



Butler County, Ohio

Recovery Plan Annual Report



State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds 2024 Report

Table of Contents

- General Overview 2**
 - Executive Summary 2
 - Uses of Funds 6
 - Promoting Equitable Outcomes 9
 - Community Engagement 10
 - Labor Practices 11
 - Use of Evidence 11
 - Performance Report 11

- Project Inventory 11**

- Conclusion 20**

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

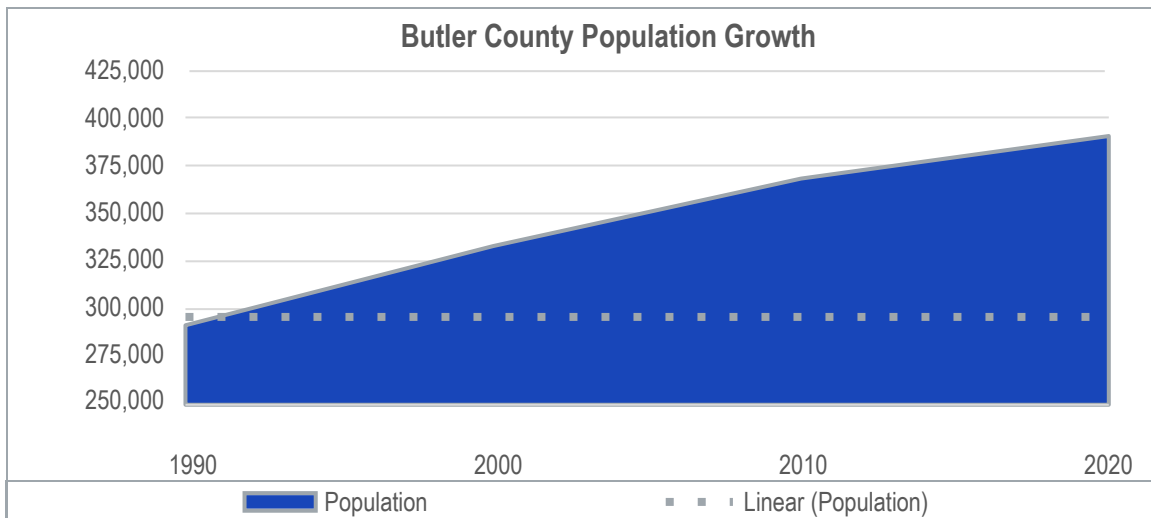
Butler County is the seventh largest County in the State of Ohio and is comprised of 24 unique political subdivisions with independent governing authorities yet dependent on a variety of County services. The County is located in the southwestern part of the State of Ohio, strategically positioned equa-distant between two metropolitan areas: the City of Cincinnati to the south approximately 25 miles and the City of Dayton, approximately 25 miles to the north.

Numerous natural resources and infrastructure enhancements initiated and propelled the great commercial and industrial growth in the 1800's which Butler County continues to enjoy today. The Great Miami River, one of the many natural resources found and promoted as a conservation and commercial asset, flows through the County creating a river valley approximately 12 miles wide. The opening of the railroads in the early 1850s and the advent of the construction of Interstate 75, traversing through Butler County, initiated the great commercial and industrial growth which continues to develop in the County.

Demographic:

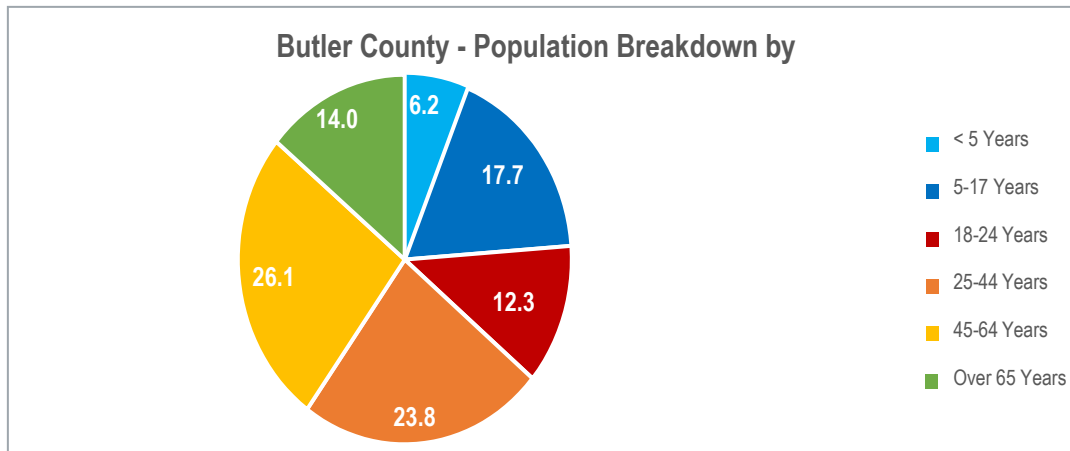
In addition to the rich history and tradition in contributing to innovation of industrial development, Butler County has a record of consistent population growth and increasing demographics which support an evolving community. The County's estimated 2020 population was 390,357, slightly over a 6.0% increase over the last decade, surpassing the State of Ohio's growth rate of 2.3%.

	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2020</u>
Butler County	291,479	332,807	368,130	390,357



Source: US Census Bureau

Butler County’s increasing population has maintained a similar cohort distribution over the last 10 years: slightly less than 25.0% is under the age of 18; nearly 50.0% of Butler County’s population resides between 25-54 years old; while approximately 40.0% is older than 45, with 14.0% 65 and older. Identifying programs to serve the varying population cohorts is critical in addressing the needs of those potentially underserved in Butler County.



Source: Ohio Department of Development

Butler County, on a household income and per capita income bases, finds itself mid-range as compared to surrounding counties, while mostly exceeding the State of Ohio and United States in the same categories with one exception, lower per capita income than the United States. Strategically leveraging and applying the SLFRF funds to expand economic opportunities for business growth and development; enhance workforce development and job skill training; and innovatively create sustainable programs which connect business with workforce and which evolve to the ever changing and emerging needs of business will secure Butler County’s economic future. Identifying means to reduce barriers for and creating alternatives to those challenged by and with traditional employment placement and structure are other means for SLFRF funding.

Employment:

Butler County is home to a diverse pool of employers. Several Fortune 500, 1,000, and over 450 foreign-owned companies are headquartered in Butler County as well as throughout the Greater Cincinnati region. In 2018, Site Selection magazine named the Greater Cincinnati region the most sustainable metro in the nation, and ranked Cincinnati 5th in the nation for business expansion measured by projects, a list on which the city is consistently in the top 10. The major industry clusters for the region, and reflected in Butler County, are advanced energy, advanced manufacturing, biohealth, consumer products and brand development, food processing and agriculture, and financial and insurance services. SLFRF funding will be applied to promote job training and skill development in these industry sectors as well as the fields of emerging technology and information services.

Manufacturing and production of goods, rooted in the rich tradition of commerce with the railroad and ports and waterways, are a substantial portion of Butler County’s economic base which is composed largely of biomedical, defense industry, automotive parts and metal fabrication, machine tool and steel manufacturing. Of the top 15 employers in Butler County, 26.7% produce or manufacture goods or materials; 33.3%

are health care providers or financial or liability insurers; and 7.8% are of the consumer good or brand management industry. Not represented in the top 15 employers' list, is the strong presence in logistics and product distribution, supporting companies like Kroger, Kohls, Amazon, and other ecommerce retailers in supply chain management and real time product fulfillment.

As evident from the expanding population and increasing residential base, commercial development and retail amenities in Butler County have blossomed over the last 12 years consistent with retail sector practices of following population. Commercial and retail assets are positioned throughout the County, including Fortune 500 and 1,000 corporate headquarters and office campuses and ranging from traditional suburban strip centers to the once popular retail life centers to emerging mixed use centers in the form of Liberty Center. Other iconic destination retailers or amenities like IKEA, Cabela's, Top Golf, MetroParks system, hosting nationally acclaimed youth sports event, are few which call Butler County home.

Butler County Top 15 Employers			
Employer	Location	Nature of Business	No. of Employees
1 Miami University	Oxford	Education	3,644
2 Cincinnati Financial Corp.	Fairfield	Insurance	3,500
3 Cleveland Cliffs	West Chester	Manufacturing	2,486
4 Lakota School District	West Chester/Liberty	Education	2,013
5 Butler County Government	Hamilton	Government	1,861
6 GE Aviation	West Chester	Manufacturing	1,800
7 Koch Foods	Fairfield	Food Service	1,600
8 UC Health West Chester Hospital	West Chester	Healthcare	1,445
9 Mercy Health	Fairfield	Healthcare	1,350
10 Hamilton City Schools	Hamilton	Education	1,312
11 Fairfield City Schools	Fairfield	Education	1,102
12 Cornerstone Brands	West Chester	Consumer Goods	1,000
13 Kettering Hospital Hamilton	Hamilton	Healthcare	921
14 Tyson Foods	West Chester	Food Service	901
15 Pacific Manufacturing	West Chester	Manufacturing	900

Source: Butler County Department of Economic Development.

Butler County's Aspirations:

The American Rescue Plan Act's Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds intend to support Butler County's response to the economic and public health impacts of COVID-19; though, Butler County leadership will strive to use the SLFRF funding to create new and build better existing programs, delivery of services, and customer point interactions than presently enacted and implemented. The SLFRF funding was designed in an effort to mitigate the impact on communities, neighborhoods, residents, and businesses.

The Board of Commissioners pledges to wisely and fiscally soundly apply funding to those projects and programs which demonstrate greatest investment in communities, systems, and most importantly people. These projects will have a significant, long-term, productive impact on Butler County, addressing remnant effects and impacts on the various modes of the micro and macro economy in Butler County and the communities, neighborhoods, and people it affected.

The County strives to be strategic and recognizes the long-term impact the SLFRF

program will have on the communities, residents, and corporate citizens of Butler County. The 2023 Annual Performance Report will provide activity to date on the aspirations and intentions of the initial Recovery Plan Performance Report submitted by the Butler County Board of Commissioners in August 2021, outlining Butler County's intentions and approach for and evaluation of application of the funds.

Uses of Funds

Proposals from a number of non-profits, local governments, and other community partners were submitted and the Board of Butler County Commissioners evaluated all of the proposals, awarding ARPA/SLFRF funds to those the Board deemed impactful and transformational for the County and its residents.

Further defining intended uses of SLFRF funds, Butler County identified programs and projects which will maximize impact for the greatest need and to the most vulnerably underserved; and define effective, efficient, and equitable outcomes while aligning with the Board of Commissioners' policy agenda and aspirational objectives.

Given the broad eligible uses, the County elected to establish priorities which aligned with the Board of Commissioners' policy initiatives and which addressed the evolving needs of the County and endeavored to 1) identify, prioritize, and inevitably select projects and programs which satisfy the ARPA and SLFRF requirements and guidelines and support communities, populations, families, and individuals who have felt the negative economic impacts of COVID-19 and 2) engage County stakeholders in the identification, prioritization, and selection of programs and projects to apply and expend the SLFRF funds. As programs and projects were selected and funds obligated and expended, subsequent interim and recovery plan reports will adequately illustrate the reporting requirements and evidence-based metrics and outcomes.

Butler County's Recovery Plan focused its programmatic initiatives on the following Expenditure Categories.

- a) **Public Health (EC 1)** – Alleviating the impact of COVID-19 will continue to require focused effort from all forms of leadership, governing Butler County and its communities, business sector, non-profits, and all stakeholders who and which are invested in the success of Butler County and those who inhabit it. Ensuring continued efforts to abate COVID-19 in its present and anticipated variant forms and to navigate continuity of operations for public safety and public health in preparation for other potential communicable epidemics; upgrading capital improvements in County facilities and enhancing public systems which exist to serve, treat, or rehabilitate populations impacted by COVID-19; and collaborating with all stakeholders in business, government, emergency management, non-profits, education, and health care to remediate present challenges and prevent further spread of COVID-19 and its prospective variants in congregate settings across all sectors – schools, universities, businesses, long-term care facilities, jails, etc. will be the focus as the Board of Commissioners identifies its programmatic and project priorities in this expenditure category.

Other elements of public health are wellness, recreation, and social interaction. Focus on these elements will enhance the physical health and well-being of Butler County residents and corporate citizens and contribute to a healthier and more emotionally and physically well-balanced citizenry. Nearly

- b) **Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2)** – Identifying the immediate and long term negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in its present and anticipated variant forms will be a primary objective of this expenditure category. The Butler County Board of Commissioners is committed to applying SLFRF funds to mitigate the present and imminent demands of COVID-19 while recognizing the extended and all-encompassing burden has not yet been defined or measured on the economy and proportionally people’s lives; therefore, the Board of Commissioners’ approach to SLFRF funds is two- fold 1) applying funds strategically and fiscally responsibly to services which have no current funding source or limited funding sources which mitigate impact on the most vulnerable and for the greatest present needs; and 2) investing in time to ensure the majority application of funding will mirror needs, demands, and alignment of the Board’s policy agenda and aspirational objectives as economic and population recoveries evolve and are realized. This two-fold approach is intended to be extended, extensive, and adaptable as the economic environment evolves with time, and accordingly, the needs of business and residents are more descriptively revealed.

Working with stakeholders to 1) enhance or re-invent existing systems in the delivery of services and customer point interactions; 2) aid industries specifically outlined in this expenditure category as qualified; 3) provide aid to the backbone of the economy – small businesses and its workforce; and 4) support productive and evidence based and successfully proven non-profit programs which provide necessities or assistance for daily life; which require participation in and commitment to life skills development and employment training; and which strive to provide one time or temporary assistance are programmatic objectives to which the Board of Commissioners has applied SLFRF funding.

Small Business Assistance was a focused area of support for Butler County during 2020. The Butler County Board of Commissioners approved a small business support program, utilizing CARES Act funds, which distributed over \$1.4 million dollars in aid to local small businesses. Continuing that support to small business will help address the negative economic impacts of COVID-19.

- c) **Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity (EC 3)** – The ability of the public sector to plan for and respond to future pandemic and other health threats has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Butler County considered projects that rebuild the public sector workforce in the areas of public health, public safety and human services, rehires public sector staff, and ensures effective service delivery into the future.

- d) **Premium Pay (EC 4)** – Butler County will analyze the approach, goals, and sectors in any premium pay scenario; will adhere to the requirements if distributed; and will thoroughly evaluate its need among the other expenditure categories before distributing.

To date, Butler County has not used ARPA/SLFRF funds for any form of Premium Pay.

- e) **Water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure (EC 5)** – Identifying need and investing in basic utilities are paramount in establishing a sustainable county, prepared to weather other communicable diseases potentially spread from improper or poor sanitation systems and processes. Expenditure Category 5 recognizes the need for reinvestment in public utilities, specifically water and sewer infrastructure and the benefit the infrastructure provides from a public health and safety approach.

Butler County is committed to maintaining its water and sewer infrastructure to ensure all populations have access to these vital services. Improvements will be analyzed to ensure goals are met and comprehensive service is achieved.

Butler County Water and Sewer provides drinking water and fire protection for West Chester, Liberty, and Fairfield Townships. Additionally, wholesale water is provided to the City of Monroe and serves some customers in Warren County. In 2020, over 5.1 billion gallons of drinking water was delivered by Butler County.

- o **Population Served by Water: 125,000**
- o **Number of Water Customers: 41,725**
- o **Miles of Water Main: 660**

Butler County Water and Sewer provides sewer service to West Chester, Liberty, Fairfield, Ross, St. Clair, and Hanover Townships; the Cities of Monroe and Trenton; the Village of New Miami; and portions of Warren and Hamilton Counties. In 2020, an average of 20 million gallons of wastewater was treated each day.

- o **Population Served by Sewer: 146,000**
- o **Number of Sewer Customers: 47,082**
- o **Miles of Sewer Pipe: 797**

Broadband

Expanding another utility more deliberately as a necessity like public water and sewer is broadband infrastructure. The ability to use SLFRF funding for broadband infrastructure will be impactful to the less dense more rural areas of Butler County.

Currently, multiple areas and zones throughout the County, with population centers and excellent local school districts, lack consistent, high speed, broadband service, compatible with the standards outlined in the SLFRF funding guidelines. Capitalizing on this funding source and opportunity, reliable internet service can be achieved and can enhance the educational and learning experiences of all citizens accessed.

The Butler County Board of Commissioners will invest \$10.0M in its contract to delivered high speed fiber optics broadband and internet services to unserved or underserved households in the County. More details about the project are outlined in the project awards section.

- f) **Revenue Replacement (EC 6)** – Butler County is applying multiple formulae to accurately calculate a Revenue Loss amount. Currently, the Revenue Loss calculation is \$36.6M. This calculation will be performed annually to

determine the amount of lost revenue eligible for the revenue replacement category and to ensure the County does not apply category funds beyond the eligible amount.

- g) **Administrative (EC 7)** – Butler County will use administrative cost category to track the costs of administering and monitoring this program.
- h) **Natural Disasters (EC8)** – Butler County may consider the need for spending funds for natural disasters that have occurred or are expected to occur imminently.

To date, Butler County has not used ARPA/SLFRF funds for any natural disaster mitigation

- i) **Surface Transportation (EC9)** – Butler County may consider using funds for projects eligible under the 26 surface transportation programs specified in the 2023 CAA.

To date, Butler County has not used ARPA/SLFRF funds for any surface transportation projects deemed eligible by this EC.

- j) **Title I Projects (EC10)** – Butler County may consider using funds for activities that are eligible under section 105(a) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (Title I Projects).

To date, Butler County has not used ARPA/SLFRF funds for any Title I eligible projects.

Promoting equitable outcomes

The America Rescue Plan Act's Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds intend to support Butler County's response to the economic and public health impacts of COVID-19 while identifying systemic barriers where the vulnerable and underserved populations may languish. Butler County leadership is dedicated to identifying potential inequities and will strive to advance equity in its approach and use of the SLFRF funds to create new and build better existing programs, delivery of services, and customer point interactions presently enacted and implemented.

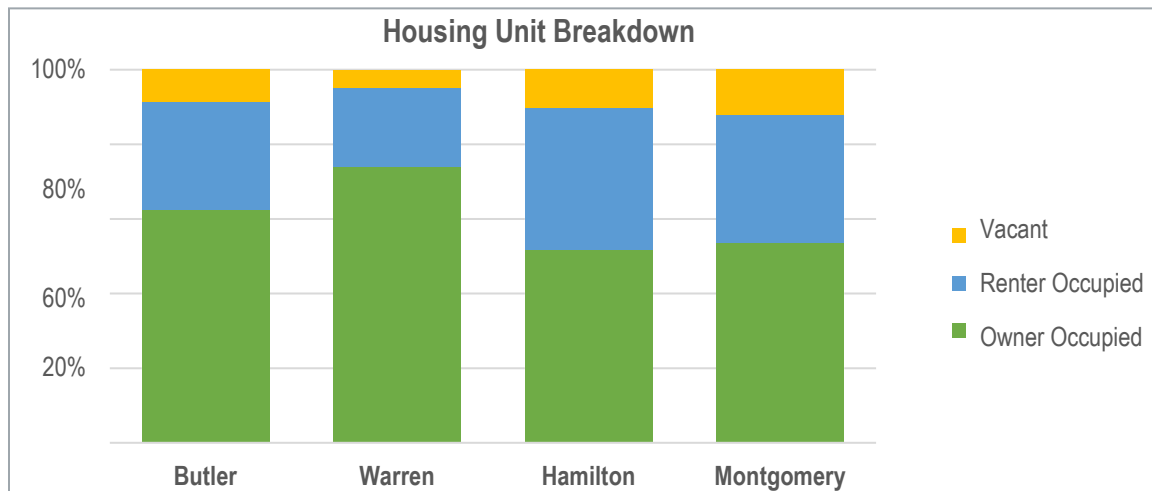
The SLFRF funding was designed to mitigate the impact on communities, neighborhoods, residents, and businesses, and the Butler County Board of Commissioners pledges to wisely and fiscally soundly apply funding to those projects and programs which demonstrate greatest equitable investment in communities, systems, and most importantly people. These projects will have a significant, long-term, productive impact on Butler County, addressing remnant effects and impacts on the various modes of the micro and macro economy in Butler County and the communities, neighborhoods, and people COVID-19 affected. At this phase of the funding cycle, Butler County is developing and planning its utilization of SLFRF.

Butler County has consulted with stakeholders to assess current program methods and to identify any systemic inequities or barriers for and creating alternatives to responsibly access funding among traditional structures of and for services. The Board of Commissioners in turn will expect commitment from recipients at the organization level and directly at the individual or family level to be accountable and take measures to improve their own circumstances with the temporary

assistance provided.

Equally, the Butler County Board of Commissioners is committed to applying SLFRF funds to mitigate the present and imminent demands while recognizing the extended and the all-encompassing burden of COVID-19 which has demonstrated its impact on the economy and proportionally people's lives, including housing needs; therefore, the Board of Commissioners will invest time to ensure the majority application of funding will mirror needs, demands and alignment of the Board's policy agenda and aspirational objectives as economic and population recoveries are realized and potential inequities spotlighted.

The following chart depicts the housing inventory for Butler County and its geographic peer counties, delineating rental and owner-occupied housing.



Source: Ohio Department of Development

The following questions were asked when the Board of Commissioners determined project viability:

- a) Goals: Are there particular historically underserved, marginalized, or adversely affected groups that you intend to serve?
- b) Awareness: How equal and practical is the ability for residents or businesses to become aware of the services funded by the SLFRF?
- c) Access and Distribution: Are there differences in levels of access to benefits and services across groups? Are there administrative requirements that result in disparities in ability to complete applications or meet eligibility criteria?
- d) Outcomes: Are intended outcomes focused on closing gaps, reaching universal levels of service, and other equity dimensions where relevant for the policy objectives?

Community Engagement

To maintain transparency and community acceptability, project proposals were received, reviewed, and discussed for funding consideration, during open meeting work sessions where project stakeholders, as well as community members, had the ability to provide input, insight, and criticism and voice perspectives on these important project funding decisions. The Board of Commissioners has been

committed to a thorough, transparent, project planning and evaluation process in the distribution of the SLFRF funds to ensure proper utilization, strategic application, and most importantly productive and positive impacts to families and people affected the greatest by COVID-19.

Labor Practices

Pursuant to lawful requirements, Butler County will follow and integrate labor standards in its projects. At this time, no major infrastructure projects are underway.

Use of Evidence

Prior to project award, each initiative will be reviewed to identify a recipient's methodology to measure and track evidence-based interventions and outcomes. Butler County is developing an overall approach to an evidence-building strategy.

2024 Annual Performance Report Project Awards:

Butler County developed a portal to track and report subrecipients' expenditure and performance data. Key performance indicators are highlighted in the inventory below.

PROJECT INVENTORY

Access Counseling Services, Inc. Engagement Center

Project ID Number: PR0405-027

Funding Amount: \$150,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 1.12 Mental Health Services

Project Overview:

This project aims to decrease the number of unhoused individuals and engage them in treatment, stabilize mental health symptoms, reduce the number of individuals active in addiction, and increase the number of individuals with health insurance and food benefits to improve their family members' lives struggling with mental illness or addiction/dependency challenges to directly address or mitigate a negative economic impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency and promote positive outcomes for those impacted hardest by COVID-19.

Performance Report:

This project is over 50 percent complete and the subrecipient has served 522 individuals, 479 of those were struggling with mental health issues or substance abuse issues, and 368 of the individuals served were unhoused.

Butler County Travel Recovery Accelerator Program

Project ID Number: PR0922-002

Funding Amount: \$750,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 2.35 Aid to Travel, Tourism, Hospitality

Project Overview:

This project aims to implement a strategic and robust sales, marketing, and

development program to market Butler County as a premier visitor destination and accelerate the recovery of the Butler County travel industry.

Performance Report:

While this project is less than 50 percent complete, the subrecipient has expended \$305,000 on proactive marketing and sales efforts to position Butler County as a destination of choice for travel, meetings, group competitions, and other travel destination industries to aid in recovery.

Butler County Fairground Paving

Project ID Number: PR0106-016

Funding Amount: \$1,200,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 1.1 COVID-19 Vaccination Sites

Project Overview:

This project aims to repair and resurface specific roadways or sections of roadways within the Butler County Fairgrounds that were subject to significant vehicular traffic which degraded portions of the roads while the Fairgrounds were being used as an immunization site.

Performance Report:

This project is over 50 percent complete and expenditures of \$532,000 have been paid to rehabilitate internal roadways that were damaged from the increased traffic when the fairground was used as an immunization site.

Township Paving - 2023

Project ID Number: PR0106-017

Funding Amount: \$5,000,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview:

This project aims to repair and resurface various County and Township roadways. It was an endeavor to assist the communities in Butler County and to allow local funding for road maintenance to be applied to other expenses, benefitting the economic recovery and mitigating impacts caused by COVID-19.

Performance Report:

This project is nearly complete and expenditures of \$4,900,000 have been paid to rehabilitate roadways in Butler County.

Butler County Engineer - HVAC at Engineer's Complex

Project ID Number: PR1020-007

Funding Amount: \$250,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview:

This project aims to improve the HVAC system at the Engineer's Complex.

Performance Report:

This project is less than 50 percent complete and expenditures of \$72,000 have been

paid to improve the HVAC system at the Engineer's Complex.

Township Paving - 2024

Project ID Number: PR0710-037

Funding Amount: \$6,000,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview:

This project aims to repair and resurface various County and Township roadways. It was an endeavor to assist the communities in Butler County and to allow local funding for road maintenance to be applied to other expenses, benefitting the economic recovery and mitigating impacts caused by COVID-19.

Performance Report:

This project is over 50 percent complete and expenditures of \$3,100,000 have been paid to rehabilitate roadways in Butler County.

Butler County Recorder - Document Imaging and Quality Services

Project ID Number: PR1020-008

Funding Amount: \$650,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview:

This project aims to digitize property archives at the Recorder's Office to reduce in person traffic in the Recorder's Office.

Performance Report:

This project is nearly complete and \$518,000 has been spent to enable a comprehensive online search of County property records.

Butler County Sheriff's Office – Hanover Street Jail POD Panels Replacement

Project ID Number: PR1020-018

Funding Amount: \$209,285.00

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview:

This project aims to replace the POD panels at the Hanover Street Jail.

Performance Report:

This project is complete and the POD panels at the jail were successfully replaced.

Butler County Sheriff's Office – Hanover Street Jail HVAC system

Project ID Number: PR1020-009

Funding Amount: \$373,715.00

Project Expenditure Category: 1.4 Prevention in Congregate Settings

Project Overview:

This project aims to repair and replace the HVAC system at the Hanover Street Jail to

mitigate the spread of infections in the jail. It will benefit future contagious communicable diseases with its specialized filtering system

Performance Report:

This project is complete, and the HVAC system has been improved.

Butler Tech School of Aviation

Project ID Number: PR0613-31, PR0613-030, and PR0613-021

Funding Amount: \$7,000,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 2.10 Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers, 2.24 Addressing Educational Disparities: Aid to High Poverty Districts, 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview:

This project aims to address educational disparities, assist individuals who want and are available for work, and to provide government services in the areas of Air Transportation, Aerospace Engineering, and Design, and Manufacturing.

Performance Report:

This project is less than 50 percent complete and expenditures of \$413,000 have been paid to start architecture and engineering.

Miami University Advanced Manufacturing Hub fka Butler Tech School of Advanced Manufacturing

Project ID Number: PR0405-020, PR0613-028, and PR0613-029

Funding Amount: \$8,000,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 2.10 Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers, 2.24 Addressing Educational Disparities: Aid to High Poverty Districts, 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview:

Although project sponsors have changed, this project aims to address educational disparities, assist individuals who want and are available for work, and to provide government services in the areas of Mechatronics, IoT, IT/Cybersecurity, Additive Manufacturing, CNC Programming/ Machining, Automation Systems, and the Work + Program through Miami University.

Performance Report:

This project has not started as of the date of this report.

Butler County Network Agreement with altafiber

Project ID Number: PR0405-019

Funding Amount: \$10,000,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 5.21 Other Broadband Projects

Project Overview:

This project aims to run fiber throughout Butler County and to bring a *minimum* of 50,000 single family units and 8,000 multiple dwelling units high speed fiber

broadband access currently with no access or underserved.

Performance Report:

This project is less than 50 percent complete and to date has completed the following:

- o Over 200 miles of fiber has been deployed
- o 19,614 residential locations have been provided access
- o 490 business locations have been provided access

City of Fairfield – Route 4 Redevelopment

Project ID Number: PR0405-024

Funding Amount: \$3,000,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 2.31 Rehabilitation of Commercial Properties or Other Improvement

Project Overview:

This project aims to purchase three vacant and blighted properties on State Route 4.

Performance Report:

This project is complete and all blighted properties have been acquired.

City of Middletown - Paperboard Site Demolition and Remediation

Project ID Number: PR1003-004

Funding Amount: \$3,000,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 2.23 Strong Health Communities: Demolition and Rehabilitation of Properties

Project Overview:

This project aims to promote strong neighborhoods and communities by providing funds to demolish, remediate, and rehabilitate 14 acres of formerly contaminated heavy industrial lands and existing dilapidated industry space to a new industrial campus for development of economic investment, workforce expansion, and commerce initiatives.

Performance Report:

This project is over 50 percent complete and expenditures of \$2,579,000 have been expended for demolition and remediation of this site.

City of Middletown and Middletown City Schools - Sonny Hill Community Center

Project ID Number: PR1128-011, PR0329-033

Funding Amount: \$3,500,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 7.2 Transfers to Other Units of Government

Project Overview:

This project aims to proactively target and serve to improve a historically disadvantaged section of the City of Middletown and revitalize the community of Middletown overall and adjacent neighborhoods by providing funds to renovate, rehabilitate, and expand the 1920s constructed Sonny Hill Community Center in conjunction with the School District to continue and expand youth and teen programming and job training.

Performance Report:

This project has not yet been started.

Talawanda Oxford Pantry and Social Services Center and Family Resource Center

Project ID Number: PR0405-026

Funding Amount: \$1,500,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Non-Profits Negatively Economically Impacted by the Pandemic

Project Overview:

This project aims to construct a new facility to expand the Talawanda Oxford Pantry and Social Services Center and co-locate with the Family Resource Center and potentially other social service agencies.

Performance Report:

This project has not yet been started.

City of Oxford - Affordable Housing Development

Project ID Number: PR0502-034

Funding Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 2.15 Long-term Housing Security: Affordable Housing

Project Overview:

This project aims to construct affordable housing in the City of Oxford and Butler County.

Performance Report:

This project has not yet been started.

Booker T. Washington Community Center Collaboration

Project ID Number: PR1003-003

Funding Amount: \$1,500,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Non-Profits Negatively Economically Impacted by the Pandemic

Project Overview:

This project aims to renovate, rehabilitate, and expand the Booker T. Washington Community Center to continue to serve the disproportionately impacted households, individuals, and families greatly impacted by COVID-19 and to expand youth and teen programming, job training, and other public health and behavioral health services to the residents and constituents of the City of Hamilton.

Performance Report:

This project is less than 50 percent complete and expenditures of \$24,000 have been incurred to begin the project.

The Hamilton Community Foundation - HYPE (Hamilton Young People Empowered)

Project ID Number: PR1128-010

Funding Amount: \$200,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 2.10 Assistance to Unemployed/Underemployed Workers

Project Overview:

This project aims to expand a youth leadership and mentoring program to serve an underrepresented youth population of Butler County through experimental curriculum of entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and community and civic engagement in teaching scalable life skills of empowerment, self-worth, and confidence and applications when confronting and experiencing a variety of life circumstances.

Performance Report:

This project is over 50 percent complete and has spent \$161,000 to cover costs in operating the project that has provided young people with experiences and skills to connect them with the workforce.

Memorial Park Restroom Replacement

Project ID Number: PR0502-037

Funding Amount: \$150,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview:

This project aims to replace the restroom facilities at Memorial Park in Hanover Township.

Performance Report:

This project has not yet been started.

Liberty Park Playground

Project ID Number: PR0502-038

Funding Amount: \$150,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview:

This project aims to construct a playground at Liberty Park in Liberty Township.

Performance Report:

This project has not yet been started.

Madison Township Park Revitalization

Project ID Number: PR0502-036

Funding Amount: \$150,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview:

This project aims to revitalize various public park resources in Madison Township.

Performance Report:

This project has not yet been started.

MetroParks – Great Miami Riverway Trail

Project ID Number: PR0405-023

Funding Amount: \$2,500,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview:

This project aims to construct 4.7 miles of missing paved trail from Rentschler Forest to and through the City of Monroe then to the City of Middletown, connecting to an existing 11 mile paved trail section.

Performance Report:

This project has just begun and \$800.00 has been spent towards initial engineering.

MetroParks – Rural Parks – Davidson Woods

Project ID Number: PR0405-022

Funding Amount: \$450,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview:

This project aims to design, develop, and implement public access, parking, and a walking trail and overlook amenities.

Performance Report:

This project has not yet been started.

Miami University, Oxford, Ohio – The College @ Elm Innovation and Workforce Development Center

Project ID Number: PR1003-005

Funding Amount: \$5,000,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 2.32 Business Incubators and Start-Up or Expansion Assistance

Project Overview:

This project aims to re-purpose and operate a vacant building as a hub of innovation and workforce development for the intersection of private industry, education, and government.

Performance Report:

Funds were used for the construction of the College@Elm Innovation and Workforce Development Center. The College@Elm facility, upon completion, will provide technical assistance, rehabilitation, incubators, or micro business services to those in the Oxford-qualified census tract and throughout Butler County. So far, 46 small/micro businesses are utilized College@Elm.

Morgan Township Community Park

Project ID Number: PR0502-035

Funding Amount: \$150,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview:

This project aims to revitalize various public park resources in Morgan Township.

Performance Report:

This project has not yet been started.

Primary Health Solutions – Butler County Mobile Dental Unit Revitalization

Project ID Number: PR0922-001

Funding Amount: \$520,526

Project Expenditure Category: 1.14 Other Public Health Services and Medical Facilities for Disproportionately Impacted Communities

Project Overview:

This project aims to refurbish a mobile unit and equip it with necessary equipment and supplies to operate a mobile dental clinic to proactively target and serve to improve access to oral hygiene and dental care and enhance treatment to acute dental issues and chronic oral disease.

Performance Report:

This project is complete and the Mobile Dental Unit is serving the disproportionately impacted communities.

The Health Collaborative – Workforce Innovation

Project ID Number: PR1010-006

Funding Amount: \$125,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.10 Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers

Project Overview:

This project aims to administer a training program with select vocational schools and healthcare training institutions for secondary school and post-secondary students to earn college credits, to endeavor the LPN credentialing, and to establish a career path for elevated credentialing to RN, leading to career placement and advancement opportunities, along with placement upon graduation in in-demand fields.

Performance Report:

This project is more than 50 percent complete and \$114,000 has been spent on programming. So far, 23 participants have been enrolled in sectoral job training programs and 9 have completed the training program.

Village of College Corner – Critical Water Main Replacement

Project ID Number: PR1128-012

Funding Amount: \$740,450.00

Project Expenditure Category: 5.6 Clean Water: Stormwater

Project Overview:

This project aims to replace a water main in the Village of College Corner.

Performance Report:

This project is less than 50 percent complete and expenditures of \$20,000 have been spent to start the project.

Village of Millville – Storm Sewer Project

Project ID Number: PR1128-013

Funding Amount: \$633,050.00

Project Expenditure Category: 5.18 Water and Sewer: Other

Project Overview:

This project aims to improve flood control in the Village of Millville.

Performance Report:

This project is less than 50 percent complete and expenditures of \$6,000 have been spent to start the project.

Village of New Maimi – Augsperger Road Reconstruction

Project ID Number: PR1128-014

Funding Amount: \$1,787,250.00

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview:

This project aims to reconstruct Augsperger Road in the Village of New Miami

Performance Report:

This project is less than 50 percent complete and expenditures of \$31,000 have been spent to start the project.

Village of Seven Mile – North Hill & Mutton Drainage

Project ID Number: PR1128-015

Funding Amount: \$839,250.00

Project Expenditure Category: 5.18 Water and Sewer: Other

Project Overview:

This project aims to improve drainage on North Hill and Mutton Roads in the Village of Seven Mile.

Performance Report:

This project is less than 50 percent complete and expenditures of \$108,000 have been spent to start the project.

West Chester Senior Van

Project ID Number: PR0329-032

Funding Amount: \$150,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview:

This project aims to purchase a new senior van for West Chester Township.

Performance Report:

This project has not yet been started.

Conclusion:

Since 2022, when the Board of Commissioners first allocated its ARPA/SLFRF funding for uses, programs, and projects consistent with the objectives and priorities of this Performance Plan, the Board has awarded \$71.0M of its \$74.4M amount granted by the U.S. Treasury.

As promoted throughout this Performance Plan, the Board of Commissioners has been laser focused on ensuring the local awards satisfy the policy initiatives and directives of the County, as well as compliance with the U.S. Treasury's requirements.

To date:

- ✚ Over \$22.0M has been invested in workforce development and job training to upskill the unemployed and underemployed and to train workers today for tomorrow's problems; and
- ✚ Nearly \$28.4M has been granted to local communities to shore up eligible infrastructure and invest in sustainable utilities for low to moderate income areas and to unencumber local dollars to spend on community needs to serve local electorates; and
- ✚ Nearly \$4.0M has been directly spent on disparate populations to assist in mitigating food insecurity, improving oral care and dental hygiene, and affordable housing; and
- ✚ Over \$16.0M in community development endeavors ranging from improvements to and rehabilitation of community centers in low to moderate income areas, serving after school recreation and studying interests and ensuring food insecurities and educational needs are met so children can optimize learning.

Nearly \$8.0M, half of the funding identified for community development purposes, as listed above, has been assigned and has assisted with enhancing and expanding services, programs, and facilities to benefit disparate populations.

The aspirations of the Butler County Board of Commissioners for the American Rescue Plan Act's Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds were to support Butler County's response to the economic and public health impacts of COVID-19 by creating new and building better existing programs, delivery of services, and customer point interactions than presently enacted and implemented and by designing and strengthening communities, neighborhoods, residents, and businesses.

The 2024 Annual Performance Report demonstrates the Board of Commissioners wise and fiscally sound application of funding to those projects and programs which demonstrated the greatest investment in communities, systems, and most importantly people. These projects will have a significant, long-term, productive impact on Butler County, addressing remnant effects and impacts on the various modes of the micro and macro economy in Butler County and the communities, neighborhoods, and people it affected.

The County will strive to continue to be strategic and will place highest results on endeavors which provide the greatest long-term impact to communities, residents, and corporate citizens of Butler County.