S
Director of Organizational Development
North Community Counseling Centers
1855 E Dublin Granville Rd Suite 204
[REDACTED]



A program operated by North Community Counseling Centers, Inc.
Funded in part by the Franklin County Alcohol, Drug, Addiction and Mental Health Services Board



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Yolanda Sanders

Dear Franklin County Commissioners:

I appreciate the opportunity to provide input on funds received by the County from the American Rescue Plan Act – an Act aggressively supported by AFSCME members and a welcome form of relief from the economic strain of COVID-19 on working families across this County. I write this letter from my office at AFSCME Ohio Council 8 – the organization which represents about 475 employees across various Franklin County agencies. For the reasons explained in this letter, I propose using a portion of the Act's funds to start a childcare center for employees of Franklin County to use free of cost while they are at work serving the residents of this County.

An often-overlooked effect of the COVID-19 pandemic is the challenge that parents of young children face with childcare. When the pandemic hit, forcing social distancing requirements and work-from-home, many daycares lost so much business that they had to close their doors. Parents pulled their children out of daycare to protect them from the virus and save money since they were working from home or laid off. Those daycare centers that survived were forced to decrease their customer base to allow themselves time to comply with sanitation protocols and social distancing measures.

These childcare centers are silent but critical infrastructure for Franklin County's economy. In a December 2020 study funded by various State agencies including the Department of Jobs and Family Services, performed by Case Western Reserve University, 74% of parents and caregivers reported that someone in their household would have to reduce work hours if their childcare program closed. 54% stated that a closure would result in a loss of household income. [See the attached Study Brief.] That fear has now become reality and returning to the office has become an enormous burden on parents of young children.

The benefits of an on-site childcare facility to the County as an employer are numerous. New parents will not have to choose between parenting or working, which will prevent job turnover. Having their child nearby means parents face less time commuting from work to daycare and then to their homes. Taking out that middle stop between work and home makes public transportation a more suitable option, lessening their impact on our fragile environment, and opening job opportunities to parents who face issues with transportation. The cost-savings of free, on-site childcare would attract a multitude of job applicants for this cutting-edge work benefit.

The American Rescue Plan Act is an opportunity for Franklin County to address disparities in public health that have been exacerbated by the pandemic. Childcare was, disparately,



an issue for families of color before the pandemic, and the closure en masse of childcare providers has deeply exacerbated that disparity between those families and their non-Hispanic white counterparts. This disparity is not only along racial lines – it cuts along levels of income as well. [See the two attached studies from the Center for American Progress published in June of 2020.]

According to guidance published by the United States Treasury Department on May 10, 2021, addressing disparities in public health outcomes is an eligible use of ARPA funds, so long as it is a service provided to households and populations living in a Qualified Census Tract. As you can see from the attached map which highlights QCTs in purple, much of the county is covered as a QCT. [See the attached map.] Programs or services that address or mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 public health emergency on childhood health or welfare are indeed an authorized use of ARPA funds. In short, the startup costs of on-site childcare in Franklin County fall squarely within the Treasury's guidance from May 10.

I appreciate your careful consideration of this proposal and look forward to any future dialogue on the subject. I can be reached by e-mail at tschroth@afscme8.org or by phone at (513) 675-6996. On behalf of many of your workers, thank you for your attention to our concerns.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Schroth', written in a cursive style.

Tony Schroth
Staff Representative



The Coronavirus Will Make Child Care Deserts Worse and Exacerbate Inequality

By Rashad Malik, Katie Hamrick, MS&P, LEWIS SCHMIDT, DEVI, and Alisha Esjourner
June 22, 2020

Rixa Evershed has been an early educator for more than 20 years. She is currently the early education director at the Nature Nurtures Farm in Olympia, Washington, where children spend their earliest years learning in the classroom and on the nearby 23-acre farm. Forty percent of children in the program are from low-income families who receive child care subsidies from the state and federal government to defray tuition costs.

When the coronavirus pandemic caused enrollment to drop substantially in March, Nature Nurtures Farm had to close its doors. Many enrolled families were already struggling financially, and the pandemic has only exacerbated their financial woes. With families unable to pay tuition, staff members were laid off. Nature Nurtures Farm partially reopened its early childhood program on June 1 but faces a \$26,000 deficit because fewer children are enrolled due to public health guidance that mandates smaller group sizes. The future of the program remains uncertain.¹

As COVID-19 and stay-at-home orders to protect public health continue, a quiet crisis is unfolding in child care programs across the country. At the outset of the pandemic, nearly two-thirds of child care providers said they could not survive a closure that extended longer than one month.² The Center for American Progress estimates that the country could lose half of its licensed child care capacity without government intervention.³ Millions of American workers, hoping to get back to their jobs once the public health risk has sufficiently decreased, will not be able to do so until they have safe, reliable, and affordable child care. This has major consequences for the reopening of the economy but also has important implications for income and educational inequality, racial equity, geographic equity, and a potentially significant decline in the number of mothers in the labor force.

When policymakers consider proposals to stabilize and reopen the wider economy, it is important to assess the communities where there may be the greatest immediate need for child care investment. This new analysis provides a tool—find it at www.childcaredeserts.org—that illustrates the state of child care supply before the coronavirus pandemic to show how child care closures will disproportionately affect some communities. Using a new driving-distance-based meth

odology—which improves on CAP’s previous area-based analyses by ignoring arbitrary administrative boundaries and adjusting supply to account for nearby demand—these maps show the density of families with young children and a new index of child care supply within a 20-minute drive. Users now have the option of comparing child care deserts with local poverty rates, median family incomes, median home values, share of the population with a four-year college degree, and the Black or African American and Hispanic shares of the population.

Without a significant public investment in a dedicated child care stabilization fund, child care closures will be concentrated in low-income and middle-income neighborhoods and many families will be unable to access child care assistance during a period of record-high unemployment. This could, in turn, make the reopening of the broader economy smoother in areas with adequate child care supply while businesses whose employees live in child care deserts may struggle to get parents back to work. But with the proper public investment, child care services can help America get back to work safely. Working parents are eager to return to work, but they can do so only with the confidence that their children will be in a safe and reliable setting. Young children, too, look forward to rejoining their teachers and caregivers, but these programs will not be able to return unless their public value is matched by long overdue public support.

A new approach to child care deserts

Since 2016, the Center for American Progress has studied the supply of licensed child care in the United States, identifying national correlations between population demographics and child care supply. Using an original national dataset of licensed and registered child care providers, a 2018 CAP analysis found that more than half of American families with young children live in a child care desert—defined as a census tract with more than three children under age 5 for every licensed child care slot.⁴

However useful census tracts may be for assessing the scale of the problem, this approach has many limitations at the local level. The core problem is that families do not pay attention to arbitrary census tract boundaries when choosing their child care. A more practical consideration is time spent getting to and from child care each day. Additionally, while the U.S. Census Bureau makes estimates about the number of young children living in each census tract, these estimates are published with large margins of error due to sample size limitations, making capacity to population comparisons less accurate. Further, these new estimates demonstrate that access to child care can vary widely for families living in the same census tract or county.

The new interactive maps at www.childcaresdeserts.org and the underlying data that form the basis of this analysis are derived from a new, cutting-edge methodology for measuring and representing child care supply. This approach to measuring child care supply was introduced by Elizabeth E. Davis, Won F. Lee, and Aaron Sojourner in their article “Family-centered measures of access to early care and education,” published in *Early Childhood Research Quarterly* last year.³ In collaboration with this research team at the University of Minnesota, CAP is now able to analyze and symbolize variation in local child care supply while adjusting for population density and without regard for arbitrary administrative boundaries. For more information about the methodology employed by the authors and collaborators, please refer to “Measuring Child Care Supply Using the Enhanced Two-Stage Floating Catchment Area Method.”⁶



The new interactive map at childcaresdeserts.org provides the most detailed look at child care proximity to date, accounting for the supply of child care providers in a local area and the population of young children living there.

In a nutshell, this analysis adds up the capacity of all the child care providers near a given location and then adjusts that measure of supply to account for potential nearby demand based on the population of young children living near each provider. Child care options that are closer to families receive a greater weight than those farther away, incorporating the real-world proximity of providers into the analysis. Each dot on the map represents 10 families with a child under age 6 and is assigned an adjusted child care supply metric, typically a number from 0 to 1. A precise interpretation of this child care supply index is discussed in detail in the methodological brief linked in Endnote 6.

America's child care shortages will not affect all families equally

As with many other aspects of social and economic inequality, the coronavirus pandemic has underscored large differences in proximity and access to licensed child care across income and racial lines. COVID-19 appears to have taken a greater toll on Hispanic and Black communities, both in terms of the public health threat and the economic impact.⁷ Prior to the pandemic, most child care deserts were in low- and middle-income communities, including many predominantly Hispanic neighborhoods, and were practically ubiquitous across rural America.⁸ Programs such as Nature Nurtures Farm that largely serve low-income families find themselves without revenue during the pandemic.

Child care businesses operate with high costs, tight revenues, and slim operating margins, even though many child care educators are paid near-poverty wages.⁹ This is because the core factor that drives the quality of care—low child-to-staff ratios—means that these programs are highly labor intensive without economies of scale. There is no automation revolution or technological fix that can lower the cost of providing quality child care. Most child care revenues come from parental fees, which puts a sizable dent in working families' budgets. According to a CAP analysis of family expenditures on licensed child care, the typical working family with a child under age 5 spent more than \$12,000 on child care in 2015.¹⁰ But in many communities, there are not enough families who can cover the full cost of child care, and child care subsidies provided by the state and federal government reach just 1 in every 6 eligible children.¹¹

This new detailed analysis of child care supply shows how child care deserts interact with the economic, demographic, and geographic characteristics of an area. These associations indicate that the developing and expanding child care crisis is likely to have a greater impact on low- and middle-income communities, Black and Hispanic families, and rural families.

Low- and middle-income communities

Prior to the pandemic, middle-income communities showed the lowest levels of local child care capacity relative to estimated demand.¹² Interestingly, low-income neighborhoods have slightly more child care capacity than middle-income areas, likely boosted by the federal child care subsidy program, the Head Start program, and state or municipally provided pre-K.¹³ But high-income areas have the most child care supply compared with middle- and lower-income areas, as wealthier parents are able to pay the full cost of licensed care. In fact, a recent CAP study found that high-income families are nearly four times as likely to send their infant or toddler to a licensed child care program than low-income parents, and more than twice as likely to send their preschooler to a licensed program.¹⁴

Communities that already lacked sufficient child care before the coronavirus are likely to be especially affected by the crisis as unemployment hits these communities harder and families are less likely to have savings to weather the economic downturn. Many of these communities also include low-wage workers deemed essential during the pandemic, such as health technologists, construction workers, sanitation workers, and those in the grocery and retail industries. Workers deemed essential during the pandemic are more likely to live below the federal poverty level and have children in the home, making child care both unaffordable and necessary.¹⁵ Those who work in the gig economy, informal work, or with reduced income but not job loss may not qualify for some of financial supports such as unemployment insurance. Therefore, child care providers in communities with a high number of families living paycheck to paycheck face greater demand for child care from essential workers but also see steep decreases in their revenue as other families suffer income or job losses.

By contrast, many child care businesses in high-income areas that are able to continue collecting tuition during their coronavirus closure will have an easier path to reopening. A recent CAP analysis found that more than three-quarters of high-income working families pay for child care, with an average annual expenditure of nearly \$19,000.¹⁶ Even while they spend more on care, these high-income families spend much less as a proportion of their total income, so they are better able to pay their child care fees and tuition during the pandemic closures.

Many child care providers in low- and middle-income neighborhoods and towns face prolonged revenue interruption that could lead to permanent closure. Even among states that are reopening businesses and child care, child care providers must have social distancing measures in place that increase costs and reduce the number of children—and thus revenue—for child care providers. Federal spending directed at small businesses, such as the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) has been mostly inaccessible and unaffordable for child care providers, who are less likely to have a preexisting relationship with a bank or the administrative capacity to apply for and secure a loan.¹⁷

Disproportionate Impact on Families

This research suggests that areas of the country with Black and Hispanic residents are also likely to experience worsening child care deserts during the pandemic, based on conditions that previously existed. Consistent with previous child care deserts analysis, this new research confirms that predominantly Hispanic neighborhoods tend to have relatively few licensed child care providers.¹⁸ One question that researchers have tried to answer is whether Hispanic communities and families exhibit less demand for licensed child care. According to the most recent nationally representative survey of families, Hispanic parents express similar perceptions of center-based child care as other racial and ethnic groups.¹⁹ One possibility is that Hispanic families have less need for child care during traditional

hours and may have greater need for nontraditional child care, in the early mornings or late evenings.²⁰ Regardless of the reason, it appears that Hispanic communities are consistently underserved by the licensed child care system and do not have the same array of child care options as other racial and ethnic groups.

While, on average, predominantly Black or African American neighborhoods tend to have more local child care supply than other groups, this is not true in all cases. For example, the city of Detroit is a vast child care desert and is approximately 80 percent Black or African American.²¹ Meanwhile, the surrounding suburbs, which are mostly white, affluent, and highly educated, have abundant licensed child care.



The interactive map allows users to analyze the inequalities associated with child care deserts, offering the ability to compare how specific populations such as Black families (left), Hispanic families, and families living in poverty are affected

Both Black and Hispanic communities are more likely to have serious underlying medical conditions due, in part, to decades of systematic inequality in American economic, housing, and health care systems. This has put them at greater risk of complications from the coronavirus and caused them to suffer disproportionately during this pandemic.²² Because of occupational segregation, economic exploitation, and employment discrimination, these communities also experience greater hardships during an economic recession.²³ In fact, Black and Hispanic unemployment has surged even higher than the historic levels of overall unemployment, especially for Black women and Latinas.²⁴ At the same time, many people of color are in occupations that are deemed essential. For example, the most common occupations for Black women and Latinas include nursing and personal care, housekeeping and sanitation, and cashiers.²⁵ A pattern emerges that parallels inequality based on income: Black and Latinx communities have fewer resources to pay for child care during economic recovery, while some families need child care to perform essential jobs. Child care providers may also be less able to access small-business loans such as those available through the PPP due to discrimination in

banking practices, the wealth gap, and higher debt. Without a historic federal investment in reliable and quality child care, parents in these communities may have a very difficult reentry into the labor market.

Rural families

While COVID-19 has hit every state in the country, there have been fewer reported cases in rural parts of America where the virus has been slower to spread.²⁶ Yet some of these areas are experiencing increases in cases, and the potential for future outbreaks is high. Additionally, rural areas typically have fewer hospitals, which could prolong the health and economic impacts, resulting in child care programs experiencing declines in revenue for an extended period of time.

Before the pandemic, rural families had, on average, the fewest child care slots relative to demand among all geographic groups.²⁷ Rural families tend to rely more on home-based child care providers, since there are fewer child care centers in rural communities.²⁸ However, family child care homes are only licensed to serve from 6 to 12 children, which often results in an inability to meet demand. One notable exception, however, is that high-income rural areas have levels of licensed child care comparable to other, more densely populated high-income areas, demonstrating once again that the reliance on parent fees to support the child care industry creates inequities.²⁹

Following the last recession, more than 10 years ago, rural areas had a much slower economic recovery than metropolitan areas.³⁰ Some economists are concerned that without federal aid to rural areas, this inequality will only increase during the coronavirus pandemic, leaving rural towns even further behind metro areas.³¹ In addition, rural areas have lower rates of maternal labor force participation, which could make some households more vulnerable to unemployment if they rely on a sole breadwinner.³² Without a large investment in child care, parental employment in these areas could fall even more than in metro areas.

Child care supply directly affects working mothers

Previous CAP analyses of child care deserts found this supply shortage is associated with maternal labor force participation (MLFP) rates roughly 3 percentage points lower than the participation rates in neighborhoods with adequate child care supply.³³ This difference was not observed in fathers' labor force participation rates. This new analysis affirms these findings, finding that maternal labor force participation among communities in the bottom quartile of licensed child care supply is 2.5 percentage points lower than MLFP in communities from the top quartile of child care supply.³⁴ Furthermore, areas in the top fifth percentile for child care supply have MLFP rates that are nearly 4 percentage points higher than areas with the least child care supply.³⁵

The coronavirus has exacerbated the work-family dynamic for many mothers, as they do more unpaid caregiving during child care and school closures. A recent CAP analysis of the 2016 Early Childhood Program Participation Survey found that half of American families reported difficulty in finding child care before the pandemic.³⁶ Among the families that reported difficulty finding a child care program, there was a 12 percentage point decline in the likelihood of employment for mothers but no measurable impact on the likelihood that fathers worked. If schools and child care programs are still closed as parents are expected to go back to work, it may result in many fewer women in the post-COVID-19 workforce.³⁷

Given that 41 percent of mothers are the sole or primary breadwinner in their family, bringing in half of household income or more, this trend could jeopardize family economic security.³⁸ It could put women who have experienced job loss in greater financial peril, particularly Black women and Latinas with higher unemployment rates and who often have more difficulty finding jobs because they face the added burden of racial discrimination in the job market. The United States cannot afford a decline in women's labor force participation. Women drive the economy as a whole and it is women's earnings that have driven economic gains for middle-class families over the past 50 years. Between 1979 and 2013, women's labor force participation resulted in an additional \$1.7 trillion in economic activity.³⁹ A large-scale federal investment in child care is critical to economic growth, supported by women's labor force participation.

Conclusion

Child care is essential for families and for the broader economy. This was true before the coronavirus crisis and may be even more widely accepted now that millions of people are working from home or laid off or furloughed until it is safe for most businesses to reopen. But the precarious state of the child care sector prior to this disruption cannot be overstated. Even in a good economy, child care programs and families with young children have a hard time financing high costs with little public funding. If the United States allows this critical piece of economic infrastructure to fail, the landscape of child care will look vastly different—and not for the better.

Without federal intervention, it is possible that licensed, reliable, high-quality child care will become a privilege of the wealthy, while millions of young children will end up in care of uncertain safety, reliability, and quality. Child care deserts will become the norm, holding back millions of working families, particularly working mothers, in the middle-class communities that were already falling behind economically prior to the pandemic.

This country is at a major pivot point, facing a potentially decimated child care system that would prevent many parents from returning to work. This moment emphasizes how deeply Americans rely on one another to make this world-leading economy work. Leaders who understand this fact should use it to guide bold policy and funding decisions that support broader access to quality, affordable child care.

Rasheed Malik is a senior policy analyst for Early Childhood Policy at the Center for American Progress. Katie Hamm is the vice president of Early Childhood Policy at the Center. Won Lee is a research analyst at Stanford University. Elizabeth E. Davis is a professor of applied economics at the University of Minnesota. Aaron Sojourner is an associate professor at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management.

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EARLY CHILDHOOD

How Child Care Disruptions Hurt Parents of Color Most

By Cristina Novoa | June 29, 2020, 5:00 am



Getty/Stephanie Keith

A mother looks at her son while unpacking groceries in New York City, May 2020.

As states ease social distancing policies and call on Americans to return to work, critical questions have emerged about how to repair the nation's broken child care system for the [21.5 million workers](#)

with a child under the age of 6. This is an especially important issue for parents of color, who due to decades of occupational and residential segregation, have less access to telework and the flexibility it affords families with young children. Indeed, many workers of color across the country have worked through the pandemic in essential frontline occupations.

Without immediate action to bolster child care, too many parents of color will be forced to choose between putting food on the table and providing their children with the close supervision and enrichment they need. In addition, a lack of child care would further undermine their ability to recover financially from the pandemic's particularly devastating economic impacts on communities of color. Given the importance of child care in building prosperous communities and promoting racial, economic, and gender equity as well as child well-being, it must be a part of any economic recovery plan. Policymakers must act quickly to stabilize child care in the short term while also working toward comprehensive reform that will provide all families with affordable care and support the vital early childhood workforce.

According to a new Center for American Progress analysis, this lack of child care negatively affected communities of color before the pandemic, as parents of color were more likely than their non-Hispanic white counterparts to experience child care-related job disruptions that could affect their families' finances. If policymakers fail to act to address these disparities, this crisis will only intensify.

Families of color struggled with child care before the pandemic

Prior to the pandemic, child care was in short supply and expensive, particularly for Black, Latinx, and indigenous families. In fact, more than half of Latinx and American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) families lived in a child care desert—an area with an inadequate supply of licensed child care. Affordability also posed a significant challenge, especially for Black families. A typical, median-income Black family with two young children would have to spend 56 percent of its income on child care, a larger share of total family income than that of any other group.

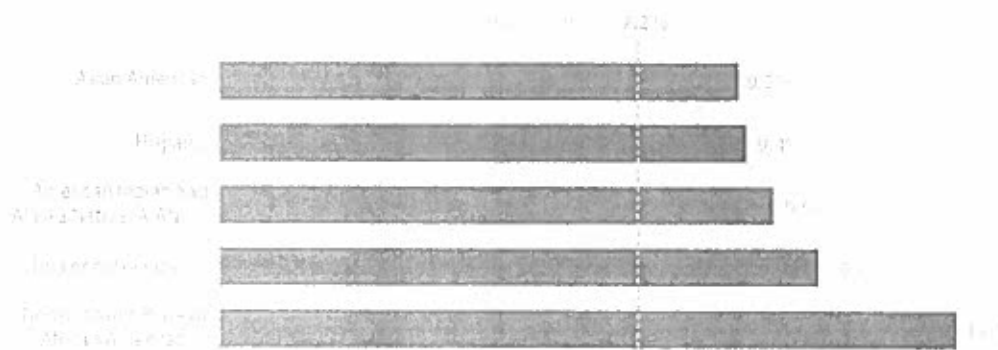
Inadequate supply paired with high costs left parents with few options: spend outside their budgets; find cheaper, sometimes lower-quality care; or reduce their labor force participation. Previous CAP research found that in the years leading up to the pandemic, more than 2 million parents each year resorted to the latter option. Now, new analysis of data from the National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH) reveals that before the pandemic, Black and multiracial parents experienced child care-related job disruptions—such as quitting a job, not taking a job, or greatly changing their job—due to problems with child care at nearly twice the rate of white parents.* Hispanic and Asian American

parents also experienced elevated rates of job disruptions; however, these differences were not statistically significant.

FIGURE 1

Black and multiracial families are more likely than white families to experience job disruptions due to child care

Estimated percentage of parents who quit a job, did not take a job, or greatly changed their job due to problems with child care, by race and ethnicity



Estimate for APIA families based on a small sample size and should be interpreted with caution.

Estimates for these groups are higher at a statistically significant level than those for non-Hispanic white families.

Source: Author's analysis of 2010–2016 data from the U.S. Census Bureau's National Survey of Child and Youth Care, U.S. Census Bureau. (The data is available at <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/data/ipedsdatatools/>, last accessed June 2021.)



When parents are unable to find child care, their ability to work and provide for their family suffers. Given the expense and scarcity of child care—especially for infants and toddlers—it's no surprise that parents' debt increases significantly in the year following a child's birth, with Black parents experiencing the largest increases. Temporarily staying home with one's child may seem like an appealing option, but parents who leave the workforce to become full-time caregivers earn substantially less in benefits and retirement savings over their careers. As a result, parents of color are often left more vulnerable to future economic downturns, which exacerbates the racial wealth gap.

Disparities will likely only worsen in the aftermath of the pandemic

Child care is primarily funded by parent fees. While many families struggle to afford child care, these payments still barely cover operating expenses since high-quality child care is expensive to provide. Decades of operating on razor-thin margins mean that few programs have savings to access during downturns. A previous CAP analysis estimated that nearly 4.5 million child care slots could disappear permanently as a result of COVID-19, effectively cutting in half an already inadequate child care supply. Recent data suggest that this impact is already being felt, with more than 336,000 child care providers—many of whom are immigrants, African American, or Hispanic—losing their jobs between March and April.

Although a weakened child care system will affect all families, it will particularly hurt families of color. Due to a history of discriminatory policies and sociopolitical pressures in the United States, Black, Latinx, Native American, and several Asian American subgroups own a fraction of the wealth of white families.** A thinner financial cushion means full-time work—and affordable child care to support parent employment—is a more urgent necessity for many families of color than it is for non-Hispanic white families. However, despite being more dependent on full-time work and child care, parents of color are more likely to experience job disruptions that affect their bottom lines in both the short and long term—a fact that makes recovering from the economic impacts of a pandemic especially challenging.

Moreover, working from home with young children is not an option for the many parents of color who are disproportionately represented in occupations that do not allow telework. Incidentally, the inability to work remotely increases these individuals risk of exposure to the coronavirus, which partially explains racial disparities in COVID-19.

Conclusion

With two-thirds of children having all available parents in the workforce, allowing the child care industry to flounder is simply not an option for families or the economy. A hobbled child care system would both slow the nation's economic recovery and deepen existing economic and racial inequalities.

To support parents' ability to provide for their families and power the economy, policymakers must take decisive and aggressive action. The federal government should stabilize the child care system by investing at least \$50 billion through the Child Care Is Essential Act. This would bolster all programs' ability to stay open, especially home-based providers who have struggled to access the Paycheck Protection Program. At the same time, policymakers must ensure that child care providers are able to remain safe and healthy as they perform their critical work—including by securing additional funding for protective equipment, cleaning supplies, adequate testing, and adequate paid time off so that no provider has to work while sick.

In the long term, however, the United States must build a child care system that supports providers and the critical early childhood workforce and that furnishes affordable, accessible care options for all families beginning at a child's birth. Universal child care and adequate compensation for the workforce are powerful tools for achieving racial and economic equity in the aftermath of the pandemic and beyond. Action on these fronts is critical if the United States truly wants to be a thriving and equitable society.

Cristina Novoa is a senior policy analyst for Early Childhood Policy at the Center for American Progress.

The author would like to thank Simon Workman, Katie Hamm, Connor Maxwell, Michael Madowitz, and CAP's Executive, Health, Art, and Editorial teams for their contributions to this column.

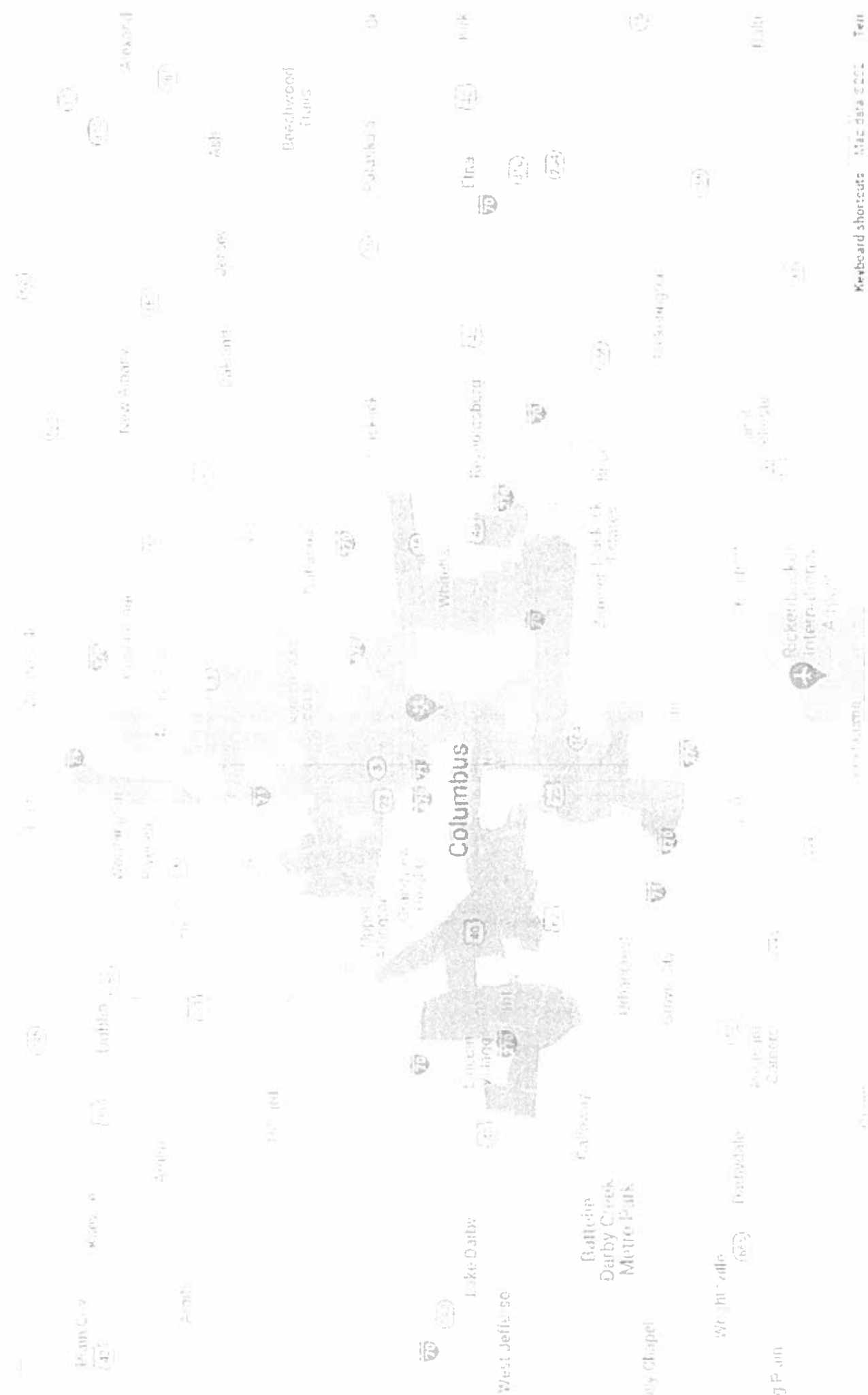
**Author's note: Although the NSCH does not provide additional information on the characteristics of multiracial parents, the Pew Research Center has found that the majority—68 percent—identify as Native American and some other race. Further research using disaggregated data is needed.*

***Author's note: Asian Americans are among the most economically diverse racial groups in the United States, with wide variation in income, poverty rates, and wealth. For example, research in Los Angeles showed that in 2016, Japanese Americans had around 25 times the wealth of Korean Americans.*

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Study Overview

In July 2020, a multidisciplinary team from Case Western Reserve University launched the Ohio COVID-19 Child Care Study to better understand how to lower the spread and lessen the impact of COVID-19 among staff and families affiliated with child care programs in the state. The team, with expertise in child health and wellbeing, environmental health, epidemiology, and infectious disease management and control, designed the rapid-response study that included (A) statewide examination of COVID-19 cases among child care staff and children attending child care and (B) in-depth analysis in 10 counties including data collection using the following methods:

- Weekly Health Attestations for Staff, Parents and Caregivers
- Surveys with Parents and Caregivers
- One-on-One Interviews with Staff, Parents and Caregivers
- Focus Groups with Child Care Program Administrators and Staff
- Asymptomatic COVID-19 Testing for Staff, Parents and Caregivers

Study Timeline & Participants

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) Incident Reporting Data were analyzed for all 88 Ohio counties from the start of the pandemic to November 13, 2020. In-depth data within 10 counties were collected during a snapshot in time from August 15 – November 20, 2020 from 470 participants affiliated with 46 child care programs located in the following counties: Ashtabula (n=2 programs), Butler (n=2), Cuyahoga (n=6), Franklin (n=8), Hamilton (n=5), Licking (n=2), Lucas (n=3), Montgomery (n=7), Stark (n=4), and Summit (n=7) counties.

Research Questions

- What are the trends in COVID-19 transmission among child care programs operating in diverse contexts in Ohio?
- What factors drive or limit the spread of COVID-19 in child care settings in diverse contexts in Ohio?
- What are the perceptions of risk and safety among parents and caregivers and staff from child care programs in Ohio following their reopening after COVID-19 was declared a public health emergency?
- What are the levels of child and caregiver stress and coping in response to COVID-19?

Methods

The study team analyzed statewide Serious Incident Reporting data submitted by child care programs to ODJFS to examine trends in COVID-19 cases among child care staff and children. Within the selected 10 counties, the study engaged child care program administrators, staff, parents and caregivers to better understand approaches to mitigate COVID-19 transmission and overall experiences with child care during a phase of the pandemic when COVID-19 transmission rates were relatively low.

In-depth Analysis of COVID-19 in Child Care Settings (10 counties)



Ten selected counties had variability in COVID-19 severity, number of child care programs, geographic location, and socio-demographics. These counties have two-thirds of all licensed child care programs in Ohio

OHIO COVID-19 CHILD CARE STUDY BY THE NUMBERS

88

COUNTIES WITH COVID-19 CASE REPORTING

10

COUNTIES WITH IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS

46

ENROLLED PROGRAMS

228

ENROLLED CHILD CARE STAFF

242

ENROLLED PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

Key Findings

- Compliance with COVID-19 mitigation strategies is keeping child care workers and children safe.
- Prevalence of COVID-19 in child care programs in Ohio was low.
- COVID-19 cases in child care are higher among staff than children.
- Community transmission of COVID-19 influences transmission risk within child care settings.
- Child care workers provide critical infrastructure for Ohio's economy.
- Additional support is needed for elementary-aged children doing remote learning in child care.

A Snapshot in Time

- During most of the study timeframe, COVID-19 positivity rates in Ohio were below the 5% threshold set by the World Health Organization to determine low risk of community transmission.
- Based on statewide incident reporting data from child care programs, child care affiliated COVID-19 cases represented less than 1% of the cumulative COVID-19 cases in Ohio from the onset of the pandemic in March 2020 to November 13, 2020.
- These trends corroborate a national study that found transmission of COVID-19 to workers within child care settings was rare during periods of low community transmission of COVID-19. This low transmission rate is attributed to high compliance with COVID-19 mitigation protocols by both child care workers and families with children attending child care.
- This public health success was also supported by clear and comprehensive state guidelines for mitigating COVID-19 transmission within child care settings and provision of grants to maintain lower classroom ratios and implement rigorous sanitation and hygiene protocols in child care programs.

Challenges and Opportunities

Findings suggest that child care programs may need assistance over time to fully comply with recommendations for COVID-19 mitigation and manage program operations during the pandemic. Some of the challenges cited by child care administrators and staff included:

- Financing operations with reduced classroom enrollment.
- Securing affordable personal protective equipment and cleaning materials.
- Maintaining workers to safely staff classrooms.
- Providing timely information about COVID-19 to child care workers and families.
- Managing elementary-aged children conducting remote and online learning in child care programs.

Funding Statement: This research was supported by a grant from the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation in partnership with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services to Case Western Reserve University (PI Freedman) and by infrastructure support from the Mary Ann Swetland Center for Environmental Health, Schubert Center for Child Studies, and the Cleveland Clinical and Translational Science Collaborative.

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THE ESSENTIAL WORKERS FOR ESSENTIAL WORKERS

Findings revealed child care staff enable parents and caregivers to remain in the workforce while providing opportunities for children to thrive.

When parents and caregivers were asked 'What would happen if your child care program closed due to COVID-19 transmission?'

74%

reported someone in their household would need to reduce work hours

54%

stated it would result in loss of income for the household





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Dear Franklin County Commissioners:

In January of 2020, AFSCME Local 615 executed a three-year Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Franklin County Clerk of Courts. As an addendum to that Agreement, the Clerk agreed to "conduct a wage study on all bargaining unit classifications". That wage study and any updates to job descriptions were to be performed by December 31, 2020. [Please see attached Addendum.] As a result of the pandemic and in an effort to relieve some strain upon the Clerk's office, Local 615 agreed to a Memorandum of Understanding allowing the Clerk to "delay the study and revisit it in 2021". [Please see attached MOU.] The Clerk's explanation at that time, in summary, was that alone, the Clerk could not afford to do a comprehensive wage and classification study without the support of the County Commissioners. Therefore, we now ask you to spend a portion of the American Rescue Plan Act funds on that wage and classification study.

At this point in time, we are more than halfway through 2021 with no word from the Clerk on the wage and classification study it contractually agreed to perform. In response to your solicitation of public input on the American Rescue Plan Act funds, AFSCME Local 615 encourages you to fulfill the commitments our Employer made to us in 2020 and perform a comprehensive wage and classification study.

AFSCME appreciates your commitment to wisely spending American Rescue Plan Act funds in accordance with the public's wishes. We look forward to speaking with you further on this matter, should you so choose. Please reach me by e-mail at tschroth@afscme8.org or by phone at (513) 675-6996.

Sincerely,

Tony Schroth
Staff Representative





The Honorable Maryellen O'Shaughnessy
Franklin County Clerk of Courts

Clerk of Courts Administration
373 South High Street, 23rd Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215
614.525.3600

July 15, 2021

Franklin County Board of Commissioners
373 South High Street
Floor 26
Columbus, OH 43215

Honorable Commissioners:

I am writing today to express my support for AFSCME Council 8's request to use American Rescue Plan's funds to provide County staff a downtown daycare facility.

In my Office, nearly 200 Deputy Clerks are tasked with managing court documents and issuing auto titles. Deputy Clerks are vital to the people's access to justice and provide an essential county service to the people of Franklin County. However, a common hurdle to downtown employment is accessible and affordable childcare. As County employers, it is our responsibility to be advocates for our employees and provide them the tools necessary to do their jobs. That is why my Office is exploring the possibility of providing childcare vouchers so that we may support our working families and remain a competitive employer.

Today, you have a unique opportunity. The American Rescue Plan is Franklin County's ticket to rebuilding our economy and defeating COVID-19. However, we cannot have a strong economy without accessible high-quality childcare for our employees. By opening a daycare center in the courthouse complex, we will be able to attract and retain valuable employees to continue providing essential county services.

Access to quality childcare is not a new problem for our employees so we must not miss this moment. It is imperative we get this right.

I commend you for allowing public input and discussion, as you make important decisions on the allocation of these funds.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Maryellen O'Shaughnessy
Franklin County Clerk of Courts



Impacting Poverty. Transforming Lives. Providing Business Results.

July 15, 2021

President Boyce and Commissioner Crawley, and Commissioner O'Grady thank you for this opportunity to share our thoughts on the American Rescue Plan, and your good stewardship in the allocation of these funds in our community. I am Beth Gifford with Columbus Works.

Columbus Works serves the residents of Franklin County, with the sole mission of eliminating poverty through the provision of workforce training, job placement, barrier removing services, and a real commitment to actively serve our Members for 5 to 7 years on their journey from poverty to economic self-sufficiency. We are also a grateful member of the Catalyst cohort.

We know is that poverty is complex. The journey out is long and arduous. As a service provider, a member of the Human Services Chamber and Co-Chair of the Workforce Development Board of Central Ohio's Workforce Advisory Committee, we have a view into poverty that many never see.

Many of our neighbors tell us they feel invisible and voiceless. Certainly, they do not have equitable access to the myriad of high quality jobs in Franklin County. Employers are experiencing a critical talent shortage, while many of our communities are experiencing poverty at rates over 20%. Access to high quality jobs is hindered by place, resources, and social networks. **COVID exacerbated this problem.**

The connection between workforce services, jobs, childcare, mental health, food, housing and transportation is real and daunting to our neighbors. A lack of support in just one of these areas increases the grip of poverty. And fear of the benefits cliff is so real that it is paralyzing. Workforce services provide life changing outcomes that increase the ability of a family to sustain housing, reduce food insecurity and improves academic readiness in the children.

Many residents are stuck in low wage jobs desiring to upskill to middle wage jobs. But the shortage of childcare resources is a barrier. Our colleagues in the early childhood development space desire to serve more working parents. But care givers are experiencing the talent crisis, too, as wages rise in other industries. Capacity has not recovered, placing working parents in a dilemma and impacting the child's ability to achieve school readiness.

Our colleagues in the human services space never stopped caring for our neighbors throughout the pandemic. They stretched, turned, pivoted, and continued to deliver life giving services; Columbus Works is among them, as poverty does not wait on a pandemic. I have to lift up our colleagues at St. Stephens, Impact Community Action, Alvis, Directions for Youth & Families, Homeless Families Foundation, Columbus Early Learning Centers – and so many more, I hate to leave anyone out. In fact, demand for human services is higher than I have ever seen, and how can we turn anyone away?

We need your help to continue to increase service provision to our neighbors. Yet many funders have stopped supporting vital services, as they focus only on COVID relief; including workforce and childcare services. We ask that you give generous consideration to meaningful financial support of workforce and childcare services.



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At Columbus Works we know that providing human services to our neighbors early in their journey is critical to success and impacts generations to come. We care deeply for and are compelled to engage all of our neighbors, and in so doing change the trajectory of their life experience. Our colleagues in the human services work demonstrate the same sense of urgency.

Thank you for considering the human services providers as we continue to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute; and defend the rights of the poor and needy.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Gifford
President & CEO
Columbus Works, Inc.
www.columbusworks.org



July 15, 2021

Commissioners Boyce, O'Gradey, and Crawley, thank you for taking the time to hear from our Franklin County community today. Before I begin, I would like to emphasize that my stance should not, and will not, undermine the other initiatives presented to you today, as I recognize that every sector of our community has immense needs at this time. With that being said, my name is Mitch Priest and I am a Policy Fellow at South Side Early Learning, an early childhood nonprofit that has been working since 1922 to ensure that every child benefits from a holistic, high-quality early education.

As you know, the COVID-19 pandemic has profoundly impacted the stability of Franklin County's child care system. As a result of the widespread closure of child care programs across our Country, 1.8 million American women were forced to leave the workforce in order to care for their children. Now, with our Country and community reopening, these women have been left searching for child care options so that they may return to work. While this has been relatively painless for a small percentage of families, the majority of Franklin County families have found it monumentally arduous to find high-quality, affordable childcare for their children. This has been especially difficult for families coming from traditionally disadvantaged backgrounds, as black and latina women in the workforce have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic. As a result, the countless women who sacrificed their jobs in order to care for their young remain unemployed.

In Ohio, to be eligible for state-sponsored publicly funded child care (PFCC), families have to meet income requirements and must be employed, in school, or in job training programs. This employment or education requirement creates complexities for those who are currently unemployed—to *receive child care, they must be working or in training, but to find a job or training program, they need child care*. I believe that publicly funded child care should be provided for the children who need it most so that their parents can return to work. Specifically, I am urging you to consider establishing a Child Care for Jobs Seekers program using funds from the quarter of a billion dollars made available through the ARP. This program should provide up to 6 months of high-quality early education and child care to children whose parents are actively seeking employment or are enrolled in job training programs. Once employment or training is secured, the family will work with their respective early childhood family engagement specialist to become eligible for Publicly Funded Child Care or to transition to income-determining sliding tuition-based care. By



Investing in this program, City Officials would be promoting equity and long term stability within the Franklin County community.

For the sake of this morning/afternoon's time, I am happy to discuss potential ideas further at a later point. I would like to once again thank you for giving our community this time and space.

Thank you,

Mitch Priest



CORNELL R. ROBERTSON, P.E., P.S.
Franklin County Engineer
and Drainage Engineer

July 15, 2021

Honorable Board of County Commissioners
Franklin County Administration Building
373 South High Street, 26th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Honorable Board:

I am happy and grateful that American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding is coming to Franklin County. Thank you very much for holding today's public hearing to receive input on how to best use American Rescue Plan funding in a transparent manner and for allowing me to participate. This letter includes the information I provided today in my verbal testimony.

As the Franklin County Engineer and Franklin County Drainage Engineer, I am honored to serve every resident every day. The Drainage Engineer's Office maintains 94 miles of open channels and 147 miles of tiled ditches. Maintaining drainage in Franklin County is challenging due to the fact that many of our drainage systems were built over 100 years ago with clay tile designed to last 50 years. Backed up drainage has not only put a strain on farming to feed people but has also hampered the safe operation of home sewage treatment systems and drinking-water wells.

In the last four years, with your support and funding from the General Fund, we have become more aggressive and more proactive with our Drainage Program, but there is still much more drainage work to be done. As Zak Talarek mentioned, ARP funds can be used to update, maintain, and improve vital underground infrastructure like wastewater and stormwater. We have identified 16 specific stormwater infrastructure projects for your consideration that can be constructed in 2021 through 2024 using ARP funding.

PROJECT NAME

PROJECT COST

Elliott Road and Hayden Run Road Drainage Improvement	\$3,200,000.00
Kropp Road Drainage Outlet Improvement	\$2,000,000.00
Mando Ditch Watershed Petition	\$3,000,000.00
Golfview Ditch Watershed Petition	\$290,000.00

Dever Ditch Watershed Petition	\$865,000.00
Zuber Road Plum Run South Drainage Improvement	\$1,100,000.00
Babbitt Road Drainage Improvement	\$1,200,000.00
Genessee Avenue	\$175,000.00
Leonard Park	\$1,900,000.00
Woodrow Ditch	\$480,000.00
Koebel Baird Rainer Ditch	\$2,200,000.00
Hott Ditch	\$775,000.00
Borror Road Drainage in Jackson Township	\$590,000.00
ODOT SR665 Argabright Petition	\$600,000.00
Faust Ditch	\$250,000.00
Grener Ditch	<u>\$165,000.00</u>
TOTAL:	\$18,790,000.00

In summary, these projects will re-establish proper drainage, improve crop-farming yield to help feed people, and provide for safe operation of home sewage treatment systems and drinking-water wells.

Thank you for your consideration, collaboration, and leadership of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,



Cornell R. Robertson, P.E., P.S.
Franklin County Engineer
Franklin County Drainage Engineer

CRR:tp

Good afternoon commissioners and welcome to Commissioner Crawley.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today during this session and thank you to Engineer Robertson for introducing my topic.

As a resident of Franklin County, Township Administrator for Mifflin Township as well as Vice President of the Franklin County Township Association, I would like to speak on behalf of the 17 townships and their residents.

Typically, when it comes to grant funding, Townships must compete against the state, the county and cities for infrastructure funding. Assistance from the County thru the Franklin County Commissioners, the Franklin County Engineer and Franklin County Sanitary Engineering has been a great help in remedying many of the issues that have arisen.

As an example, Mifflin Township has an area where residents' only source of water was wells. When Interstate 270 was built, many of those wells went dry. Some were, if financially able, drilled new wells if water was available. Then I-670 was built and more of the wells went dry and people obtained water by trucking it in containers for use in their homes.

For many years, the Township tried unsuccessfully to petition the City of Columbus to obtain water for these residents. That did not happen until the County Commissioners intervened and now the area has water and sanitary sewers with funding from both the County and the Township.

My point is that the Townships, alone, are unable to provide the necessary infrastructure alone to our residents whether it be water, sanitary, storm water, roadwork, etc. which we take for granted in our daily lives. With the help of the County departments and the Commissioners, we are able to provide necessary infrastructure projects to these Franklin County residents.

I would respectfully ask that the Commissioners consider funding for these infrastructure projects through the Franklin County Engineers office and the Franklin County Sanitary Engineer with the use of the American Rescue Plan Funding which will comply with the use of the funding under many categories.

Thank you.

Rummel, Lauren M.

From: Torres, Juan A.
Sent: Monday, July 19, 2021 9:25 PM
To: American Rescue Plan
Subject: Fwd: ARP Panelist Link

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: Dwight Beougher [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 19, 2021 3:35 PM
To: Torres, Juan A.
Subject: Re: ARP Panelist Link

To Mr. Juan A. Torres,
Chief Information Officer
Franklin County Board of Commissioners

Hello Mr. Torres,

Following are my notes from my presentation made at the Zoom Webinar, last Wednesday, July 15th, 2021. Will you please share this with the Commissioners in my behalf. As you will recall, my comments were directed to Funding Stormwater Infrastructure.

My comments were directed to an old problem that affects everyone living in and visiting Franklin County, Ohio. The farming community knows that drainage in our county is very challenging due to the flat topography and because many drainage systems were installed over 100 years ago with tile designed to last 50 years. This has not only put a strain on the farming land, but has also hampered the safe operation of home sewage treatment systems and drinking-water wells.

It is rather ironic that The Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, the largest group representing farmers, was organized 102 years ago due to two major problems facing many of them at the time, they were "Drainage and Line Fences". Now 102 years later, Drainage is still a major problem for most of our county's population. Granted farming only represents about 20% of the acreage in our county today, but as was pointed out by a speaker ahead of me, his development and so many others around him, are flooded every time it rains.

Much of the flooding is created by the rapid runoff following heavy rains, but in the more open areas it is being caused by the "Main", large tiles installed over 100 years ago. The old tile has broken down from age and heavy use. Much of that tile was not installed deep enough to sustain the traffic and it develops leaks causing sink holes. When this happens the new water backs up in the tile, purging open ditches and septic systems. This obviously creates a health hazard to the community. Additionally, the environmental enhancements needed in the Big Darby Creek Watershed further increases costs and burdens property owners.

Drainage in Franklin County has been neglected for a very long time. The county has over two hundred miles of drainage infrastructure built through ditch petitions that have not been maintained. Recently, there have been some

petitions filed to improve drainage in parts of the county. The agricultural community all across Ohio has used the petition ditch laws to build and maintain drainage systems but in Franklin County, the law has rarely been used in the past century.

As you are aware, the level of maintenance required to serve the suburban homes is much higher and more expensive than the level of service required to maintain the farm fields. I would like to express appreciation and thank our commissioners for their support for the work they do through the Franklin County Drainage Engineer. Even with their consideration, Franklin County Farmers pay very high taxes compared to other farmers in the mid-west.

It is my understanding that our county Engineer, Cornell Robertson and Drainage Engineer, James Ramsey have prepared plans and estimates to implement improvements in the county stormwater-infrastructure just as soon as funding can be made available. I trust consideration can be given to providing the funding to complete these projects. Thanks so much for your time and consideration.

Dwight Beougher
Franklin County Farm Bureau
Public Policy Chairman

Sent from my iPad

On Jul 14, 2021, at 3:12 PM, Torres, Juan A. [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi Dwight Beougher,

You are invited to a Zoom webinar. A panelist link was sent to you from arp@franklincountyohio.gov. This will allow you to turn on your camera and speak during the event. Below is a copy of the information. Please save this e-mail. You'll receive a reminder 1 hour before the event.

Date Time: Jul 15, 2021 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Topic: Franklin County American Rescue Plan

Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device:

Please click this URL to join. <https://franklincountyohio.zoom.us/j/91518431925?tk=BL-CS4HYuZP3Ove23ifsISQIs3aMaLym5ZnjUx26w74.DQIAAAAVTuxytRZjejhIUWZNYIFGYXA3SExJbzFNQmhnAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA&pwd=dCtkY2ZLWnJ2L293SWdCTWU0UHN5QT09>

Note: This link should not be shared with others; it is unique to you.

Passcode: 606533

Juan Torres, MBA, PMP, ITIL
Chief Information Officer
Franklin County Board of Commissioners

Hello, my name is Greg Richards, I live at 1111 Golfview Pl. I would like to thank the board of commissioners for allowing me to speak today. My wife and I filed the Golfview ditch petition.

As you know and what I found out during my research, roads and bridges are publicly maintained by tax dollars. And where possible, public water and sewers are installed and maintained through utility fees. There are no utility fees to maintain storm water in a suburban setting. In my neighborhood, every home has a household sewage treatment system discharging to the storm sewer. A properly functioning storm sewer system is critical which we don't have in our neighborhood which is why we filed the ditch petition. In the five years we have lived her, our yard has flooded multiple times with both storm water and sewage water from my neighbors.

While the ditch petition law is adequate, it works better for an agricultural environment than for a suburban neighborhood.

I am requesting that the American Rescue Plan cover the construction costs of the Golfview ditch petition.

Even though 6 of the 23 parcel owners signed the petition, we are being singled out and criticized by our neighbors because we are the newest build in the neighborhood and our neighbors are fearful of their taxes increasing as a result of the petition. We did not know about the inadequate existing system and flooding when we purchased the land. And it wasn't until after we built our home that we realized the property floods during heavy periods of rain.

If the ditch petition isn't granted, we will have continued flooding. If the petition fails, the existing system will inevitably have to be replaced. My neighborhood was built in the 70's and the failed existing pipe was already in place when the area was agricultural.

I am requesting this improvement because it will provide an environmental benefit as well as a public health and welfare benefit to the neighborhood.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Rummel, Lauren M.

From: Richard Davis [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 2:17 PM
To: American Rescue Plan
Subject: How to make Columbus a better place with fed S

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello,

I vote for connecting the lower scioto greenway path to grove city. Currently, it ends at state route 104, which is useless, as bicycles are not permitted on 104.

rdavis
Caution

This email originated from an email address that is outside of the county network. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Rummel, Lauren M.

From: Felix, Ashley [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 9:28 AM
To: American Rescue Plan
Subject: American Rescue Plan funds

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello,

I am a resident of Franklin County (Brown Township, specifically) and my suggestion for the American Rescue Plan funds is that a portion be used towards the Mando Ditch Petition in Brown Township.

Please let me know if you have questions.

All best,
Ashley

Ashley Felix, PhD, MPH
Associate Professor, Division of Epidemiology
The Ohio State University College of Public Health
346 Cunz Hall | 1841 Neil Avenue Columbus, OH 43210
[REDACTED]

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Rummel, Lauren M.

From: Frank Mando [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 11:53 AM
To: American Rescue Plan
Subject: Mando Ditch!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Thank you County Commissioners,

I want to start by saying this is a sharp idea to take input directly from residents on how to utilize this funding. And as you know, you cant spell Sharp without ARP.

I am here today to advocate for money, from the American Rescue Plan, to be used for the construction costs for the Mando Ditch Petition. As you recall, the Mando Ditch Petition is associated with the recently passed resolution number 4 59 21.

The funding of the construction costs for the Mando Ditch petition would embody the spirit of the American Rescue Plan. It will mitigate the financial burden on the residents in the watershed, would provide construction jobs for workers to create the ditch, would be a much needed improvement on current infrastructure and would positively impact the environment by keeping standing water from forming over septic systems and leach fields. This tangible project would provide a real solution for an on going problem.

In closing, Please consider this project, The Mando Ditch, for funding.

Thank you,

Frank Mando

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Rummel, Lauren M.

From: Jennifer Bevington [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 1:39 PM
To: American Rescue Plan
Subject: Mando Ditch Petition

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

My name is Jen Bevington and I own/live at 8166 Morris Rd, Hilliard, OH 43026. This falls into the area of Brown Township that is impacted by the Mando Ditch Petition .

I was given this address when asking about assistance with the cost and was told to ask about getting American Rescue Plan help/money.

Happy to email here or discuss further via phone at [REDACTED]

Thanks
Jen

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Rummel, Lauren M.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 9:31 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: American Rescue Plan; O'Grady, John E.; Boyce, Kevin L.; Gary Dever; Robertson, Cornell; Ramsey, Jim
Subject: RE: SUGGESTION: ARP fund allocations

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

We have not discussed this as a board, and therefore I must mention that this is not a board decision and should not be treated as one.

Thank you,
Pam Sayre
Brown Township Trustee
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: "Joe Martin" [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 8:00am
To: ARP@FranklinCountyOhio.gov
Cc: [REDACTED], "Pam Sayre" [REDACTED], "Gary Dever" [REDACTED], "Cornell Robertson" [REDACTED], "Jim Ramsey" [REDACTED]
Subject: SUGGESTION: ARP fund allocations

I will be unable to attend the public hearing on July 15th as I will be traveling. However, the opportunity to submit my comments is very much appreciated.

As a Brown Township Trustee, I've been privileged to work with the Franklin County Engineer's Office on many occasions. Earlier this year Brown Township became the site for three Ditch Petitions. After being presented by the Franklin County Drainage Engineer, all three were voted by the County Commissioners to move into design phase.

While the County Commissioners will fund the projects initially, the residents living within the project areas are expected to shoulder the costs through property tax assessments over 15 years to repay the county. In addition, a second ongoing property tax assessment will be paid by these same residents for maintenance and repair of the installed infrastructure.

All three of these projects are related to public health (homes in Brown Township utilize on-site septic systems that must maintain proper drainage) and necessary water infrastructure (Brown Township is subject to intense flooding during spring and fall rains). For these reasons, I respectfully ask that American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds available to Franklin County be allocated for the design and construction phases of these three Ditch Petition projects.

Commissioner O'Grady is familiar with need for these Ditch Petitions as he grew up in Brown Township and thus far has been a champion of these efforts. Mr. James Ramsey at the Franklin County Engineer's Office has been overseeing the execution of all three Ditch Petitions and has delivered several informational presentation to our residents about the process and funding.

I am very happy to answer questions concerning the necessity of projects and the financial burden they place on Brown Township residents.

Respectfully,

Joe Martin, Trustee

Brown Township, Franklin County, Ohio

A thick black horizontal bar redacting the signature of Joe Martin.

Rummel, Lauren M.

From: Joe Martin [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 8:01 AM
To: American Rescue Plan
Cc: O'Grady, John E.; Boyce, Kevin L.; Pam Sayre; Gary Dever; Robertson, Cornell; Ramsey, Jim
Subject: SUGGESTION: ARP fund allocations

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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I am very happy to answer questions concerning the necessity of projects and the financial burden they place on Brown Township residents.

Respectfully,

Joe Martin, Trustee
Brown Township, Franklin County, Ohio
[REDACTED]

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This email originated from an email address that is outside of the county network. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning President Boyce, Commissioner Crawley and members of the Commission.

My name is Austin Hill and I am a Director of Community Development at the Refuge. The Refuge is a Columbus-based addiction recovery organization. We have all found ourselves in a time of great need.

In today's paper, John Hopkins released data that shows nationally that overdose deaths rose to over 93,000 in 2020. Locally in Franklin County, we lost 5 people to overdose. We all know this is a tragic challenge.

But, we have a solution based here in Franklin County.

The Refuge is among only a handful of organizations in all of Ohio with residential addiction recovery programs that are more than one-year in length, and offered free-of-charge. We have been at this work for 21 years now, and in that time have assisted nearly 3000 individuals. Based on our recent Impact and Value Report, which was developed by a professional and independent third-party evaluator, this investment stands to save the State of Ohio and Franklin County millions of dollars in taxpayer and community monies. (To be expanded upon in further comments)

[Measurement Resources in February 2021]

That empirical outcomes data, defines the potential savings to the State and county and serves at placing The Refuge among the best addiction recovery organizations both in Ohio and nationally.

This independent study found that over a 3 year period for every \$1 dollar of money invested in The Refuge, there is an estimated \$2.88 return to the community through reduced societal costs.

In real dollar terms, this equated to The Refuge having saved communities and taxpayers over \$2.5 million. This savings was realized by eliminating the cost to society had our folks not reduced or ended their substance abuse by going through The Refuge.

By Franklin County allocating funds to:

- Addiction Recovery Facility and Community Projects
- Recovery Housing Funds
- Workforce Development Funds
- Nonprofit Operational Funds

The County can leverage the good work already being accomplished by The Refuge and organizations like us. As a recipient of the Resilience Initiative, we are grateful for the additional boost to our operating budget.

We have a solution. Even more exciting and personal is the real life change experienced by individuals in The Refuge.

Of the former addicts and alcoholics who came to The Refuge, upon completing our 13-month residential program that, again, are offered free-of-charge:

- 66% reported being continuously clean & sober and free from the compulsion to drink or use drugs

- 92% reported working continuously in full-time jobs producing a living wage. *The average annual income for the 3-year period of the study was \$35,424*
- 86% reported living in safe & affordable housing
- 94% reported food security
- 87% reported having a reliable form of transportation
- 90% reported not having used emergency rooms or hospitals for drug or alcohol-related reasons
- 96% reported having had no involvement in the criminal justice system

Still further, and what is most inspiring to me and most deeply impactful to them;

- 90% reported being more trusted and relied upon by their children and people who mattered most to them

We are a relationally focused, fiscally audited and time-tested organization. What's more, we offer and produce hope in a time of great need.

Thank you for your time and I would love to answer any and all of your questions. Thank you.



Impact & Value Report



Research by:
Measurement
Resources
February 2021

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Report Summary

Measurement Resources Company, an independent third-party evaluator, had the opportunity to analyze the survey results related to outcomes data for The Refuge's residential addiction recovery program. The high-level results of this analysis show that The Refuge:

- has been successful in achieving its organizational goals of inspiring transformational change in its program graduates and has helped those graduates launch new and purposeful lives free from addiction.
- achieves high levels of success in assisting program graduates in becoming continuously clean and sober and free from the compulsion to drink or use drugs.
- has been highly effective in assisting program participants successfully address the key social determinants of health including continuous employment, housing stability, reliable transportation, reducing the use of emergency rooms for substance-related reasons, and reducing involvement in the justice system.
- delivers compelling value to donors and grantmakers through the social return on investment (SROI) and the social impact generated by its program.

Additionally, the data show that the program's Christ-centered approach is central to its success in that:

- Graduates who report living a more purposeful Christ-centered life are significantly more likely to remain continuously clean and sober.

The following report details the impact and value of The Refuge's residential addiction recovery program.

Impact & Value of The Refuge

The Refuge is a four-phase, 13-month residential addiction recovery program that changes the lives of men and women affected by addiction through Christ. At The Refuge, individuals live in a structured group environment designed to facilitate transformational change. Additionally, the group environment provides intentional opportunities for mentoring, life coaching, job training and building comradery among participants. Led and staffed by individuals with lived experience in recovery, many of whom completed The Refuge, this program offers a unique, personal, and safe environment for long-term recovery and personal growth.

In the first month, participants have no outside contact to foster self-focus and are introduced to The Seven Principles of The Refuge. The Seven Principles of The Refuge are designed to guide a Christ-centered life:

1. Commitment to God
2. Relationship with others
3. Willingness to be taught
4. Honesty and authenticity
5. Gratitude and thankfulness
6. Work ethic and stewardship
7. Courage and faith

In months two through five of the program, participants focus on relational growth with themselves, others, and God and work part-time in Columbus. Months six through nine include applying what has been learned while living and working full-time in Columbus. Finally, in months 10 through 13, participants prepare to live a functional life by securing full-time employment, safe housing, reliable transportation, and community connections.

In 2020, The Refuge partnered with Measurement Resources Company, an independent research and evaluation firm, to quantify the impact and value of the 13-month program. Using data from an internally conducted alumni survey of men who graduated in 2018, 2019 and 2020, as well as secondary data regarding community costs of addiction, this report highlights the positive impact The Refuge has on men who graduate and social return on investment (SROI).

SUCCESS

When participants come into the program, they are struggling with addiction, experiencing homelessness and have poor quality relationships.

In an alumni survey of men who graduated from The Refuge in 2018, 2019, and 2020, graduates reported:

- Enjoying growing, quality relationships with people and with Christ
- Living transformed lives

9 out of 10 are

- Employed
- Stably housed
- Food secure
- Not utilizing hospitals or ERs for alcohol or drug related reasons
- Not involved with the justice system

66%

Reported being continuously clean and sober and free from the compulsion to drink or use drugs

Social Return on Investment

188% Social Return on Investment

\$2.6 Million Societal Cost Savings Over Three Years

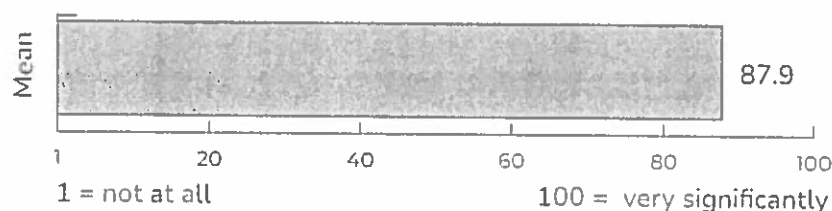
Program Impact

Program impact is measured by the self-reported outcomes from graduates in the alumni survey. It should also be noted that these results were obtained during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to sobriety, relationship growth and improvements in social determinants of health described below, graduates of The Refuge experience a range of spiritual, relational and recovery outcomes. See Appendix A for data tables of the other notable outcomes.

Transformational Change

Through personal reflection, Christ-centered discipleship and one-on-one coaching, participants learn a new way of thinking, a new set of values and purpose for their lives. Survey data shows that The Refuge is inspiring this type of transformational change. On average, graduates rated their level of transformational change an 87.9 on a 100-point scale (Figure 1). This transformational change is driven by living a purposeful life in Christ¹ and following with guidance of Christian beliefs.² In other words, as a participant's understanding of their purpose in Christ grows, so does their degree of transformational change. In the same way, as a participant adopts the guidance of Christian beliefs and values, their level of transformational change grows. This suggests that a sense of a Christ-centered transformation is key to the success of The Refuge's program.

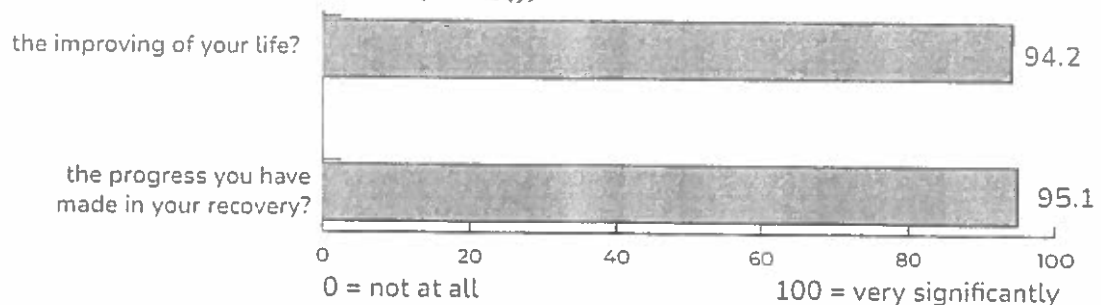
Figure 1. By going through The Refuge, how much do you feel you experienced transformational change?
(n = 74)



Living Purposeful Lives Free From Addiction

The cornerstone of The Refuge is the role of Christ in one's recovery. Graduates rated the perceptions of the role of Christ in recovery and improving one's life very high (mean 95.1 and 94.2 on a 100-point scale, respectively) (Figure 2). On average, graduates rate the degree to which they are living a purposeful Christ-centered life a 75.8 (Figure 3) and a person who reports living a more purposeful Christ-centered life is significantly more likely to remain continuously clean and sober.³ Interestingly, the perceptions of the role of Christ in recovery and improving one's life were not attributed to continuous sobriety. This may suggest the extent to which a person has internalized the power of Christ, and subsequently takes ownership of his actions, increasing the likelihood of remaining continuously clean and sober.

Figure 2. To what extent would you attribute your relationship with Christ to...
(n = 75)

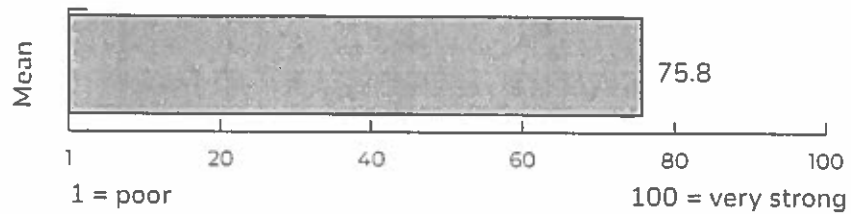


¹ Specifically, for every 10-unit increase in perceptions of living a purposeful, Christ-centered life on a 100-point scale, experiences of transformational change increases by 2.8 units. Simple linear regression model, $b = 2.8$, $p < .05$

² Specifically, for every 10-unit increase in following the guidance provided by Christian beliefs on a 100-point scale, experiences of transformational change increases by 2.5 units. Simple linear regression model, $b = 2.5$, $p < .05$

³ For every 10-unit unit increase in reporting a purposeful life that is Christ-centered on a 100-point scale, the odds of remaining continuously clean and sober are 1.52 times as large. (Logistic regression results: $b = .42$, $p < .05$, $\exp(B) = 1.52$). However, it should be cautioned that this data is not causal.

Figure 3. Since completing The Refuge, how would you rate the degree to which you are living a purposeful life which is Christ-centered?
(n = 75)



Successful Recovery

Commitment to sobriety. On average, 80% of the men who completed The Refuge continue to desire sustained abstinence and 66% remained continuously clean and sober and free from the compulsion to drink or use drugs (Figure 4). Minor relapses can be expected but the desire for sobriety, even after a minor relapse, is a sign of transformational change.

Of the 34% who reported not being continuously sober after The Refuge, more than half remained abstinent for one or more years (Figure 5). Alcohol was the most reported substance that broke abstinence.

Improved relationships and relationship quality. Graduates experience relational growth during and after their time in the program. Most notably, graduates of The Refuge report their relationships have improved very significantly since coming to The Refuge (average score is a 91 out of 100 with 100 being "very significantly"). Similarly, the quality of relationships is rated an 86 (out of 100 with 100 being "excellent"). Additionally, graduates report feeling more trusted and relied upon by those who matter most to them and have changed their friends to be consistent with their post-Refuge lifestyle (Figure 6).



Figure 4. Sobriety Outcomes

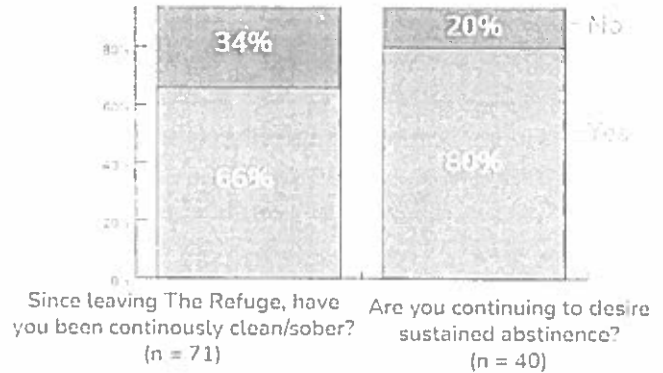


Figure 5. What is the longest period of abstinence from use you have achieved?
(n = 33)

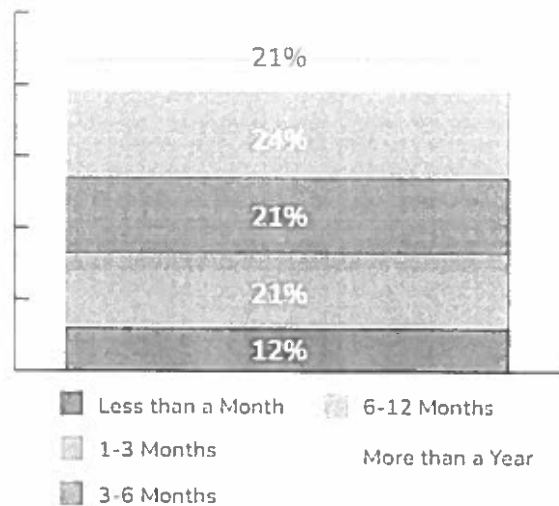
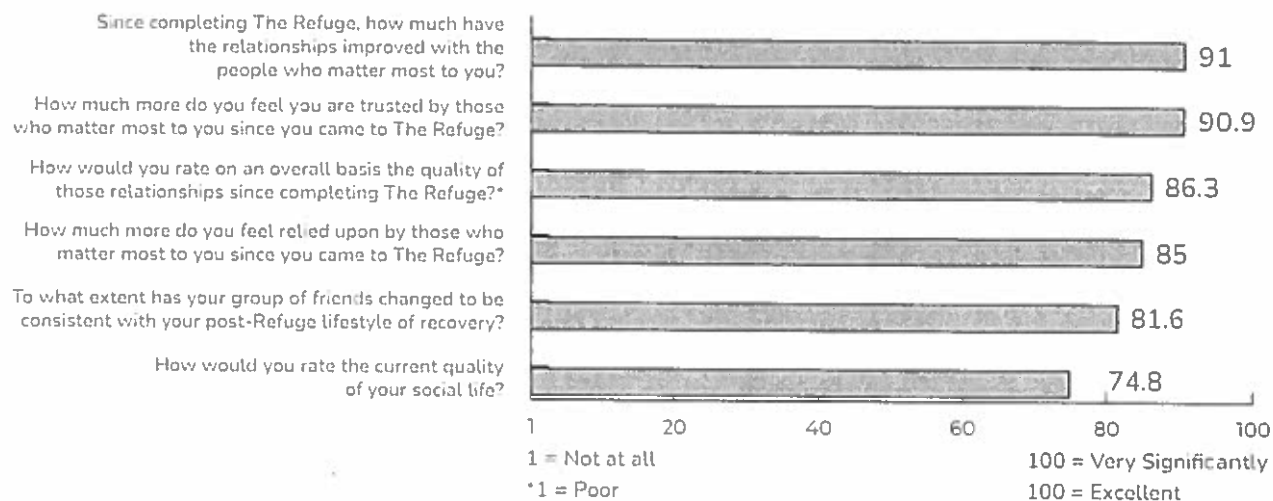
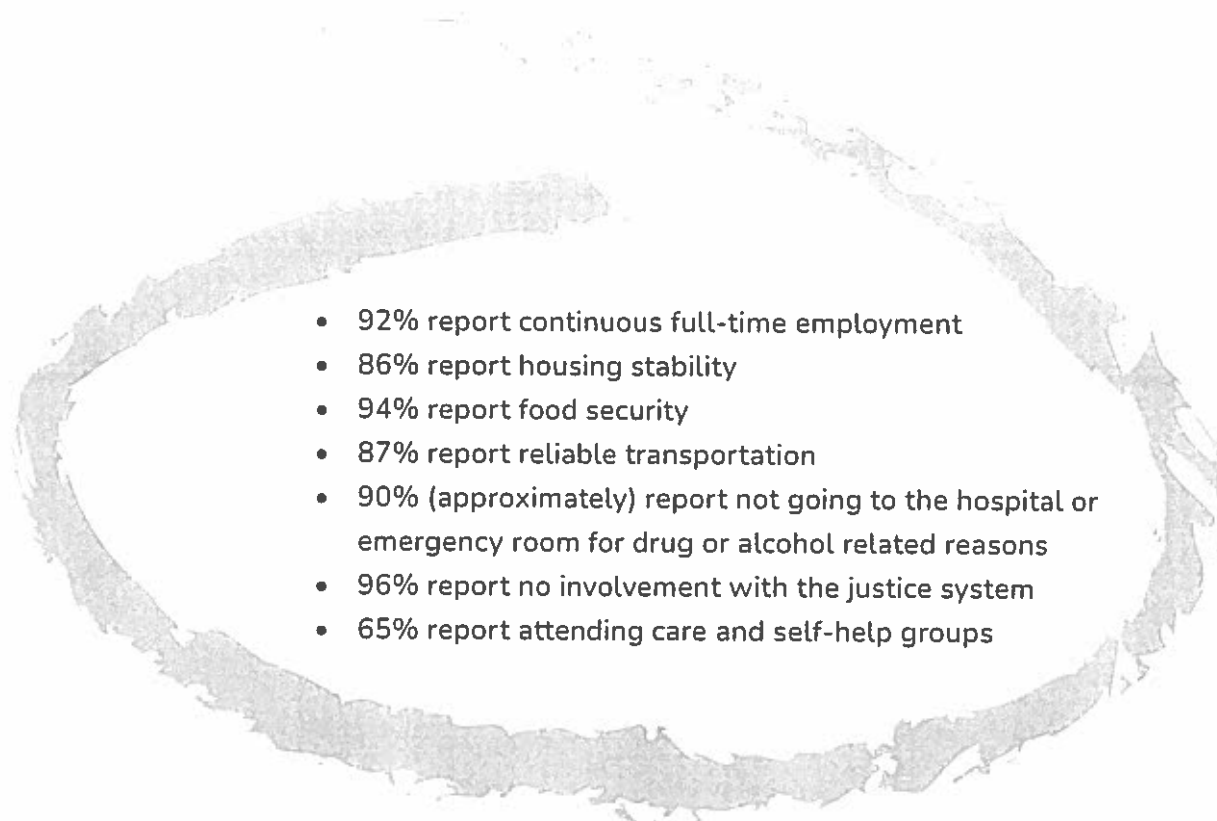


Figure 6. Relationship Outcomes
(n = 71)



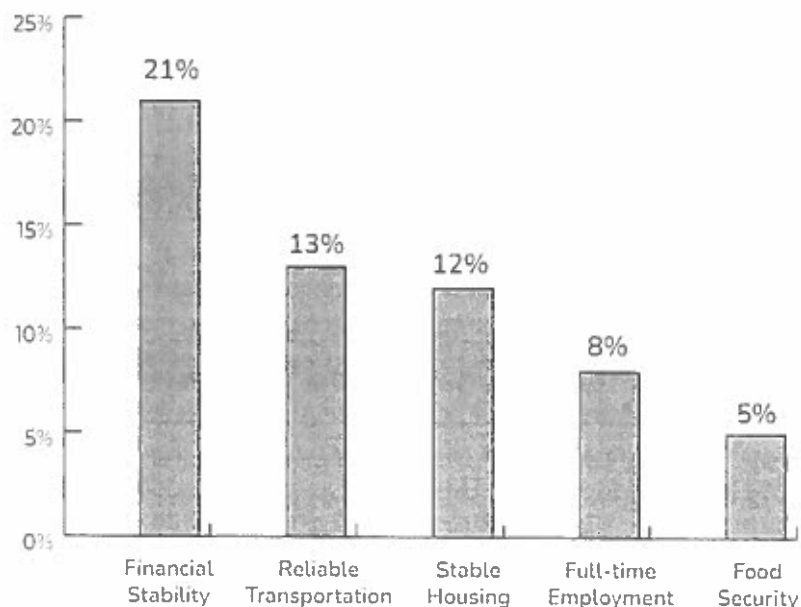
Stability in social determinants of health and other key recovery outcomes. To support a recovery lifestyle, The Refuge knows the importance of addressing social determinants of health (SDOH). Social determinants of health are social and environmental factors that increase the likelihood of poor physical and behavioral health outcomes when left unaddressed.⁴ Based on the alumni survey, the majority sustain key SDOH and other recovery outcomes after graduating The Refuge.



⁴ Franklin County Public Health Social Determinants of Health Framework. <https://myfcph.org/health-systems-planning/chip/>

Even with The Refuge's efforts in helping participants address these basic needs while in the program, one third of the men who graduate experience one or more of these hardships while living independently. Of those who graduated, 21% indicated financial instability (Figure 7). These SDOH conditions compound challenges for successful recovery as individuals experience stress related to not having a job or a safe place to live, going hungry, not being able to pay bills or find reliable transportation. Though The Refuge cannot control what the men experience after leaving the program, being aware of the struggles may provide insight into strategies for preparing men for launching out independently and post-program resources that could be made available.

Figure 7. Percent of Graduates Reporting Instability in SDOH (n = 71)



Cost Per Success

With an estimated success rate of 90%, the estimated cost per successful outcome is \$52,324.

Another powerful way to look at The Refuge's success is through the cost per success. The Refuge's cost per success is a measure of effectiveness and efficiency. It communicates the cost of getting a single client to achieve a desired outcome (i.e., positive change or benefit to the client).

For this cost-per-success calculation, successful recovery is sustained sobriety during the program and for two years post-program (with perhaps a minor relapse lasting less than one month with the desire to remain clean and sober). Based on alumni survey data on the cohort of men who graduated in 2018, the success rate was 90% (i.e., of the 21 survey responses, 19 individuals reported success). The total program costs for 2018 was \$1,562,250. Table 1 provides an evaluation of The Refuge's cost per success, and the formula below was used to capture the cost per success.

Table 1. The Refuge Cost Per Success				
Measure of Success	Program Costs	Number Served	Success Rate	Cost Per Success
Continued abstinence from substance use or a minor relapse with retained committed to sobriety	\$1,562,250	33	90.48%	\$52,324

$$\text{Cost per Success} = \text{Total Program Costs} / (\text{Number served} * \text{Success Rate})$$

$$\text{Cost per Success: } \$1,562,250 / (33 * 90.48\%) = \$52,324$$

Overall, it costs The Refuge \$52,324 to help one man achieve sobriety (during the 13-month program and for two years post-graduation with perhaps a minor relapse lasting less than one month with commitment to remaining clean and sober).

Social Return on Investment

Substance abuse not only negatively impacts the health and well-being of those who abuse substances and their families, but also leads to high societal costs. The National Institute on Drug Abuse estimates that abuse of tobacco, alcohol, and illicit drugs costs the United States more than \$740 billion annually through costs related to crime, lost work productivity, and health care.⁵ A solution that not only benefits the health and well-being of those struggling with drug abuse and addiction but also lowers public costs is connecting individuals to drug addiction treatment, such as The Refuge's four-phase, 13-month residential addiction recovery program.

The following sections outline how Measurement Resources Company (MRC) quantified the monetary value of The Refuge's impact using MRC's social return on investment (SROI) formula:

$$\text{SROI} = \frac{\text{Total Societal Costs without The Refuge} - (\text{Total Program Costs} + \text{Societal Costs of Relapses})}{\text{Total Program Costs} + \text{Societal Costs of Relapses}}$$

$$\text{Total Program Costs} + \text{Societal Costs of Relapses}$$

A complete technical write-up of the SROI can be found in Appendix B.

⁵ <https://www.drugabuse.gov/drug-topics/trends-statistics/costs-substance-abuse>

Total Societal Costs Without The Refuge

To estimate the community costs (i.e., costs without The Refuge) The Refuge's alumni survey data was used to determine clients' use of substances and experiences of homelessness prior to The Refuge. Then, secondary data were gathered to estimate the societal cost associated with homelessness and with using each substance on an annual basis (see Table 2). The annual estimates were then multiplied by the amount of time elapsed since individuals entered The Refuge, averaging 3.4 years across 2018 alumni who completed the survey.⁶ Using these data, on average, the total societal cost for substance use *per person* had individuals not gone to The Refuge was \$133,106 with an additional estimated cost of \$30,000 *per person* among those who were experiencing homelessness. In summing estimated societal costs associated with substance use and homelessness, the total estimated societal cost is \$4.6 million, over a three-year period, had individuals not gone through The Refuge.

Table 2. Estimated Societal Costs Associated with Homelessness and Each Substance			
	Estimated Societal Annual Cost	Number of Clients Indicating Use Prior to The Refuge	Total Estimated Cost (Annual Cost x Length of Sobriety x Number of Clients)
Homelessness	\$30,000.00 ⁷	7	\$210,000.00
Alcohol	\$739.00 ⁸	2	\$4,865.08
Marijuana	\$9,716.54 ^{9 10 11}	3	\$101,213.96
Cocaine	\$9,716.54	9	\$284,208.80
Heroin	\$9,716.54	15	\$502,021.23
Prescription opioids	\$29,452.00 ^{12 13}	15	\$1,506,960.67
Methamphetamine	\$9,716.54	6	\$200,808.49
Benzodiazepines	\$9,716.54	0	\$NA
Amphetamines	\$9,716.54	2	\$63,967.22
Hallucinogens	\$9,716.54	1	\$34,007.89
Other prescription drugs not prescribed or directed	\$9,716.54	3	\$97,165.40
Imputed average for individuals with no survey data	\$133,105.65	12	\$1,597,267.85
Total Community Costs over 3 years			\$4.6 million

⁶ Length of time since entering the program was calculated based on the number of months elapsed from alumni's reported program exit date and survey completion date, plus 13 months for the length of time alumni were in the program.

⁷ https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/Ending_Chronic_Homelessness_in_2017.pdf

⁸ Estimated Annual Cost per person for alcohol abuse in Ohio https://www.cdc.gov/alcohol/features/excessivedrinking.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Ffeatures%2Fcostsofdrinking%2Findex.html

⁹ <https://www.justice.gov/archive/ndic/pubs44/44849/44849p.pdf>

¹⁰ <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/NSDUHresultsPDFWHTML2013/Web/NSDUHresults2013.pdf>

¹¹ The U.S. Department of Justice's total societal costs associated with illicit drug use in 2007 was divided by the prevalence of illicit drug use provided by SAMHSA in 2007 (\$1,930,000,000/(248,288,000 x .08) = \$9,716.54

¹² Florence, CS et al. The Economic Burden of Prescription Opioid Overdose, Abuse, and Dependence in the United States, 2013, Medical Care. Volume 54, Number 10, October 2016.

¹³ Total nonfatal societal costs were divided by the number of individuals with Prescription Opioid Abuse and Dependence (\$56.990 billion/1.93 million individuals = \$29,452)

Total Program Costs and Societal Costs After The Refuge

In 2018, the program's budget totaled \$1,562,250. Further, some individuals experienced relapses after completion of the program. However, a minor relapse after the program with sustained commitment to sobriety is a successful outcome. Therefore, because even a minor relapse has a cost to the community, that cost should be factored into the total costs during/after The Refuge. Using secondary data as described above, the total costs to society associated with those relapses was \$37,699. In sum, the estimated costs of the program and relapses after the program totaled \$1,599,949.

Return on Investment

The Refuge has a 188% social return on investment.

For every \$1 invested in The Refuge, there is an estimated \$2.88 benefit (or 188% return on investment) to the community through reduced societal costs over three years (i.e., through costs related to crime, lost work productivity, and health care). Thus, the SROI provides further evidence that drug addiction treatment programs, like The Refuge, provide cost savings to the community by linking individuals to the resources needed to return to productive functioning in the family, workplace, and community.

$$\frac{((\text{Total societal costs without The Refuge} - \text{Total Costs During and After The Refuge}) / \text{Total Costs During and After The Refuge}) * 100\%}{}$$

$$((\$4,602,487 - \$1,599,949) / \$1,599,949) * 100\% = 188\%$$

$$\$1 + (\$1 * 188\%) = \$2.88$$

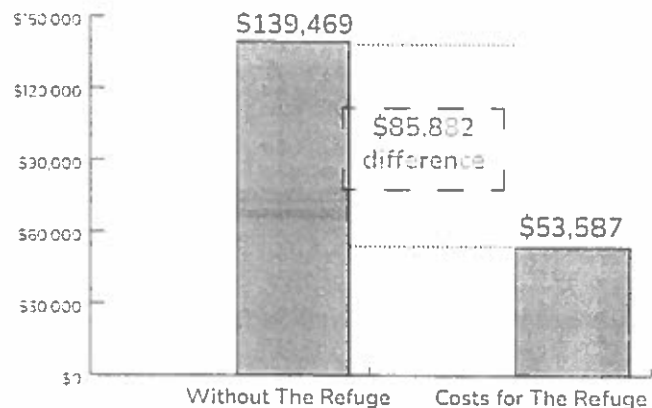
Investing to expand The Refuge would produce even greater impact. Funders can invest with confidence knowing that there will be a social return on their investments.

Community Cost Savings

To quantify the community cost savings, the cost per successful outcome in The Refuge was compared to the average cost per person to society over a three-year period had the individuals not reduced their substance use by going through the program. As shown in Figure 8, this cost savings is \$85,882. Put another way, by investing \$53,587 now in The Refuge, it would buy one man's long-term sobriety and save the community \$85,882 per person over three years.

The total three-year estimated savings to the community is \$2,564,206.

Figure 8. Estimated Costs Per Client



¹⁴ <https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/principles-drug-addiction-treatment-research-based-guide-third-edition/frequently-asked-questions/how-effective-drug-addiction-treatment>

¹⁵ $(\text{Cost per person without The Refuge} - \text{Cost per success}) * (\text{Success} * \text{Number Served})$

Appendix A: Spiritual, Relational and Recovery Outcomes

Program Objectives

Table A1. Stated Objectives (0-100-point scale)	
	Mean (Out of 100)
By going through The Refuge, how much do you feel you experienced transformational change? (Based on your progressing towards new beliefs, values, and purpose) (n = 74, 1=not at all, 100 = very significantly)	87.9
The Seven Principles are intended to serve as lasting guidance for living a Christ-centered life. How would you rate their assistance in providing you guidance towards this goal? (n = 74, 1=poor, 100 = excellent)	86.6
Since completing The Refuge, how strongly do you follow the guidance provided by Christian beliefs? (n = 74, 1=poor, 100 = very strong)	77.7
Since completing The Refuge, how strongly do you follow the guidance provided by Christian values? (n = 74, 1=poor, 100 = very strong)	78.1
Since completing The Refuge, how would you rate the degree to which you are living a purposeful life which is Christ-centered? (n = 74, 1=poor, 100 = very strong)	75.8

Table A2. Additional Stated Objectives (Yes/No)		
	Yes	No
Would you recommend The Refuge to others whose lives have been affected by addiction? (n = 71)	100%	0%
Since completing The Refuge, would you consider yourself as honoring the resolution you signed upon completion? (n = 71)	86%	14%
Since completing The Refuge, would you consider yourself as living within the framework The Seven Principles provide for living a Christ-centered life? (n = 74)	82%	18%

Kingdom Outcomes

Table A3. Additional Stated Objectives (Yes/No)		
	Yes	No
Since completing The Refuge, do you honor the Lord in your home? (n = 74)	100%	0%
Do you belong to a church? (n = 74)	82%	18%
Since completing The Refuge, have you been regularly attending church? (n = 74)	73%	27%
Did you have a relationship with Christ prior to coming to The Refuge? (n = 74)	57%	43%
Do you regularly tithe? (n = 74)	50%	50%
Since completing The Refuge, did you bring your spouse to the Lord? (n = 21)	23%	76%
If you have children, since completing The Refuge, have you been raising your children in the Christian faith? (n = 40)	75%	25%

Table A4. Personal and Spiritual Outcomes	
	Mean (Out of 100)
To what extent would you attribute your relationship with Christ to the progress you have made in your recovery? (n= 74, 1=not at all, 100 = very significantly)	95.1
To what extent would you attribute your relationship with Christ to the improving of your life? (n= 74, 1=not at all, 100 = very significantly)	94.2
How much do you feel The Refuge helped you in making a new beginning? (n= 74, 1= not at all, 100 =very significantly)	91.9
How do you feel about the new beginning and the transformational change you experienced as a result of going through The Refuge? (n= 74, 1=poorly, 100=excellent)	91.2
How much do you feel your life has improved in relation to before you came to The Refuge? (n= 74, 1=not at all, 100 = very significantly)	90.1
Since coming to The Refuge, how much has your relationship with Christ grown? (n= 74, 1=not at all, 100=very significantly)	83.9
How would you rate the strength of your current relationship with God? (n= 74, 1=poor, 100 = very strong)	76.4
Since completing The Refuge, to what extent have you been sharing Christ with others? (n= 74, 1=not at all, 100=very significantly)	69.1
Since completing The Refuge, how active have you been in trying to bring others to Christ? (n= 73, 1=not at all, 100=very significantly)	64.1

Table A5. Brought Others to Christ							
	None	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	More than Five
Since completing The Refuge, if you feel you have brought others to Christ, if able, how many do you think you may have helped be saved? (n = 74) ¹⁶	16%	8%	23%	16%	5%	3%	27%

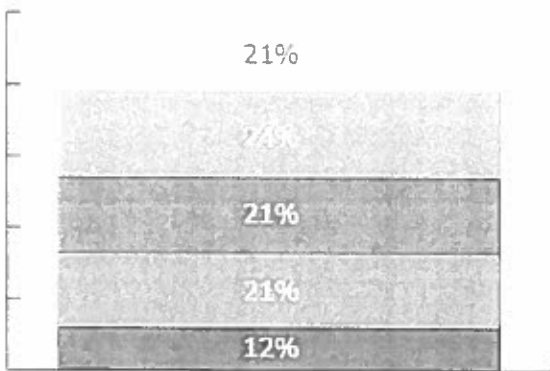
Secular Outcomes

Table A6. Abstinence and Use		
	Yes	No
Since leaving The Refuge, have you been continuously clean/sober? (n = 71)	66%	34%
Are you continuing to desire sustained abstinence? (n = 40)	80%	20%
If you have used/drunk since completing The Refuge, would you consider yourself now cycling between using and trying again to abstain from use? (n = 33)	27%	73%
Since completing The Refuge, do you feel you're at the point of your recovery where you are free of the compulsion to drink or use? (n = 70)	66%	34%
Since completing The Refuge, have you gone through or are currently in treatment from an organization other than The Refuge? (n = 71)	6%	94%
Do you want to talk to a Director at The Refuge about your use or coming back into The Refuge? (n = 71)	0%	100%

¹⁶ Does not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Table A7. Substance Use Pre/Post		
What was your drug of choice before you came to The Refuge? (Pre) Since completing The Refuge, if you are using or used again, what drug/alcohol did you pick up again? (Post)	Pre (n = 71)	Post (n = 71)
Did not use since leaving The Refuge	-	54%
Alcohol	35%	37%
Heroin	59%	14%
Cocaine	35%	13%
Marijuana	27%	13%
Prescription Opioids	45%	7%
Methamphetamine	35%	7%
Other prescription drugs not prescribed or directed	13%	4%
Hallucinogens	10%	4%
Benzodiazepines	17%	1%
Amphetamines	11%	1%

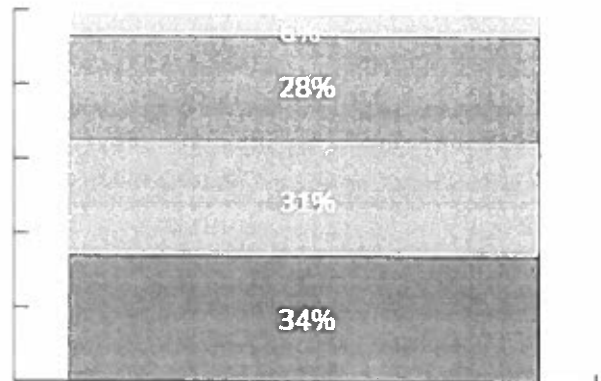
Figure A1. Sobriety Longevity/
Duration
(n = 33)



If you have used/drunk since completing The Refuge, what is the longest period of abstinence from use you have achieved?

- Less than a Month
- 1-3 Months
- 3-6 Months
- 6-12 Months
- More than a Year

Figure A2. Relapse Intensity
(n = 32)



If you have used/drunk since completing The Refuge, how would you categorize the intensity of your relapse?

- Extreme, Back in Treatment
- Serious with Negative Impacts
- Troubling Enough to Spark Concern/Fear
- Minor with No Consequences

Aftercare and Compliance

Table A8. Continuing Care						
	Therapists, Psychologist, Counselor, etc.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Narcotics Anonymous	Community Group	Other Support Group	None
Which kinds of continuing care or self-help groups are you still active in? (n = 71)	11%	13%	7%	35%	35%	35%

Table A9. Aftercare	
	Mean (Out of 100)
How much would you say the aftercare measures you committed to (AA, NA, counseling, community group, etc.) have contributed to your sustained abstinence from the use of drugs and/or alcohol? (n = 71, 1=not at all, 100=very significantly)	48.3
How much would you say the aftercare measures you committed to (AA, NA, counseling, community group, etc.) contributed to your overall recovery? (n = 71, 1=not at all, 100=very significantly)	47.8

Table A10. Recovery Support Attendance					
	Never, or have stopped attending	Once per month or less	Several times per month	At least once per week	Regularly before COVID
Since completing The Refuge, how often do you attend continuing care and self-help groups? (n = 71)	35%	18%	13%	20%	14%

Personal Life and Relationships

Table A11. Family and Relationships		
	Yes	No
Are you married? (n = 74)	19%	81%
Were you married before completing The Refuge? (When were you married?) (n = 20)	65%	-
Were you married after completing The Refuge? (When were you married?) (n = 20)	35%	-
Since coming into The Refuge have you gotten divorced? (n = 71)	10%	90%

Table A12. Child Support		
	Yes	No
Are you currently required to pay child support? (n = 71)	13%	87%
If you are required to pay child support, are you current with your payments? (n = 11)	55%	45%

Table A13. Relationship with Children	
	Mean (Out of 100)
If you have children, how much has your relationship with your children improved since coming to The Refuge? (n = 36, 1 = not at all, 10=very significantly)	7.1

Table A14. Number of Children					
	No Children	One	Two	Three	Four or More
How many children do you have? (n = 74)	47%	24%	14%	9%	5%
Since completing The Refuge, have you fathered any children out of wedlock? (n = 71)	93%	4%	1%	1%	0%

Table A15. General Relationships	
	Mean (Out of 100)
Since completing The Refuge, how would you rate on an overall basis the quality of the relationships you maintain with the people in your life that matter most to you? (n = 71, 1=poor, 100=excellent)	86.3
How much have those relationships improved since you came to The Refuge? (n = 71, 1=not at all, 100=very significantly)	91.0
How much more do you feel you are trusted by those that matter most to you since you came to The Refuge? (n = 71, 1=not at all, 100=very significantly)	90.8
How much more do you feel relied upon by those that matter most to you since you came to The Refuge? (n = 71, 1=not at all, 100=very significantly)	85.0
How would you rate the current quality of your social life? (n = 71, 1=poor, 100=excellent)	74.8
To what extent has your group of friends changed to be consistent with your post-Refuge lifestyle of recovery? (n = 71, 1=not at all, 100=very significantly)	81.6

Table A16. Community Involvement				
	Never, or have stopped volunteering	Once per month or less	Several times per month	At least once per week
Do you volunteer for community organizations, causes, or events on a regular basis? (n = 71)	25%	38%	21%	15%

Employment and Financial Matters

Table A17. Finances/Employment		
	Yes	No
Do you consider yourself financially stable? (n = 71)	79%	21%
Since leaving The Refuge, have you been continuously employed in a full-time job(s)? (n = 71) (half of the "No" answers are due to COVID-19 layoffs: 4%)	92%	8%
Have you received any unemployment benefits since leaving The Refuge? (n = 71)	4%	96%

Table A18. Income	
	Mean (Out of 100)
How much do you think you will earn from employment in 2020? (n = 59) (Responses greater than zero)	\$35,424

Figure A3. How Much Do You Think You Will Earn from Employment in 2020?



Table A19. Work Performance	
	Mean (Out of 100)
How would you rate your performance at work? (n = 71, 1=poor, 100=excellent)	91.8

Education

Table A20. Education		
	Yes	No
Since leaving The Refuge, have you completed/obtained a GED, associate, bachelor's or master's degree or been certified/accredited in a skilled vocational trade or professional field? (n = 71)	15%	85%
Are you currently enrolled at an institution of higher learning, vocational school, or participating in some form of online accredited curriculum? (n = 71)	14%	86%
If yes, are you enrolled full or part time? (n = 10) (full time)	30%	-
If yes, are you enrolled full or part time? (n = 10) (part time)	70%	-
While pursuing your degree/certification/accreditation, are you working? (n = 18) (full time)	94%	-
While pursuing your degree/certification/accreditation, are you working? (n = 18) (part time)	6%	-

Table A21. Continued Education Sought				
	GED	Certification/ Accreditation	Associate Degree	Bachelor's Degree
If you have completed/obtained, what did you obtain: a GED, associate, bachelor's or master's degree or been certified/accredited in a skilled vocational trade or professional field? (n = 9)	44%	56%	0%	0%
If you are currently enrolled at an institution of higher learning, vocational school, or participating in some form of online accredited curriculum, what sort of degree/certification are you working towards? (n = 16)	13%	44%	6%	38%

Physical and Mental Health

Table A22. Healthy Living and Access		
	Yes	No
Do you feel you are 'food secure'? (n = 71)	94%	6%
Do you emphasize good nutrition in your diet? (n = 70)	71%	29%
Do you have a personal policy of engaging only in 'safe sex'? (n = 71)	75%	25%
Do you currently have a reliable form of transportation? (n = 71)	87%	13%
Since completing The Refuge, have you been hospitalized in any manner for a mental health condition? (n = 71)	1%	99%
Since completing The Refuge, have you received treatment services or counseling for any mental health-specific matters? (n = 71)	10%	90%
Are you continuing with any of those treatment services on an ongoing basis? (n = 14)	36%	64%
Since completing The Refuge, have you begun taking any prescription medication specific to a diagnosed mental health condition? (n = 14)	21%	79%

Table A23. Health Ratings	
	Mean (Out of 100)
How much would you say your quality of life has improved since coming into The Refuge? (n = 71, 1=not at all, 100=very significantly)	93.0
How would you rate your overall quality of life now? (n = 71, 1=poor, 100=excellent)	84.7
Since completing The Refuge, how much better are you taking care of your physical well-being than before you came to The Refuge? (n = 71, 1=not at all, 100=very significantly)	83.2
How would you rate your physical health? (n = 71, 1=poor, 100=excellent)	80.5
How much has your physical health improved since coming into The Refuge? (n = 71, 1=not at all, 100 very significantly)	77.9

Table A24. Emergency Room Visits and Admittance					
	Never	Once	Twice	Three Times	Four or More Times
Since completing The Refuge, if you have gone to the Emergency Room for any drug or alcohol-related reasons, how many times have you gone? (n = 71)	86%	10%	3%	0%	1%
Since completing The Refuge, how many times have you been admitted for hospital stays for any drug or alcohol-related reasons? (n = 71)	93%	4%	1%	1%	-

Legal Affairs

Table A25. Justice Involvement		
	Ever	Post The Refuge
Have you been convicted of a misdemeanor or a felony? (n = 71)	76%	7%
Have you been placed on probation or parole? (n = 71)	68%	6%
Have you served any time in jail or prison? (n = 71)	70%	4%
Since completing The Refuge, have you had any involvement at all, arrest or otherwise, with the criminal justice system? (Excluding traffic violations or similar minor civil offenses) (n = 71)	-	4%

Housing

Table A26. Housing and Homelessness		
	Yes	No
Do you live in 614 housing or with other Refuge alumni? (n = 74)	28%	72%
Before entering The Refuge, were you homeless? (n = 71)	56%	44%
Since completing The Refuge, have you experienced homelessness? (n = 71)	6%	94%
Since completing The Refuge, have you been living in stable and/or sober housing continuously? (n = 71)	86%	14%
Are you currently living in stable and/or sober housing? (n = 71)	87%	13%
Do you rent your current residence? (n = 71)	87%	-
Do you own your current residence? (n = 71)	13%	-

Appendix B. The Refuge Social Return on Investment Methodology

Overview

To estimate the SROI, The Refuge administered a survey in 2020 to clients who completed the program from 2018 through 2020. As part of this survey, individuals were asked to report their drug(s) of choice prior to coming to The Refuge, as well as report on how their recovery had progressed since leaving the program (i.e., did individuals relapse? If so, how extreme was the relapse and which types of substances were used). Individuals were also asked to report on whether they were homeless prior to and after leaving the program. Using estimates of the annual, per person societal costs associated with use of various substances and experiencing homelessness, the SROI estimated societal costs had individuals not entered The Refuge (i.e., annual societal costs multiplied by length of time individuals reported sobriety and stable housing) and the costs associated with running the program as well as costs associated with individuals' relapses after leaving the program. Then, a cost per successful outcome in The Refuge was calculated and compared to the average cost per person to society had the individuals not reduced their substance use by going through the program. Because the costs to society had individuals not received treatment were estimated over a three-year period, only individuals who completed the program in 2018 were included in the SROI calculation as the other individuals had not been out of the program long enough to understand the long-term impacts on their substance use.

The Calculations

To calculate the SROI of The Refuge, the costs associated with clients' use of substances and experiences of homelessness were estimated based on self-reported substances used and homelessness experienced prior to their entry into the program. For each substance, secondary data were gathered to estimate the societal cost associated with using each substance on an annual basis. The annual estimates were then multiplied by the amount of time each person indicated sobriety, averaging 3.4 years across 2018 alumni who completed the survey.¹⁷ To calculate the costs of The Refuge, total 2018 operating costs, and costs associated with clients' relapses were summed.¹⁸ Table B1 details the estimated annual societal cost for each substance/homelessness, the number of clients indicating use of each substance, and the resulting total estimated societal cost.



¹⁷ Length of time sober was calculated based on the number of months elapsed from alumni's reported program exit date and survey completion date, plus 13 months for the length of time alumni were in the program.

¹⁸ If individuals relapsed after completion of the program, the annual societal cost associated with that substance was weighted by the length of time the individuals' relapse lasted. For example, the estimated annual societal cost associated with illicit drugs is \$9,716.54; if an individual indicated that their relapse lasted less than one month, the annual cost was divided by 12 ($\$9,716.54/12 = \809.71)

Table B1. Estimated Annual Societal Costs Associated with Each Substance/Homelessness			
	Estimated Societal Annual Cost	Number of Clients Indicating Use Prior to The Refuge	Total Estimated Cost (Annual Cost x Length of Sobriety x Number of Clients)
Homelessness	\$30,000.00 ¹⁹	7	\$210,000.00
Alcohol	\$739.00 ²⁰	2	\$4,865.08
Marijuana	\$9,716.54 ^{21, 22, 23}	3	\$101,213.96
Cocaine	\$9,716.54	9	\$284,208.80
Heroin	\$9,716.54	15	\$502,021.23
Prescription opioids	\$29,452.00 ^{24, 25}	15	\$1,506,960.67
Methamphetamine	\$9,716.54	6	\$200,808.49
Benzodiazepines	\$9,716.54	0	\$NA
Amphetamines	\$9,716.54	2	\$63,967.22
Hallucinogens	\$9,716.54	1	\$34,007.89
Other prescription drugs not prescribed or directed	\$9,716.54	3	\$97,165.40
Imputed average for individuals with no survey data	\$133,105.65	12	\$1,597,267.85
Total Community Costs Over 3 Years			\$4.6 million

Estimating Costs to Society without The Refuge

Because some individuals who completed the program in 2018 did not complete the survey, the average cost to society per person prior to The Refuge was imputed for those without survey data (33 individuals completed the program, but only 21 completed the survey; average estimates were imputed for 12 individuals). On average, the total societal cost for substance use per person without The Refuge was \$133,106 with an additional estimated cost of \$30,000²⁶ per person among those who were experiencing homelessness. In summing estimated societal costs associated with substance use and homelessness, the total estimated societal costs had individuals not gone through The Refuge is \$4.6 million over three years (Table B2).

¹⁹ https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/Ending_Chronic_Homelessness_in_2017.pdf

²⁰ Estimated Annual Cost per person for alcohol abuse in Ohio https://www.cdc.gov/alcohol/features/excessivedrinking.html?C-DC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Ffeatures%2Fcostsofdrinking%2Findex.html

²¹ <https://www.justice.gov/archive/ndic/pubs44/44849/44849p.pdf>

²² <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/NSDUHresultsPDFWHTML2013/Web/NSDUHresults2013.pdf>

²³ The U.S. Department of Justice's total societal costs associated with illicit drug use in 2007 was divided by the prevalence of illicit drug use provided by SAMHSA in 2007 \$1,930,000,000/(248,288,000 x .08) = \$9,716.54

²⁴ Florence, CS et al. The Economic Burden of Prescription Opioid Overdose, Abuse, and Dependence in the United States, 2013; Medical Care. Volume 54, Number 10, October 2016.

²⁵ Total nonfatal societal costs were divided by the number of individuals with Prescription Opioid Abuse and Dependence (\$56,990 billion/1.93 million individuals = \$29,452)

²⁶ https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/Ending_Chronic_Homelessness_in_2017.pdf

Estimating costs during and after The Refuge

To estimate costs associated with running The Refuge program as well as costs associated with individuals' relapses after completion of the program, The Refuge total annual budget and secondary data associated with drug use were utilized. In 2018, the program's budget totaled \$1,562,250 (Table B2 #16). Further, some individuals experienced minor relapses (substance use that lasted less than one month with a commitment to sustained abstinence) after completion of the program. In sum, estimated costs during/after The Refuge totaled \$1,599,949. With an estimated success rate of 90% (i.e., of the 21 survey responses, 19 individuals had successful outcomes meaning they abstained from substances for two years post-program or experienced a minor relapse lasting less than one month), the estimated cost (societal and The Refuge costs) per successful outcome is \$53,587. With this total cost per successful outcome, the overall estimated community cost savings The Refuge provides over, approximately, a three-year period is \$2,564,206; for every \$1 invested in The Refuge, there is an estimated \$2.88 benefit to the community over three years through reduced societal costs associated with criminal activity, health care, and reduced work productivity.



Table B2. SROI and Cost per Success Estimates	
Estimated Costs without The Refuge	2018
Estimated societal costs without The Refuge - Drug Use (Raw Data)	\$2,795,218.74
Average Estimated Annual Cost, per person (Substance Use)	\$39,152.52
Average Estimated Total Cost for Substances, per person without The Refuge (Annual Cost x Length of Sobriety)	\$133,105.70
Number of Individuals Completing The Refuge	33
Number of Completed Survey Responses	21
Average Length of Time of Sobriety	3.4
Estimated total imputed societal costs for missing data	\$1,597,267.85
Number of homeless prior (estimated cost per Homeless \$30,000)	7
Estimated societal costs prior to The Refuge - Homeless	\$210,000.00
Raw Total Costs	\$3,005,218.74
Estimated Total societal costs without The Refuge (Raw + Imputed Data)	\$4,602,486.59
Estimated Total societal costs without The Refuge per person	\$139,469.29
Estimated Costs During/After The Refuge	2018
Estimated societal costs after The Refuge (relapses)	\$37,699.02
Number homeless after	0
Estimated societal costs after The Refuge - Homeless	\$-
The Refuge Residential Addiction Recovery Programs Annual Budget	\$1,562,250.00
Total Number Completed The Refuge	33
Total Number of Successful Outcomes Raw Data (Abstinence or minor relapse lasting less than one month)	19
Success Rate	90.476%
Estimated Number of Residents with Successful Outcome (Success rate x number completing program)	29.857
Total Costs (Operational Costs + Costs for Relapses)	\$1,599,949.02
SROI	2018
Average Total Cost per Successful Outcome	\$53,587.00
For every dollar invested, the monetary return on investment (dollars or cents)	188%
Total Estimated Societal Cost Savings for Length of Sobriety	\$2,564,206.00

Using the total values in Table B2, the SROI was calculated using the following formula:

$((\text{Total societal costs without The Refuge} - \text{Total Costs During and After The Refuge}) / \text{Total Costs During and After The Refuge}) * 100\%$

$$((\$4,602,487 - \$1,599,949) / \$1,599,949) * 100\% = 188\%$$

$$\$1 + (\$1 * 188\%) = \$2.88$$



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Measurement
Resources

www.measurementresources.com

The Refuge

Residential Addiction Recovery Programs Description



The Refuge residential programs progress in four phases throughout thirteen months and are offered free of charge to all men and women accepted. Our programs are Christ-centered, work-based, and peer-supported. They are administered by a full-time staff of thirteen professionals and sixteen Program Coordinators. They take place at our properties in Columbus and on our 138-acre farm in Lancaster, Ohio. Through our programs, The Refuge seeks to inspire transformational change in men and women affected by addiction. We do so by providing a safe place and the process to move forward and make a new beginning towards a Christ-centered life defined by new beliefs, values, and purpose.


Our programs begin with Phase One which consists of one-month for the men on our farm in Lancaster and at our home in Grove City for the women. No contact outside The Refuge is intended to facilitate self-focus. Programming employs a multi-faceted personal development approach. Curriculum centers in Christian values and teachings. During these weeks our men and women begin better understanding the Seven Principles of The Refuge. These serve as the basis of our transformational philosophy. They are intended to provide lasting guidance for living a Christ-centered life.

Phases two through four are each four months in length. Major emphasis is placed on relational growth with others, themselves, and God. As individuals proceed into the middle months and their heads clear and they gather strength we assist them in gaining insights into the underlying issues which may be fueling their addictive behavior. The curriculum and analytical tools we provide are broad and involved. They center on advancing self-awareness and healing.


Also in Phase Two men and women begin working part-time. During Phases Three and Four they shift to full-time employment with one of our eight Columbus-based corporate partner employers for the remainder of their time in the program. The Refuge believes there is an essential role for work in recovery as it goes far in building self-esteem and a strong work ethic. Weekends and evenings are spent together in community learning, serving, and preparing. We structure weekly life focusing on fostering personal development and the spirit of service. During the later phases, under our guidance, men and women set about obtaining essential documentation and addressing important personal matters necessary for living a functional life. Through all of this a larger framework for living evolves. There is a steady, months-long cadence of rising early and getting on with productive working days and thoughtful and purposeful evenings and weekends. This begins to instill in them what life well-lived requires and how it feels.

Throughout our program The Refuge commits meaningful resources and energy to helping our men and women fully prepare themselves to launch their new lives as responsible men and women of God. By Phase Four men and women now possess the spiritual and practical guidance of The Seven Principles. Each completing The Refuge will also have more than one-year clean, full-time employment, safe and affordable housing, reliable transportation, belong to both a church and community group, and have a network of close friends bonded through common circumstance.

Interestingly, we often hear a similar story from Refuge alumni that the greatest gift most received from having gone through The Refuge is the restoration of the relationships with those that matter most to them. It is the unwinding of the pain and righting of the wrongs we assist in cultivating over thirteen months of intense relational review that drives a spiritual renewal among loved ones unwillingly caught in addiction's downward spiral.



A Leading Faith-Based Addiction Recovery Ministry



1



Our Mission

The Refuge is a leading faith-based, non-profit addiction recovery organization founded in Ohio in 1999.

The mission of The Refuge is to change the lives of men and women affected by addiction through Christ.

About The Refuge

- Over 3,000 lives impacted since 1999 from 22 states, Canada, and Mexico
- 13-month intensive residential programs offered free-of-charge
- 1999 Men's program launched
- 2018 Women's program launched
- 13 full-time staff professionals & 16 Program Coordinators
- 2021 operating budget is \$1.68 million

2

Our Beginning



The vision struck like a bolt of lightning. Founder, Tom Thompson had to pull off I-270 in 1999 to avoid an accident. His vision:


An isolated rural farm where people struggling with substance use disorders could come and escape their lives, break free from addiction, and walk with God. They would learn to be sober and live out the scriptures in their daily lives.



It was that vision from God that led Tom to leave the security of a successful career in business, his suburban home, and familiar life in Columbus. He and his wife, Johne and their four children moved to a farm in southern Ohio where he would serve individuals affected by drug and alcohol addictions, and God.

Fast forward to today, and Tom has made this his life's work - to help addicts get clean and sober by identifying and addressing the spiritual brokenness that underlies their addiction.

3

We Transform Lives



More than 3,000 men and women have found freedom from their addictions since our founding in 1999.

"The Refuge was way different from any other place that I had been because it gave me the opportunity to not just change my behavior, but to change my heart!"
- Ashley, completed 2019

"I suffered from opioid and heroin addiction for 10 years. Coming into The Refuge, I learned to address the underlying issues of the identity crisis I was suffering from... It's helped me restore relationships within my family"
- Dustin, completed 2018

"There was no judgement there was no condemnation. They were just there for me."
- Ariel, completed 2019

4

Our Impact



Since completing The Refuge:

- 96% have been continuously clean and sober and free from the compulsion to drink or use drugs
- 92% have been continuously employed in a full-time job producing a living wage
- 86% have been continuously living in stable housing
- 94% report food security
- 96% have had no involvement with the justice system
- Overall, those completing The Refuge report significantly improved relationship and relationship quality

*Source: The Refuge Impact & Value Report, a 2020 study that measured The Refuge men's substance recovery program outcomes for the past 3-year period.

A Proven, Comprehensive Approach Towards Successful Recovery & Transformational Change

Our Proven & Comprehensive 13 Month Recovery Program

The Bishop Welcomes & Serves Anyone Regardless of Faith or Background

Phase I For Discovery

- Emphasizes On-Site Focus
- Structured Environment
- One-On-One coaching
- Peer-to-Peer Accountability
- Christian Values & Teachings

Phase II Relational Growth

- Relational Growth
- Post-Treatment Employment
- Study Groups & Community Outreach
- Weekly Phone Calls & Family Days

Phase III Applying What's Been Learned

- Full-Time Employment
- Commitment of Living
- Professional Standards & Accountability
- Coaching & Community Groups
- Home Visits







Phase IV Launching A New Life

- Reaching Key Essentials for A New Life
- Full-Time Employment
- Reside Flow In Refuge Buildings
- Coaching & Community Groups
- Internet/Phone


The Refuge Programs Are Offered Free-of-Charge

A One-of-a-Kind Work-Based Recovery Program

The Refuge's Partner Employers

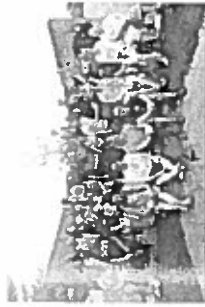
- Men and women work with our Partner Employers for one year while in The Refuge
- Everyone completing The Refuge does so with a full-time job producing a living wage
- Earned wages finance more than 50% of The Refuge's annual operating budget



"It's been incredibly successful. Those that go through the program get together, virtually all of them are getting work and getting their lives back together. About 3,000 men have gone through and they've got a woman's program now. My hope is that they continue to expand"

- U.S. Senator Mark Padgett

Delivering Value Efficiently & Effectively



The Refuge Provided Grantmakers and Donors Over the 3-Year Period Ending December 31, 2020:

- 188% Social Return On Investment* Generated by men having completed The Refuge
- 309% Program Value Return On Investment** Generated by men entering The Refuge where they shed the born cost to society resulting from lives led in active addiction

Sources: * The Refuge Impact & Value Report by Measurement Resources, Inc.
** Refuge Program Cost Analysis by Seth Wald Street, Inc.

9

Why We Need to Grow



Due to the substance use disorder crisis that is gripping Ohio today, an increased need for residential treatment facilities persists

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Addiction in the United States



- In the United States, substance abuse kills more people every year than car accidents or guns.
- Nationwide, nearly 72,000 Americans died from drug overdoses in 2019 alone. This is more than all U.S. service personnel killed during the 10-year arc of the Vietnam War.
- 6.5 million children in the United States live with an addicted parent. Children of addicts have a disproportionate rate of developing addiction.

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Addiction Is Ravaging Ohio

- Ohio remains one of the top 5 states nationally in terms of the number of substance-addicted residents
- 4,028 people in Ohio died of unintentional drug overdoses in 2019
- In 2019, Fentanyl was involved in 76% of overdose deaths in Ohio, often in combination with other drugs
- The Franklin County Public Health Department reported in February 2021 that overdose deaths in 2020 increased by 45% over 2019

Alcohol abuse and addiction statistics in the state of Ohio are also startling:

- More than 720,000 Ohioans meet the criteria for binge drinking
- 15% of male and 14% of female high school students in Ohio reported they had four or more drinks of alcohol in a row within the last month
- 19.2% of adults in Ohio are excessive drinkers (the US average is 18 percent)
- 35% percent of deaths in Ohio are related to alcohol (the US average is 31 percent)

* 2019 Roadmap for Ohio's Future: Assessment of Emerging Issues from the Ohio Department of Health's High Priority for Immediate Action Report

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The Need to Serve More Men & Women

Our Hilltop residence in Columbus is at capacity, overcrowded and has limited space

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Like Columbus, our current Lancaster residence is at capacity, overcrowded and has limited space for programs and services

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Our Plans to Serve More in Need, Save Lives & Help Rebuild Families

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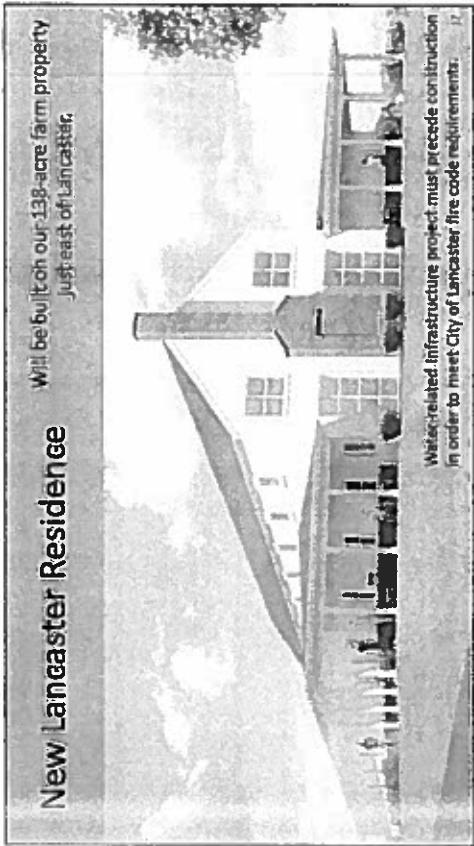
Residential Capacity Expansion & Improvements Project

The expected cost for our expansion is \$5.1 million

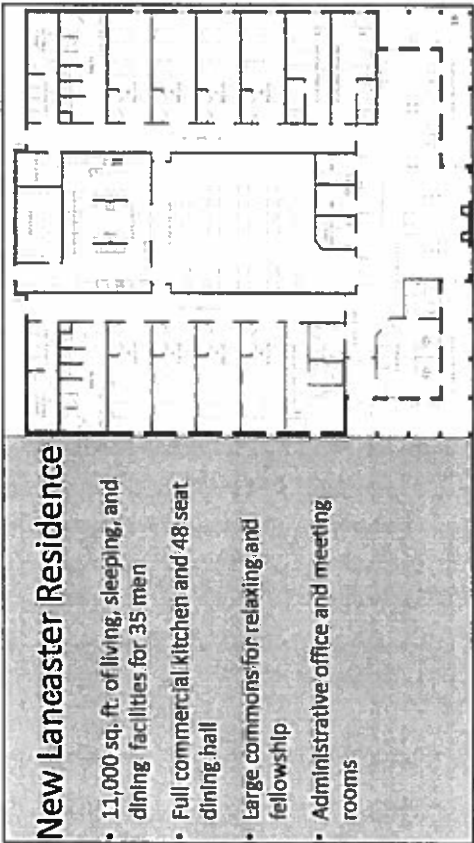
We are targeting construction to be completed by year-end 2024, with fundraising concluding by year-end 2022

- Expands current Refuge residential capacity by 50%
- Project must begin with Lancaster water & broadband-related infrastructure project
- Continues with constructing two new residential centers—one in Lancaster, the other in The Hilltop in Columbus
- Combined, both residences will provide 25,100 sq. ft. of living, sleeping and dining quarters for 81 men
- The Refuge owns all the land, building plans have been developed, and a 3-year pro forma has been developed to demonstrate increased administration and infrastructure costs

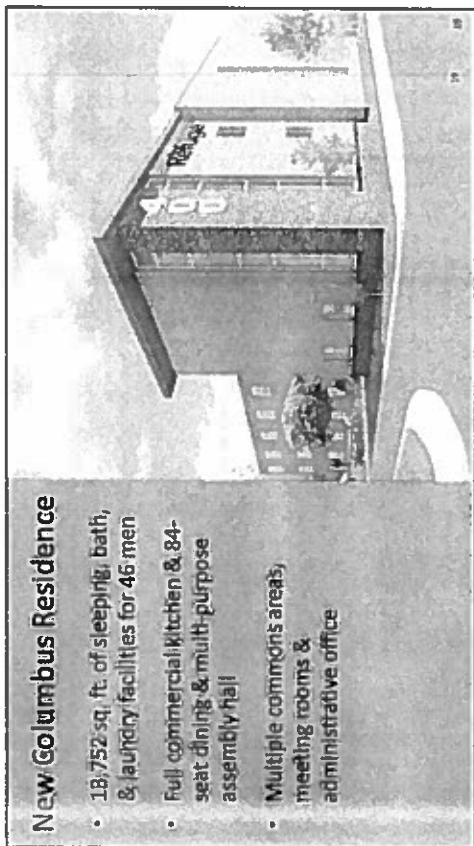
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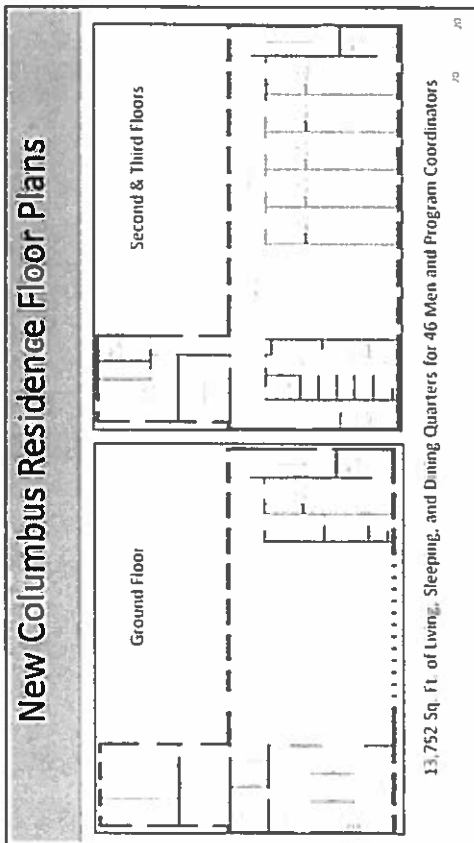
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Your insight and input is valuable to the growth and expansion of The Refuge.

2021 Operating Budget

The Refuge self-finances more than 50% of its operating budgets with wages earned by program participants

2021 Operating Expenses: \$1,685,285		
Expenses	Amount	Percentage
Payroll & Benefits	\$1,073,686	64%
Programs Costs	\$504,750	30%
Development	\$38,000	2%
Administration	\$69,419	4%
Total	\$1,685,285	100%

2021 Operating Revenue: \$1,828,000		
Revenue	Amount	Percentage
Employment Wages	\$972,000	53%
Charitable Giving	\$550,000	30%
Grants	\$262,000	14%
Other	\$44,000	2%
Total	\$1,828,000	100%

Our Progress

The Refuge seeks to inspire transformational change by focusing on the keys to a new beginning

The Refuge Process for Transformational Change

*Occurring Throughout Our 13 Month Residential Programs**

Executive Summary

Mission: To partner with schools, after school, and youth programs to bring post-secondary educational awareness, career mentoring, and one-on-one advisory to students and youth throughout Ohio.

Vision: To connect high school students to their future lives, ensuring no student is left feeling lost or set up to fail. Through our post-secondary education advising process, we will create systemic change in the education system to empower students to realize their brightest futures.

Executive Summary: Inspirededucation exists to serve students throughout Central Ohio to help connect them to their very best educational path and brightest future. We partner with schools and organizations throughout the community--wherever students are looking for guidance--to provide post-secondary expertise, individualized advice, and step-by-step support to students looking to pursue careers after high school.

This includes developing relationships with students to help them self-actualize, and help them discover and choose their own best career paths through guidance, mentoring, and research. Once a student has a solid goal when it comes to a career path, Inspirededucation advisors help them craft the right and most prudent plan for training or post-secondary education, step by step, in a way that is achievable and affordable for the student. This includes helping them fill out applications, forms and scholarships, all according to a carefully crafted timeline.

Our vision is to bridge the gap between students' high school lives and their future lives. The K-12 school system continues to perpetuate the idea of "getting into college" as the real measure for success, and in doing so it pushes students to apply to college (despite being ill-equipped to assess and support each student's individual goals, budgets, and circumstances.)

As a result, too many high school graduates are left without a solid plan for their futures. And so student loan debt and under-employment have become major crises for Americans aged 22-34.

The fallout from taking on too much student loan debt--or pursuing costly higher education without a researched, strategic and individualized plan--can carry on for decades, leading individuals to poverty, economic hardship, and social-emotional hardships. Inspirededucation's goal is to create systemic change in the education system that improves the lives and outcomes of students for generations to come.



Inspired**education**

Pilot Program Proposal

Discover what you can do.

Prepared by:

Alexandra Greene
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Richard Albeit
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



discoverwhatyoucando.org

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Inspireducation's Purpose

Today, most careers require a Bachelor's degree or some other form of post-secondary education. But with college costs ranging anywhere between \$80,000 and \$250,000, a student loan debt crisis nearing \$1.7 trillion, and a K-12 education system that has normalized biased high-stakes standardized testing, the path to post-secondary education is beyond many Ohio students' means.

Some students have families that can afford to alleviate the strain by seeking outside services. As a business, IN--The College Planning Experts has worked with over 1,200 students in the last 12 years to help them find their best, most affordable path to higher education.

IN's process has undoubtedly changed these students' lives. But most students can't afford such services. This is especially true of underserved students in low-income communities. Many of these students lack the finances to attend college without significant scholarships, and also lack the support structures from family members and mentors to help them navigate their options and necessary applications and paperwork.

As a response to this obvious and ever-growing need, IN has dedicated time, effort, and resources to creating a charitable, non-profit organization: Inspireducation.

Inspireducation believes each student has a future after graduation. We partner with schools and organizations throughout the community to provide post-secondary expertise, individualized advising, and step-by-step support to students looking to pursue careers after high school.

Inspireducation's vision is to bring much-needed post-secondary support to underserved students, and empower them to achieve their own dreams and brightest futures. Because of the influence, impact, and guidance from IN Leadership, Inspireducation is well-positioned to close the aforementioned gap and meet the post-secondary needs of underserved students all over central Ohio. By using the same methodology, processes, and mindset, while leveraging public and private dollars, Inspireducation intends to bring IN's process to those who need it most.



Leadership

After witnessing the success of students who received individualized post-secondary educational advising and support from Central Ohio-based college planning company IN, Richard Albeit and Alexandra Greene founded Inspireducation to bring this much-needed work directly into schools, after school programs, and community impact organizations.

Richard Albeit spent 17 years in education, serving as a principal, teacher, and dean of students. The majority of his career was spent with high school-aged students, most of whom aspired to become college graduates. In that time, he saw thousands of students go on to college only to drop out. Many others graduated with mounds of student loan debt, and degrees that weren't transferable into today's job market.

While launching a new middle school, Richard was introduced to Alexandra Greene from IN--The College Planning Experts. After some discussion about how IN's work could be beneficial for students at Richard's school, Alexandra and her team at IN began adapting IN's post-secondary planning work into a classroom curriculum that works for students aged 12+. Having worked with IN for a number of years--and having seen, as a former realtor, the negative effects of student loan debt on home-buyers--Alexandra felt compelled to bring IN's work into schools and students outside the private business.

Richard and Alexandra are both passionate about the systemic change Inspireducation's process can bring to underserved students falling into the gap between K-12 education and what comes after high school, and are dedicated to bringing this work to as many youth as possible through individualized post-secondary mentorship, as well as classroom-based curriculum.



Total Projected Impact

TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS IMPACTED THROUGH COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS:

960–1.030

TOTAL COST FOR SERVICES:

\$1,435,600

TOTAL PER PUPIL EXPENDITURE:

Approximately \$1,400



Services

Inspireducation adapts the one-on-one college advising work honed by IN to meet the needs of underserved students in schools, youth programs, and community impact organizations.

BRIDGING THE GAP:

Bridging the Gap is Inspireducation's classroom-based curriculum, and it focuses on helping teens explore their own unique passions, interests and skills. The goal is to empower students to take ownership of their futures, unlock their sense of self, and build their own sturdy foundation for success.

DISCOVER YOURSELF:

Discover Your Self is Inspireducation's individualized advising for students approaching high school graduation. This advising focuses heavily on the diversity of post-secondary opportunities, whether they be trade school, community college or a traditional four-year college. What it truly is is a relationship, and it's about meeting teens where they are, as unique individuals. Discover Your Self is about assessing each students' strengths, desires, and circumstances, and counseling them step-by-step to achieving their dreams after high school graduation.



Economic and Social Need

There's a stark difference in outcomes between students who graduate from post-secondary and those who fail to finish high school.

- Almost 2,000 high schools across the U.S. graduate less than 60% of their students.
- These “dropout factories” account for more than 50% of the students who leave school every year.
- One in six students attend a dropout factory. One in three minority students (32%) attend a dropout factory, compared to eight percent of white students.
- In the U.S., high school dropouts commit about 75% of crimes.
- In 2018, 13.5% of 18 to 24-year olds were not enrolled in school or working. (NCES)
- In 2019, 10% of 25 to 34-year olds with less than high school completion were unemployed. (NCES)
- 99 percent of jobs created since the recession went to individuals with at least some postsecondary education. (Carnevale)
- In 2018, the median annual earnings for 25 to 34-year olds with less than high school completion was \$27,900. (NCES)
- In 2019, median income for recent graduates reached \$44,000 a year for bachelor's degree holders aged 22–27. For high school graduates the same age, median earnings are \$30,000 a year. (Wall Street Journal)
- Poverty among bachelor's degree holders is 3.5 times lower than it is for those who hold high school degrees. (Lumina Foundation)
- Among the top 60 percent of American income earners, 57 percent have an associate degree or higher, compared to only 28 percent of earners in the bottom 40 percent. (Carnevale)
- Misperceptions about financial aid available, predatory lending practices by banks, or misinformed advising by high school or college advisors leads to students missing out on opportunities:
 - In 2017, 36% of high school graduates did not apply for financial aid.
 - Nearly \$2.3 billion of financial aid went unclaimed in 2017.
 - 49% of high school graduates in 2017 would have qualified for a Pell Grant.
- Only 21% of Latino adults and 31% of Black adults have a postsecondary degree, compared to 46% of white adults.



Proposed Partnerships

Inspireducation intends to partner with a variety of organizations to provide both one-on-one postsecondary advising and classroom-based curriculum to students to help empower them to discover and pursue their best individual path after high school.

SCHOOLS

- Cornerstone Academy
- Grove City Christian
- The Arts & College Prep Academy (ACPA)

NONPROFITS

- ALL THAT - Afterschool Program
- Run the Race - Afterschool Program
- New Beginnings Church - Afterschool Program
- Expanding Visions Foundation - Community Partner

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

- Ohio State University - School Counseling Department



Partner 1: Cornerstone Academy

CONTACT:

Brian Carlton, Principal,
Natalee Long, Senior Vice President - Operations, ACCEL Schools.

DESCRIPTION OF CORNERSTONE ACADEMY:

Cornerstone Academy is a tuition-free, public charter school serving K-12 students in northeast Columbus and surrounding suburbs. Cornerstone students come from all areas of central Ohio and from a variety of backgrounds. Their students are ethnically, socio-economically, and academically diverse.

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM:

The program at Cornerstone Academy consists of individualized post-secondary advising for each student in the classes of 2022, 2023, and 2024. It also includes three sections of classroom-based instruction for the class of 2025, in addition to the beginning phases of individual post-secondary advising for each student.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS:		COST OF SERVICES:	
Class of 2022	15	Individual Advising for '22	\$45,000
Class of 2023	15	Individual Advising for '23	\$22,500
Class of 2024	30	Individual Advising for '24	\$45,000
Class of 2025	75	Individual Advising for '25	\$56,250
Total	135	Classroom Instruction	\$9,000
		Total Cost of Services	\$177,750
		Per Pupil Expenditure	\$1,316.66



Partner 2: Grove City Christian

CONTACT:

Nancy Gillespie, High School Counselor.
 Jim McMillan, Middle and High School Principal.
 David Arrell, Director of Education.

DESCRIPTION OF GROVE CITY CHRISTIAN:

Grove City Christian is a co-educational Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12 school. They look to partner with Bible-believing families and their churches in educating students to be well equipped for life: academically, spiritually, and socially.

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM:

The program at Grove City Christian consists of individualized post-secondary advising for each student in the classes of 2022, 2023, and 2024. It also includes three sections of classroom-based instruction for the class of 2025, in addition to the beginning phases of individual post-secondary advising for each student.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS:		COST OF SERVICES:	
Class of 2022	50	Individual Advising for '22	\$150,000
Class of 2023	59	Individual Advising for '23	\$88,500
Class of 2024	61	Individual Advising for '24	\$61,000
Class of 2025	75	Individual Advising for '25	\$56,250
Total	245	Classroom Instruction	\$9,000
		Total Cost of Services	\$365,250
		Per Pupil Expenditure	~\$1,500



Partner 3: The Arts & College Prep Academy

CONTACT:

Jennifer Ruff, College and Career School Counselor.

DESCRIPTION OF ACPA:

ACPA provides a tuition-free college preparatory education to approximately 500 7th-12th graders representing more than twenty different districts in Central Ohio. ACPA provides an arts-focused curriculum and believes in active civic engagement to make a positive contribution to the greater community. Combined, these principles encourage student investment in their own education.

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM:

Starting at the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year, Inspireducation will offer four sections of a class-based career readiness and workforce development curriculum for the Middle School classes of 2026 and 2027. In addition to the class, students from the classes of 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 will have individualized post-secondary advising.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS:		COST OF SERVICES:	
Class of 2022	100	Individual Advising for '22	\$300,000
Class of 2023	100	Individual Advising for '23	\$150,000
Class of 2024	100	Individual Advising for '24	\$100,000
Class of 2025	100	Individual Advising for '25	\$75,000
Class of 2026	50	Classroom Instruction	\$12,000
Class of 2027	50	Total Cost of Services	\$637,000
Total	500	Per Pupil Expenditure	\$1,274



Partner 4: All THAT

CONTACT:

Danella Hicks Executive Director.

DESCRIPTION OF ALL THAT:

The mission of All THAT is to mentor teen-aged youth in academic achievement, life skill development and career planning to succeed in school and beyond. Part of the program exposes students to both college and trade schools, encouraging them to strive for careers that provide long-term financial stability.

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM:

Starting in the Fall of 2021, Inspireducation will be offering students within the All THAT program both individual post-secondary advising as well as small group curriculum and instruction. Students voluntarily join the afterschool program, so we are committed to a consistent weekly schedule for the duration of the school year.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS:

Ages 14-18: 50-80

Total 50-80

COST OF SERVICES:

Two hours an evening,
two nights a week,
for 36 weeks. \$10,800

Per Pupil Expenditure \$135-216



Partner 5: The Brian Muha Foundation and the Run the Race Club

CONTACT:

Rachel Muha, Executive Director.

DESCRIPTION OF THE BRIAN MUHA FOUNDATION/RUN THE RACE CLUB:

The Brian Muha Foundation/The Run The Race Club has been providing exceptional enrichment and leadership development opportunities to young people in Columbus. The Foundation seeks to give love and hope to children and young people through relationships with dedicated volunteers, mentors and tutors who offer opportunities and activities that allow them to grow academically, physically, spiritually and emotionally.

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM:

Starting in the Fall of 2021, Inspireducation will be offering students within the Run the Race Club after school program both individual post-secondary advising as well as small group curriculum and instruction. Students voluntarily join the afterschool program, so we are committed to a consistent weekly schedule for the duration of the school year.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS:

Ages 12-18. 10-50

Total 10-50

COST OF SERVICES:

Two hours an evening. \$10,800
two nights a week.
for 36 weeks.

Per Pupil Expenditure \$216-1,080



Partner 6: New Beginnings Church

CONTACT:

Mike Ortega, Senior Pastor.

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM:

Starting in the Fall of 2021, Inspireducation will be offering students within the New Beginnings Church after school program both individual post-secondary advising as well as small group curriculum and instruction. Students voluntarily join the afterschool program, so we are committed to a consistent weekly schedule for the duration of the school year.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS:		COST OF SERVICES:	
Ages 12-18:	25	Bridging the Gap: Two hours an evening, one night a week, for 36 weeks.	\$3,000
		Discover Your Self: Individual Advising	\$75,000
		Total Cost of Services	\$78,000
Total	25	Per Pupil Expenditure	\$3,120



Partner 7: Expanding Visions Foundation

CONTACT:

Johnathan Stone, Executive Director.

DESCRIPTION OF EXPANDING VISIONS FOUNDATION:

The Expanding Visions Foundation is a non-profit organization serving the Central Ohio community. EVF provides career development and leadership services to the youth and adults in the community. The Career Institute is a program within the Expanding Visions Foundation which employs MBA level coursework and relationships with employers in Central Ohio to equip students with the skills necessary to excel in life and the workplace.

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM:

EVF's Career Institute curriculum is an invaluable resource for students to access, as it delivers a cultural competency perspective that all too many organizations often ignore. As students transition from high school to their post-secondary education and then again to the workforce, an understanding of the world around them and how they interact with it on a professional level is paramount to their success. EVF and Inspireducation are collaborating to bring this additional resource to our underserved students in Central Ohio. This work will be done in tandem with the Inspireducation advisors at schools, afterschool programs, and community organization. In some cases, the Career Institute Curriculum will be delivered by the Inspireducation advisors.

COST OF SERVICES:

EVF Career Institute Curriculum Leasing	Annually \$8,000
EVF Curriculum Professional Development and Training	\$8,000
Career Institute Advisor	\$40,000
Total	\$56,000



Partner 8: The Ohio State University

CONTACT:

Dr. Colette Dollarhide, Program Chair of Counselor Education.

DESCRIPTION OF THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY:

Counselor Education at Ohio State is one of the top counseling degree programs in the nation. Our nationally accredited program is consistently named one of the top 10 best by U.S. News and World Report year after year, ranking #4 in 2021.

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM:

Partnering with OSU provides Inspireducation with an amazing opportunity to develop a data collection and analysis protocol that will yield baseline and efficacy data through existing student metrics and program outcomes. Two OSU Doctoral students will work with Inspireducation to collect and analyze data in an effort to quantify the pilot program efficacy.

COST OF SERVICES:

Doctoral Student Research (1)	\$50,000
Doctoral Student Research (2)	\$50,000
Total	\$100,000



Testimonials, Partnership Letters, and Letters of Support

"Inspireducation played a major role in my decision to become an accountant. Moving from my native country of Burma to the States as a 10-year-old was hard, but as college came nearer, I was granted the wonderful opportunity to work with Inspireducation. The many activities they set out for me assisted in helping me understand myself more so than ever by getting out of my comfort zone, as well as getting ready for college through research for financial and pathway plans that fit my needs."

– Awi, Graduate, Class of 2019

"Our students have learned so much about how to choose a major that is appropriate for their career aspirations and picking the best school for the individual and the financial aid process. I have worked with the folks at Inspireducation for several years and have seen firsthand the impact it's making on our students, who are New Americans and first-generation students."

– Emily, Youth Program Coordinator, ETSS

"As the senior pastor at New Beginnings, we do see many families with teens who do not complete their pursuit of post-secondary education. Coming from a Latino-based church in the heart of Columbus, Ohio, our desire is to help and assist the teens in our church and our community to thrive and pursue post-secondary education without feeling limited. Inspireducation has helped various of our teens execute that path."

– Mike, Senior Pastor, New Beginnings Church

"I now know what type of degrees there are and what colleges offer different classes."

– Oliana, Middle School Student, ACPA



Economic and Social Need

Thank you for reading our proposal. This work is incredibly important to us, because it's so crucial for so many of Ohio's students and the future of our economy.

Collectively, we often talk about wanting to help our underserved students through education. We talk about finding solutions for the growing student loan debt crisis plaguing our young people. We toss around ideas about how to help alleviate the financial burden on students and all too often add more programs aimed at working only with students who have higher grade point averages or are considered "college bound."

But these tactics don't get to the heart of the problem. Our work does.

We've seen firsthand the qualitative and quantitative impact our process has made. In 12 years, our process has saved over 1,200 students approximately \$80 million in higher education costs. We know each and every one of these students by name and can share their experiences charting their own best post-secondary path. One hundred percent of our students have gone on to post-secondary education in pursuit of careers they chose, based on their own research, knowledge and conviction towards creating their own brightest future.

We all want, more than anything, to improve the lives of students in Ohio. We want to create bright futures for each and every one of them. We want to give them greater opportunities than previous generations.

Through this pilot program, we will do just this. Through relationships and expertise, in addition to real, tangible, practical work, we will provide college affordability, financial literacy, and career counseling to low income students and families across Ohio to promote workforce development and reduce student loan debt for Ohio students.

Thank you again for reading our proposal, and for your consideration.

Best

Alexandra Greene and Richard Albeit



Brand Values

WHO ARE WE

Inspirededucation is built on five Core Brand Values that inform every aspect of our brand and our work. These values extend into our Core Brand Traits and into the Key Messages that we are trying to communicate with our brand. This page contains a breakdown of these values, traits, and messages.

CORE BRAND VALUES

Self-Actualization

We strive to help our students truly know themselves in order to create their brightest, most desired futures.

Individuality

Every student and colleague is an individual, and their future is their own. Our process works because we understand this fact and tailor our solutions to fit the individual, thereby guiding them to their own unique successes.

Open-Mindedness

We encourage our students to be receptive to any and all possibilities for their individual futures. Just as we don't want them to limit themselves, we keep an open mind about who there are and what they can do in life.

Relationships

The connections we have with people matter most. We can only succeed if we build strong, constructive relationships with our students and colleagues. For our students, we must be caring, accessible, and trusted advisors.

Communication

What we say, how we say it, when we say it, and to whom we say it matters. Whenever we communicate, we strive to be kind, clear, direct, and constructive.

CORE BRAND TRAITS

Caring

We truly care about helping students and treating them with the kindness they deserve. Unconditionally we help any student who desires help from us.

Trustworthy

Our students can rely on us to have their best interests in mind. We are sincere and consistent.

Understanding

We operate from a place of empathy. Every student is unique, so we tailor our efforts to accommodate and equip each on for success.

Credible

We know our business and keep up to date on data and metrics to achieve success for ourselves and the students we serve.

Supportive

We're here for our students and each other. We live to help, provide stability, and guide others toward success.

Forward-thinking

Every student has a future, and that's exciting. To help students reach their brightest future, we stay goal-oriented and encouraging.

Genuine

We stay true to ourselves and exhibit our values in everything we do. Authenticity builds trust, which in turn builds strong relationships.

KEY MESSAGES

Who are you going to be after high school? What's your next step forward?

We want to bridge the gap and get anyone and everyone aligned with who they truly are and what they can do.

The gap is knowledge about the "who," "what," and "why" of their identity and purpose after high school. We guide them. They discover their own answers.

It's about empowering students to take ownership of their future.

CORE BRAND PROMISE

We empower students to unlock a strong sense of self and discover bright futures after high school.

Greetings,

You are receiving this message because you participated in the Achieve More & Prosper (A.M.P) Request for Qualifications (RFQ) and we are pleased to inform you that your organization has been chosen to a partner to our community providers. It is important to note that this does not guarantee any funding. By being selected to participate in the process, you will receive the names of the Program Managers of our community providers in which you will be required to advise them of your services and how their youth can benefit your organizations program. They in turn will have your information and can contact you directly as well.

Since we are currently in a pandemic, we must adhere to all the state requirements for social distancing and staying safe. If you have the ability to virtually offer your program, that will be a benefit in being chosen by our providers. Listed below are the community partners and their contact information.

Academy for Urban Scholars: Treesje Mock

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Columbus Literacy Council: Joy Reyes

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Eckerd Youth Alternatives: Heather Wade

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

IMPACT Community Action: Beth Urban

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Lead the Way Learning Academy: Tiandra Finch

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

St. Stephen's Community House: Amy Kearns

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Again, congratulations one being selected as an AMP supportive services provider. We look forward to working with you.

Respectfully,

Marcie Littlejohn, Administrative Officer
Franklin County Department of Job & Family Services

Lawrence Jackson, Grants & Program Manager
Workforce Development Board of Central Ohio



Karen B. Mozenter
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**Written Statement for the Franklin County Board of Commissioners
American Rescue Plan Hearing, July 15, 2021**

The pandemic both highlighted and exacerbated challenges and inequities that have long existed in our community. The American Rescue Plan offers an unprecedented opportunity to promote recovery in ways that address those challenges and inequities. By thinking and acting differently, we can drive the kind of transformative change Franklin County residents need and deserve – the changes envisioned in the county’s Rise Together blueprint.

Human Services & “Recovery”

As you and anyone else familiar with human services are well aware, our sector is the lagging indicator for recovery. The individuals served by Jewish Family Services and our community-based partners will experience the fallout of this pandemic for years. Our clients were struggling before COVID-19 wreaked havoc, and they are struggling even more now. And we continue to see a steady stream of new clients who are seeking help for the first time in their lives. Many come to us after trying to go it alone for months, finally reaching out for help when they are in full-blown crisis. Their needs are complex; their path to financial, physical, and emotional recovery will be a long, hard road. We expect this high level of need to increase as the eviction moratorium ends, and our experience in the Great Recession showed us that a high level of need for human services is likely to continue for several years.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, a great deal of funding has gone to meet the immediate needs of our clients (i.e., pass-through funds for food, rent, utilities, etc.). While this kind of support remains important, it is even more critical to address the underlying conditions that caused and will continue to lead to these emergency needs. Moving forward, we need to build community capacity to more effectively help individuals and families achieve emotional stability and economic self-sufficiency.

At Thursday’s community hearing, you heard about many worthy programs that are impacting lives in our community and received many recommendations of ways ARP funding could be used for meaningful impact. The testimony made it clear that the needs of our community’s most vulnerable are complex, and the solutions are interconnected. Transformative change will require system-wide approaches.

Digital Equity

As a steering committee member of the Franklin County Digital Equity Coalition, I echo the recommendations of MORPC’s William Murdoch for investments in broadband and related services. One of the most impactful one-time investments the county can make to promote an equitable recovery is to support our broadband infrastructure, internet adoption, device access, and digital life skills training. This investment will have a profound and transformative effect on those who are unconnected: low-income households, particularly black and brown residents and the elderly. The ability to access



Karen B. Mozenter
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

and use the internet is essential to people's ability to participate in our economy and connect to community. It is critical to all four priorities of the Rise Together blueprint: jobs, housing, health and youth/education.

Our community's digital equity efforts are being advanced by a broad-based and very effective cross-sector collaboration in the Digital Equity Coalition – which includes several representatives from county departments. Central Ohio is being recognized by the National Digital Inclusion Alliance as a national leader in this work. An investment in digital equity will support all of the other recommendations in this document. Digital equity is an ideal opportunity for one-time ARP funding that could provide transformative impact.

Community Information Exchange

I also endorse the recommendations of Matt Habash of the Mid-Ohio Food Collective and Tony Collins of the YMCA that the county invest in technology that would enable us to take a “no wrong door” approach and apply predictive analytics to more effectively meet the needs of individuals and families experiencing poverty. A Community Information Exchange (CIE) would enable human service providers and other partners to work more effectively and collaboratively, and help residents avoid the frustration and confusion caused by siloed resources and services. The vision of community-wide, integrated service delivery is incredibly compelling, and no doubt Matt has provided you with a great deal of information about that vision and what it will take to accomplish it.

One thing I want to make clear: a successful CIE will require more than an investment in the development of the technology. Implementation of a CIE by community partners will be a huge and heavy lift for nonprofits – especially for smaller organizations like Jewish Family Services. Nonprofits are forced to use multiple data and reporting systems as required by our various funders. And very few of those funders support the technology upgrades or staff capacity needed for data, reporting and technology-related functions. To successfully implement a CIE, we will need support to (i) connect the technology to current systems, (ii) make changes in those systems or adopt new ones that are compatible with the CIE, and (iii) have sufficient staff capacity to deal with technology, data and reporting needs. Over time, an effective CIE would not require the same level of resources; presumably, data and reporting would be streamlined after the early stages of CIE adoption and implementation. A CIE would require a large and comprehensive up-front investment, but it would pay off in a more seamless system that would enable community partners to work together much more effectively and efficiently to meet the needs of those we serve.

Karen B. Mozenter
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Workforce Development/Employment Services

ARP funding can be used to help transform our community's workforce development into a more efficient and effective system in several ways:

- Investments in our **technology infrastructure and staff capacity for IT and shared data and reporting functions** – in connection with a CIE or otherwise – would help workforce providers coordinate across the multiple services and trainings we provide as well as the various populations we all serve.
- Investments to build our capacity to offer **work-based training** in in-demand fields will enable us to equip residents with the skills needed to obtain family-sustaining wages and help local businesses accomplish their hiring needs. Related investments in our technology infrastructure would enable us to expand virtual and hybrid training and supports so more individuals can take advantage of training opportunities and employers can more quickly fill open positions, jump-starting the local economy.
- Investments in **early childhood education** will enable more individuals – especially women – to re-enter the workforce. Investments in **training for early childhood educators** would build a pipeline of candidates to fill much-needed positions. We are currently in discussion with childcare providers about collaborating to build this pipeline as an on-the-job training opportunity and a career pathway to other jobs in education.

Seniors Services

As you are well aware, the number of central Ohio residents 65 years or older is expected to double in the next 30 years (Age-Friendly Franklin County Strategic Plan 2020). Most seniors want to live as independently as they can, and this is even more true after seeing COVID rampage through congregate facilities and cause lengthy separations from friends and family. In most cases, home-based care is a more cost-effective choice as well as a personal preference.

Jewish Family Services has been recognized nationally for its work enabling local Holocaust Survivors to age in place. The majority of these individuals are living at or below the federal poverty line. Trauma-informed care including case management, facilitation of home-based supports, and activities designed to decrease isolation and improve mental health has enabled low-income Holocaust survivors to live an average of seven years longer than their peers (Conference on Material Jewish Claims Against Germany). These same services are increasingly needed by a growing number of aging residents in Franklin County. An investment in Jewish Family Services' senior services would enable us to build out this very successful programming and make it available to broader populations of low-income Central Ohio seniors, including LGBTQ seniors who face economic insecurity, health disparities and decreased social supports relative to their peers. Such an investment would also support expanded training in trauma-informed



Karen B. Mozenter
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

care for seniors to a wide range of community partners, building community capacity to serve Central Ohio's expanding population of low-income seniors. This investment would align with the strategies in the Age-Friendly Franklin County Strategic Plan.

Mental Health Services

The mental health impact of the pandemic will be with us for decades and will play out in ways we can only begin to imagine. Investments in a range of mental health services will play huge dividends in helping individuals achieve emotional and economic stability and reducing costs for mental and physical healthcare and the need for unemployment and other public benefits.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this brief written statement as you consider how to best invest American Rescue Plan funding and other county resources in ways that will promote transformative and equitable change for the residents of Franklin County. I would be happy to discuss any of these recommendations further, either in person or virtually.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Karen B. Mozenter".

Karen B. Mozenter, CEO



TESTIMONY TO FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Organization Name: Columbus Literacy Council (CLC WORKS)

Primary Address: 92 Jefferson Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43215

Contact Name: Joy D. Reyes, CEO

Contact Email: [REDACTED]

Contact Phone: [REDACTED]

Federal Tax IE/EIN Number: 23-7433168

OVERVIEW: For the last 50 years, CLC has been a steady and effective presence in our community using interdisciplinary approaches to improve the lives of underserved, at-risk and marginalized populations. CLC provides dynamic and innovative program solutions that overcome barriers and improve outcomes for those traditionally left behind. CLC maintains an array of services and system of supports, providing the needed programs to help individuals and families in their neighborhoods, achieve a more stable and secure livelihood. This high performance and achievement is directly connected to the capacity of the agency. **Governance and Leadership:** The CLC Board of Trustees is engaged and representative, with defined governance practices. Agency leadership is stable, innovative, agile and quick to develop and implement changes as needed to respond to community needs. CLC is accomplished at recruiting, developing, and retaining capable staff and technical resources (80% of Full Time staff have between 12-20 years of service at CLC. Part-time staff have between 4-8 years with CLC). CLC's leadership is alert to changing community needs and realities and stays current with cutting edge technology to facilitate serve and data collection. **Mission, Vision, and Strategy:** CLC has a vital mission and a clear understanding of its identity. It is actively involved in regular, results-oriented, strategic and self-reflective thinking and planning that aligns strategies with the mission and organizational capacity. The planning process involves stakeholders in an ongoing dialogue that ensures that the organization's mission and programs are valuable to the neighborhood and constituency served. **Program Delivery and Impact:** The organization operates programs that demonstrate tangible outcomes commensurate with the resources invested. Programs are high quality and well regarded. The organization utilizes program evaluation results to inform its strategic goals. The organization has formal mechanisms for assessing internal and external factors that affect achievement of goals. **Strategic Relationships:** The organization is a respected and active participant and leader in the community and maintains strong connections with its constituents. It participates in strategic alliances and partnerships that significantly advance their goals and expand their influence. **Resource Development:** The organization successfully secures support from a variety of sources to ensure that the organization's revenues are diversified, stable, and sufficient for the mission and goals. The resource development plan is aligned with the mission, long-term goals, and strategic direction. **Internal Operations and Management:** The organization has efficient and effective operations, and strong management support systems. Financial operations are responsibly managed and reflect sound accounting principles. The organization utilizes information effectively for organizational and project management purposes. Asset, risk, and technology management are strong and appropriate. CLC conducts appropriate audits on our programs and financials, including an annual A-133 audit. These audits reflect the quality and care that is part of our system of excellence and accountability and have not had any findings. CLC has 12 years experience operating programs under the current executive leadership. The outcomes projected directly align with the outcomes that the program has been generating in past years.



CLC

TESTIMONY TO FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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COMMUNITY NEEDS: In Central Ohio, the pandemic exposed many of the inequities and deep-rooted inequalities that have disproportionately impacted individuals of color. While this has been evidenced across all sectors of the community, our neighbors have needed the most help with housing needs (rent/mortgage assistance), utility payment assistance, access to technology (both internet access and device access), food, childcare, employment and education. And, these needs still exist today.

CASE EXAMPLE: While many of us are moving toward a new normal, individuals served by CLC have fallen further and while they are resilient, they have a much further climb to stabilize their family. One such example is Ta'Queia. Pre-pandemic, Ta'Queia and her two boys were living in an apartment with her boyfriend. The boyfriend was working full time and she worked part-time and attended school part-time to complete her last year of her bachelor's degree. Both of her boys were in school with before and after care. In March 2020, as the pandemic created the shutdown, suddenly, Ta'Queia found herself at home with her boys and her boyfriend. As the weeks turned into a month, Ta'Queia realized that at home all day was stressful. She began to have serious mental health concerns that even created physical problems. Having the boys with her all the time meant she could not maintain her part-time job. Additionally, studying at home was virtually impossible, unless it was for her children's homework. So, Ta'Queia put her final bit of education on hold. As the weeks turned to months, she began having more and more problems with her transportation; however, with no job she elected to not prioritize the car repairs. When she and her boyfriend decided their relationship was not working, Ta'Queia found herself needing to move. She was not able to sustain rent and utilities on her own, so she moved from Columbus - East area back with her family in Hilliard.



TESTIMONY TO FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Organization Name: Columbus Literacy Council (CLC WORKS)
 Primary Address: 92 Jefferson Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43215
 Contact Name: Joy D. Reyes, CEO

Contact Email: [REDACTED]
 Contact Phone: [REDACTED]
 Federal Tax IE/EIN Number: 23-7433168

LIFE INDICATOR	PRE-PANDEMIC	PANDEMIC	POST-PANDEMIC
Housing	Apartment with her 2 boys and 1 roommate	Could not maintain - moved with family	Very difficult to obtain in desired area. Rental rates increased.
Vehicle	Used but maintained in good working order. Got repairs when needed.	Repairs not prioritized as vehicle was not needed with shutdown.	Needs extensive repairs after sitting in disrepair or a different vehicle.
Employment	Part-time	Unable to maintain due to personal issues.	Position is 25-30 minute drive. Needs her transportation and Needs to move to be closer to work or find work closer to her home.
Education (children)	In School with Before and After Care	At home	The move put her children on the bottom of a wait list in the new area for before and after care. If she moves back to where she was, boys are also on wait list but as previously enrolled youth, have a stronger standing.
Education (herself)	Finishing Final Year for her Bachelor's	Paused Studies	Wants to continue; needs to get her children settled in school and care. Needs to be employed.
Health	Physical - Good Mental - Good	COVID, mental health problem resulting in physical health concerns	Still struggling with mental health and physical problems.

So, while many people just "return" to the new normal, Ta'Queia has to rebuild her foundation during a time she is more vulnerable than ever. Pre-pandemic she was poised to step into a new economic bracket by obtaining her Bachelor's and full-time employment while sharing housing expenses with another working adult. Now, she lives with family, needs a vehicle, cannot find a place for her boys before and after care and needs a job to even be able to afford school.



TESTIMONY TO FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Thursday, July 15, 2021

Organization Name: Columbus Literacy Council (CLC WORKS)

Contact Email: [REDACTED]

Primary Address: 92 Jefferson Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43215

Contact Phone: [REDACTED]

Contact Name: Joy D. Reyes, CEO

Federal Tax IE/EIN Number: 23-7433168

To meet the needs of individuals like Ta'Queia and others in our community, we need to continue to expand the array of services. Partnering works at times; however, the current need is so great, that programs need to expand to meet the overwhelming demand. Ta'Queia needs workforce development to help her explore options for employment and education. She needs extended childcare to allow her to pursue employment and education. And, she needs support with transportation and housing barriers. We are confident, that given the right support and assistance package, Ta'Queia will be able to move forward and become highly successful.

CLC is active in the community with concrete plans for helping these individuals and the many others like her. Our programs have grown significantly since 2010 and we have been offering workforce development, transitions, industry recognized certificates A.M.P., ASPIRE and regular afterschool programming as well as youth summer camp and summer programming. CLC is funded by Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services to provide innovative out-of-school time activities for both afterschool and summer programming and A.M.P. workforce services for both in-school and out-of-school youth.

The demand for the services has consistently grown over the years and CLC has continued to grow to meet the need. This year CLC has a waiting list for summer programming for ages 5-13 of more than 30 eligible TANF families. Additionally, there were requests from another 100 individuals seeking camp options. These other families live in low-income census tracts, have income above the 200% TANF limit; however, are in great need. They make over TANF limits but not enough to provide the options of self-pay for camp.

CLC focuses on a relationship-first approach to the services that we offer to the community. This approach has led to expanded services as those with the relationship are requesting assistance in new locations and for greater blocks of time. Additionally, these areas have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic and the families are in extreme need. We believe our community would greatly benefit from expanded programming to meet the demand. Additionally, CLC believes that we need to intentionally provide programming to cover the gap in service for ages 14 and 15 and that we should extend the early learning opportunities to 3-5 year olds that have yet to enter Kindergarten. Activities for the ages of 3-15 would be delivered in an age-appropriate fashion and would allow CLC to provide a consistent and equitable solution for families. Extended programming hours will allow CLC to continue offering opportunities for other family members (adults) as well. Innovative recreation and academic enrichment, tutoring, ESOL, music, art, life skills, financial literacy, physical fitness, healthy life choices, career exploration and mindfulness are offered.

Franklin County Board of Commissioners
American Rescue Plan Public Hearing
July 15, 2021

Eric J. Karolak, Ph.D. CAE
CEO, Action for Children

Good morning and thank you, Commissioners, for taking the time to listen to Franklin County residents as you consider how to address our community's many needs with federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. I especially appreciate the virtual option, which allowed me to be in two places at once as I'm at this moment also leading a workgroup focused on removing child care barriers facing women in the construction trades in Franklin County. Congratulations to Commissioner Crawley; you have been an exceptional leader on early childhood (and other issues) as a state legislator, and it's delighted that you will continue to lead as a county commissioner.

Action for Children is Central Ohio's Child Care Resource and Referral Agency, and for decades we have been focused on expanding access to quality child care and early learning in Franklin and its surrounding counties. We work with early childhood educators, the child care programs where they work, and the parents and children they serve. Our services include training and technical assistance, professional development, instructional coaching, parent education and coaching, and case management. We also provide home visiting services for children from birth to school entry, and referral services for all early childhood programs with a referral component including home visiting, child care, early intervention, municipal PreK, and Head Start. Each year, our programs reach 9,000 early childhood educators and parents, some 1,200 licensed child care programs, and more than 50,000 children. We appreciate the funding and partnership the Board of Commissioners has made possible in our work with new parents, fathers, and in-home Family Child Care providers through the County's Job and Family Services, Children Services, and Child Support agencies.

Action for Children also maintains a comprehensive data management system unparalleled in the state that is regularly used by local government to inform policies. Last summer, the City of Columbus and Franklin County consulted with AFC in creating the Child Care Stabilization grants with CARES Act funding, and since then we've produced two reports based on our statistically-significant survey data and focus groups of providers and interested parties. The resulting integration of administrative data, caseload information, qualitative information and survey results is a resource for you in the current context as you consider supporting and improving child care with ARPA funding.

In our brief time today, I would like to emphasize three points from that body of information, and will be happy to continue the conversation in more detail; my main point is that child care must be a focus as you plan for an equitable recovery in Franklin County:

1. **The pandemic has had a significant and lingering negative impact on child care.**

Our curated data show that nearly 1 in 6 child care programs have closed. More the 15% of the Franklin County child care programs operating in February 2020, are no longer open.

Those child care centers and in-home programs that remain are quick to explain that "Open Does Not Mean Okay." Our most recent report, based on the statistically significant results from Action for Children's Central Ohio Child Care Provider Survey describes the challenges:

- For more than half of providers, monthly revenue does not cover expenses.
- 46% of providers are losing more than \$5,000 per month.

- About 30% of providers aren't sure they will remain open more than 3 months.
- Enrollment is slowly rising, but still depressed at 57% of provider capacity.
- More than one-third of child care centers are experiencing staff shortages with as many as 1,000 staff openings estimated.
- More child care programs – now 49% of those open – have or plan to increase tuition.

Many child care programs have survived thus far despite the challenges of the pandemic. They have done this despite continuing low wages for staff and low margins for the organization, and all the while keeping our children and their families safe. They have literally done everything society has asked of them in this crisis. Yet, every day the Action for Children team sees how difficult it is for them to continue. Things aren't getting better; they're getting harder.

2. Child care is an equity issue and an economic development issue, that cannot be avoided.

Women, economically-disadvantaged families, and people of color rely on child care disproportionately.

- Women make up more than 95% of our classroom teachers are women, and Blacks are represented among child care staff at more than twice the rate of the population as a whole.
- Many child care programs are owned and operated by **Black and brown families**. These small businesses are vehicles of economic opportunity, providing avenues out of poverty and into the middle class. This is especially true of the more than 200 in-home Family Child Care providers active in Franklin County. These one-woman enterprises provide care in places and at times of the day and week when most centers aren't available, making it possible for second- and third-shift working parents to go to work in call centers, warehouses, retail and construction sites knowing their children are safe, cared for, and educated. who must be integral to any child care relief strategy the county entertains.
- The children served in birth to 5 programs reflect the rich diversity of our community, and a majority of children receiving Publicly Funded Child Care through the County are African American.

There is perhaps no other funding opportunity that can have as great an impact on racial and economic equity in our community. ARPA funding invested in child care can supplement the income of the child care workforce; improve the accessibility and affordability of a vital work support for working parents, especially women; assist Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises in weathering a continuing pandemic storm; and help all young children prepare for success in school and beyond. *We omit child care from our county recovery plans at our collective peril.*

3. There are many ways to use ARPA funds to support access to quality, affordable child care in Franklin County, but they have to be considered deliberately.

There are many options to support child care for Franklin County's working families. Recently, Action for Children helped lead an effort to identify options for local governments, outlining 11 different ideas. Choosing a path must be deliberate. It should be done with consideration for gaps in the existing Publicly Funded Child Care system and must be coordinated with the deployment of state ARPA funding. We should make these investments now, to help programs this year, but with an eye to the future, to strengthening and improving the child care delivery system. We can "build back better," sustainably, if we are thoughtful and decisive.

I'm ready to brief you more fully and explore the options present for investing ARPA funding in child care to bring a more equitable recovery and a stronger future. Thank you.



July 15, 2021

Lutheran Social Services of Central Ohio (LSS) has been serving Ohioans in need since 1912. Our programs address the immediate needs that come from neighbors living in poverty. This includes hunger, housing, healthcare, and safety. The last 18 months have been challenging for our clients and our staff, but we've kept our doors open to serve the increasing number of individuals and families who need our help.

The pandemic has laid bare how many Ohioans are living from paycheck to paycheck and are in danger of sliding into poverty if they lose their job or develop medical issues. So many of the people we serve were affected by the pandemic. So many more people will need help in the future as the eviction moratorium and other easements are lifted. ARPA funds will be critical to programs like ours to serve the ongoing needs of Ohioans living in poverty or just on the edge of poverty.

In this testimony, we will offer some examples of how the pandemic has affected our programs and our clients, as well as some suggestions as to how the county ARPA funds would help make a difference in the lives of Franklin County residents.

LSS Faith Mission shelters up to 250 men and women every night. We offer residents employment assistance, medical, vision, behavioral health and dental care, housing assistance and more. Our shelter has improvised throughout the pandemic to keep both residents and staff safe. We are proud to say that the shelter never had a mass outbreak of COVID. The challenges staff overcame to make this happen was immense. The physical shelter was rearranged to allow social distancing. This included using office, lobby and other spaces as sleeping areas. There were (and still are) employment challenges because of increased staff needs. We relied on the specially designated COVID shelters and our local hospitals to isolate and/or quarantine any resident that showed symptoms or was in contact with COVID patients. The process of transferring residents to these shelters was time-consuming and laborious.

But we weren't always successful in keeping our services active. We had to close public access to programs like our Community Kitchen and Employment Resource Center. Our case managers had difficulty acquiring needed documents or resources for clients due to other agency closures (BMV, birth certificates, etc.). There were also challenges related to housing searches, including the lack of ability to get necessary personal documents, landlords not showing units, challenges

in accessing direct client assistance funding sources or vouchers. All of this caused longer length of stay in shelter and decreased positive housing outcomes. Our average of successful outcomes for this fiscal year to date is 17%, while it was 21% during the same period last year.

For the near future, we are very concerned about the possibility of an eviction crisis. Columbus has one of the highest numbers of eviction filings during COVID. This coupled with the rapidly rising cost of living and a competitive rental market may drive more Franklin County residents into shelters in the coming year. Also, our post-pandemic shelter environment will look and feel different because of the need for continuing infection control, the focus on increased healthcare linkages, and ensuring readiness for future potential outbreak response. These new challenges will be expensive and are not currently funded.

LSS CHOICES for Victims of Domestic Violence operates the only crisis hotline and shelter for victims of domestic violence in Franklin County. In 2019, CHOICES moved into a new shelter facility that had capacity for 120 individuals. There was an unanticipated increased demand for shelter and hotline services even before the pandemic started. Then, demand ramped up even more as we went into lockdown. In response, CHOICES raised funds and started a shelter expansion that would add 24 beds. The expansion is complete and funds for incremental operating costs are being sought through federal earmarks. We cannot open the new wing until funding is in place and staff is hired, which has been a struggle.

Over the course of COVID, CHOICES has seen a significant increase in the need for services. Our hotline calls are up 16%. While our shelter census dropped immediately in March and April of 2020, it returned to normal in June and has continued to rise. Recently the census passed our capacity on April 21 and has steadily increased. On July 14, we had 161 people in shelter and more families on a waitlist. Victims are also experiencing more serious physical injuries and coming to shelter with more acute health concerns. As with all families, the families CHOICES serves have faced new challenges during COVID. CHOICES has had to set up several “work from home offices” to enable residents to keep their employment. With distance learning and the severe cutbacks of afterschool and summer programming, we have added an educational assistant to our family services team to provide more on-site youth programming. The increased census together with families spending more time in the building has created a significant strain on our food budget. Finally, the competitive housing market has made moving out of shelter a larger challenge for our residents. All these additional service needs have come at a time when CHOICES experienced significant cuts in federal VOCA funding, totaling \$270,000 over the past two years. This funding supported critical advocate positions within the shelter and other operational costs.

The lack of funding for direct client assistance and transitional housing has kept survivors in our shelter for longer than necessary. The more assistance we can offer families so that they can move out, the more space we have for the increase in victims. While transitional housing

funding by the state may start in January and the federal government in October, neither is guaranteed and the need is immediate. It would benefit all victims to have more options for housing so that our shelter can be used for temporary emergency housing.

The LSS Food Pantries have experienced a significant increase in the number of new families utilizing our pantries over the course of the pandemic, and the average number of visits per household was higher than usual. While we had an initial surge in people accessing our services, it leveled off as the pandemic wore on. Our clients had access to a plethora of mass produce distributions through the Farmers to Families program through May of this year. This increased access, coupled with expanded benefits such as PEBT and stimulus money, has given lower-income people more buying power. Many are relying less on pantries for now, but this is not likely to be sustainable. We anticipate our volume to increase as supports are lifted and the “K-shaped Recovery” continues for people living in poverty. In addition, proposed legislation at the Statehouse will make it increasingly difficult for families to access SNAP benefits, which are a lifeline for most of our clients. If the legislation passes, we will see an increase in the need for our food pantry services.

We have also received a considerable number of requests for delivery of food. Two of the larger pantries in the area have started home-delivery programs, and they are at capacity.

Transportation is a barrier for many households seeking emergency food assistance. While we primarily think of older adults as the group most in need of home delivery, families with children or adults with limited mobility are also candidates for the service. Our online pre-ordering system is an ideal way to provide client choice AND a delivery option. We have the capacity of adding a delivery option to our services, but we do not have the funding.

Here are some links that explore the connection between transportation and food access.

<https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/social-determinants-health/interventions-resources/food-insecurity>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7432289/>

As the pandemic eases and we go back to client choice in our pantries and scheduling higher numbers of volunteers to help us serve our clients, we are conscious of keeping everyone healthy and safe in our buildings. The ionization systems recommended for long term care and senior living facilities would be a huge step in making sure that happens.

LSS 211 Central Ohio is the information and referral service for Franklin County. The call volume has ebbed and flowed over the last 18 months but was still at extremely high levels. The highest month for call volume at 211 was February 2021 with 12,641 calls. Our clients were tired, stressed, and needed important services like food pantries and healthcare to supplement their income. We've also noticed that many families are asking for services for longer periods. The long tail of the pandemic will be felt by our families for years to come.

In addition to the completed calls noted above, the average abandoned call rate during the Fall of 2020 was approximately 6,000 per month. This was due to our lack of staff to answer calls, especially Spanish-speaking specialists. LSS 211 has only one part-time bilingual employee. We've managed to improve the abandon call rate to an average of 2,500 this year, but that number is still too high. With adequate bi-lingual staff and an awareness campaign to educate residents on the ways to receive services from 211 other than the phone, LSS 211 can truly help residents emerge from the pandemic successfully.

There is much work to do to assist Franklin County residents who have been affected by the pandemic. LSS stands ready to serve as many individuals and families as possible through our shelter, food pantry, healthcare and housing services. We urge the county to join us in lifting residents out of the cycle of poverty with direct client access and housing funding.

Rummel, Lauren M.

From: Sonya Thesing [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 9:08 AM
To: American Rescue Plan
Subject: From Huckleberry House - Please include youth serving organizations in ARP funding decisions

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Commissioners Boyce, Crawley, and O'Grady,

Thank you for the strong support you have shown, as commissioners and individually, for Huckleberry House and the Franklin County youth we serve.

As you make decisions about American Rescue Plan funds, I encourage you to prioritize the safety net that ensures youth are able to move through difficult circumstances to achieve the lives they see for themselves. That safety net certainly includes Huckleberry House, but it also includes all of our human service sector partners.

We cannot do our work without partners like Kaleidoscope Youth Center, The Center for Healthy Families, Homeless Families Foundation, and Star House. And they cannot do their work without us. Youth in Franklin County don't access just one organization's services, we work as a network to be sure each young person's needs are met. Referring and linking youth to services is a large part of what we do at Huckleberry House, yet funding for such work is hard to find.

During the pandemic, fewer youth accessed our services. That was not because the need was lower. It was because relationships with schools, libraries, recreation centers, after school programs, and community organizations went silent. All of us who serve youth will have to work harder than ever post-pandemic to rebuild effective working relationships with each other, and to rebuild trust with youth.

Franklin County needs Huckleberry House and all of our youth-serving partners to be stronger than we've ever been. For the next several years, we will realize the ways the pandemic has impacted youth. Their needs will be different and greater than they were before a year of isolation and uncertainty. As a parent to transition age youth, I know on a personal level that the effects of the pandemic are playing out in unexpected ways. Mental health needs, expectations around future success, relationships – all are changing for this age group, whose brains are at a critical stage of development. It will take a strong support network to keep our youth moving forward. I have not mentioned the increased crime and violence our youth and staff are facing daily, sometimes hourly, and all that it takes just to keep showing up for each other. Crime and violence now impact every decision we make in our housing programs, in 114 units across Columbus. This new environmental factor is a result of reduced human interaction with the youth we serve.

The County depends on organizations like Huckleberry House. When Franklin County Children Services is working on permanent placements for teens in their care, they stay at Huckleberry House. Our team becomes responsible for these young people during a very tenuous time in their lives. Franklin County needs us to be strong to help do the work of the County.

In closing, I urge you to consider the toll the past year has taken on human service employees who did not "go home" for the year of COVID-19. They worked every day, in changing and dangerous (health and violence) settings with less support than they needed. They keep our community going and have always been underpaid. Coming out of the pandemic, it is my hope that we will acknowledge the value of human service employees and begin to better support and compensate them.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this letter. I recognize you have large decisions to make. I appreciate you and the work you are doing for all of us.

Sincerely,
Sonya Thesing



Sonya Thesing (she/her/hers)
Executive Director

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

614-294-6109 fax
1421 Hamlet Street | Columbus, OH 43201 | www.huckhouse.org

Caution

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Rummel, Lauren M.

From: Peters, Jaclyn N.
Sent: Sunday, July 18, 2021 1:51 PM
To: American Rescue Plan
Subject: Coroner's Office Personnel

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To Whom It May Concern:

As a forensic investigator with the Franklin County Forensic Science Center since 2015, I have seen "ups and downs" in trends regarding deaths in our area, whether it be homicides, suicides, or overdoses. As the "last of the first responders", my co-workers and I have seen and dealt with some horrifying situations. When the pandemic began in 2020, it effected the office in various ways. With a virus that was so new and unknown, we had some difficulties navigating how we were going to handle each case. The coroner's office is an office that cannot close, whether it be night, weekend, holiday, or world-wide pandemic. We are a necessary evil during difficult times.

At the beginning of the pandemic, our protocols were ever-changing as more and more things about COVID-19 were learned. At one point, forensic investigators were going in pairs to scene responses, collecting blood and urine samples on scene, and advised to wear full HAZMAT gear. We were, and still are, required to go into the building or area where the death occurred, regardless of health or safety risks. The morgue technicians were required to wear even more PPE (personal protective equipment) due to their prolonged exposure to these individuals during examinations. We did not have reliable ways to test for COVID-19 for quite some time, now utilizing the services of Ohio State University COVID-19 Laboratory. When cases that would need autopsied came back detected for COVID-19, we did not have a way to autopsy them safely until months into the pandemic. We came to a point months back that policies and procedures for COVID-19 have remained mostly consistent, which is a relief for those of us dealing directly with decedents and their families.

Along with the enormous uptick in violent crime, the coroner's office was also navigating an opioid epidemic, a world-wide pandemic, and a surge in suicide rates. In my time with this office, we had not reached 5000 reportable cases in a calendar year, until 2020. Last year we saw over 5800 cases reported to our office. Even though we had a large uptick in our caseload, our employment numbers remained mostly the same in the morgue and investigations.

The investigators and morgue technicians at the Franklin County Forensic Science Center are a group of hard-working individuals that are diligent in doing everything they can to provide answers to survivors of the decedents we work with. We tend to be a mostly forgotten field until we are in need. Being an "essential business" during the pandemic and being required to come to work was understood by every one of us. My co-workers and I continue to do this difficult work without any extra bonuses and incentives. We would truly appreciate any consideration that you give our office regarding the funds for essential personnel.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

*Jaclyn Peters, D-ABMDI
Forensic Investigator
Franklin County Forensic Science Center
2090 Frank Road
Columbus, OH 43223*

7/14/2021

To Whom It May Concern,

Challenges, hardships, and victories are what a first responder experiences in their career. Those words could not ring truer since the beginning of the COVID 19 global pandemic. First responders have been challenged, dealt with numerous hardships, and achieved victories. These first responders include police officers, paramedics, and firefighters. However, there is another member of this group, Coroner's Investigators. I have proudly served Franklin County as a Coroner's Investigator for the past twelve years.

In my twelve years as an investigator, I never imagined I would be working during a global pandemic. I had been accustomed to investigating deaths that were suspicious, and often violent. However, when the global pandemic reached our county, the investigators were tasked with a whole new set of responsibilities. The investigators worked diligently to ensure the safety of the families, friends, the deceased, and our coworkers from potential exposure to the virus. We acclimated ourselves to the almost daily changes in protocols. We had a great responsibility as first responders to keep the general public safe, including the recently deceased.

I would greatly appreciate to whomever will be reading this letter and consider the Franklin County Coroner's Investigators to be included in the American Rescue Plan fund.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly L. Sandberg, ABMDI-F, EMT, and MS

Rummel, Lauren M.

From: Miller, Eric X.
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 10:24 PM
To: American Rescue Plan
Subject: Ideas Regarding Allocation of ARP Funds

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To whom it may concern:

My name is Eric Miller, I am a Forensic Investigator with the Franklin County Coroner's Office. I would like to suggest the use of ARP funds to pay first responders for work during the pandemic. More specifically the inclusion of the Forensic Investigations department of the Franklin County Forensic Science Center. During my research into the ARP funds, I noted that the idea of paying first responders for their work during the pandemic as a possible use for the funds and feel as though this is the best use of the funds. During the pandemic, police officers, EMTs, and coroner staff were not given the luxury of working from home nor taking steps that non-first-responders were able to take to remain safe during the pandemic. During the pandemic, I was personally exposed to COVID-19 positive individuals over a dozen confirmed times. While proper personal protective equipment (PPE) was provided, these instances were still stressful and fearful times for myself and for my family, as I did not want to potentially spread the virus to my loved ones and therefore missed out on time with my family by having to quarantine. My coworkers here at the Franklin County Coroner's Office could all share similar stories as well. This money would provide a reward for those of us who did not have the luxury of just avoiding the virus, especially because my those of us who are first responders were not offered any sort of hazard pay or any additional resources.

I'm emailing to speak for my department especially, as Coroner's Investigator's are often excluded from consideration as "first responders", despite working with law enforcement/EMS/firefighters in hazardous conditions on a daily basis. The allocation of ARP funds to first responders would provide a much needed and much appreciated reward to those of us who did not have the option to just stay home during the pandemic, for those of us who have selflessly dedicated our lives to serving the public in times of difficulty. I would argue that first responders, Coroner's Investigators included, were on the front lines of dealing with the virus in uncontrolled conditions (i.e. outside of hospitals and healthcare facilities). These funds would greatly impact the lives of those who were able to receive them and provide acknowledgement for the individuals who perform thankless jobs, such as police officers, firefighters, EMTs, and Coroner's Investigators, amongst many others.

I hope this idea will be taken into consideration, as I strongly feel as though it is a fantastic use of funds in an effort to recognize and salute those who were, and continue to be, on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you very much for your time.

Eric Miller
Forensic Investigator
Franklin County Forensic Science Center
Office of the Coroner

[REDACTED]
Fax: 614-421-2070
[REDACTED]

Rummel, Lauren M.

From: Snell, Chelsea X.
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 4:32 PM
To: American Rescue Plan
Subject: ARP Fund Allocation

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit proposals regarding the allocation of American Rescue Plan funds being given to Franklin County. I am a Medicolegal Death Investigator employed as a Forensic Investigator for the Franklin County Coroner's Office and would appreciate your consideration in granting a portion of the funds to my team in Investigations and Morgue Operations.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, our staff worked diligently despite frequent policy changes, biological hazard, limited staff and resources, fatigue, and extensive caseload to ensure that the public continued to receive the essential services of the coroner in one of the most populous counties in the state of Ohio. When a significant portion of businesses and agencies were working from home, our duties prevented us from being able to do so. In addition to death reports which did not require scene investigation, our Investigators responded to scenes a total of 1625 times in 2020 in order to assist in accurately determining the cause and manner of Franklin County deaths. These scenes can include any location of death, including residences, hospitals, nursing homes, group homes, and correctional facilities, among countless others. In addition to providing unwavering support to the citizens of Franklin County, our work supported the functions of law enforcement agencies, medical systems, and the judiciary system on the city, county, and state levels and beyond. The work performed in our office throughout the pandemic provided impactful data related not only to the novel virus, but also to other relevant issues at the time, including the opiate epidemic and rising homicide and suicide rates. Our staff were able to protect themselves, our partners from other agencies, and our families by upholding the state's guidelines to perform our duties in as safe a manner as possible.

The Investigators and Morgue personnel at the Franklin County Coroner's Office take pride in our work and are honored to provide the service we do. Despite the nature of the work, we are rewarded by the knowledge that we are able to provide answers and closure to people during the most difficult time of their life – which for many was in 2020. Receiving a portion of the American Rescue Plan funds would be a generous "thank you" which we seldom receive.

Thank you for your consideration,

Chelsea Snell



Chelsea A. Snell, BS, D-ABMDI
Medicolegal Death Investigator
Franklin County Forensic Science Center
Address: 2090 Frank Road, Columbus, Ohio 43221
[REDACTED]
Fax: 614-421-2070
Email: [REDACTED]

Rummel, Lauren M.

From: Greenwood, Kevin L.
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 1:57 PM
To: American Rescue Plan
Subject: ARP Impact Statement from LSS Choices

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

The following impact statement re disbursement of ARP funding is from LSS CHOICES.

Thank you.

Kevin L. Greenwood

Deputy Director, Survivor Services

Office of Justice Policy and Programs, CASA OF Franklin County,

373 S. High Street, 15th Floor

Columbus, Ohio 43215-6320

[REDACTED] Direct

614-525-5070 Fax

Kevin.Greenwood@franklincountychicago.org

From: Abdur-Raheem, Elizabeth [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 12:38 PM
To: Greenwood, Kevin L.
Subject: DATA for Presentation at Public Hearing

Hi Kevin,

I know this is late and I totally understand that we missed it. But in case there's another time or this can be useful I would include this.

CHOICES for Victims of Domestic Violence is seeing record numbers of both hotline calls and individuals in need of shelter. CHOICES shelter has 120 beds (and additional cribs). On April 21 there were 121 people in shelter and since then we have been over capacity. This week there have been over 155 residents in shelter nightly. At the same time we have record capacity we are experiencing funding cuts. VOCA funding once paid for the entire Family Services staff team consisting of the Family Services Coordinator, Youth Advocate and two Childcare Workers. Federal cuts of over 35% each of the past two years have meant that currently only the Youth Advocate and one Childcare Worker are still funded by VOCA. Additional funding for these critical positions is crucial to maintaining the level of services we provide to families.

Thanks,
Elizabeth

Elizabeth Abdur-Raheem, MS, MBA

Rummel, Lauren M.

From: Greenwood, Kevin L.
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 9:47 AM
To: American Rescue Plan
Subject: FW: ETSS ARP Impact Statement

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

The following email was intended as an ARP Impact Statement by ETSS.
Thank you.

Kevin L. Greenwood
Deputy Director, Survivor Services
CASA of Franklin County Team Leader



From: Amy Harcar [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2021 5:07 PM
To: Greenwood, Kevin L. [REDACTED] >
Subject: Re: Urgent: DATA for Presentation at Public Hearing

Thank you for the awesome work you are doing. Let me know if this is helpful, if you want any changes.

ETSS Family Care serves survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking, and sexual assault. We have served clients from over 30 countries, who speak 20 languages. In the fall of 2020, we let go of a staff member who spoke Arabic and Somali due to funding. She was able to serve clients from 8 countries in the year she was with our program. Currently, we have three staff members (Family Care Manager and two Bilingual Advocates). A total of five languages are spoken by our small team. If funding isn't made available, one of the three of us will lose our jobs due to additional VOCA cuts coming in October.

Amy Harcar
Family Care Manager, CA, TRCC I
(she/her/hers)

Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services (ETSS)
1060 Mt. Vernon Ave.
Columbus, Ohio 43203

Hugo Beltran
Chairman



Julia Arbini-Carbonell
President/CEO

1535 Bethel Road Columbus, Ohio 43220
www.OhioHispanicCoalition.org
Main: (614) 459-6566 Fax: (614) 459-6546

July 13, 2021

Franklin County Board of Commissioners
373 S High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: Request to Support Ohio Hispanic Coalition in Serving Latino Hispanic Victims with American Rescue Plan Funds

Dear Franklin County Commissioners,

On behalf of the Ohio Hispanic Coalition (OHCO) and Latino/Hispanic victims currently served by the Soy Latina (I am Latina) Victim Services Program, the only Latino/Hispanic victim service program in Franklin County, we want to express our agency's challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic and the negative results from the VOCA funding budget cut impacting the quality services and the Latino Hispanic communities in intervention and prevention services addressing domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

Since 1990, the Ohio Hispanic Coalition has been committed to providing quality services for all Latinos Hispanics through advocacy, education, training, and access to quality services. This year's keyword is "survive." The pandemic led the agency to develop an emergency response in providing remote services to address the basic needs such as health disparities, housing assistance, public benefits enrollment, employment advocacy, and other essential services experienced by the Latino Hispanic victims and Franklin County residents. Latino/Hispanic victims experience additional barriers such as culture, language, varying immigration status, transportation, financial hardship, limited housing options, lack of access to quality and affordable legal services, lack of access to mental health, and more. The pandemic greatly impacted access for Latino Hispanic victims reduced the possibility of success for the victims as they focused on meeting their basic needs and the Soy Latina program was the only one able to respond.

The program empowers Latino Hispanic victims to participate in essential processes such as accessing a safe place from their perpetrators to increase victim safety; addressing financial instability through quality housing and or rental assistance; obtaining divorce and custody; accessing reliable transportation services to attend the hearings and cooperate with the justice system to ensure perpetrator accountability; receive culturally and linguistically-appropriate companionship, victim rights information, and resources for a holistic approach. These quality services lead Latino Hispanic victims to "survive" and heal from trauma to gain independence, re-integrate into society, learn to navigate systems, and create safer communities in Franklin County.

Without support, low-income, Limited English Proficient, immigrant, Latino/Hispanic Franklin County residents continue to experience cycles domestic violence and poverty, and increased rates of homicide due to domestic violence.

Ohio Hispanic Coalition is asking for support through the American Rescue Plan fund to continue providing quality, culturally and linguistically-responsive services that address the needs of Latino Hispanic victims to intervene and prevent violence among the Franklin County communities.

We want to thank you for the valuable opportunity presenting our community's needs in representing the agency and the 74,800 Latino Hispanic Franklin County residents we serve in the support and enhancement of quality, culturally/linguistically-fitting victims services in Franklin County.

Thank you again for your time and consideration on this matter,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maria Ramirez". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Maria Ramirez
Program Coordinator
Soy Latina Victim Services Program

Trauma Recovery Center for Victims of Crime

The OhioHealth Trauma Recovery Center (TRC) operates out of Grant Medical Center, the largest and busiest level I trauma center in the state. The TRC has innovated and adopted a model of care and healing for survivors of crime-related violence to assist them to recover and rebuild their lives. Sadly, there is no shortage of Ohioans and Franklin County residents, specifically, needing trauma-focused care at a time when the federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) dollars dedicated to sustaining the TRC model has significantly dropped over the past four years, resulting in a **70% reduction** in funding.

And unsurprisingly, the **COVID-19 pandemic created many new and significant challenges to sustain and implement programming for victims of crime.** Below are just a few examples demonstrating the devastating impact on patient and family care due to funding cuts and the pandemic:

- Reduction of direct care interventions to patients and their families during hospitalization and post discharge
- Reduction of crisis intervention and emotional support for patients and their families in the emergency room and intensive care units
- Reduction in assertive case management for patients and their families to help navigate the complexity of victimization during their hospital stay and post discharge
- Decline in the number of follow up appointments with patients and families in the outpatient Trauma clinic reducing the ability to advocate and access community resources
- Inability to offer services and advocacy to victims of crime treated throughout the OhioHealth System
- Reduction in patient resources (clothing, transportation, education packets/material, housing assistance, funding to help retrieve birth certificates, ID, etc.) to help lessen the shock and devastation of being victimized

We respectfully urge your support and leadership to provide American Rescue Plan funding dedicated to victim services. Without this money, OhioHealth's TRC will have no choice but to further reduce operating costs by cutting direct service staff, cutting dollars reserved for emergency assistance for clients to help them meet basic needs while they work to re-establish their lives in a safe environment, limiting legal advocacy work, and culling outreach efforts to engage meaningfully with communities most affected by violence and crime.

It is not too dramatic to suggest this is an issue of life and death, impacting many Franklin County residents and our patients who are victims of trauma.

Our TRC team at OhioHealth is passionate and dedicated to the work to assuage the anguish of so many victims of crime within our great county and state. We deeply appreciate your consideration of our request for increased county funding dedicated to OhioHealth TRC.

Advocating Opportunity, like all crime victim services organizations, has experienced significant detrimental impacts as a result of the COVID-19 public health crisis and a dramatic reduction in VOCA funding. Over 60% of VOCA funding to Advocating Opportunity has been cut, causing the agency to be unable to expand services and instead, forced us to implement a waitlist for services, when survivors need us the most. Current positions, which are already serving over the recommended caseload limits, would have had to be eliminated if not for emergency funds, PPP, and EIDL loans. However, VOCA deficits will persist much longer than the emergency funds which have thus far kept us from having to cut staff. Rebuilding these severe funding shortfalls takes time and is extremely difficult, especially when all crime victim services nonprofits are vying for those same limited foundation and donor dollars due to similarly reduced funding.

Survivors of human trafficking have suffered significant trauma and generally have a high need for intensive services. Any reduction in funding to agencies that serve survivors of human trafficking render these crucial services much more difficult to obtain. These additional barriers to services put survivors at risk of relapse and increases their vulnerability to re-victimization. In our communities we have seen a massive reduction in staff at partner agencies, entire programs being forced to close, and a drop in dollars available for emergency client needs.

The fact that these funding cuts occurred during the COVID-19 public health crisis was particularly devastating. Many survivors lost employment and childcare as a result of the pandemic and required case management assistance in navigating the remaining available public benefits. Unfortunately, undocumented survivors of human trafficking, many of whom are still waiting over two years for their T Visas, are not eligible for most public benefits and suffered disproportionately. Housing instability, food insecurity, and a significant increase in household stress were apparent in many survivors we serve. Addiction, recovery, and mental health services struggled to maintain service provision while not only were their budgets being slashed, but they could no longer meet with survivors in person, disrupting the established therapeutic relationship. Service providers showed extraordinary resilience, adapting swiftly and as efficiently as they could, but there was undeniable harm caused by the perfect storm of a pandemic coupled with drastic funding cuts.

Barriers to services to survivors of human trafficking are already significant. There are few specialized programs that meet their needs and that is particularly true for foreign national survivors, survivors with disabilities, and labor trafficking survivors. We are watching helplessly as some of our partner organizations that provide this crucial support struggle, dangerously close to being forced to close their doors. The pandemic was a blow to crime victim service provision, and without funding to revive these vital services, survivors will continue to struggle unnecessarily and unfairly.

Rummel, Lauren M.

From: T. Martin [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 08, 2021 2:05 PM
To: American Rescue Plan
Subject: My Idea for Franklin County and the American Rescue Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good Afternoon,

I am not certain I'm able to attend the virtual meeting, thus I hope not to burden you, but provide an avenue for support and inspiration.

As the current President of The Greater Columbus Growing Coalition (GCGC), I've had a number of conversations with my group of over 300 members, which includes about 50 Community Garden Managers, as well as other community organizations.

In short, I would like to propose we take a good look at how collaborations between community organizations can provide a positive improvement in community aesthetics, safety, economic security, improved health and wellness, civic engagement, and so much more.

For example, a recent conversation I had with Katherine, aka SWID, at the Health Department revealed that their Safe Routes to School Program would be a great place to introduce community children and families to community gardens, accessible fresh produce, volunteer opportunities, knowledge & experience in construction of garden structures & conservation techniques, community gatherings and educational presentations. All of this, and more, the GCGC has provided in and around the Greater Columbus Area for the past decade.

Other conversations, with GCGC Community Garden Managers, revealed a need for ownership of the vacant lands they grow on, lands next to their properties, next to their gardens, and nearby vacant properties which would assure them that what happened to The Kossuth St Garden would not happen to them. Such a resource known as Land Bank property, if donated or sold at a reduced rate to the garden non-profit, would provide for expansion of current GCGC Community Gardens. This in turn would provide the avenue for the Safe Routes to School to route children not only to school, but also to community gardens. This would create, not only safe routes, but vibrant and educational safe routes, healthier, vibrant, community minded children and families.

Now that you have a couple excellent ideas. I thank you for your time and for your thoughtful consideration on both. I believe it is in helping others, we obtain all we need and more. When our neighbor succeeds, we succeed. More lives can be positively impacted when we work together. We should focus on our future, the children.

Again, thank you very much for your time and consideration.
Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments.

Warm Regards,
-t

Theresa Martin
President, GCGC
www.columbusgcg.org

Rummel, Lauren M.

From: Leland Bass [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 19, 2021 4:51 PM
To: American Rescue Plan
Subject: Outline of Testimony regarding ARPA Dollars

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

My name is Leland Bass, Director of Apprenticeship initiatives at the Columbus urban League. These initiatives include the Building Futures and Driving Futures programs which were developed in partnership with the Franklin County Board of Commissioners. So I would like to first thank the Commissioners for their continued partnership and vision in my arena which is Work Force Development. What I want to speak to with regards to how to spend the ARPA funds would be to continue to help fund and develop programming that will help bridge the gap between the marginalized and underserved individuals that were struggling before the pandemic and we know now that the pandemic has exasperated this problem. I would like the dollars to support non-profit agencies and workforce development initiatives that have proven to be successful, and innovative and to help expand those initiatives. In the Four years that I have had the opportunity to work with the Building Futures and Driving futures Programs in partnership with the commissioners as well as Franklin County Administration, I have seen there dedication to and support of programs that work. I have had the ability to participate in the development of programs that are supported by the right kind of dollars that really are able to bridge the gap and provide services. We have put over 100 individuals through Building and Driving Futures thus far with an average starting salary of \$49,600. These programs would not have been available without the contributions from the county commissioners and the dollars that they made available that allowed us to put into place the safe guards and comprehensive wrap around services that help to all but guarantee success. So I would like to see the continued support and expanded support for these types of programs. I believe that our community and our county are in a unique place where we are continuing to grow and the outlook is bright, but we need to make sure we put into place the mechanisms that allow every resident to take advantage of the opportunities that are in front of us. The Board of commissioners even prior to covid had the foresight to develop a poverty plan to address the disparities in our community and I would like to see some of the available dollars go to continuing to broaden those efforts and support those agencies that are doing good work and making a difference in our county.

Leland Bass

Program Manager, Building Futures, Driving Futures, Build Back better Together
helping people achieve economic mobility

Columbus Urban League
788 Mount Vernon Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43203-1403

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Website www.columbusurbanleague.org



Columbus
Urban League

empowering communities.
changing lives.

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CENTRAL OHIO WORKER CENTER

MEMBER UNION • ALLIANCE LOCAL 1777
2370 South High Street Columbus, OH 43207

**TESTIMONY OF ISBEL ALVARADO
BEFORE THE FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGARDING ARPA FUNDING ALLOCATIONS
JULY 15, 2021**

Good Morning President Boyce and Commissioner Crawley,

My name is Isbel Alvarado and I work at the Central Ohio Worker Center in a one-year grant funded position doing community outreach and education to low-wage and immigrant workers here in Franklin County.

I am here today to speak with you on behalf of the Worker Center and the many low-wage and immigrant workers it represents. This COVID-19 pandemic has hit our community members hard, and that is especially true for our low-wage and immigrant workforce, who include all demographics but are disproportionately representative of women and workers of color.

Everyone deserves a wage that covers the basic costs of living. Many Franklin County essential workers are also among its lowest paid workers. The ARP funds allow for up to \$25,000 dollars, and \$13 dollars per hour in premium pay for front line workers. Premium pay can be paid retroactively, and is well deserved among our low-income workforce that kept this economy, and our community, afloat during these difficult times.

In addition, this County should guarantee that workers and independent contractors employed by businesses that receive ARP funds are treated with dignity and respect on the job. One way that this County can do this is by mandating those recipients comply with local, state and federal labor, employment, health and safety laws. These laws already exist, so I am not asking you to write new law.

Nearly two hundred and seventeen thousand 217,000 Ohioans are the victim of minimum wage violations every year, and that's only one type of wage theft. There are many forms of wage theft, and quite literally billions of dollars nationwide that are stolen from hardworking American workers each year. These thefts often go unreported because workers do not know their rights, they don't know how to enforce them, they don't have the money to enforce their rights, or they are afraid of the systems and barriers in place.



CENTRAL OHIO WORKER CENTER

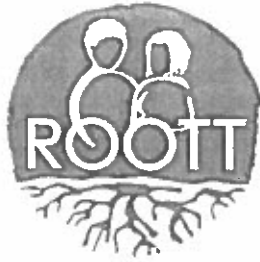
WORKERS VOICES • JUSTICE • DEFENSE

2820 South High Street, Columbus, OH 43207

Ohio doesn't do a good job of helping workers assert their rights in the workplace. Did you know that Ohio only has five wage and hour investigators to protect a workforce of over 5 million workers?

A worker defense fund, for workers who need legal assistance seeking wages they've already worked for and earned or who are mistreated on the job, would be incredibly helpful. In addition, a labor rights fund endowment is extremely needed to help educate workers about their rights on the job. During the COVID-19 pandemic, many workers had questions about what was allowed and what was not allowed on the job site. They had nowhere to turn to except for our worker center, which was and remains completely volunteer-run and which has limited capacity. Endowing something like a Workers Rights Protection Fund, with even a small one-time investment of a couple million dollars, could create a lasting resource to protect working people from employers that steal from them, shirk workplace safety laws, or discriminate against workers.

The Worker Center is committed to working with you to help identify ways we can put these principles into action and protect our low-wage and immigrant workforce here in Franklin County. I am happy to connect with you via email at centralohioworkercenter@gmail.com, and bring along our Board President, Sarah Ingles and a couple of our allies in this larger fight for justice.



RESTORING OUR OWN THROUGH TRANSFORMATION

Jessica M. Roach, MPH
Chief Executive Officer

ROOTT Training Institute and Expansion Proposal

ROOTT is a Black Family led, Community-Based Organization (CBO) that operates as a collective of concerned Black families, community members, advocates & interdisciplinary professionals dedicated to decreasing Black maternal & infant mortality.

ROOTT goes beyond surface level risk factors regarding marginalized Black mothers, fathers, infants, & communities to address root causes of these of health inequities. ROOTT addresses Structural/Institutional Determinants of Health by targeting the racism that creates & sustains the Social Determinants of Health.

As we move into our strategic planning & implementation, we understand that ROOTT is more than an organization. It is a movement, dedicated to the safety & sustainability of Black families, not only in central Ohio, but across our nation & the greater diaspora.

With this, we have come to understand the imperative need to replicate & scale our primary training & certification programs in an intentional manner, as to not compromise the integrity of our model.

The purpose of the ROOTT Training Institute is to provide the following

- Opportunity for other CBO's & individual community members to develop a collective, sustainable work environment in their own communities
- Provide the necessary training & apprenticeship in order to practice as full spectrum, perinatal support doulas
- Assist & advise operationalizing PSD services that would be provided to community. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - Identifying key community stakeholders, existing programs, & hospital system administration that can support local PSD CBO's
 - Source & support fundraising & resource development that would provide financial support for services to the community
 - Anti- Black Racism trainings for local providers, health commissions, Public Health Departments, etc. that are associated with the community served

The Institute will accomplish the goal of building impactful environments by:

- Shifting the narrative of Black Maternal, Infant, & Family Health by reducing negative health outcomes
- Create a scalable & repeatable business model for community growth & development
- Assist in identifying & supporting local resources in developing sustainable programs that create healthy environments based on the needs and desires of the community



President Boyce, Commissioner Crawley and Commissioner O'Grady, thank you for the opportunity to speak today regarding the American Rescue Plan.

My name is Katie White and I am the director of Age-Friendly Columbus and Franklin County, a program of Ohio State College of Social Work. Remarks today are my own. I am here today to thank you for your initial investments in aging services as well as to outline a vision for recovery based on our learnings from COVID response efforts.

As extensively reported by media outlets and public health officials in the United States the COVID-19-induced death rate for adults aged 65 and older was 80% compared to only 20% for younger individuals. Receiving less public attention and concern is that older adults also experienced higher levels of depression, social isolation, housing and food insecurity, and most recently, increased rates of deaths related to severe weather events.

The work of age-friendly communities is not intended to address immediate crises. In fact, much of the work is one or two steps removed from providing any direct human services and focuses on capturing resident voices to inform community planning. However, because of this, we were able to pause as needed due to the non-emergency nature of our work and join our aging colleagues who were on the frontline.

Over the last 15 months, we have spent time with the incredible frontline responders like social workers, case managers, caregivers, service coordinators and volunteers. We have heard from older adults, people with disabilities, and leaders from villages, senior services roundtable, settlement houses, area agencies and county offices on aging. We have participated in emergency responses related to housing and food insecurity, loneliness, heat events. We have seen first-hand the commendable work that was made possible through your CARES investment in aging social services.

As we continue to build evidence about the impact of these response efforts, we also face grave challenges as we see the long term effects of COVID combined with the exacerbated baseline needs in aging services. As we face these growing concerns in both number and severity, I encourage you to fund both incremental and transformational aging programs to enable a strong, sustainable recovery.



While this list is not exhaustive, I urge you to prioritize funding for current aging programs as well as new programs created in response to some of the most pressing needs in aging that have come to our attention through COVID:

- 1) The continuum of housing stabilization programs, specifically the unmet need for transitional, supportive housing:
 - Support a housing navigator as well as related emergency housing funds through a partnership with City of Columbus for two years at \$350,000 per year
- 2) Decrease isolation and loneliness through social connection programs, decreasing the digital divide, and addressing transportation and mobility inequities
 - Prioritize \$100,000 per year for two years to support place-based interventions through villages and other community partners to respond to unique needs across Franklin County
- 3) Comprehensive and proactive emergency preparedness interventions to build resiliency across the county
 - Prioritize \$50,000 per year for two years to replicate projects piloted through CARES funding (emergency preparedness kits, ipads, datacards) as well as additional proactive interventions to increase the emergency preparedness and resiliency among older adults

Franklin County has the people and partnerships in place to create a national model for recovery for older adults. As you consider how to support a strong recovery for Franklin County, I hope you will meet the unprecedented challenges experienced by older adults with unprecedented funding that meets current needs and builds resiliency at the individual and community level.

Thank you for your continued support of aging services, I look forward to any questions or comments.

Jasmine Ayres, MPAff
Community Organizer
07/25/2012
Testimony - Franklin County ARP Dollars

Good morning Commissioners I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak today about the expenditure of the American Rescue Plan Dollars.

It's good to see some familiar faces. For those that don't know me, I am Jasmine Ayres, a community organizer in Columbus who occasionally dabbles in public policy. Again, I am honored to be here advocating on behalf youth and families I speak with daily.

Over the last year and a half I have had the privilege to speak with community members across central Ohio, particularly in Columbus's opportunity neighborhoods about what they think would be most beneficial for them and their families. The resounding answer has been "access to more mental health resources" specifically in informal non-clinical settings. While there have been great strides made on destigmatizing counseling and clinical psychology, a significant portion of the population is still unwilling or unable to access formal mental health care.

Trust and relationship building are the key to accessing youth and families and that rarely happens in an office or clinical setting. Our football coaches, School choir directors, Band teachers, PTA Parents, anyone coming in contact with youth families should have the opportunity to be trained on trauma informed care and social emotional learning. Imagine what our communities would look like with an army of trained citizens available to support the mental health of youth and families?

I implore you to invest in our youth and communities in new ways which includes investing in our frontline workers. Organizations like huckleberry house, kaleidoscope, St. Stephens Community House, Sisters of Empowerment, STAR House APDS, Shalom Zone, Community-of Caring Development Foundation need more help. I know first hand the sacrifices these staff members make to help as many young people and families as possible but it's not enough.

Funding these organizations not only allows them to further their reach into community but will help recruit and retain top talent. It is so important that the people doing direct service are adequately compensated for their work. They are truly our better angels.

According to a study in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, people with low incomes have higher infant mortality rates, lower life expectancy, and are more likely to die from disease than the well-off. They are also at higher risk of suicide than people with higher incomes.

WE must take care of those that take care of us.

I would just leave us with this quote from Martin Luther King, Jr:

"Law and order exist for the purpose of establishing justice and when they fail in this purpose, they become the dangerously structured dams that block the flow of social progress." – MLK Jr.

We are at a crossroads in this County. I know we will choose progress because the other option is simple untenable.

Rummel, Lauren M.

From: Judith Bryant [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 5:14 AM
To: American Rescue Plan
Subject: Stimulus Funds Use

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

My suggestion would be to allocate some or all of the Stimulus Funds we have here in Columbus to help the homeless, providing shelters for them as they have in Denver, and giving the homeless more mental health and addiction care, and providing more training for blue collar jobs.

Judith Bryant

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

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Rummel, Lauren M.

From: Roseann Duchon [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 2:08 PM
To: American Rescue Plan
Subject: Allocation of the Biden American Rescue Plan of \$255 Million

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Sir or Madam:

I would like to see Columbus use a portion of these funds to address the issue of getting ALL medically eligible Ohioans in Columbus fully vaccinated against COVID19 and its variants and to also address the issue of the HOMELESS in our community. This ties in with the other major issue that has long been haphazardly "dealt with."

I worked in the ER and often saw homeless patients that, after being treated, were purposely kept in the department, because there were no available spaces in the Homeless Shelters. Often, these patients would also refuse to go to a shelter for a variety of reasons and were released to just go back out into all kinds of weather conditions.

Denver, Colorado has implemented a program that is dignified, humane and dedicated to assisting the homeless with whatever solutions will help them to regain a sense of self pride and care that every human being deserves, regardless of their race, sex, gender, religion, identity, socio-economic need, etc.

I suggest Columbus use the city of Denver as an example and maybe even improve upon their plan.

Thank you.

Roseann M. Duchon
[REDACTED]

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Rummel, Lauren M.

From: Rafael Melendez [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2021 11:28 AM
To: American Rescue Plan
Subject: How the county should allocate the \$255 million dollars in stimulus funds in the American Rescue Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

In my opinion the county should use those funds to improve the education opportunities it provides, at present, to students in the under-privileged under-served communities within the county.

Rafael Melendez

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Rummel, Lauren M.

From: Skylos [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2021 8:59 AM
To: American Rescue Plan
Subject: American rescue plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I want to state that I think the ARP funds should be spent creating housing on an ongoing and permanent basis for the chronically homeless.

Creating housing that is useful to homeless takes into account where they are interested in living - a house away from all of their existing familiarity and support is as good as no house at all. A roof that demands roommates, deprivation of privacy and security is not preferable to no roof at all.

Solutions that work for the homeless.

David

--

Dog approved this message.

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Rummel, Lauren M.

From: Patrick Colborn [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 11, 2021 11:33 PM
To: American Rescue Plan
Subject: Funds

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I agree we need to help the homeless. Also those who are struggling. Like myself, I have no furnace or A/C die to the flood we had in July 2020. Water filled my basement and fried my furnace and A/C unit. I have been struggling trying to either get it fixed or replaced. My home needs some major repairs but I can't find help anywhere. No extra funds to do it myself. All the stimulus payments I have gotten all went on bills to keep my family afloat during the pandemic and I just run out of options and have no clue where to find any help such as government assistance and so forth. They all turn me down. And no one wants to finance anything to help me out.

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Rummel, Lauren M.

From: Terrie Ramsey [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 11, 2021 11:58 AM
To: American Rescue Plan
Subject: American Rescue Plan

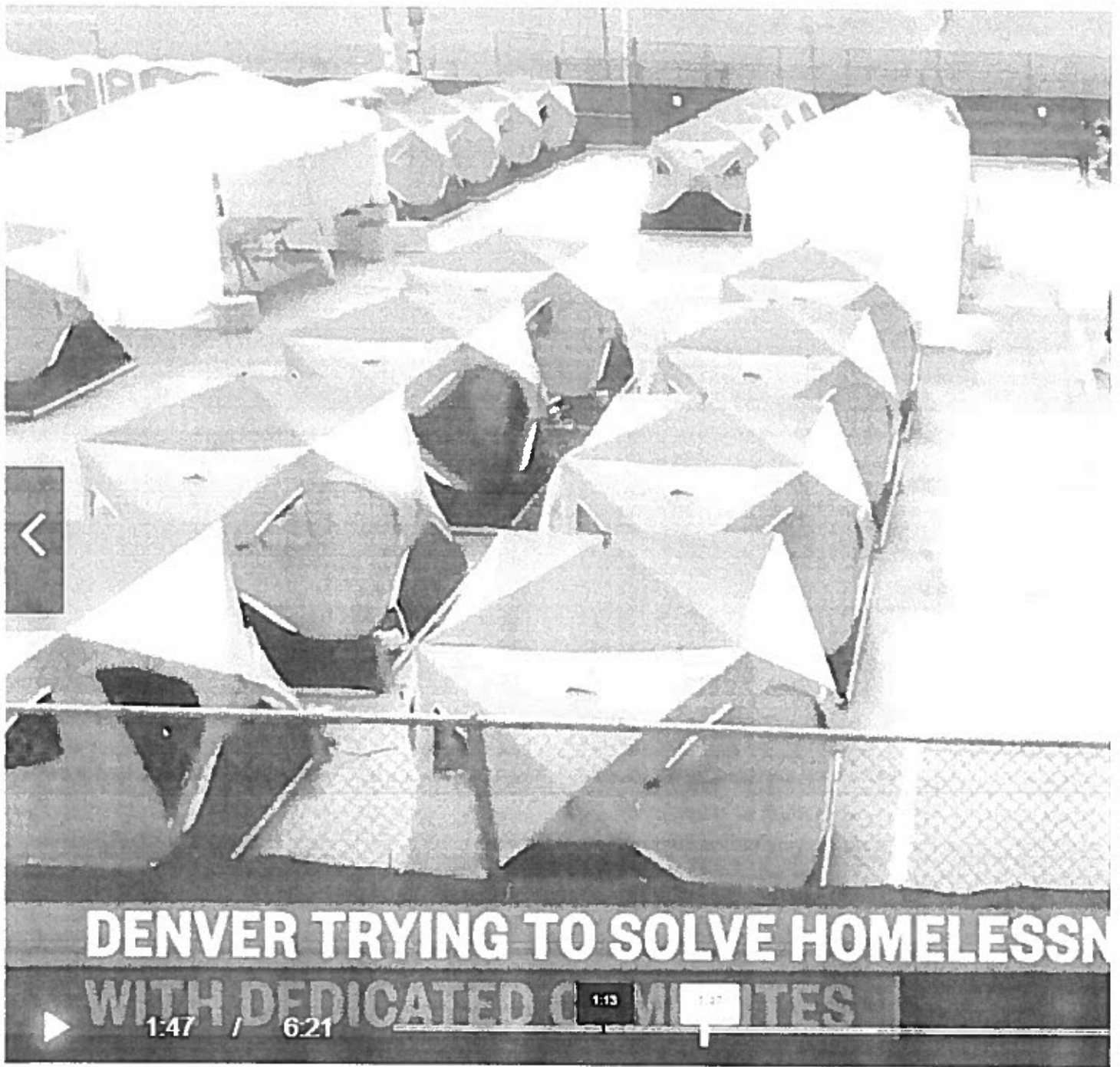
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Franklin County Board of Commissioners,

The homeless situation around the nation is a growing crisis, and is only likely to continue going downhill. Current measures are insufficient. My suggestion regarding the American Rescue Plan would be for Columbus, Ohio to follow the path that Denver, Colorado is taking in creating **Dedicated Urban Campsites for the homeless that are sanctioned, safe, clean, and managed.**

Several agencies in Columbus are passing out tents to the homeless population, but not giving them a place to use them. The homeless simply set them up anywhere and everywhere, creating public slums that are unsanitary, rat-infested eye-sores. If the the homeless person wanders off in search of food, they may return to find their tent shredded and their belongings gone. The going price in Columbus to put a tent in someone's back yard is \$25 a week rent, and often the homeless person's belongings are just thrown in a dumpster if they fail to come up with the weekly rental fee.

A new program in Denver Colorado has come up with a better more humane solution: Dedicated campsites that are managed locations that are kept clean. The tents are large enough to stand up in, and come with a cot and a wooden base. There are bathrooms, laundry facilities, and showers on site. As the dedicated campsite area is a gated community, the homeless can leave their possessions behind while they search for food or jobs, without fear that everything they own will be destroyed while they're gone.



[How Denver is addressing surge in pandemic homelessness \(msn.com\)](https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/denver/homeless-tents) <-- Click on Link for more info.

Star House cannot find enough housing for its homeless youth. Three homeless youth were thrown out of Carol Stewart Village this past month for allowing as many as eight people to sleep in the one room apartments that they'd been given because they couldn't say "no" to other homeless people. Douglas Back was one of those youth. He was sharing his apartment with his friend, his mother, his step father, and all of their friends, and eight people were sleeping in a single small room with one bed. He was evicted for allowing the over-crowding, and is once again sleeping in Star House on a nightly basis. His parents are in a tent, and both have medical issues. One has seizure

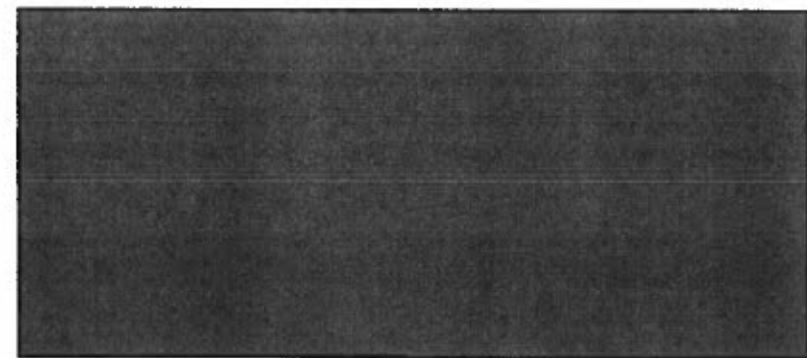
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There is no place for his mother, father, or friends. Many are sleeping in abandoned homes around Columbus because cheap tents placed directly on the ground become wet and muddy when it rains.

Others are sleeping in vehicles, despite freezing temperatures or scorching hot temperatures. We

need to gather them, group them into categories, and provide designated urban campsites for them so we can turn the situation around in a positive direction.

Terrie Ramsey



How Denver is addressing surge in pandemic homelessness

Caution

Rummel, Lauren M.

From: Terrie Ramsey [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 5:05 PM
To: American Rescue Plan
Subject: Re: American Rescue Plan - Homeless Issue

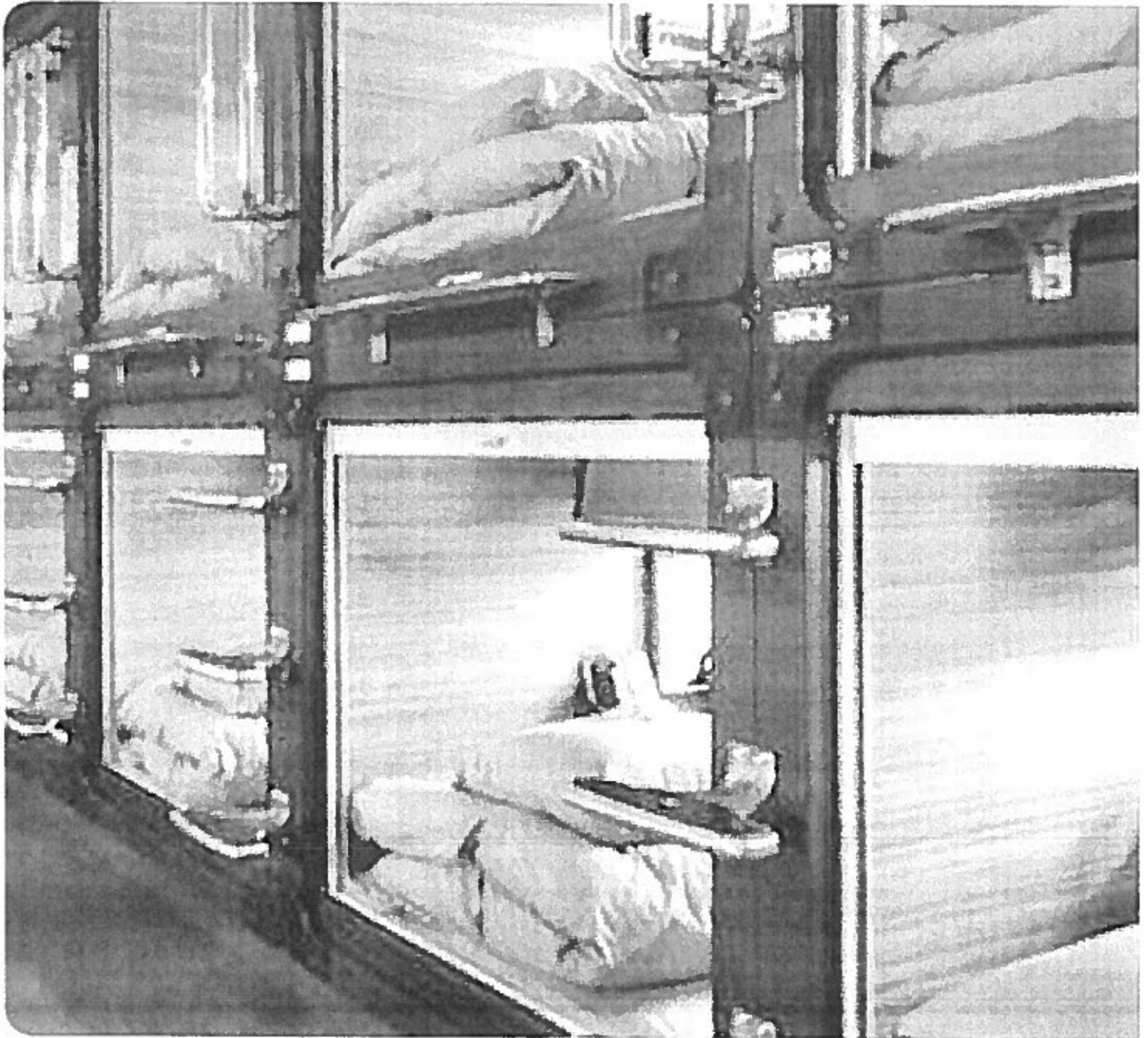
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Columbus has NO FACILITY for those who work a job and make income, but live in their cars because their income isn't enough to afford an apartment. Latinos solve the problem by shacking up 14 to an apartment (illegally) but many non-Latinos just sleep in their cars because our city has no facility for low income individuals who wait years to get off the HUD housing list. **We need a "middle of the road option" between "the street" (dirt cheap) and "an apartment" (often unaffordable).**

If an indoor space is available somewhere, then I think a Pod Style set up might work as part of the equation for certain sections of the homeless population that may have made some progress, found a job, but still aren't able to afford a rental apartment with the rising prices or still need more guidance before they can move on to independent living. A one size fits all approach rarely works. We need to have a more humane approach, but it doesn't have to look the same for each homeless person. We need to realize that each person is an individual that has different needs, yet many also have similarities, and if grouped in a reasonable manner, it is easier to provide the services that they need on site.

I've seen many different set ups to address homelessness that would be better than what we have. To fix the problem, we need to offer the homeless person more than just an overnight cot under a roof for one evening. We need a stable set up where social workers can come in and help the person get back on his or her feet, obtain job training or counseling, and follow a step by step approach to improve the quality of their lives.

Inflation is reaching a point where a person with a minimum wage job worker can't always find an apartment at an affordable price based on their wages even though they're working a 40 hour week. They may just need a neat, quiet place to rent a bed while they pay off their car or hospital debt and build their savings back up so they can afford the deposit for an apartment. If so, can't we to at least provide a facility where those with a limited income can rent a bed in a shared living facility at a low minimum fee. California and many other areas have such a thing. I've known many homeless that have jobs, but still end up living out of their cars because they can't afford the full price of a rental apartment and all of the associated utility fees. Columbus has no facilities for those with some income, but not enough income.



Terrie Ramsey

On Tuesday, July 13, 2021, 02:01:41 PM EDT, American Rescue Plan <arp@franklincountyohio.gov> wrote:

Hello and thank you for your email.

The commissioners are excited to hear from our community's residents about how the county can best continue to assist our neighbors who are struggling due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Your feedback will be added to the remarks delivered in person by speakers at the American Rescue Plan hearing on July 15th, which the commissioners will be reviewing

carefully. You can watch the hearing live on the Columbus CTV network at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday or online by registering here.

Thank you again for your input and concern for our community.

Tyler Lowry

Director of Public Affairs

Franklin County Board of Commissioners

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

614-373-8886

From: Terrie Ramsey [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 11, 2021 11:58 AM
To: American Rescue Plan <ARP@franklincountyohio.gov>
Subject: American Rescue Plan

Dear Franklin County Board of Commissioners,

The homeless situation around the nation is a growing crisis, and is only likely to continue going downhill. Current measures are insufficient. My suggestion regarding the American Rescue Plan would be for Columbus, Ohio to follow the path that Denver, Colorado is taking in creating **Dedicated Urban Campsites for the homeless that are sanctioned, safe, clean, and managed.**

Several agencies in Columbus are passing out tents to the homeless population, but not giving them a place to use them. The homeless simply set them up anywhere and everywhere, creating public slums that are unsanitary, rat-infested eye-sores. If the the homeless person wanders off in search of food, they may return to find their tent shredded and their belongings gone. The going price in Columbus to put a tent in someone's back yard is \$25 a week rent, and often the homeless person's belongings are just thrown in a dumpster if they fail to come up with the weekly rental fee.

A new program in Denver Colorado has come up with a better more humane solution: Dedicated campsites that are managed locations that are kept clean. The tents are large enough to stand up in, and come with a cot and a wooden base. There are bathrooms, laundry facilities, and showers on site. As the dedicated campsite area is a gated community, the homeless can leave their possessions behind while they search for food or jobs, without fear that everything they own will be destroyed while they're gone.



[How Denver is addressing surge in pandemic homelessness \(msn.com\)](#) <-- Click on Link for more info.

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Terrie Ramsey



Rummel, Lauren M.

From: Codie Rufener [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 10, 2021 12:25 PM
To: American Rescue Plan
Subject: American Rescue Plan money

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

With the sky rocketing housing prices I think the money should be used to supplement people's paychecks who make less than a set amount, or provide money for purchasing a home. Especially since wages have barely increased. Or provide additional unemployment benefits.

-Codie, Columbus resident.

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Rummel, Lauren M.

From: David Andrist [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 10, 2021 12:05 PM
To: American Rescue Plan
Subject: Spending Stimulus Funds

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I agree with County Administrator Kenneth Wilson regarding our housing problem. There are many tax abatements to developers to build in our city, maybe if we offered tax abatements to the average Joe who has rental property if they accept folks who are receiving affordable housing vouchers through the various programs designed to help us do better with this it would have an impact.

Not everyone who is seeking rentals with a section 8 or HOPWA voucher are going to be bad tenants. An incentive, such as a property tax abatement for helping with this issue, may increase availability.

Please consider increasing and doing the same with affordable housing for seniors and those on fixed incomes. Thank you for your consideration.

David W. Andrist
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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Rummel, Lauren M.

From: Ann Dodson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 10, 2021 11:11 AM
To: American Rescue Plan
Subject: Suggestion for ARP funds

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I suggest that funds be used to pay landlords directly for overdue back rent to prevent tenants from eviction—tenants can stay housed and landlords can pay their mortgages, and/or make property improvements with those funds.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ann Dodson
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad
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Rummel, Lauren M.

From: Aaron Granger [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 10, 2021 11:04 AM
To: American Rescue Plan
Subject: Stimulus ideas

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To the Commissioners,

There are a number of things that could assist with removing some of the barriers for advancement in this recovering economy.

* rental deposit assistance - most housing rental requires a full month or more of rent for deposit. Providing that rental deposit assistance can be the difference between relocating closer to employment, daycare provider, or upward mobility.

* governmental traffic and license fees - the number of people driving under a suspended license is staggering. Many, if not most, have a suspended license not as a result of failure to pay child support, driving under the influence, or an underlying criminal charge. Most are simply a result of unpaid fees associated with an original infraction which was never paid and subsequent driving under a suspended license charges and fees. Zeroing out these fees will allow people to fully participate in the gig economy and access to the booming delivery jobs and other sources of employment that is otherwise unavailable until a person can be fully licensed to operate a motor vehicle.

* neighborhood beautification - many suburban communities offer reduction of fees relating to water used to keep their grass green if an in ground sprinkler system is used. This means if you can afford an inground system you pay less to keep your grass green than the neighbors who manually moves a sprinkler around to accomplish the same goal. Offering assistance for things like sprinkler systems, house painting, community gardens, driveway coating, concrete repairs, etc. will boost local economy, home prices, and advance upward mobility.

Aaron L. Granger
Dublin, Ohio

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Rummel, Lauren M.

From: Jessica Zernhel [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 10, 2021 9:45 AM
To: American Rescue Plan
Subject: How to spend stimulus money

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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1. Put water fountains in parks
2. Trim trees around the county
3. Create jobs for teens year round

Jessica Zernhel
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone
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Rummel, Lauren M.

From: David Celebrezze [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 10, 2021 8:34 AM
To: American Rescue Plan
Subject: American Rescue Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi,

I encourage the commissioners to have a sustainability lens in which they use to help guide where they spend the federal funding. If the money is going towards infrastructure then only on infrastructure that is built in a sustainable way and/or meets LEED standards. If funds are set aside to go directly to businesses, then encourage the business to switch to LED lights, high efficiency water fixtures, etc. This will help that business be more adaptable in the future while lowering its carbon footprint and saving it money. Even if it costs slightly more upfront, we know that building/operating in a sustainable fashion saves money in the medium to long term.

Take Care,
David R. Celebrezze
3294 Riverside Drive
Columbus, OH 43202

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Rummel, Lauren M.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 09, 2021 2:59 PM
To: American Rescue Plan
Subject: ARP input

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

This message was sent securely using Zix®

Hello, my name is Katelyn Donaldson and I am a Franklin County citizen and employee. I have some input on where I think funds from ARP could be allocated, and when looking into where they could be routed, this article (<https://www.cbpp.org/research/state-budget-and-tax/priorities-for-spending-the-american-rescue-plans-state-and-local>) was really helpful!

First, I think it's really important to make sure you are getting input from the actual people you are trying to serve, explicitly low-income minority folks who have been highly burdened by the pandemic. I don't think it's enough to have this be open response, I hope actual community representatives can be contacted about the best action to take with this money.

I think it could be really beneficial to fund schools and their peripheries, including before/after school programs, summer programs/camps, especially in high-risk neighborhoods. This could be a public safety measure and a way to provide child care for single parent households, and could encourage learning and involvement after a year of exclusion from normalcy.

I think it is also really important to funnel this money to organizations that are already established and can keep the ball rolling even once ARP money runs out. We want this funding to allow for systemic change, so I think building up orgs like Impact Community Action, Columbus Urban League, LSS Choices could really help their infrastructure in the long run of reaching clients and getting their resources accessed.

I also really strongly advocate that no money gets funneled into policing in the name of public safety. It has become clear that Columbus is a dangerous place for people of color and the police should not receive additional funding when they threaten the very lives that they should be protecting. There are so many other ways we can build the community up through social services, instead of intimidating people through police practices.

Thank you for your time and request for suggestions, all the best,

Katelyn Donaldson (she/her)
Franklin County Child Support
Intake Support Officer I

[REDACTED]
80 E. Fulton Street

Rummel, Lauren M.

From: valarie wallace [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 09, 2021 9:18 AM
To: American Rescue Plan
Subject: Allocation of American Rescue Funds

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Commissioner's,

I would like for some of the American Rescue Funds to go to Senior and Disabled homeowner residents of Franklin County for home repairs.

Some of these residents are unable to have repairs such as HVAC, water tanks, plumbing, electrical, insulation,

roof and exterior home repairs, appliance repairs or replacements taken care of because they are unable to afford the repairs.

To think of our Seniors and Disabled to not have their basic needs available to them is heartbreaking.

Please Commissioner's I hope that you can help some of these residents of the county who could really use a helpful hand.

Thank You,

Valarie Mitchell

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Rummel, Lauren M.

From: suedarr20 [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 10:22 PM
To: American Rescue Plan
Subject: Homeless and 255 million dollar allocation.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I and others are emailing you to consider the use of this money, as tax payers, to model the Denver, Colorado provision for their homeless rather than handing out cheap tents that will not protect homeless ppl. With the present and most likely inflation...there are going to be more homeless.

We have to do better. 😊😊

Sent from my Galaxy

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Rummel, Lauren M.

From: Belinda Spinosi [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 4:38 PM
To: American Rescue Plan
Subject: Comment: County Outcomes Survey is Best Use of Stimulus Funds

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Honorable Commissioners,

So grateful that you asked for our opinion, thank you.

As a long time disability advocate who works on universal issues of our shared humanity, one of the ways I stay close to the merging need is to work with our residents who are homeless and poor along our Cota bus line. It is here where I see how Adamh, health systems, and Informational and Referral systems fail us. If we are to correct the safety net we must address these three issues. I ask for you to fund a countywide census of our mental health, health and nonprofit effectiveness to hear from users, and people in need, their experience with our systems, not the professionals.

I ask this census to be completed by an outside organization not connected to us, JPAL could guide you; that all forms of outreach be used, not the traditional partnerships that have historically weighted our outcomes; a technology based survey system, such as tablet outreach to homeless, and using the media to get the message out and provide the link. I would add a second organization to examine the results for perspective.

A decade ago I started bringing the issue of Adamh agencies weighting surveys to Adamh and was ignored. I worked in an Adamh agency and the supervisors were instructed to ask employees to hand surveys to the cream outcome clients. This was

done across all grants, government at all levels, philanthropy, and with Board Members. I was a Political Science major and knew the ramifications of this on who we all serve.

Three years ago, with a less workload, I refocused on Adamh including speaking before the Admah Board. Commissioner Brown helped me get a meeting, was updated on the problems Adamh has in having county responsibilities but no authority and the mandated multitude of organizations and different surveys that dilute the needs of the Franklin County people in need. The problem is Adamh is not surveying homeless, poor and users of their services.

The most recent Adamh survey went back to surveying nonprofit Adamh agency administrators, and other partners, again. I found this out when I tried to connect homeless outreach, the homeless, people who are poor, professionals in the mental health field, including outreach in Ohio Mental Health America. None of them heard about the census and then Admah reported their outcomes. I spoke to Adamh and they confirmed they went back to the same process of surveying their partner administrators, saying they were not in control of who the administrators gave the survey to. They argued they did a few focus groups to balance the survey. Nothing can balance a professionally weighted multi year survey. We are hurt for years, again.

In my experience, partly the reason is because it is easier to do the classical method without thinking, the way it's always been done works for professionals and their reporting outcomes to you. If the numbers are consistent, you cannot see why change is necessary. It is also because agencies don't want the outcomes. It is always argued that they need more money.

Instead we could emphasize the outcomes and a different business model. In fact, we should not fund them if they cannot provide the

outcomes. Incentive based outcomes has been taken up by the United Kingdom in the National Health Service and it has changed the priorities of reimbursed providers and better outcomes for users. NHS also reports publicly with open commenting.

We know studies show health professional bias with much higher positive outcomes than users report. We also know that the health outcomes are not returning for the public outlay. It is presumed that this is the best we can do given politics. It is not.

This same problem can be said for the informational and referral treadmill that breaks the hope of people in need. Giving nonprofits credit for referrals is easier than actually having outcomes. I speak to people who have for decades been moved from nonprofit to nonprofit, from social workers who do not have time for them, to prescriptions because it is less expensive than finding a home or hiring enough social workers who will do work in the streets. Many mental health agencies have moved to temp work for homeless who do not have the health to work. But we pay nonprofits to keep trying to get them employed when our businesses can discriminate against people with mental illness. Businesses take this even less seriously than the nonprofits, in tokenism and aesthetics that can be marketed that they are participating in community. Then the people lose their jobs.

As a Columbus kid I started working in community based public policy and nonprofit work. I have experienced how our systems have let us down, giving me an insight that I have dedicated to solving problems. The lack of oversight over professionals to deliver outcomes is breaking us economically and our human spirit. Without citizens speaking to their experience, and those outcomes published for all to see, we cannot hope to change the direction of our public budgets or public outcomes.

I thank you for your consideration of a countywide census that allows all of us to speak, and asking for our opinion on the use of Stimulus Funds.

Belinda Spinosi
4249 East Broad Street, Apt F
Columbus OH 43213

[REDACTED]

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