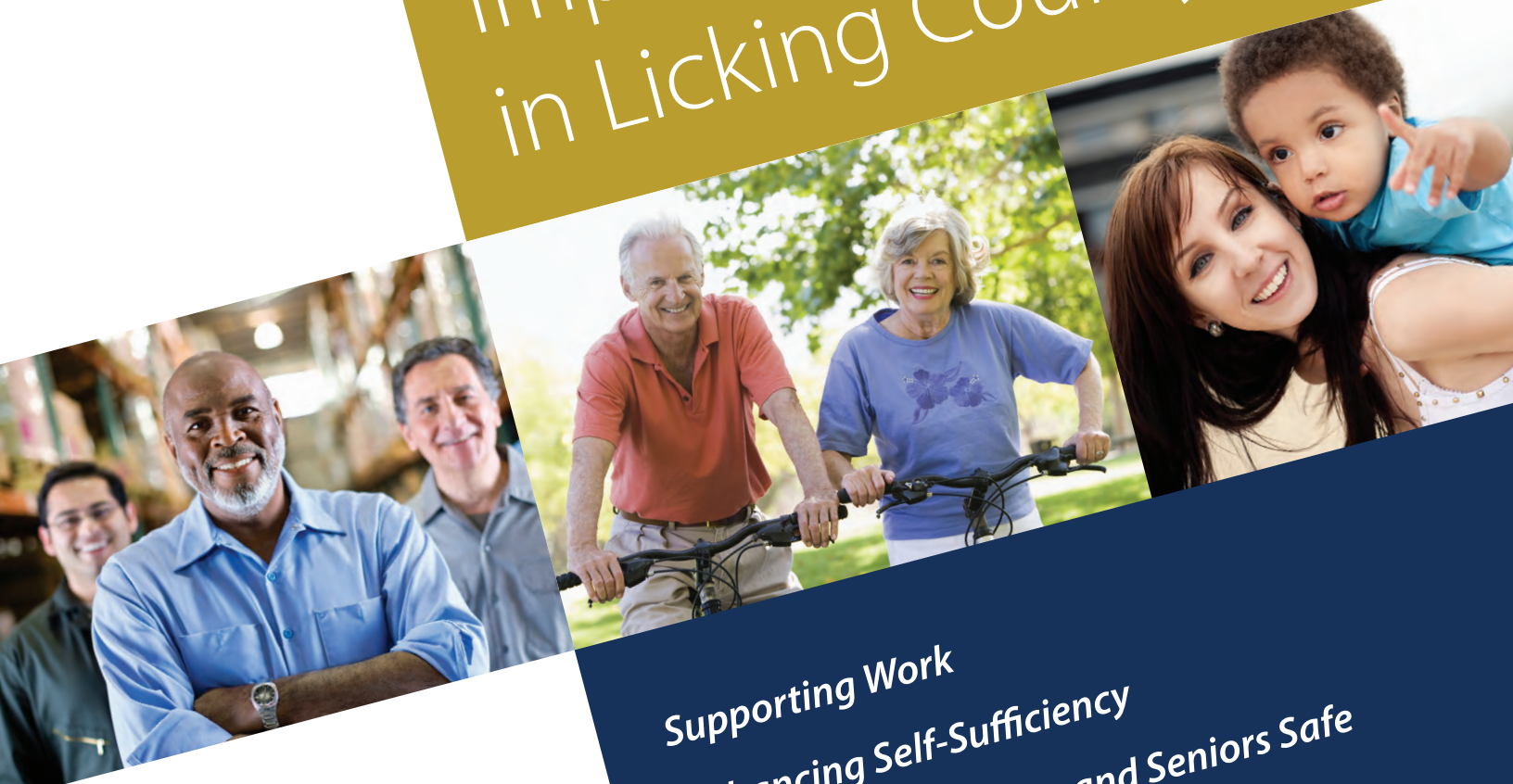


Improving Lives in Licking County



Supporting Work

Enhancing Self-Sufficiency

Keeping Our Children and Seniors Safe

Licking County
Job & Family Services
Help for today. Hope for tomorrow.



Message from the Director

State fiscal year 22 (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022) has been an exciting year for Licking County Job & Family Services! As the COVID pandemic emergency slowly phases out, Licking County JFS continues to step up by providing the services needed to help individuals obtain and maintain employment, enhance their self-sufficiency, and keep children and the elderly safe from abuse and neglect.

During SFY22 Licking County JFS successfully sought and maintained national accreditation. Through the Council on Accreditation, all program areas – Children Services, Adult Protective Services, Public Assistance and Workforce Development Services – were evaluated, analyzed and re-accredited. Licking County JFS envisions national accreditation as an ongoing effort to ensure efficient operations and quality services are available and maintained for the citizens of Licking County.

SFY22 also saw Licking County JFS fully implement the Benefit Bridge program. As Public Assistance programs have largely become a safety net for the “working poor,” the Benefit Bridge program is that next step designed to increase support and self-sufficiency services so individuals can successfully transition off public benefits. We are encouraged by the initial response and successes of the Benefit Bridge program and look forward to continuing to help Licking Countians bridge the gap to self-sufficiency.

In our ever changing and challenging world, Licking County JFS is dedicated to providing individuals and families in need, as well as the taxpayers of Licking County, with efficient, cost effective and productive services.



John D. Fisher, Director

LCJFS Achieves 13th Year of National Accreditation

Licking County Job and Family Services (LCJFS) is pleased to have achieved national re-accreditation through the Council on Accreditation (COA)! LCJFS was originally accredited in 2009, re-accredited in 2013 and 2017, and most recently re-accredited in 2021. This national accreditation is recognition for the quality social services LCJFS provides to the Licking County community, including:



- Child and adult protective services
- Workforce development services for employers and job seekers
- Public assistance eligibility and case management
- and many other services.

LCJFS is committed to the accreditation process, as it demonstrates the implementation of best practice standards and ensures customers and taxpayers are receiving the best services possible.

Licking County is one of only nine JFS/Children Services agencies in the State of Ohio that have achieved and maintained accreditation.

As part of the accreditation process, COA evaluates all aspects of LCJFS's programs, services, supervision and management, safety, and fiscal operations. COA accreditation is an objective, independent, and reliable validation of the Agency's performance. The process includes a detailed analysis by a team of independent experts evaluating LCJFS's administration, management, and service delivery functions against national and international standards of best practice. COA accreditation demonstrates accountability in the management of resources, sets standardized best practice thresholds for service and administration, and increases organizational capacity and accountability.

LCJFS is proud to be an accredited agency, an honor currently bestowed upon only nine Children Services agencies in the State of Ohio. LCJFS is also one of an exceptionally small number of public agencies nationwide who have specific accreditations for all divisions including Children Services, Adult Protective Services, Workforce Development, and Public Assistance. Being an accredited agency indicates a commitment to quality of services and to the customers served by the JFS.

Keeping Our Children and Seniors Safe | Protective Services Numbers Rise

During the lockdown phase of the pandemic, when social service agencies, physicians, schools, private entities and the like were closed, it was easier for child abuse to go unnoticed. The mandated reporters (teachers, childcare staff, physicians, etc.) were not able to see the children and report. Due to this the number of child abuse / neglect referrals were lower than normal in 2020 and into early 2021. The same is true for Adult Protective Services. Unfortunately, we are seeing an increase in referrals that is closer in number to pre-pandemic levels.

Children Services

July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

Children Entering Custody (Initial Placement)

Treatment Foster Care	57
Relative / Kinship Placement	41
Foster Care (Licking County)	31
Residential Treatment	6
TOTAL Children Entering Custody	135

Children Exiting Custody

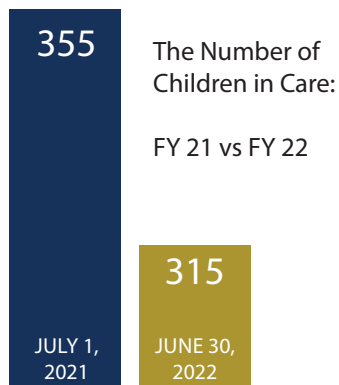
Reunified with Parent(s)	44
Finalized Adoption	89
Legal Custody to Relative / Kinship	27
Emancipation	15
TOTAL Children Exiting Custody	175

Adoptions

New Adoptive Placements	88
Finalized Adoptions	89

Referrals & Investigations

Children Served	3,527
Information & Referrals	934
Investigations	893



Adult Protective Services

July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

Type of Accepted Referral

Information & Referral / Family in Need of Services	279
Self-Neglect Investigation	86
Financial Exploitation Investigation	60
Neglect by Others Investigation	29
Physical Abuse Investigation	21
Emotional Abuse Investigation	19
Multiple-Type Investigation	16
TOTAL	510

Outcome of Accepted Referral

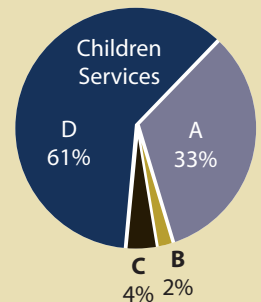
Information & Referral	279
Linked with Services	83
Non-Validated Report / Closed	50
Refused Services / Unable to Agree	54
Nursing Home Placement	26
Law Enforcement Investigation	9
Unable to Locate Client	5
Guardianship Filed / Court Ordered Services	4

PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Children Services

A Direct Services	\$ 5,217,373
Purchased Services:	
B Adoption Assistance (State)	\$ 329,181
C Adoption Assistance (Local)	\$ 632,520*
D Foster Care / Treatment Services	\$ 9,528,336*
Total	\$ 15,707,410

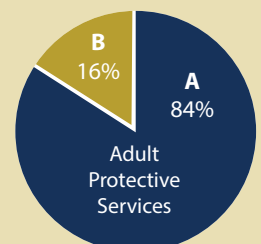
*100% of Adoption Assistance (Local) and approximately 68% of Foster Care / Treatment Services are paid by the local Children Service levies and other local funds.



Adult Protective Services

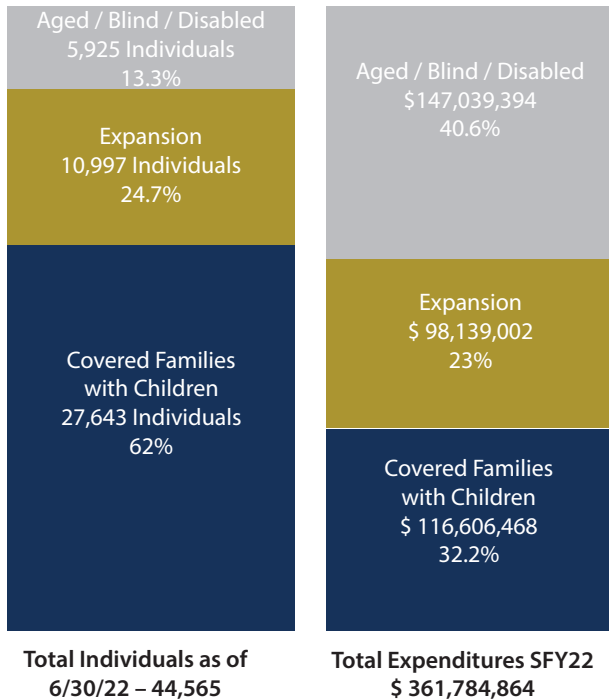
A Direct Services	\$ 244,873**
B Purchased Services	\$ 46,283
Total	\$ 291,156

**\$175,000 from Licking County Senior Levy



Public Assistance | Who We Serve

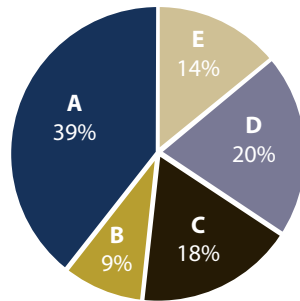
MEDICAID RECIPIENTS AND EXPENDITURES



SNAP / FOOD ASSISTANCE

18,141 individuals as of 6/30/22

A Children:	7,154
B Disabled:	1,593
C Elderly (60+):	3,167
D Employed:	3,684
E Unemployed:	2,543



PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

Licking County JFS determines eligibility and provides eligibility case management for the benefits listed below. Funding for these benefits are provided and issued by the respective State Department. Benefits issued to Licking Countians and case-managed by Licking County JFS during SFY21 (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022) were:

OHIO DEPT. OF JOB & FAMILY SERVICES & OHIO DEPT. OF MEDICAID

Adoption Assistance (Federal & State)	\$ 3,153,012
Child / Daycare Benefits	\$ 6,537,731
SNAP / Food Benefits – Traditional	\$ 29,676,860
SNAP – COVID Supplements	\$ 23,124,960
OWF / TANF Cash Benefits	\$ 2,479,547
Medicaid – Aged, Blind & Disabled	\$ 147,039,394
Medicaid – Covered Families with Children	\$ 116,606,468
Medicaid – Expansion Population (Group VII)	\$ 98,139,002

Total Benefits Authorized \$ 426,756,974

Benefit / Services

Childcare Eligibility & Case Management	\$ 312,126
Medicaid Transportation (NET)	\$ 221,212
Medicaid Healthchek / At risk pregnancy transportation	\$ 7,840

Total \$ 541,178

Medicaid Eligibility & Case Management

Federal	\$ 1,880,905
State	\$ 589,585
County Mandated Share & Local	\$ 201,837

Total \$ 2,672,327

SNAP / Food Assistance Eligibility & Case Management

Federal	\$ 880,942
State	\$ 567,546
County Mandated Share & Local	\$ 194,636

Total \$ 1,643,124

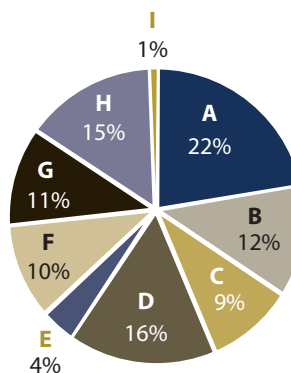
Ohio Works First / Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

A OWF / TANF Eligibility, Work Activities & Case Management, Prevention, Retention, Contingency Services (PRC)	\$ 563,428
B PRC – Benefit Bridge	\$ 309,163
C PRC – Children Services	\$ 234,912
D PRC – Disaster/COVID	\$ 394,507
E PRC – Domestic Violence Assistance	\$ 93,376
F PRC – Family Supports	\$ 261,508
G PRC – Kinship Navigator/Caregiver	\$ 277,409
H PRC – Work Supports	\$ 381,533
I Summer Youth Employment & Training	\$ 15,972
Total	\$ 2,531,808

Other Work Supports

Benefit Bridge – General Revenue Fund	\$ 215,875
Employment Incentive Program	\$ 44,974

OHIO WORKS FIRST (OWF) CASH ASSISTANCE



OWF / TANF ASSISTANCE

813 individuals as of 6/30/22

5 adults
808 children

Protecting Taxpayer Investments

The overwhelming number of public assistance recipients utilize services appropriately. However, to ensure funds are used and accessed correctly, LCJFS is committed to investigating allegations of fraud and works with the Licking County Prosecutor's Office. This collaborative effort helps stop fraud and increase repayments.

To report fraud call 740.670.8791



Prevention, Retention, & Contingency (PRC) | *Providing Supports to Eligible Families*

Licking County Job & Family Services (LCJFS) provides short-term assistance to families with minor children who are in need. The LCJFS PRC program provides support to families who are employed, families working toward self-sufficiency, families involved with Children Services, supports for Kinship caregivers that have taken responsibility of a relative child, and assistance for victims of domestic violence.

Work Supports

Licking County's PRC program provides a variety of employment related supports to help community members gain, maintain or grow in employment. LCJFS also assists with employment training for in-demand occupations, comprehensive youth employment and training programs, and summer youth employment opportunities and other programming.

Family Supports

With the flexibility of the PRC program, at the onset of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, LCJFS was able to add a category to its PRC plan to provide assistance to families that were not eligible for work supports. Many families experienced job loss or significant wage reductions during the early stages of the pandemic and were unable to make ends meet. With the supports provided through the PRC program, many families were able to keep their housing, utilities, and other financial obligations current.

Kinship Caregiver

The Kinship Caregiver Program (KCP) is designed to support kinship families so caregivers can provide and maintain a home for a child in place of the child's parents. A special allotment was issued to counties in March of 2019 to help support kinship families. After the special funding was fully expended, Licking County Job & Family Services has been able to continue providing the Kinship Caregiver program through the flexibility of the traditional PRC program. KCP is currently being funded by federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds and managed in compliance with state and federal requirements through the agency's Prevention, Retention, and Contingency (PRC) plan.

Father and Son Reunited

David* is the father of six-year-old Tanner*. Tanner had been in foster care on and off for four years. During those four years, Tanner lived with several different foster families. While Tanner was in foster care, David was incarcerated and did not have any relationship or contact with Tanner. Upon his release from incarceration, David immediately came to Licking County Job and Family Services (LCJFS) to meet with his Children Services Ongoing Services Caseworker to begin working toward reunification with Tanner. Within a year of being released from prison, reunification was a success.

David demonstrated the motivation and hard work it takes to be the parent Tanner needs. This included drug and alcohol counseling, mental health services, and the obtainment of stable employment. He stayed compliant with his probation terms, was reliable in maintaining contact with Tanner, and navigated co-parenting with Tanner's mother. David worked with one of the Agency's parenting skills coaches to provide a smooth transition for Tanner. David was granted full legal custody of Tanner in August 2022. He now provides Tanner with a stable, loving home. Recently, the state of Ohio has made it a best practice initiative for child protective services agencies to identify and engage non-custodial fathers to be active case plan participants for reunification.

David said, "Changing a few things around you, such as people and places that you frequently visit, will help you change your mindset from what it used to be. You have to surround yourself with people who are wanting the same things as you do. I would also advise people to not rush the process and sometimes you have to take the steps how you see fit and not everybody else around you. Every day is a different journey towards staying on the right path of being a recovering addict and a single father."

Our Agency is honored to be a part of David and Tanner's successful journey.

**Pictures do not represent actual customers and names have been changed for privacy*



Licking County's PRC program provides a variety of employment related supports to help community members gain, maintain or grow in employment.



Benefit Bridge Helps Families Continue Their Path to Self-Sufficiency

Licking County Job & Family Services is proud to be one of six counties participating in the initial Benefit Bridge pilot program. Benefit Bridge is an 18-month program intended to help families who, through employment, experience a wage increase that doesn't offset the reduction or loss of public assistance benefits. Benefit Bridge offers a variety of supports and incentives to participants that can help make the path to self-sufficiency more easily accessible. Participants are provided with career and life skills, such as financial literacy, to ensure they have the support and stability needed to maintain employment. Benefit Bridge provides the opportunity to gain additional skills to move into higher paying positions and become completely self-sufficient and off public assistance benefits.

Pilot Program Proves Successful in Helping Families Create a Path to Self-Sufficiency

Benefit Bridge Helps Stacey Reach for Her Goal

Stacey*, a single mother of three children, enrolled in the Benefit Bridge Program in July 2021. Stacy had previously worked with the Ohio Means Jobs Licking County Employment Center and had completed the Comprehensive Case Management Employment Program (CCMEP). At the time, Stacy was receiving public assistance benefits of OWF cash assistance, SNAP food assistance, subsidized childcare, and Medicaid.

As of August 2022, Stacy has earned her STNA certification and recently graduated with an LPN degree. She received funding to attend training through the Benefit Bridge program and Ohio Means Jobs Licking County. She is currently enrolled in school pursuing a Registered Nursing education.

She currently earns \$20.00 per hour as an LPN. Her SNAP food assistance benefits have been reduced and she is no longer receiving OWF cash assistance.

Benefit Bridge creates a window of transition to assist participants. During Stacey's transition, she was able to create and manage a new budget with her new income and loss of benefits. Benefit Bridge provided Stacey with employment and goal accomplishment incentives and transportation assistance.

With the help of her First Federal Savings financial coach, Stacy has actively engaged in four one-on-one sessions to review money management, budgeting, and her credit score. With the help of her Benefit Bridge and financial coach's encouragement, Stacy was also able to meet her goal of purchasing a reliable vehicle after opening and maintaining a savings account.

"The Benefit Bridge program provided me with everything I could possibly need to successfully reach my goal of becoming a nurse. No matter what type of help I needed, housing, transportation or even basic personal needs, the Benefit Bridge program was there to offer me help or resources."

Single Mother of Three, Elizabeth Makes Transition to Independence and Goal of Owning a Home

Elizabeth*, a single mother of three, enrolled in the Benefit Bridge program in August 2021. At the time, she was receiving Medicaid and SNAP food assistance benefits, working part-time, and was earning \$13 an hour.

Since enrolling, she has finished a concrete construction apprenticeship, opened a savings account, saved \$4,000, and been able to pay off previous bills while being completely off SNAP benefits since May 2022.

Elizabeth currently makes \$25.99 an hour working 40 hours per week in the construction industry. She is also working toward a bachelor's degree in substance abuse while maintaining a 3.1 GPA.

Elizabeth was given a four-month supplement equal to the loss of SNAP benefits. This provided a transition period for her to adjust without receiving the food assistance, and it aided her to include the cost of food in the family's monthly budget.

Elizabeth has also been attending one-on-one sessions with a Peoples Bank financial coach to work on building her credit to achieve her long-term goal of owning her own home.

**Pictures do not represent actual customers and names have been changed for privacy*



About Children and Families First Council (CFFC)

An association of public and non-profit organizations, schools, clergy, parents and elected officials, Licking County Children and Families First Council (CFFC) is committed to strengthening families and improving supportive services by working together and sharing resources. CFFC focuses on providing assistance to families who voluntarily seek services for their children with multi-system needs up to age 21. Our goal is to maintain children in their homes whenever possible. Licking County Job & Family Services is the administrative agent for the Licking County CFFC.

CFFC Leadership Cohort Creates a County-wide Leadership Network

The Clinical Committee is a standing committee of the CFFC, comprised of experts from a variety of child/family services agencies in the community. In 2019, the Clinical Committee decided to sponsor a Leadership Cohort to focus on creating a county-wide leadership network of providers with in-depth knowledge of child and family services systems. The cohort was also designed to build relationships across systems of care by encouraging collaborations and strengthening individual leadership skills.

Since 2019, 45 individuals from community service providers have graduated from the Leadership Cohort. Presenters for



the Cohort have included Licking County Job & Family Services, Licking County Health Department, Licking County Juvenile Court, Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Newark

City Schools, community mental health providers, and various other agencies. CFFC received a lot of positive feedback from the cohort including some individuals who reported, "I got a ton of information to share with families and staff;" "I had no idea how many resources there are," and, "I could use this information to better support families."

CFFC is in the process of reviewing applications for the 2022/2023 Leadership Cohort. We're excited for the opportunity to continue to partner with community service providers serving the children and families of Licking County!

A Success Story: CFFC & Benefit Bridge Partner with Sophia*

Over the past two years, Children and Families First Council has had the privilege of partnering with Sophia, her family, and their Community Support Team to successfully accomplish their family goals.

In addition, Sophia began participating in the Benefit Bridge program in June 2021. While raising five children as a single mother, she enrolled in C-TEC's STNA/Adult Diploma program. Sophia was managing to make ends meet with a household of six while surviving on Ohio Works First cash assistance and SNAP food assistance.

"Children and Families First and the Benefit Bridge gave me the tools I needed to stop the cycle of abuse. They provided my family and I with a support system and taught me how to be the best parent I could be in difficult situations and helped me enroll my children in after-school sports programs.

I was able to go to school and stay in school with the help of these programs, get caught up on my bills and figure out how to pay them in the future by creating a budget."

Despite many challenges, Sophia obtained her STNA certification in July 2022, graduated from high school, and found work as an STNA.

"I now have a full-time job as an STNA that fits around my kids' and my schedules."

In order to improve her life and the lives of her children, Sophia has continually worked toward and accomplished her goals. With incredible resiliency, Sophia has demonstrated how true determination can make a difference in her family life. We are eager to see how far her determination will take her.

**Pictures do not represent actual customers and names have been changed for privacy*

Our mission is building our community's capacity, coordinating systems and services, and engaging and empowering families.

Employment & Training Services

A community resource for employers and job seekers, Ohio Means Jobs Licking County provides access to employment services in one convenient location. Over the last 20 years, we have served over 100,000 visitors with their employment and training needs.



Licking County
A proud partner of the American Job Center network



Business Services

- Recruitment events
- Pre-screening qualified applicants
- Employer incentive programs
- Access to diverse labor pool
- Statewide job postings
- Incumbent worker training



Job Seeker Services

- Employment / Career advising
- Training & education resources
- Job fairs & recruitment events
- Job search resources



Youth Services

- Career exploration / Career pathways
- Job search assistance
- Paid work experience



Training Enrollments

PRC Training

CDL	3
STNA	2
RN	2
Medical Assisting	2
LPN	1
Dental Hygiene Assoc	1
Phlebotomy	1

CCMEP

Welding	3
Cyber Security	2
STNA	1

WIOA Adult

Nursing	2
CDL	2
HVAC	1
EMT	2
Dental Hygienist	2
Heavy Equipment	1

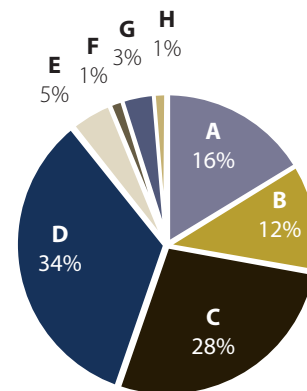
WIOA Dislocated Worker

Medical Billing/Coding	1
Medical Assisting	2
Phlebotomy	1
Cyber Security	1
Paralegal	1
CDL	1

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT / EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

Ohio Means Jobs – Employment & Training Services

A WIOA – Adult	\$ 284,599
B WIOA – Dislocated Worker	\$ 205,348
C WIOA – Youth (CCMEP)	\$ 485,049
D TANF – Youth (CCMEP)	\$ 595,540
E SNAP / Food Assistance Employment & Training	\$ 81,523
F WIOA / NEG – Dislocated Worker	\$ 25,638
G RESEA - Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment	\$ 57,191
H WIOA Business Resource	\$ 25,355
Total	\$ 1,760,243



Licking County 
Job & Family Services
Help for today. Hope for tomorrow.

74 South Second St. | Newark, OH 43055
740.670.8999
www.lickingcountyjfs.com



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