



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Commissioners Fund Educational Opportunities for Franklin County Children**

During today's General Session meeting, Franklin County Commissioners approved over \$340,000 in Community Partnership grants to provide funding to COSI and the Columbus Historical Society to support educational programming for local residents.

The Commissioners passed a resolution that will provide \$325,000 to COSI, which will allow the Center for Science and Industry (COSI) to provide engaging programs, both on site and in the community, to Franklin County families, individuals and students.

The programs are designed to foster and strengthen interest in science, technology and research. Franklin County support will facilitate access to COSI for an estimated 8,500 individuals and families throughout the year through a combination of onsite and offsite programming.

Specifically, COSI will partner with Franklin County agencies providing direct support to families of need, community organizations and academically at-risk schools. Through these partners, COSI will provide 6,700 free admissions to COSI programs and services during Family Friday Nights, 1,500 admissions to students of schools in underserved neighborhoods through field trips and other programs, and 300 Family Access Plus Membership.

The Commissioners also approved an agreement with the Columbus Historical Society for \$15,000 that will provide educational programs that will foster understanding and appreciation of local history.

The programs will provide local history and lesson plans to Franklin County third and fourth grade teachers and help members of underserved and immigrant populations of Franklin County acquire greater information about the local history. The Columbus Historical Society works to educate the citizens of central Ohio and preserve the historical artifacts of central Ohio.

"Providing an atmosphere that encourages learning outside of the school environment is important, especially when learning about science and history," said Commissioner Paula Brooks. "These partnerships will provide those hands on science activities and historical locations for children to associate with their educational lessons."

“COSI creates an exciting atmosphere for learning and better understanding of science, industry, health and history,” said Commissioner Marilyn Brown. “Through our partnership with COSI, Franklin County students and families will have the chance to visit these exhibits and take away valuable knowledge from their participation in creative demonstrations and experiments.”

“Our partnership with the Columbus Historical Society will help provide children in Franklin County with information about our local history,” said Commissioner John O’Grady. “It’s important that children understand and appreciate the work of the men and women who came before us and made central Ohio what it is today.”