



P R E S S R E L E A S E

B O A R D O F C O M M I S S I O N E R S

Commissioners:
Steven A. Davis
Jeffrey M. Fix
David L. Levacy

County Administrator
Aundrea N. Cordle

Deputy County Administrator
Jeffrey D. Porter

Clerk
Rochelle Menningen

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, May 25, 2022

Fairfield County Receives Four National Achievement Awards

Lancaster, Ohio – Fairfield County has been recognized with Achievement Awards from the National Association of Counties (NACo). The awards honor innovative, effective county government programs that strengthen services for residents.

NACo recognized Fairfield County for the following programs:

- 1. Foster Awareness through Art: Foster the Future Mural**
Category: Arts, Culture and Historic Preservation
- 2. Building a Skilled Workforce: The Fairfield County Workforce Center**
Category: Community and Economic Development
- 3. Controlling Costs by Improving Access to Care: Fairfield County Health & Wellness Center**
Category: Community and Economic Development
- 4. Fairfield County EMA Vaccination Call Center**
Category: Risk and Emergency Management

Innovative programs in Fairfield County ensure better service to area residents and strengthen the operational abilities of the county. Additional information about each of these award-winning programs and services is included at the end of this press release.

“Fairfield County strives to explore innovative approaches to serving our community and employees. We are fortunate to have dedicated County team members that identify opportunities along with effective and efficient solutions to meet the needs of the County,” stated Commissioner Jeff Fix.

For more information, please contact Aundrea Cordle, County Administrator,
Aundrea.cordle@fairfieldcountyohio.gov.

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Foster Awareness through Art

The power of public art is witnessed by the creation of the Foster the Future mural on the Fairfield County Records Center located in Lancaster, Ohio. With empty wall space, Fairfield County was able to create a piece of art that not only enhances the community, but it also brings awareness to one of the most important issues faced by the community- the need for foster families and the important work accomplished by those who choose to foster. The mural allows those inspired to take action to receive more information about foster care through use of integrated QR codes within the mural. Through a simple portrayal of family life, Foster the Future will continue to inspire visitors and the greater Fairfield County community for years to come. Foster the Future stands alone as an outstanding example of community beautification. However, through its message it transcends art to become a call for action and a symbol of what Fairfield County aspires to be as a community.

Building a Skilled Workforce

The Fairfield County Workforce Center opened in 2021 to meet the needs of local employers, job seekers, and students. With limited adult education opportunities available, Fairfield County partnered with Hocking College and Ohio University to offer programs in healthcare, manufacturing, and skilled trades. These certificate-based programs can lead participants directly to the workforce after only 16 weeks of training. Still in its first year of operation, the Workforce Center has 173 individuals attending eight different programs. The student base is comprised of apprentices from local employers, college students working to attain an Engineering Technology Degree, adults seeking new careers, and high school seniors that are exiting high school directly into a career. Forty-five of the high school seniors are participating in pre-apprenticeship programming and all have been offered employment by local construction companies.

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Controlling Costs by Improving Access to Care

Employee health is a top priority for Fairfield County, Ohio. Historically, the county has gone to great lengths to provide a fair and affordable benefit program to employees and their dependents. Costs for basic medical procedures, prescription drugs, and market forces have combined to put undue pressure on budgets. Whether a benefit program is self-funded or fully insured as with many local governments, the struggle to control costs, improve claims experience, and maintain a healthy workforce is real. Fairfield County evaluated and opted for a direct approach to improve the health of employees while controlling costs. The Fairfield County Health and Wellness Clinic (“Clinic”) is a near site wellness clinic operated in conjunction with a local community partner. The Clinic provides basic care to employees and dependents at no cost. Fairfield County Human Resources works directly with clinic staff to meet the health needs of employees and oversees clinic operations. The Clinic investment has yielded a significant return and provided benefits related to recruitment and retention. To date, Fairfield County has saved over \$1,000,000 in healthcare costs.

Fairfield County EMA Vaccination Call Center

After almost a year of COVID-19 infections, the first vaccines were released in December 2020. Discretion of how to schedule and administer vaccines were left to local governments, but without direction or guidelines. The Fairfield County Health Department (FCHD) turned to the Fairfield County Emergency Management Agency (FCEMA) for help with a solution. FCEMA quickly put together a call center with county staff and resources in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Lists of residents that signed up to receive the vaccine were robocalled with a local phone number and assisted with scheduling a vaccine appointment. Over 19,000 residents were scheduled in eight weeks to receive the vaccine with the Health Department. By utilizing technology, programs already in place, county staff, and not costing any additional funds over standard operational costs, the success of this program was invaluable.

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