



For Immediate Release: January 15, 2025

Fairfield County Utilizes American Rescue Plan Funding to Invest in Strategic Plan Priorities.

LANCASTER, OH — The Fairfield County Commissioners utilized more than \$30 million in American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds to set the county up for long-term success with strategic investments in infrastructure, community support, housing and economic development.

A total ARP investment of \$30,606,902 was divided into 67 community projects, with 72 percent of these projects complete. Each project that has been funded will have long-lasting community impact – from capital improvements to supporting critical programs and services.

Infrastructure improvements targeted drinking water and sewer to expand access to vital services, benefiting urban and rural areas such as Baltimore, Pleasantville, and Walnut Creek.

Approximately \$1.95 million dollars was provided to Fairfield County non-profits such as Habitat for Humanity, Salvation Army, The Lighthouse, United Way, FAIRHOPE Hospice and Palliative Care, and the Harcum House to address housing, adult daycare, emergency shelter, childhood literacy, hospice care, and child advocacy, all of which experienced significant impact during the pandemic.

One example of how the funds were used to address housing needs is the ADAMH Venture Place project, which will provide permanent supported housing for those experiencing homelessness. Venture Place will provide 24 units of housing including services to ensure a successful transition, will expand bed availability and service programming at the Lutheran Social Services homeless shelter and will provide additional housing for veterans.

More than \$3 million was utilized for economic development, including a \$500,000 grant to the Agricultural Society to improve technology and facilities at the Fairfield County Fairgrounds, and to ensure successful county fairs and economic growth into the future. The county also supported grant-writing through Hicks Partners for local townships, communities, and county agencies, which resulted in \$2.55 million in grant funds received.

Additionally, the county utilized ARP funds to purchase facilities and technology to support county operations. For example, the county purchased and renovated the former Ohio University Pickerington campus, now known as the Fairfield Center, to allow for an expanded Sheriff substation, a Clerk of Courts Title Office, a Child Protective Services office, and office space for BMV operations. Several service and safety improvements included funding MARCS radios, towers and dispatch consoles to allow for unified emergency response. Additionally, funding was used to upgrade case management systems at county courts and digitizing various records to allow for increased and efficient public access.

“The American Resue Plan presented a unique opportunity to address longstanding challenges and make key investments in Fairfield County’s future,” said Commissioner Jeff Fix. “These funds have allowed us to not just address short-term issues that arose during the pandemic, but to make strategic spending decisions to eliminate costly ongoing expenses, create efficiencies that will benefit the county for years to come and fund technology and operational infrastructure that will have a positive impact for all county residents.”

For more information about Fairfield County’s Strategic Plan and the American Rescue Plan initiative, visit <https://www.co.fairfield.oh.us/>.

###

Founded in 1800 (three years before Ohio became a State), Fairfield County was the 8th county formed in the Northwest Territory. Today, more than 900 employees serve, connect, and protect the more than 158,000 citizens of Fairfield County, providing high-quality services and outstanding customer service at exceptional value to taxpayers. Fairfield County fosters economic and fiscal sustainability and works to enhance the County's reputation as a high performing, learning, and caring organization. For more information about the county, its services and employment opportunities, please visit <https://www.co.fairfield.oh.us/>

###

MEDIA CONTACT: Julie Theado, julie@krilecommunications.com, 614-774-6358