

News Release



Office of Public Affairs

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FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS APPROVE \$2.2 BILLION 2025 BUDGET, FOCUSED ON LONG-TERM GROWTH AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

This afternoon, the Franklin County Commissioners approved the 2025 budget, which exceeds \$2.2 billion, underscoring their commitment to ensuring that residents not only survive but thrive. This budget goes beyond the numbers—it illustrates how the county is strategically investing resources to meet the needs of its residents and strengthen the community. As the administrative arm of local government, the commissioners oversee 15 county agencies and establish the budget for all county offices, elected officials, and agencies. County Administrator Kenneth N. Wilson presented the proposed 2025 budget during the first hearing on November 14th.

"Our budget is a statement of what we value and prioritize as a county. Each year, the commissioners' office build the budget around our core principles of good governance, which emphasize a human-centered approach to public service," said Board of Commissioners President Kevin L. Boyce. "Whether it's supporting public safety, fostering economic growth, or advancing health, human services, and sustainability, the 2025 budget represents our commitment to creating a thriving Franklin County where families and businesses can flourish."

Franklin County officials also highlighted the use of more than \$429 million in federal COVID-19 support funds received since 2020. These funds were vital in addressing immediate pandemic challenges while laying the groundwork for future stability and growth. The funding breakdown includes \$8 million from the FEMA Fund for emergency response costs, \$76 million from the Coronavirus Relief Fund for urgent relief, and \$89 million in Emergency Rental Assistance to stabilize housing. The largest allocation, \$256 million from the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund, was dedicated to addressing long-term systemic challenges and building resilience in the community.

"The federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds have been a vital resource in helping Franklin County navigate the challenges of the pandemic while also building a stronger future," said Commissioner John O'Grady. "From addressing food insecurity to expanding mental health services and supporting childcare providers, these investments reflect our commitment to meeting residents' immediate needs and driving long-term community growth."

These federal funds have supported several transformative programs and projects, including the RISE Childcare Recovery Initiative, which helped childcare providers and ensured access for working families. Investments in the North Market Mixed-Use Project have expanded the economic impact of this iconic Columbus landmark. Other initiatives include support for the CHOICES shelter for domestic violence survivors, addressing food insecurity through the Mid-Ohio Food Collective, and contributing to the construction of the Franklin County Crisis Care Center, a state-of-the-art facility to serve as the central,

preferred destination in Franklin County for behavioral health crisis needs. These efforts reflect the county's ongoing commitment to addressing immediate community needs while fostering a stronger, more resilient future.

"These investments have been pivotal in addressing Franklin County's most urgent needs and laying the groundwork for lasting change," Commissioner Erica C. Crawley said. "From ensuring working families have access to childcare to expanding mental health services, these initiatives reflect our ongoing dedication to creating a stronger, more resilient Franklin County."

The 2025 Franklin County Budget demonstrates the importance of local government investing in its community to ensure long-term success. Budgets are not just financial documents—they represent the priorities, values, and commitments that drive the decisions and actions that shape the county's future. The entire 2025 budget can be found at budget.franklincountyohio.gov.



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