



## Ideas in Motion

Franklin County Board of Commissions recognize the urgent need to address poverty and have already begun taking action. Here are just a few steps underway and some actions that will be taken soon to address and hopefully reverse this trend of growing poverty in Franklin County.

- **Innovation Center:** Creation of a center aimed at treating the causes of poverty, rather than just the symptoms. The center will bring the committee's big ideas to life, and where possible and work with our partners on addressing policies, short-term programs and encouraging Racial Equity training countywide.
- **Racial Equity:** The county is providing training that will aid the community in identifying practices regarding race and equity have created barriers to alleviating poverty, so that these areas can be addressed.
- **Living Wage for County Employees:** The Board of Commissioners believes county wages should be increased to a minimum of \$15 per hour, the minimum recommended for workers to escape poverty. In addition, they will challenge other large employers and local governments to follow suit.
- **Senior Housing Initiative:** In the next three months, the Franklin County Office on Aging will be rolling out a comprehensive program to address senior housing concerns so that more seniors are able to age in place at home this year.
- **Building Futures:** The commissioners' premiere workforce training program connects low-income residents from traditionally underrepresented populations with pre-apprenticeship training in the skilled building trades, will be continued another year and commissioners are considering expanding it to other trades.
- **Forward Cities:** The commissioners and private sector partners have launched a new two-year pilot program that will help connect entrepreneurs in targeted

neighborhoods with investors, lending, expertise and mentoring to grow their small businesses and strengthen the local economy.

- **Comprehensive School Health Curriculum:** The Board of Commissioners, in partnership with CelebrateOne and Nationwide Children’s Hospital, recently invested \$100,000 to help Columbus City Schools to adopt an evidenced-based, comprehensive health curriculum for both middle and high school students.
- **Step Up To Quality Childcare Provider Training:** Franklin County is committed to expanding access to high-quality, star-rated early learning programs for low-income families and offering free training to help state licensed childcare providers meet the state’s 2020 Step Up To Quality early learning standards.
- **Catalyst Grants:** The Board of Commissioners allocated \$1.5 million to a new initiative called the Catalyst Grant Program, intended to spark meaningful change in priorities areas of Economic Security, Personal and Family Empowerment, Emerging and Basic Needs, and Community Enrichment.