



Franklin County  
**BOARD OF  
COMMISSIONERS**



Franklin County  
Board of Commissioners  
**JOB & FAMILY  
SERVICES**

## **Innovation Center Fact Sheet**

The Blueprint calls for the creation of an Innovation Center that can tackle ideas to treat the causes of poverty, not just the symptoms. Center staff will take on the hard lifting to create significant change that will involve bringing community partners together and implementing the blueprint - including vetting its big ideas.

The Innovation Center on paper will be listed as part of the Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services. However, the center will be housed at the Columbus Partnership thanks to their in-kind donation of office and meeting space.

The Innovation Center will have oversight from a newly-created Leadership Council. Council; the Council's will have 17 members who are appointed by the Franklin County Commissioners and serve about 18 months. The list of Council members has not been finalized yet. However, Trudy Bartley, the Associate Vice President for Community Relations at The Ohio State University, and Matt Habash, President and Chief Operating Officer of the Mid-Ohio Foodbank, have agreed to co-chair the Council.

The Innovation Center staff will receive support from FCDJFS' Strategic Transformation and Research unit.

Center staff will initially focus on three of the 13 goals identified by the Steering Committee and one of the Steering Committee's big ideas. These are:

- Goal #1 (Jobs): Increasing employers' engagement in neighborhoods of concentrated poverty – through the creation of living wage and high-paying jobs for residents.
- Goal #3 (Jobs): Increasing access to relevant training for credentials that meet local demand with employer commitments to hire and promote.
- Goal#11 (Youth): Increasing the number of students at or near the poverty level experiencing academic success.

- Big Idea: Research, evaluate and vet an expanded childcare subsidy program and public pre-K for all Franklin County children.

Franklin County is pledging up to \$2.5 million in funding annually starting in 2020 and will seek private and/or state funds, as well as grants to allow this work to continue. Salaries for the three initial staff members are expected to cost the county \$230,000, plus benefits.