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Contact:
Brittany Thompson, 462-3354
Emily Wickham, 462-6638

Commissioners Approve Funding for Community Research Partners

On Tuesday, Commissioners approved \$120,000 for Community Research Partners (CRP) to provide research and database services for staff of Franklin County agencies, organizations that provide services to the county, local governments, and the general public.

Community Research Partners is a unique nonprofit research center founded in 2000. CRP works to connect theory with practice and bring clarity to complex issues, creating high quality products and resources for Central Ohio communities.

CRP will compile the data from Community Indicators Database, a collection of “big picture” demographic, economic and social indicator data that describe trends and conditions in central Ohio, and DataSource, The Franklin County Community Data System.

DataSource is a web-based data system with demographic, social services, education, and property data from the Census, Franklin County, and other government agencies. DataSource enables users to create customized maps, tables, and graphs for a variety of geographies, including zip codes, census tracts, and neighborhoods.

CRP will work with the Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services and other county agencies to design and conduct research, collect and analyze community data, or provide training and technical assistance that enables county agencies to more effectively address the needs of target populations.

“CRP is a vital partner affording the county’s taxpayers assurance that our dollars are targeted to assisting those who need jobs,” said Commissioner Paula Brooks. “They allow us to strategically spend scarce dollars on the neediest Franklin County families and children.”

“Residents of Franklin County have free access the Community Indicators website and see the data that describes trends and conditions in central Ohio,” said Commissioner

Marilyn Brown. “So far in 2009, over 52,463 visitors have visited the website. It is wonderful that so many people are utilizing this research tool.”

“Our communities have the ability to access a dynamic community data-sharing website that will provide residents with information from both the local and state agencies, along with data collected from the U.S. Census,” said Commissioner John O’Grady. “Community Research Partners also will provide training and technical assistance for the public, which is a great way to increase the number of people this information can impact.”

DataSource and Community Indicators are available for free public access by visiting the Community Research Partners website at www.communityresearchpartners.org.