

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DASHBOARD REPORT

Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Department

January 2012



PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE PARTNERS

FRANKLIN COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

FRANKLIN COUNTY SANITARY ENGINEER

FRANKLIN COUNTY CITIES

FRANKLIN COUNTY TOWNSHIPS

FRANKLIN COUNTY VILLAGES

NEIGHBORHOOD DESIGN CENTER

Commissioners

Paula Brooks, *President*
Marilyn Brown
John O'Grady



Commissioners

Marilyn Brown, *President*

Paula Brooks

John O'Grady

Produced by:



Economic Development & Planning

James Schimmer, Director

Rollin Seward, Assistant Director

150 South Front Street

FSL Suite 10

Columbus, Ohio 43215

Tel. 614-525-3094

Fax 614-525-7155

www.franklincountyohio.gov/edp

Community Development Team

Rollin Seward, *Assistant Director*

Mark Paxson

Amanda King

Jacob Mercer

Community Development Dashboard

Completed by Amanda King

Graphic Design by Chelsea Weber

Published January 2012

Dashboard Report

Community Development: Infrastructure & Planning

Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Department

Q1: Public Services
Q2: Homeowner Programs
Q3: Rental Housing/Homelessness
Q4: Infrastructure/Planning



WELCOME

Community Development: The Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Department (EDP) administers the Federal entitlement dollars the County receives from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The County receives such funding from three programs: the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, which primarily benefits low-income individuals; the HOME partnership (HOME) program, which funds affordable housing opportunities; and the Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) program, which provides homelessness assistance.

Dashboard Report: This report will highlight the infrastructure and planning projects funded by the County. EDP will update this report quarterly highlighting other programs funded by the County: rental housing and homelessness construction projects, public services, and homeownership programs.

Partners: Our office funds programs and projects within Franklin County's eligible target areas in participating jurisdictions to provide services that address the needs of low and moderate income residents. Franklin County provides these services by contracting out to local service providers and vendors.

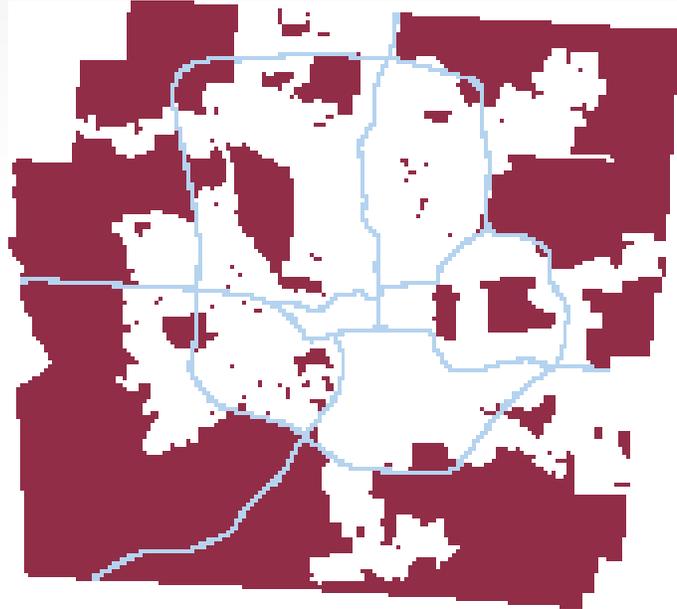
Below is a list of participating jurisdictions by City, Village, and Township.

City of Bexley
 City of Dublin
 City of Gahanna
 City of Grandview Heights
 City of Grove City
 City of Hilliard
 City of Reynoldsburg
 City of Upper Arlington
 City of Westerville
 City of Whitehall
 City of Worthington

Blendon Township
 Brown Township
 Clinton Township
 Franklin Township
 Hamilton Township
 Jackson Township
 Jefferson Township
 Madison Township
 Mifflin Township

Norwich Township
 Perry Township
 Plain Township
 Pleasant Township
 Prairie Township
 Sharon Township
 Truro Township
 Washington Township

Village of Canal Winchester
 Village of Groveport
 Village of Harrisburg
 Village of Lockbourne
 Village of Marble Cliff
 Village of Minerva Park
 Village of New Albany
 Village of Obetz
 Village of Urbancrest
 Village of Valleyview



■ Jurisdictions we serve

Non-Profit Partners:

- Affordable Housing Trust
- Columbus Housing Partnership
- Columbus Urban League
- Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
- Homes on the Hill
- MiraCit
- Mid-Ohio Board for an Independent Living Environment
- Community Housing Network
- National Church Residences
- Community Research Partners

- Community Shelter Board
- Legal Aid Society
- LifeCare Alliance
- Economic and Community Development Institute
- Increase CDC
- Dress for Success
- Rebuilding Together Central Ohio
- Community Development Collaborative of Greater Columbus
- Furniture Bank of Central Ohio
- Franklin Park Conservatory
- Habitat for Humanity - Greater Columbus

- Community Capital Development Corporation

The City of Columbus

County Partners:

- County Treasurer
- County Engineer
- County Sanitary Engineer
- Public Health
- Office on Aging
- Public Facilities Management
- Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District

COMMUNITY SERVICES

The following is a list of services and programs offered by the Community Development section of the Economic Development and Planning Department that residents may find useful. In order to receive these services, recipients must reside in Franklin County but outside the Columbus city limits and meet certain income eligibility guidelines.

- Adaptive Equipment for the Hearing Impaired
- Dress for Success
- Fair Housing Services
- Handicap Accessibility and Minor Home Repair Grants
- Homebuyer Down Payment Assistance
- Homebuyer Counseling
- Single Family Rehabilitation Loans
- Sewer Tap-In Assistance
- Urgent Repair Grants

The Economic Development and Planning Department also provides the following economic development services to income-eligible residents and/or businesses located in the County:

- Microenterprise Loan Program
- Microenterprise Development Training
- Franklin County Biz Launch Fund
- Franklin County Green Corps

Contact us for more information:

Franklin County Economic Development and Planning
150 South Front Street, FSL Suite 10
Columbus, Ohio 43215-7104

Phone: 614-525-3094

Website: <http://www.franklincountyohio.gov/commissioners/edp/>



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Franklin County Economic Development and Planning is committed to engaging with stakeholders in the local community to share best practices, consolidating community development efforts, and delivering the highest quality of services that our communities desire. As part of this commitment to community engagement, EDP staff participate on the following boards and committees in the Central Ohio community:

- Central Ohio Workforce Investment Corporation – *Board Member, Business-Employment Relations & Adult Dislocated Worker Committee*
- City/County HOME Projects Discussion Committee – *Member*
- City of Columbus Green Team Growth & Development Working Group – *Member*
- Columbus Area Affordable Housing Task Force – *Committee Member*
- Columbus Chamber – *Green Business Council*
- Community Development Collaborative of Greater Columbus – *Board Member/Staff Support*
- Community Shelter Board – *Homelessness Prevention and Rapid-Rehousing Committee, Emergency Shelter Grant Committee*
- Community Shelter Board Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative – *Board Member*
- Continuum of Care – *Board Member, Evaluative Committee*
- Franklin County Community Development Advisory Board – *Staff*
- HUD Regional Issues Task Force – *Member*
- Joint Columbus and Franklin County Housing Advisory Board – *Board Member*
- Ohio Conference of Community Development – *Board Member*



BUILDING BETTER HOMES

The AWARE Manual

Building Better Homes with the AWARE Manual

In 2009, Franklin County and the City of Columbus created and adopted the AWARE (Accessibility, Water Conservation, Air Quality, Resource Conscious, Energy-Efficient) Manual for Sustainable Accessible Living to be the performance standard for all federally funded residential projects in these jurisdictions.

The AWARE Manual for Sustainable Accessible Living was modeled after the Enterprise Green Communities criteria and is a guide to providing housing that is healthy, accessible, and environmentally friendly. Homes that meet the AWARE standards, matched with resource-conscious behaviors in the home, can lead to more efficient energy use and lower utility bills.

Universal Design Features

- Zero-step entry into home
- Accessible bathrooms
- Oversized interior door openings
- Switches and outlets at accessible heights
- Lever style hardware on all doors

Green Housing Tip

Interior pollution sources are often found inside the home and can lead to significant health issues when inhaled. To reduce your exposure to indoor air pollutants, change filters on central heating and cooling systems according to manufactures instructions and use filters with a MERV rating of at least 11.

Source: American Lung Association

Green Features

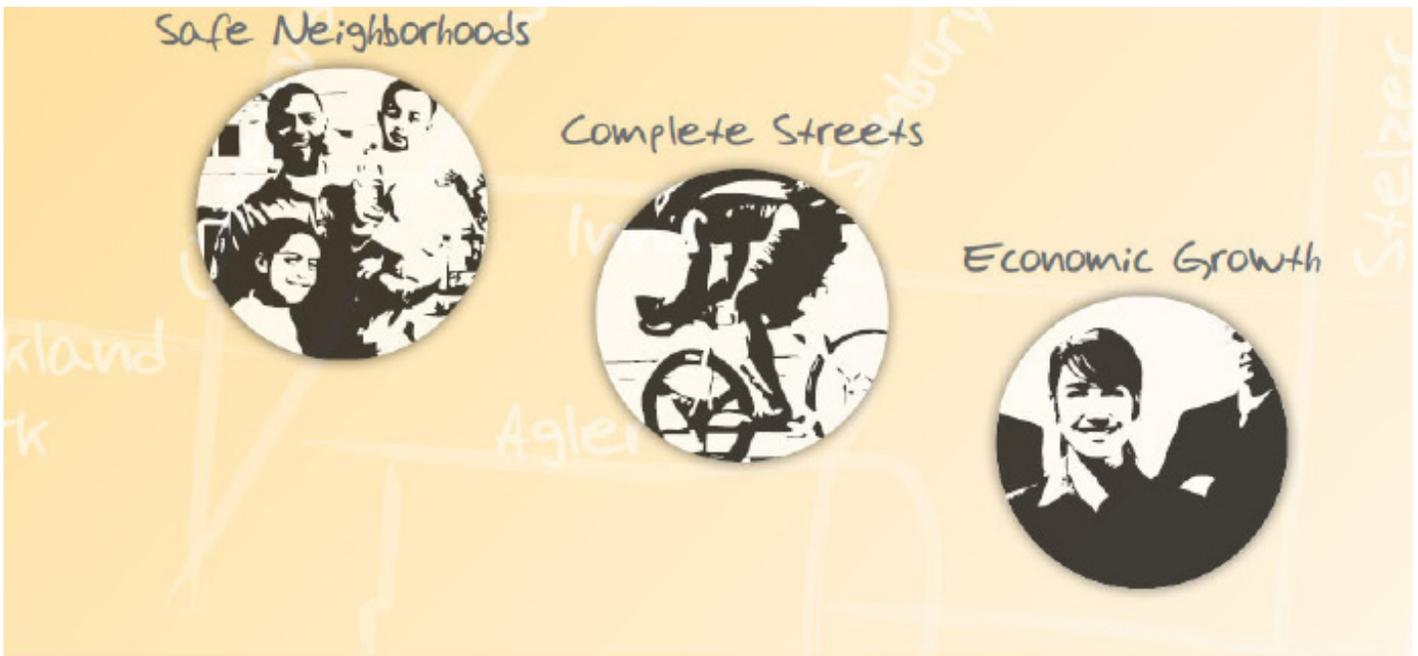
- High-efficiency HVAC system
- Low flow plumbing fixtures
- Energy Star rated appliances and light fixtures
- Low VOC materials, sealants and adhesives

Infrastructure & Planning Overview

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program is a flexible program from the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that provides communities with resources to address a wide range of unique community development needs. The cornerstone of Franklin County's CDBG program has been to fund bricks-and-mortar infrastructure projects that leverage investment in low-income communities. Recent infrastructure projects funded by the County are highlighted here.

The County has also utilized CDBG administrative funds for plan development and planning studies that enhance the public participation process and assist the County in making targeted investments in CDBG areas that will provide necessary improvements and reflect the local communities' vision.

Franklin County continues to rank
No. 1
in leveraging HOME funds in
the nation.



PLANNING INITIATIVES



Neighborhood Design Center

The Neighborhood Design Center (NDC) is a planning and design organization that employs Ohio State University students for projects that assist local governments and businesses with aesthetic improvements. NDC has aided the county in obtaining regional and national recognition for the County's planning efforts.

In 2010, the Cleveland Avenue Streetscape 2020 plan was recognized as the Project of the Year by the American Planning Association, Central Ohio Chapter. NDC also lent its expertise to the development of the Blendon Community Plan, which received an achievement award from the National Association of Counties.

In 2011, Franklin County partnered with the NDC to develop three planning site design concepts in CDBG areas to aide in visual enhancements of the areas.

Blendon Parks Master Plan

Carrying out a recommendation of the Blendon Community Plan, two sites have been identified for conceptual park design in Blendon Township:

1) A new neighborhood park in Cleveland Heights, composed of one to three lots, will be studied for potential uses that may include play equipment.

2) At Big Walnut park strategies will be examined to enhance the existing quality of the landscape and benefits to the community.

An initial community meeting will be held to discuss ideas for each park facilitated by the Neighborhood Design Center with visual exhibits. A second meeting will be held to review interim design concepts. Finalized schemes will be presented to the community for public response.

The Master Plan will be phased into design development and combined into a cohesive portrait formatted book.



Clinton Township Open Space Enhancements and Signage Concepts

NDC will examine community open spaces and compile a list of necessary and desired improvements for Clinton Township as revealed by data collected and expressed by the community.

As a part of this process the Neighborhood Design Center will explore two to three signage concepts for Clinton Township. These concepts will be presented in public forum for review and comment. A final design will be selected and will be packaged with recommended open space improvements.

Beautification Projects

NDC will develop various designs for Chatterton Road, Hamilton Road and the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO) beautification efforts. Chatterton Road, SWACO, and Hamilton Township beautification efforts will be conceptualized and presented to stakeholders and the community.

Having the NDC's visual designs as part of the County's planning process has enabled more people to participate and has increased the County's public participation, furthering our goal of a wide-ranging, inclusive planning process.



BLENDON PARKS MASTER PLAN





Clinton Township Sidewalks Project

Recent Street Improvements

Hilliard Street Project

In 2011, Franklin County awarded the City of Hilliard \$320,000 to construct nearly 1,200 feet of new sanitary sewer infrastructure in the Old Hilliard business corridor. The project addresses a key concern in the City's sanitary sewer overflow Findings and Orders conducted by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

The project is necessary to provide adequate sanitary sewer capacity to existing businesses and residents in the Old Hilliard area. The project will benefit approximately 1,500 persons, including 750 low-income persons.

Urbancrest Street Improvements

The Village of Urbancrest completed the second phase of a comprehensive street resurfacing project thanks to its award of \$100,000 in 2010 CDBG funds from the County. The project rehabilitated over 2,800 linear feet of street in the low-income community, replacing severely neglected and damaged roadway.

The project now provides safe vehicle access serving nearly 750 low- and moderate-income households.

Whitehall Street Improvements

In 2010, the City of Whitehall was awarded CDBG funds from the County to complete a street curb and gutter replacement project. The project removed and replaced about 3,300 linear feet of curb and gutter along Bernhard Road, enhancing water runoff management in the area.

The project directly benefitted over 40 low-income households, in addition to serving one of the County's Neighborhoods Stabilization Program (NSP) Target Areas. Under NSP, the County is rehabilitating approximately 16 homes in the neighborhood where these street improvements were made, further leveraging the County's investment in the area.

Reynoldsburg Street Project

Completed in 2010, the Rosehill Road Phase III Project restored approximately 4,000 linear feet of road improvements, including curb and gutter replacement, removing a deficient guardrail, and paving approximately 1,500 feet of roadway, and installing ADA-compliant curb ramps at one intersection.

The project was located in a CDBG area of Reynoldsburg and provided improved road access to over 2,600 low- and moderate-income residents in addition to regular commuters using Rosehill Road.

INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMS

recent projects



Mifflin Township Sidewalk Installation

Sidewalk Projects

Clinton and Mifflin Township Sidewalks

As part of the County's American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) CDBG-R stimulus allocation, EDP invested in the County's infrastructure by completing two sidewalk projects in Clinton and Mifflin townships.

Both sidewalk projects were designated as priorities in the Clinton-Mifflin Land Use Plan, completed by the Planning Department.

The Mifflin Township project installed over 7,400 feet of sidewalk along Parkwood Avenue and the Clinton Township project installed nearly 6,000 feet of sidewalk along Cooke Road, connecting low-income residents to existing sidewalks in the neighborhood as well as to public transportation along Cleveland Avenue, one of the most traveled bus lines in Columbus.

Both projects impacted a total of 12 jobs while augmenting the County's efforts through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, where the EDP partnered with the Columbus Housing Partnership to construct nine new single-family homes in Clinton and Mifflin townships.

These sidewalk improvements provided the infrastructure necessary to make the area attractive, safe, and pedestrian-friendly for area residents.

Blendon Township Sidewalks

One recommendation in the Blendon Community Plan, completed by the Planning Department in May 2010, was a priority sidewalks map, outlining the community's vision for where sidewalk installations and improvements should be made within the township.

Recent sidewalk projects have provided

650 households
with improved pedestrian
access to public transit.

As a result of the public input process, EDP committed \$100,000 in 2010 CDBG funds were then used to install sidewalks in one priority area along Harbin Drive in the Huber Ridge subdivision, connecting residents to other existing sidewalks as well as COTA bus routes.



**INFRASTRUCTURE
PROGRAMS**
current projects

In the Darbydale community, the Water Quality Partnership constructed a wastewater collection and treatment facility, connecting hundreds of households to the new sanitary sewer system.

Water Quality Partnership

Since 2004, Franklin County EDP, the Board of Health, and the Sanitary Engineer’s office have partnered to provide CDBG funding for the Water Quality Partnership. The program provides no interest forgivable loans to low-income homeowners to become connected to available sewer systems.

The Water Quality Partnership also provides funding for the installation of wastewater collection systems in the County where they did not previously exist.

In 2008, EDP awarded \$600,000 for the Harrisburg Sewer Project, providing health and sanitary benefits to approximately 1,200 low- and moderate-income people and connecting residents to the Darbydale wastewater treatment facility. Previously, these residents did not have access to the municipal sewer system.

CDBG funds have connected
1400 families
to clean, safe drinking water.

Other Water Quality Partnership projects include:

- San Margherita (6 units)
- Agler Road (2 units)
- Greenleaf (18 units)
- Briggsdale Apartments (17 units)
- Englewood (4 units)
- Darbydale Phase I (25 units)
- Darbydale Phase II (19 units)
- Darbydale Phase III (37 units)
- Leonard Park (52 units)
- Cleveland Heights (17 units)

With 2011 CDBG funds, the Water Quality Partnership expects to connect approximately 25 additional low-income

households to the public sewer system through the payment of capacity fees for the sewage infrastructure.

For every infrastructure dollar spent by Franklin County CDBG funds, **\$5.30** in additional funds is leveraged

For years, Blake has been on a crusade to raze abandoned homes, which he says are dramatically dragging down property values and keeping officers busy because of safety concerns.

Blake keeps in his briefcase a file of a dozen or so decrepit houses, which grows more often than it shrinks. "I'm trying to get creative on a lot of this stuff," Blake told the Dispatch. "I just know that I try and take an aggressive approach in finding a solution for this."

Township officials provided \$3,000 recently to demolish one home. The County's Nuisance Abatement Demolition Program will help Mifflin Township to make a bigger impact in the

Pilot Demolition Program

In 2011, EDP launched the Township Nuisance Abatement Demolition Program, providing each of the 17 townships in the County the opportunity to address severely blighted and unsafe residential properties through demolition.

Five townships are participating in the first round of demolitions (Clinton, Franklin, Hamilton, Madison, and Mifflin townships), leading to the demolition of eight structurally unsafe single-family properties.

Additional properties in these townships will be addressed in subsequent rounds of demolition. The demolition of these structures will not only eliminate unsafe buildings that often harbor pests and sometimes criminal activity, but will also remove community eyesores and help to stabilize or increase property values in the surrounding area.

Demolition Project - Mifflin Township

Mifflin Township was approved to demolish three properties under the first round of the Township Nuisance Abatement Demolition Program and will submit additional properties for demolition in future rounds.

Mifflin Code Enforcement Office Steve Blake was interviewed by the Columbus Dispatch in November 2011 regarding the Demolition Program and the blighted homes he deals with in Mifflin Township on a daily basis.

In one property being demolished in the first round, 2096 Minnesota Avenue, Blake said that a tent had recently been set up by squatters and the property has harbored several criminal incidents in recent years.

In 2012, **30,000** square feet of HAZARDOUS, UNSAFE STRUCTURE WILL BE ABATED FOR FUTURE REINVESTMENT

community by addressing additional properties that are a drain on the township's resources.

The Township Nuisance Abatement Program, in addition to removing blight, enhancing neighborhood safety, and stabilizing property values, will impact approximately 34 jobs in the County.



2096 Minnesota Ave. in Mifflin Township
Source: Columbus Dispatch

RECENT AWARDS

Planning Awards

Franklin County Economic Development and Planning works closely with our partners to fund creative projects that meet the needs of our community. Franklin County recently received the following awards in recognition of our planning efforts.

National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Awards

The National Association of Counties (NACo) recently bestowed its 2010 Achievement Award on two Franklin County planning projects: the Blendon Community Plan and the Cleveland Avenue Streetscape 2020 Plan. The Achievement Awards are given to programs or projects that demonstrate innovation in governance and provide improved service to county residents.

Also receiving a NACo Achievement Award was the Franklin County/ City of Columbus AWARE Manual for Sustainable Accessible Living. This manual is the County's standard for constructing and rehabilitating affordable housing adhering to green and universal design principles.

American Planning Association, Central Ohio Chapter Award

The Cleveland Avenue Streetscape 2020 Plan was also awarded an Honorable Mention for Most Creative Plan from the Central Ohio Chapter of the American Planning Association.



UPCOMING EVENTS



Community Development Neighborhood Summit

On January 24, 2012, Franklin County, in partnership with the City of Columbus and the Affordable Housing Trust, will host the 2012 Community Development Neighborhood Summit. The event will be held in conjunction with the Columbus Bicentennial Celebration activities and will allow County stakeholders and community development organizations to engage in and learn about the area's demographic trends and community development efforts in recent decades.

The event will celebrate and highlight the creative partnerships and projects that are moving the community forward. These innovative partnerships help our community flourish and are doing real work in the community.

The public is invited to learn more about growing and sustaining transformational community development through

exploring these projects. The Community Development Neighborhood Summit will allow neighborhoods and community organizations to convene together to experience stories; to celebrate and honor successes, to learn, to inspire each other and our communities, and to take our ideas and energy out and continue building vibrant and healthy communities.

After the day-long Summit, participants will be joined by corporate and civic leaders for "Experience Our Neighborhoods", a unique and lively event showcasing the diversity and assets of our neighborhood through food, music, arts, and community involvement. JOIN US!

Community Development Neighborhood Summit
January 24, 2012
9:00am - 6:00pm
Veterans Memorial Hall

Franklin County Board of Commissioners



Commissioner Paula Brooks
President



Commissioner Marilyn Brown



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